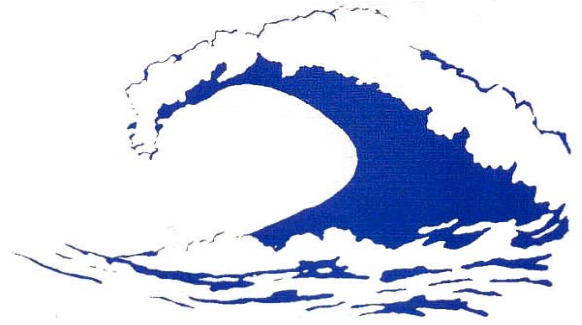


PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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THE PGMS WAVE

A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

November, 2011 NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

The Buck Stops Here

By Buck Roggeman

Linda Mahaney – A Positive PGMS Force

Linda Mahaney was a force at Pacific Grove Middle School.

Whether she was speed walking to the lost and found carrying three binders and five sweatshirts, or corralling students in the breezeway at the end of the lunch hour waiting to be given the word to allow them to enter, Linda was a force.

On Thursday, Oct. 20, we lost Linda to complications from an aneurysm she suffered during the summer. The valiant battle that Linda and her family fought these past few months were an inspiration to her friends at PGMS. She was 54.

One of the common statements she would make to me was, "You are just like me. You're a doer."

I'm not so sure about me, but Linda most certainly was a doer.

Here is a small sample of the things that kept her busy over the years: Parent Teacher Association president, camping, dancing, walking the 21-miler at the Big Sur Marathon, and serving as the social chair for our staff at PGMS

The Middle School will remember her most for her service since 2005 as an instructional aide for Mrs. Murphy's physical education class.

Middle Schoolers possess an inherent frenetic energy that tends to get unleashed during physical education class. It's the one official class during the day where they get to burn off some of their wiggles under the careful supervision of our staff.

Linda was perfect for the job because she is one of the few adults I have ever met who could keep up with the kids.

When they were warming up for class, Linda was warming up with them. When Mrs. Murphy was explaining a task, Linda was working the back of the crowd looking for students who weren't paying attention, hoping to slide by.

No one could slide by as long as Linda was around.

She could harness the energy of the students in her charge, motivating them to complete the activity of the day.

Ultimately, this is what made her so special. Linda cared so much about the kids because she wanted to see them reach their full potential.

Linda recognized that middle school is a time where the kids possess unlimited potential but a limited ability to see it in themselves.

She recognized the value of working at a middle school is that you can change the world one student at a time.

This might be why so many students felt like she was watching them all of the time. Like any good parent, teacher, or campus supervisor, she was.

How lucky we all are to have known her.

Principals' message continued

Going Back to School

When my daughter was born in 2003, I remember reading everything I could get my hands on in an attempt to prepare myself for what lay ahead.

The titles all blend together now, but I remember learning the value of speaking to your child without using baby talk, practicing techniques to put her down for a nap, and memorizing the stages of development.

All of those books provided useful information, but when my little one landed in my arms, the questions expanded exponentially, and I had to find a new source of information.

This is how my wife and I met parent educator Kim Biggio.

Kim is a parent educator who conducts parenting classes through the Pacific Grove Adult School.

She has moved on from conducting toddler classes to forums designed to help parents navigate the adolescent years along with their children.

It is our honor to announce that Kim will be conducting a workshop titled

Understanding Adolescent Behavior at the Pacific Grove Middle School Library on Wednesday, Nov. 9, from 6-7:30 p.m.

The presentation will focus on limit setting and communication with your children. In addition, Kim will set aside a portion of the presentation to answer very specific individual questions.

She has also requested that people who plan on attending the presentation send her any questions that they have in advance of the workshop. This will assist her in planning the evening.

Please send these questions to Kim's email address: kbiggio@pgusd.org.

Kim has spoken to our parents each of the past two years, and her sessions are always very well received. Parents

commented that the sessions not only helped them understand their children better but gave them new approaches in dealing with difficult situations.

I clearly remember feeling bewildered by parenthood all those years ago.

Having an expert like Kim reassure us and answer our questions helped alleviate my stress as a new Dad, which in turn, resulted in a more relaxed home for everyone.

Please mark Wednesday, Nov. 9, on your calendars and make a commitment to attend what promises to be beneficial program.

You are sure to walk away with a better understanding of your adolescent child.

Assistant Principal's Message

Student Safety: Classroom Chats for Second Quarter by Ms. San Filippo

Mr. Roggeman, Mrs. Lawrence, and I have begun this second quarter by visiting all of our students and having our quarterly chats. The theme of these chats has been about our new school motto C.H.I.L.L (Courage, Honor, Integrity, Lasting Loyalty) and about how to combat Bullying at PGMS.

CHILL is a term that our leadership students created and the student body voted upon to represent the kind of friendships we strive to have at PGMS. Friendships should be based upon the qualities of CHILL which mean having Courage to stand up for what is right, Honoring one another by treating one another with respect, having the Integrity to be honest and trusting of one another, and with Lasting Loyalty the friendship will be solid. We are encouraging our students to base friendships on these qualities, rather than the attributes that make students seem cool or popular for the moment. You will hear and see this motto often at PGMS this year.

Bullying is a problem that middle schools across the country are addressing aggressively. PGMS is a unique and wonderful school with a very kind and accepting culture, but we do have our share of unkind behaviors, and we are addressing them full force. We began our classroom chats this quarter by identifying what bullying really is.

Our definition of bullying was taken from various sources. It includes that 1) the behavior is intentional and unwanted; 2) the behavior is repeated over time (specifically, repeated even after the bully has been told to stop); 3) the behavior is aggressive, abusive or violent (physically, verbally, emotionally; expressed physically, verbally, written, drawings, cyber/text, etc.); 4) There is an imbalance of power/strength between

the bully and victim. The victim feels threatened, intimidated, scared, or hurt in some way for the action to be considered an act of bullying.

After discussing what bullying is and what it looks like at PGMS, we discussed with the students what they can do about it. Research indicates that peers play an essential role in preventing bullying. Students have several options when face to face with a bully.

1) Do nothing, ignore the student, or laugh it off. What research tells us is that this approach does not work. The victim needs to at least tell the bully that the behavior is hurtful and they want it to stop. Often we hear from students who bully or treat other students unkindly, that it was just a joke and that they didn't mean to hurt the other student. When the bully realizes the pain they are causing, typically they stop the behavior. We need to teach our children to feel empathy if we want them to treat one another with greater respect and care.

2) Fight or threaten to fight back. This approach only makes the situation worse. The mean, hurtful behaviors displayed by the bully are now only half of the problem. Often students who choose this method find themselves in a much bigger disciplinary problem and quickly realize that the initial bullying is never actually addressed. It also doesn't get the bully to stop the hurtful behaviors.

3) Get help from an adult. We encourage students to report bullying to the nearest adult. They can report it about themselves or if they witness bullying of a peer. Often times, students do not want the adults to intervene, but just to listen. By telling an adult students can feel empowered and safe, knowing that someone is watching out for them. Research has shown that students who have strong connections with adults are more resilient.

At PGMS, we encourage our students to report bullying to Mr. Roggeman, Mrs. Lawrence or myself. They can report this

with an "I want to see" form, via email or phone call, or by chatting with us during break or lunch. We then work with the students involved and conduct a Conflict Resolution meeting. The bully and the victim make agreements with one another during the face to face conference. This conference is an opportunity to teach the students how to interact appropriately. It is a learning opportunity. Both the bully and the victim fully understand that if the bullying behaviors are repeated, the consequences will get more severe immediately.

If you would like to read more about Bullying check out the recent White House Report – Promoting Respectful School articles at www.ascd.org. Bullying- And the Power of Peers by Philip C. Rodkin and What Students Say About Bullying by Stan Davis and Charisse Nixon are in the September 2011 issue of *Educational Leadership*.

Reminders about Eligibility from Ms. San Filippo

SPORTS: Students who would like to try out for an athletic team must maintain a 2.0 GPA, have No F's, and No U's on the most recent quarter grade report. If a team is mid-season at the end of the quarter, grades and conduct will be checked by the Assistant Principal. Any student who is no longer eligible, will be removed from the team.

PLAY/DRAMA: Students who have made the school play have already had their grades and conduct checked. It will be checked again at the end of the second quarter/semester one. Play participants must also maintain a 2.0 GPA, have No F's, and No U's on the quarter/semester grade report. Any student who is no longer eligible, will be removed from the cast of the play at that time.

7th/8th grade DANCES and 6th grade ACTIVITIES: These events are rewards and should be an incentive for student to focus on school and maintain appropriate behavior at all times. To be eligible to attend one of

these events, students may have earned no more than one N, have No U's, and No suspensions and no more than two referrals for that quarter.

Eligibility is well defined in the PGMS Student-Parent handbook on pages 17 & 18. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. San Filippo.

Parent Volunteers on Campus by Ms. San Filippo

Typically parents who are very active in elementary school feel that there is less opportunity to get involved at the middle school level. At PGMS we want parents to feel welcome to get involved on campus. If you are interested in hanging out with us at lunch, monitoring games and activities that take place on the field, or helping out in the hallways, please contact Ms. San Filippo (Assistant Principal) directly at msanfilippo@pgusd.org or 646-6568 ext 308.

PTSA is also an excellent way to get involved at PGMS. Our PTSA has already planned a 6th grade family potluck, wine & cheese fundraiser, and recently the 1st quarter honors breakfast. They have also provided treats and celebrations for several classes and teachers. If you aren't already a member of PTSA, please stop by the front office and pick up a membership form!

ATTENTION ALL 8TH GRADERS!

Please submit your baby photos for the "Guess Who?" section of the 2011-12 PGMS Yearbook by December 9th! Submit them to Ms. Costales in Room 26 and be sure to put your first and last name on the back of the photos. Photos may also be submitted electronically to jcostales@pgusd.org as long as they have been scanned at a 300 dpi or higher. Scanned photos less than 300 dpi will not work! Photos will not be accepted after December 9, 2011.

Yearbooks

Get your yearbooks before the price goes up to \$48.00 on December 23rd.

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)

Do you have a high academic achiever? Students who scored Advanced on the 2010 STAR in English Language Arts and/or Mathematics, will receive information from the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth program in homeroom in the next couple of weeks. To qualify for Johns Hopkins programs, 7th and 8th grade students must take the SAT or ACT and 6th graders must take the SCAT. The SAT and ACT are the same college entrance exams that High School juniors and seniors take as part of their application to college. The SCAT is the School and College Ability Test which is an above grade level test for 6th graders.

Below is information from the CTY brochure:

"Once testing is over, families receive a copy of test results and guidance materials to help them understand what their above-grade-level test score means, and how to use this information when planning the student's education.

All children receive recognition certificates for their participation. High-scoring students will receive Certificates of High Honors, which are presented on stage at select state Awards Ceremonies, as well.

Some children will earn test scores that qualify them for CTY's summer and online courses. All students will receive updated information for several years about programs and opportunities, such as invitations to CTY's Family Academic Programs, to help them develop their academic talents".

If your child is new to PGMS this year and is a high achiever, please let me know and I

will send home the information with your child.

Questions? Go to www.cty.jhu.edu/ts for more information or call Janie Lawrence, PGMS Counselor at 646-6568 ext. 304.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH October 2011

Each month our faculty selects students of the month for all classes. These students have excelled in one or more of the following areas: ongoing academic achievement, exemplary accomplishment on a particular project or unit, excellence in attitude, effort or improvement.

The selected students are professionally photographed and their photos are displayed on the bulletin board next to the office. A letter is sent home, along with the photographs, bumper sticker, and certificate from the teacher. Congratulations to all of the selected students!

Algebra 1	Richard Barakat
Pre Algebra	Christina Hashimoto
English	Kobi Butler, Nikki Azerang, Eric Orozco, Brian Martinez
Core	Braeden Lueken, Yves Stuntebeck, Catherine Gruber, Colby Burnell
	Cassie Velasquez, Jeffrey Fulton, Jessica Duron, Joshua Reynolds, Victoria Teskey
Social Studies	Jorel Sabado, Shira Kershner, Jon Marchiolo, Rowan Benhart, Trevor Moore, Deaven Keller
Office Assistant	Ryann Horning
Science	Vanessa Barragan
Spanish	Katrina Gessaman
Marine Science	Becky Philips
AVID	Scotlyn Rhyne

PGMS- PTSA October Highlights, Applause and "Thank You"

- 10/1 - PG Butterfly Parade and Bazaar – PGMS students and parents baked, worked the booths, played music, earned student community service hours - all helping PGMS to earn over \$2000! Thank you ALL who supported this great community event!
- 10/19 – 162 Sixth graders, their teachers and fellow students were surprised with a second period celebration for winning the PGMS PTSA Membership drive! They received star cookies, prizes, an invitation to an upcoming mini-golf party and bragging rights for their success! Thank you Connie Watts for the delicious, homemade, organic stars!
- 10/19 - Mr. Godfrey's period 2 – 7th grade Science students also celebrated their success for achieving the highest % of membership within a homeroom! They received star cookies and free passes to the upcoming Winter Dance! Woo-Hoo Mr. Godfrey and students!
- 10/25 - Honors Society Breakfast was a fall feast of fun! Celebrating academic excellence with our PGMS families, it was hosted by the 7th grade parents and seven of our 7th grade teachers and aides! Congratulations to our PGMS Honors

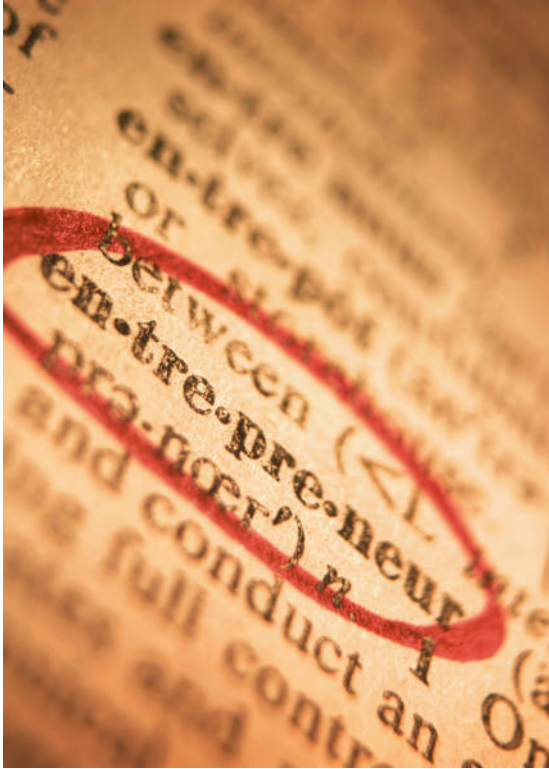
Students! And thank you to all the bakers and volunteers at this event!

- Week of 10/24 – Doing just a little bit for our awesome teaching staff during their parent/teacher conference week:
 - Crystal Hawes created a fabulous presentation of healthy and decadent treats to assist them through their Wednesday! It was Spooktacular!! Thank you Crystal!
 - To celebrate the end of the first academic quarter, Joanne Nolan- Stewart presented a luncheon feast for the teachers and all the staff on Friday. Yeah! Joanne!

PTSA Events coming up in November

- 11/2 - Outstanding Conduct Lunch Party – Hosted by the 7th grade – celebrating terrific conduct! The Party and Lunch is held at the PG Youth Center.
- 11/2 - PTSA meeting – 7 – 8:15pm in the PGMS Library – Come find out how you can support the fun!
- 11/16 – Monthly Surprise for our PGMS teachers and staff! Yum!

Special note about December – We need your help and support! There are many fun and festive events coming soon! Please offer to volunteer your support to make these events fun, interesting and effortless for all those who make them happen! To offer your support, email Petula Lee at: PetulaLee@Hotmail.com or call her at: 238-3486! She will find a job just for you!!



What we have been doing in Leadership and Young Entrepreneurs:

Coffee Shop:

We have a shop called Coffee Shop. Every Friday we make coffee and deliver it to the staff that enjoys coffee. They fill out an order form, and give it to us, and they receive coffee on Fridays. We even deliver coffee to our customers in the District Office. People are thrilled to receive our coffee, for which we charge \$2.50 per cup, because they know they get the best! We are divided into 3 teams that make the coffee, deliver and track orders. We make money for the leadership class and have a wonderful vocational experience. First quarter we made over \$150.00 profit.

We also ran our first Gamboulet Café, which served 25 lunches to staff members. We served homemade pizza, salad and dessert. Our profit for the event (\$85) goes to fund student activities. We will have one more this semester and are planning our menu now.

Another fun event was the Dance for the Rescues. Students at PGMS became Animal Ambassadors and raised over \$1,300 for AFRP and Peace of Mind Dog Rescue. Many students came to dance to the great Latin music at Custom House Plaza on October 9th. It was a great event and we look forward to doing it next year!

Both Leadership and Young Entrepreneur's are practicing their debate skills. We are learning fallacies and argument strategies. We are starting with simple debates such as Skittles vs. M & M's and will move toward more serious topics soon.

Leadership ran the magazine drive successfully and raised a lot of money. They have been doing spirit days, assemblies and are working on the Red Ribbon Week activities. Our school spirit is strong and we look forward to a great year!

Mykayla Sova, Sofia Huston & Olivia Cain