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**ROBERT H. DOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PARENT ★ STUDENT ★ STAFF  
HANDBOOK**

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**2018-2019**

## **RHD School's Mission Statement**



*Robert H. Down Elementary School and Pacific Grove Unified School District, in partnership with the community, will challenge every student by providing a quality instructional program in a positive, safe, and stimulating environment. The School and District will ensure opportunities for students to acquire and apply the knowledge and skills that develop the insight and character necessary for a productive and rewarding life.*

## **Principal's Message**



*Welcome to the Robert H. Down Family*

*Robert Down Elementary School is located in the heart of Pacific Grove, California, alongside the beautiful Pacific Ocean and Monterey Bay. Our K-5 program focuses on a standards-aligned curriculum. We are a school with a strong spotlight on the development of each individual's character and the sense of community among all students. The dedicated staff strives to develop students who are appreciated as individuals and challenged to do their best each day.*

*Children, families, and schools all benefit when we work together. We are grateful for the support of parents and community. Please take the time to learn more about our exciting programs and how you can make your child's 2018-19 school year even more successful.*

*Looking forward to a great year with you,  
Principal*

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*A Hundred Years From Now....  
 ..... it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of  
 house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove....  
 ..... but the world may be different because I was important in  
 the life of a Robert Down Child!*





## Robert H. Down Bell Schedule



<b>Regular Schedule (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)</b>		<b>Regular Schedule (Kindergarten)</b>	
8:40	Warning Bell	8:40	Warning Bell
8:45 - 9:55	Instruction	8:45 - 9:40	Instruction
9:55 - 10:05	Recess	9:40 - 9:50	Recess / late birds arrive*
10:05 - 12:05	Instruction	9:50 - 11:55	Instruction
12:05 - 12:50	Lunch / recess	11:55 - 12:40	Lunch / recess
12:50 - 1:55	Instruction	12:40 - 1:40	Instruction
1:55 - 2:05	Recess	1:40 - 1:50	Recess / early bird release*
2:05 - 3:10	Instruction	1:50 - 2:50	Instruction
3:10	School Ends	2:50	School Ends



<b>Thursday Schedule (All Students)</b>	
8:40	Warning Bell
8:45 - 9:55	Instruction
9:55 - 10:05	Recess
10:05 - 12:05	Instruction
12:05 - 12:50	Lunch / recess
12:50 - 1:55	Instruction
1:55	School Ends

<b>Minimum Day Schedule (All Students)</b>	
8:40	Warning Bell
8:45 - 9:55	Instruction
9:55 - 10:05	Recess
10:05 - 12:10	Instruction
12:10	School Ends

**Robert H. Down Staff 831-646-6540**

– Principal  
Ms. Amy Riedel - Office Manager  
– Attendance Clerk

<b>TEACHING STAFF</b>	<b>GRADE LEVEL</b>	<b>ROOM#</b>	<b>EXT.</b>
Mrs. Christina Luciano	Kindergarten	A-1	121
Mrs. Erica Chavez	Kindergarten	A-2	122
Mrs. Christina Renteria	Kindergarten	A-3	123
Mrs. Julie Kelly	Kindergarten	E-4	316
Mrs. Rachel McNickle	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	E-3	134
Mrs. Michelle Evans	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	E-2	133
Mrs. Jacqueline Perkins	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	E-1	132
Mrs. Page Gilmore	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	1	11
Mrs. Amanda Bradley	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	1	11
Mrs. Denise Johnson	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	13	113
Mrs. Anna Darnell	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	15	115
Mrs. Nancy Spade	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	11	111
Mr. David Jones	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	5	105
Mrs. Stephanie Perlstein	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	6	106
Mrs. Kris Stejskal	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	3	103
Ms. Juliana Dacuyan	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	10	110
Mr. Steven Ibrahim	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	8	108
Mrs. Karen Levy	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	2	102
Mrs. Mary Hiserman	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	4	104
Ms. Sydney Dacuyan	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	9	109
Mrs. Anne Hober	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	W-2	
Mrs. Patty Bloomer	SDC	19	119
Mrs. Katie Kreeger	Resource	7	107
Ms. Lauren Davis	Resource	18	118
Mrs. Laura Rivera	Speech	20	220
Mrs. Maria Miller	ELD	D4	142
Mrs. Megan Roach	O.T.	20	220
Ms. Peggy Tobin	P.E.	W-3	
Mr. Jared Masar	Vocal Music/Chorus	W-3	
	Instrumental Music	W-3	
Mrs. Linda Williams	Intervention	L1	138
Ms. Diane Beron	State Preschool	David Avenue	646-6547
	Co-op	Preschool Co-op	646-6583



<b>SUPPORT STAFF</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>ROOM</b>	<b>PHONE EXT.</b>
Miss Anne Scanlon	Library Media Tech.	Library	112
Mrs. Dessie Zanger	Psychologist	Resource Room	140
Mr. Andrew Bradley	Technology	Comp Lab	124
Mrs. Sonda Frudden	Counselor	Counseling	139
Mrs. Cindy Waznis	Health Clerk	Front Office	303
Mrs. Summer Coe	Cafeteria	Cafeteria	131
Mrs. Janet Bingham	Cafeteria	Cafeteria	131
Mrs. Jill Houston	BASRP	Day Care	831-646-6548
Mrs. Allison Lyon	Garden Coordinator	Garden	831-646-6540
Mr. Dominador Lagmay	Head Custodian		831-646-6540
Mr. Edward Overstreet	Evening Custodian		831-646-6540

### **INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES**

Mrs. Nargess Akhavi	Mrs. Audrey Kitayama
Mrs. Norma Barakat	Ms. Alex Arguilez
Mrs. Pam Chrislock	Ms. Teresa Ramirez
Mr. Roberto Dixon	Mrs. Joanie Rodewald
Mrs. Melissa Gibson	Ms. Adrienne Taylor
Mrs. Leslie Horn	Mrs. Caroline Wade



### **SUPERINTENDENTS AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

Dr. Ralph Gomez Porras, Superintendent ~ Phone: 831-646-6520  
 Mrs. Song Chin-Bendib, Assistant Superintendent ~ Phone: 646-6509  
 Mr. John Paff, Board President  
 Ms. Debbie Crandell  
 Mr. Brian Swanson, Clerk  
 Mr. Bill Phillips  
 Ms. Cristy Dawson



# PACIFIC GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - ROBERT H. DOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2018-2019

	M	T	W	T	F	
Aug	6	7	8	9	10	8/6 – New Teacher Orientation
	13	14	15	16	17	8/7 – Teacher Prep. Day (Non Student Day)
	20	21	22	23	24	8/8 – First Day of School
	27	28	29	30	31	8/16 – Back to School Night 6:00-7:00 PM
Sept	H	4	5	6	7	9/3 – Labor Day Holiday
	10	11	12	13	14	9/17 – R.A.K. 10:10 AM (2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade)
	17	18	19	20	21	9/19 - School Pictures
	24	25	26	27	28	
Oct	1	2	3	4	5	10/6- Butterfly Parade
	8	9	10	11	12	10/15-10/19 -Fall Break
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31			
Nov				1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	11/12 –Veterans Day Holiday
	H	13	14	15	16	11/14 – School Picture Retakes
	19	20	21*	H	LH	11/20 - R.A.K. 10:10 AM (4th Grade)
	26	27	28	29	30	11/22-11/23 – Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec	3	4	5	6	7	12/17- 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Holiday Program, 6:30 PM
	10	11	12	13	14	12/18 - K, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Holiday Program, 6:30 PM
	17	18	19	20	21*	
	LH	H	26	27	28	12/24 - 1/4 - Winter Break
	LH					
Jan		H	2	3	4	12/24 - 1/4 - Winter Break
	7	8	9	10	11	1/7 – Teacher Prep Day (Non Student Day)
	14	15	16	17	18	1/21– Martin Luther King Holiday
	H	22	23	24	25	1/24 - R.A.K. 1:30 PM (Kindergarten)
	28	29	30	31		
Feb					1	
	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	2/18 - 2/22 – Presidents' Holiday
	H	LH	LH	21	22	2/25 - Staff Development (Non Student Day)
	25	26	27	28		
Mar					1	
	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	3/26 – R.A.K. 10:10 AM (3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade)
Apr	1	2	3	4	5*	
	8	9	10	11	12	4/8 - 4/12 - Spring Break
	15	16	17	18	19	4/18 – Open House 6:00-7:00 PM
	22	23	24	25	26	4/30 – R.A.K 10:10 AM (1 <sup>st</sup> Grade)
	29	30				
May			1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	5/20 - R.A.K. 10:10am (5 <sup>th</sup> Grade)
	13	14	15	16	17	5/27 - Memorial Day
	20	21	22	23	24	5/31 – Last Day of School (Spring Dance 10:00 AM)
	H	28	29	30	31*	

\* Minimum Day 12:10 PM dismissal ALL Students

\*\* Minimum Day 12:10 PM dismissal Kindergarten Students ONLY

H = Holiday

LH = Local Holiday

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

Children should not arrive at school before 8:30 AM as there is no adult supervision. All students should go home immediately following the dismissal bell. Students arriving before 8:30 (9:40 for late birds), or not picked up 10 minutes after the dismissal bell will be sent to daycare for supervision. Parents/Guardians will be charged \$10.00 per hour (or any fraction thereof) for emergency day care services. Charges for emergency day care services are due and payable on the day of the occurrence. The warning bell rings at 8:40 AM. Students are tardy if they are not in their classrooms at 8:45 AM. Please remind your child that if they are tardy, he or she must check in at the office before proceeding to class.

### **Punctuality**

It is vitally important that children arrive at school on time. It is a disruption to the entire class when a student arrives late. The student misses out on vital information as well as having a beneficial start to the day. Letters will be sent to parents if their child is tardy seven times or truant tardy three times. Parents of students with truant tardies will be required to meet with the principal.

### **Attendance**

Each time your child is absent please *call* the absence line (646-6663), prior to 8:30 AM explaining the absence. Regular and prompt attendance is most important to success in school. Chronic attendance problems will result in a meeting with the teacher, principal, school nurse, and possible referral to the District Attorney's office. Homework should be requested on the absence line when reporting the student's absence. Homework will be available in the homework basket located in the school lobby between 3:30 to 4:30 PM. Please do not send your child to school sick as they are likely to infect others. MCOE policy states that a student must be fever and vomit free for 24 hours before returning to school.

### **Student Attendance Policy**

Pacific Grove Unified School District adheres to a strict attendance policy. "Parents or guardians of children aged six to 18 are obligated to send their children to school unless otherwise provided by law. The Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy." A 24-hour voicemail system is available for calls at 646-6663. All absences must be cleared by a telephone call or note from the parent/guardian within 72 hours of the absence. It is important to advise the office as well as your child's teacher.

### **Allowable Credit Due to Unexcused Absences**

Parents or guardians may be allowed, on a limited basis, to have students submit pre-approved class work or assignments for partial or full credit due to an unexcused absence. To ensure that your request is received, the parent/guardian should deliver their written request to the school office two weeks in advance of the absence. Email requests are not recommended as the email may be lost in spam and not received. The written request should be directed to the school principal not the classroom teacher. Parents are strongly discouraged from scheduling non-medical appointments, business, or vacation travel during times when school is in session, as these are considered unexcused absences. Any parent contemplating family travel during school must contact the principal at least two weeks prior to the absence to ascertain its probable impact on their child's academic and credit situation.

- a. Approval for allowable credit due to an unexcused absence may be granted for up to ten (10) days per school year if the absence is due to business or travel that has demonstrable educational value and the student's academic progress will not be impeded as a result.



- b. Teacher and Administrative pre-approved students absences for school sponsored events may be eligible for full credit outside of the allowable days noted in (a) above.
- c. The maximum number of days of allowable credit shall be ten (10) days per school year, except in unusual circumstances.
- d. Make-up work and/or tests will not be provided for unexcused absences in excess of the established limits.
- e. To be considered for allowable credit due to an unexcused absence, please fill out the Justifiable Absence Request found online at [www.robertdown.pgusd.org](http://www.robertdown.pgusd.org).

#### **Excused Absences**

The State of California considers illness, medical appointment, and the funeral of an immediate family member to be excused absences. Fourteen excused absences are allowed per year. After the 14th excused absence, an illness will be considered excused only if documented by a physician. Absences beyond the 14th that are not excused by a physician's note will be considered unexcused absences.

#### **Unexcused Absences**

Any absences not covered in the categories listed above are considered unexcused absences. This includes vacations, out of town trips, personal reasons, and any unverified absence.

#### **Tardy Policy**

Any students arriving late to class are considered tardy. Students arriving to school more than 30 minutes late or students leaving school early without presenting a valid written excuse from a doctor, dentist, or orthodontist are considered truant, and report as an unexcused absence. All students arriving late to campus must report to the office before going to class. Students leaving school must be signed out at the office by a parent or an adult listed on the student's emergency card.

#### **Truancy Mediation**

Robert Down Elementary participates in the Truancy Mediation Program through the Monterey County District Attorney's office. After three unexcused/unverified absences the school is mandated to report these absences to the Monterey County District Attorney's truancy mediation program.

The entire Regulation #5113 regarding Absences and Excuses may be viewed online at [pgusd.org](http://pgusd.org) under Board Policy.

#### **Visitors**

For the safety and best interest of all concerned, visitors, including volunteers and parents, must enter the school through the front doors on Pine Avenue and check in with the office. Please make sure you sign in and wear a visitor badge. Upon leaving the school, please sign out in the office and return your visitor badge.

#### **Medications at School**

Children may not bring medications of any kind to school unless there is a completed physician authorization form on file at school. If your child needs to have medication regularly administered during school hours, please pick up a form at the office. This includes "over the counter" medications. Please do not send your child to school with aspirin, cough drops, allergy medicine, etc. If you have questions, please call Cindy Waznis, our Healthcare Assistant or District Nurse, Katrina Powley.

#### **Emergency Messages**

All contacts with the classroom during the school day should go through the office. Messages for children should be for emergency only. Keep in mind each time the office has to call a classroom with a message, it interrupts instruction time. Make sure that your child has a lunch or has lunch money available on their lunch card. Please be certain that after school plans are made ahead of time and communicated to your child.

### **Lost and Found**

Labels on clothing, lunch boxes, eyeglass cases, etc. help to recover lost articles. The Lost and Found is located outside of the cafeteria near room 20. All items are donated to a local charity before each major break (October, Thanksgiving, Winter, Presidents, Spring, Summer) and announced two weeks prior in the Daily Bulletin. Please try to help children keep track of their personal belongings.



### **Before and After School Recreation Program**

Before and after school care is available from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM. Call Jill Houston at 646-6548 for more information.

### **Dress Code**

Students' dress and appearance should be compatible with an effective, elementary learning environment. Clothes and shoes should allow for free-movement during recess and PE. We strongly discourage makeup as well as hair dye that is distracting. Hats should not be worn inside the school building. Inappropriate words, sponsors, pictures, bare midriffs, sagging pants, exposed underwear, and revealing tank tops are not allowed. The length of students' clothes (such as shorts, dresses, skirts) should minimally be as long as the student's fingertips when students' arms are at the side of the body. Dress or appearance which disrupts the class or learning activity may require a student to call a parent so that appropriate clothing can be brought to school for the child.

### **General Guidelines**

1. Bicycles and skateboards will be walked on all parts of the school campus, including the sidewalk in front of school. Bikes should be parked in the provided bicycle racks. Bike locks are strongly recommended. Rollerblades are not allowed on school grounds. Regular shoes must be worn on school grounds. California law currently requires children to wear helmets while riding bikes, scooters, skateboards or skates. Parents, please review traffic and safety rules with your children so their trip to and from school will be safe.
2. Toys are to remain at home unless the teacher or principal gives special permission. Only classroom equipment and materials will be allowed at school.
3. So that no child feels overlooked, please do not distribute party invitations at school. Please follow the guidelines of the district's Wellness Policy when sending treats to classroom celebrations. Board Policy 5030 states, "Parents are encouraged to support the District's nutrition education efforts by considering nutritional quality when selecting foods sent to school, either for individual or for class consumption." The entire board policy may be viewed online at [www.pgusd.org](http://www.pgusd.org).
4. Students are not to leave the school grounds during school hours without being signed out in the office. If you know ahead of time that your child is leaving early, please send a note to the teacher. The child is then called from the classroom to meet the parent in the office. Only people listed on the emergency card may pick up the child.

5. Students are not to bring gum, candy, and soda pop to school.
6. Students should not be picked up at their classroom. Please find a convenient, safe place outside the building to meet your child after school.
7. Students should not bring cellular telephones to school. If it is absolutely necessary for your student to have a cell phone, the cell phone needs to be "off" and kept in the student's backpack during the school day. The school does not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage to a student's cell phone. Cell phones may be used after school to call parents/guardians only outside the playground gates or on the front sidewalk.
8. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE - DO NOT DOUBLE PARK in front of the school to pick up or drop off your child. This is illegal. There are many safe places to park around the side streets and back of the school that do not increase the congestion in front of the school. For the safety of all children, please park and meet your child in a safe place.
9. Please adhere to the 3-minute parking rule in front of Robert Down School. Do not park here if you need to come into the school. This area is strictly a quick drop-off/pick-up zone.
10. Students who ride the bus to school are required to purchase a bus pass through the P.G.U.S.D. District Office. The cost per student is \$100 per year (\$150 for two or more students), or \$80 per semester (\$120 for two or more students). Students who fail to follow the directions of the bus driver may lose the privilege of bus transportation.
11. Dogs are not permitted on campus with the exception of service dogs.
12. In accordance with state and federal law, smoking is prohibited in all district facilities and vehicles. (20 U.S.C. 6083, Labor Code 6406.5) The Board further prohibits the use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes at all times on district grounds and facilities at all times.
14. To make sure your child is ready for school, California Education Code now requires that your kindergarten or first grade child has an oral health assessment (dental check-up) by May 31, (whichever is his/her first year of school). Assessments that have happened within the 12 months before your child enters school also meet this requirement. The assessment must be done by a licensed dentist or registered health professional. A waiver is also available. If you have not completed the oral health assessment, please contact the school office and you will be provided the information needed to complete the process.
15. At the start of each year, parents are asked to complete an emergency card for each of their children. If a child has a condition that could result in an emergency situation during the school day, we make every effort to contact the parent to develop a specific emergency plan and attach a copy to the emergency card. If you believe this applies to your child, and would like to develop a plan, please contact our health clerk at 646-6540.

### **Library Policy**

The library is open from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. daily. Please use inside voices while in the library. Do not bring food or drinks into the library. Students may be in the library outside of their regular class visit with a note from their teacher and if the librarian is present.



Library books may be checked out for one week at a time and then must be renewed or returned. Students must take responsibility for the replacement of damaged or lost materials. Additional items will not be checked out for use outside of school until the lost item is returned, paid for, or replaced. Replacement copies are acceptable as approved by the librarian.

Computers are available with access to the internet. Students may use the Library Web Page to access the catalog and reference resources. Students must have a Technology User Agreement on file with the school in order to use the internet. Misuse may result in disciplinary consequences and the loss of privileges.



### **Physical Education**

All K-5 students participate in Physical Education for thirty minutes each day. The State Board of Education requires each elementary aged child (Grades 1-5) to participate in a minimum of 200 minutes of Physical Education every ten days.

1. **APPROPRIATE DRESS** - It is very important that your child wears comfortable, loose clothing that allows movement. It is even more important that comfortable, supportive, closed-toe, athletic shoes are worn. UGGS, CROCS, SANDALS, FLIP FLOPS, DRESS SHOES, HIGH HEELS, and BOOTS, are not acceptable. If your child does not wear appropriate shoes, he/she will not be allowed to fully participate in our Physical Education class and will not get credit for that day. Some students opt to bring a change of shoes in their backpacks for physical education.

2. **JACKETS, SWEATSHIRTS, & SWEATERS** - In Pacific Grove, the weather is constantly changing: foggy, hot, windy, drizzle, gorgeous, etc... Our students tend to dress in layers. Please put your child's first and last name on the inside of jackets, sweatshirts, and sweaters. If something has been left or forgotten at school, remember to check the lost and found which is located outside the Cafeteria near room 20.

3. **MEDICAL EXCUSES & NOTES** - If your child cannot participate in Physical Education class due to an illness or injury, the parent or guardian should send a written note to school. If your child needs to be excused from class for more than three days, a note is needed from your child's doctor stating the nature of the illness or injury, and approximately when the child can return to physical education class. For an extended illness or injury (four weeks or longer), a written release from the doctor stating your child is healthy and able to return to physical education is required.

4. **EQUIPMENT & SAFETY**—Your child's safety and that of others is our primary concern. Any unsafe behavior or misuse of equipment will cause a student to sit out from the class activity. Parents will be notified of serious incidents or when their child is having repeated difficulty staying safe in Physical Education class.

5. **PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR** - As with all classrooms, the Physical Education program has a behavior policy which is provided to each student. This policy teaches moving in control, respecting self and others, developing self-esteem, communication skills, and solving conflicts.

6. **OFFICE HOURS AND CONFERENCES**—The Physical Education teacher, Ms. Tobin, is available before and after school and during prep time. Please call or email the teacher- [ptobin@pgusd.org](mailto:ptobin@pgusd.org) if you wish to schedule an appointment.



### **Emergency Guidelines**

In the event of a serious emergency:

1. The school will reference its District School Safety Plan and take appropriate actions depending on the emergency. The office will establish a communication center. A first aid center will be established.
2. Teachers will keep all of their students together until a family member or individual listed on their emergency card arrives to pick up their child.
3. When coming to the school to pick up children, parents should go directly to the office or student release area for further instruction and to sign their student out. Parents will not be able to pick up students directly from the classroom or safety location and are discouraged from entering either area. Students will be called to the office or student release area to meet their parents. NO STUDENTS will be dismissed directly to parents by their classroom teacher.
4. In the event of any emergency situation, STUDENTS WILL ONLY BE RELEASED TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED ON THE CHILD'S EMERGENCY CARD.

### **Information for Families in Transition**

The Local Education Agency (LEA) provides the parents or guardians of homeless children and youth opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

Homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as is provided to other children and youth. If you have uncertain housing, a temporary address, or no permanent physical address, federal and California laws guarantee that your children may be enrolled in their school of origin or enroll in a new school. If this describes your family's living situation or if you are a student not living with a parent or guardian, please contact the principal at Robert Down School or PGUSD Homeless Liaison, Ms. Clare Davies, at the district office at 831-646-6523.



### **Playground Supervision and Guidelines**

Our playground will be properly supervised for the safety and welfare of our students. We have some wonderful places for children to play with the following supervision and guidelines to be maintained:

1. Kindergarten will remain on the primary playground. Grade 1 will remain on the primary playground for the 10-minute recesses and may play on the intermediate playground during lunch recess. Grade 2 may play on primary or the intermediate playground and Grades 3-5 will remain on the intermediate playground.

2. During the 10 minute recess periods (9:55 - 10:05 and 1:55 - 2:05), intermediate students are to remain on the blacktop areas only. The upper field is open during lunch recess with designated areas for Grades 1-5 students.
3. The recesses are designed to allow the children to have a snack, go to the restroom, play, and socialize. During this time, chasing and tag games or other rough activities are not allowed in order to avoid children running into others or receiving injuries through falls. (We have made a special effort to have extra equipment such as balls, jump ropes, etc. available to give the children as many options as possible.)
4. Do not climb the trees or hang on branches.
5. At recess time, students must be on the playground and out of the hallways unless directed to the office by an adult.
6. Students should go across the bars in one direction at a time and never on top of the bars.
7. No jumping off the playground structure.
8. When using the slide, walk up the stairs and slide down the slide only in a sitting position.
9. Follow all PE rules for game playing.
10. Children are to eat their snacks at the benches or picnic tables before playing. We encourage fruits, vegetables, dairy, lean protein, whole grains, and nutritionally-rich foods to give children lasting energy. Please do not send children with soda, gum or candy which does not provide the nutrition needed to be the best student possible.
11. Toys are to be left at home unless there is special permission given by the teacher.
12. At the end of the recess a bell will sound. The children are to immediately stop what they are doing and stand still until released by the teachers on yard duty. The children will be instructed to walk to their line.

Off-Limit Play Areas:

West side of the main building

Outside fenced playground area. Let a supervisor know if a ball goes over the fence.



**Lunch and Cafeteria Guidelines**

- ◆ Lunch is from 12:05-12:50 for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students and from 11:55-12:40 for kindergarten students.
- ◆ Students may purchase a hot lunch for \$3.00
- ◆ Milk may be purchased for \$0.50 for those not purchasing lunch.
- ◆ Parents will receive weekly calls and emails reminding them that there is money owed on their student's account.
- ◆ All outstanding balances need to be paid by the end of the current school year.
- ◆ Students may apply for free and reduced meals at any time during the school year. Free and reduced meal applications are available in the school office or the cafeteria.
- ◆ Parents are encouraged to pay in advance for meals. At any time during the school year, parents may pay online at [www.EZSchoolPay.com](http://www.EZSchoolPay.com) or by sending money to school to be applied to their student's meal account. You will need your child's student ID number in order to pay online. You can get this number by calling the school office. If you send money with your child, it needs to be dropped at the office in the morning and clearly labeled with your child's name and teacher's name, so the money is applied appropriately. As the student makes purchases in the cafeteria, the amount will be deducted from

the balance.

- ◆ There is no charging for meals in the cafeteria; so please make sure your student has money on their lunch account or has cash to pay for their meal.
- ◆ For more information regarding the cafeteria lunch, please call 646-6521.
- ◆ The District has adopted a wellness program, which requests parents send healthy foods for snacks, lunch, and classroom celebrations. If you send your student to school with a lunch, please make sure to send nutritious portions. Please no soda, candy, or gum
- ◆ When finished eating, students will clean their area, raise their hand to be excused, and when excused, recycle their trash, and walk to the play area. We applaud students who are able to bring a “zero waste” lunch to school.



#### **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES**

- While waiting in line for hot lunch, keep your hands to yourself and use quiet voices.
- Walk in the cafeteria at all times.
- You may talk quietly in the cafeteria – use “inside” voices.
- While eating, remain seated and use appropriate table manners.
- Students must stay seated in the cafeteria at least twenty minutes.
- When you are finished eating and wish to be excused:
  - Clean your area
  - Raise your hand
  - Wait to be excused
  - Walk to the playground

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING NEGATIVE LUNCH ACCOUNTS BALANCES**

- Every student has a lunch account.
- Parents are responsible for their student’s lunch account.
- Meals should be pre-paid and accounts should be kept current.
- If there is no money on your child’s account and they are not eligible for free meals, the purchase of meals and food items will be charged to their account.
- If the balance reaches a negative \$10.00 the student will only be allowed to charge a full meal until the balance is paid in full. No other item e.g. milk or water will be allowed to be purchased.
- Site Principals will be notified when student’s negative balances reach \$25.00.
- As a courtesy, the Food Service Program emails and calls overdue information at least once a week, using the School Messenger system.
- Students are reminded when their balance is low and also when the accounts become overdrawn.
- The Nutrition Director will also notify parents when accounts are overdrawn.

Payments can be made using either cash or checks (made payable to PGUSD Food Service).

Parents can create an account on EZSchoolPay.com using your student name and student number and pre-pay using a debit or credit card.

Allowing charges to accumulate can lead to financial losses to the food service program and is unfair to the families that do pay for their meals. If unpaid charges become excessive, the District reserves the right to take steps deemed necessary to collect charges owed and to prevent further loss to the District. These actions can include, but are not limited to;

- offering an alternative meal
- initiating collective agency actions proceedings, which may affect a parent's personal credit rating
- Or denying campus activities

If you have any questions or concerns, please free to call the Nutrition Director at 646-6521

### **Assembly Guidelines**

#### *Before Assembly:*

- All students must walk into the "Ottertorium" in a quiet, orderly manner.
- Teachers will direct students to their assigned seating area.
- Parents are to sit in the back of the "Ottertorium", behind the fifth grade classes.



#### *During Assembly:*

- Give the performers the courtesy of proper attention.
- Clap at the appropriate time.

#### *After Assembly:*

- When the assembly is over, students will leave in a quiet, orderly manner under the direction of their teacher.

### **Toolbox Training ~ Building Resilience, Self-Mastery and Empathy for Others**

We believe in empowering your children to learn how to manage their emotions and solve their own problems. We teach students how to strengthen and develop their own innate capacity to form a cohesive and caring community at school. The Toolbox program gives the staff and students a common language and methods of fostering healthy relationships and well-being for each student.

On the playground the students are taught to use Rock, Paper, Scissors to keep games moving along as well as the Three Step Plan for Conflict Management.

#### *1. Use Your Words*

Students are encouraged to tell others what they think and feel in a respectful manner.

#### *2. Walk Away*

Students are encouraged to walk away when they can't manage a situation or solve a problem (cool off). It is hard to fight or argue with someone if you are not there.

#### *3. Get Some Help*

If students cannot solve the problem, seek adult help. On the playground find a Yellow Jacket.



### **Newsletters and Parent Conferences**

To assist parents in receiving regular information, the Otter Times school newsletter will be sent to every family. Classroom newsletters are sent out on a regular basis from all teachers. Parent conferences will be formally held as noted in the calendar and others will be scheduled as needed by either the parent or the teacher. Student report cards will be sent home during the fall and spring parent conferences, as well as at the end of the school year. If you need assistance in this area, contact your child's teacher or call our office at 646-6540.

### **Homework**



In consultation with parents and students, the elementary educators of Pacific Grove Unified School District have developed our homework policy. All groups recognize that quality homework should support the content being taught in classes and develop a love of learning in students. Our homework plan seeks to build study skills in students as they progress through school while allowing students plenty of time after school to play with friends and spend time with their families.

Homework assignments are given Monday through Thursday. Long term projects may be worked on during holidays or weekends; however, ample time is given so that every long-term project can be completed by consistently working on the project Monday through Thursday during the school weeks prior to the deadline.

Time spent on homework should be approximately 10 minutes times the grade level in 1st to 5th grades, (1st grade=10 minutes, 2nd grade=20 minutes, 3rd grade=30 minutes, 4th grade=40 minutes, 5th grade=50 minutes.) For grades 1st and 2nd, the total homework time is exclusive of required reading time. For Grades 3rd through 5th, homework time is inclusive of required independent reading time. Should your child's homework time consistently exceed the expected amount, please speak with your child's teacher.

Weekly activities bags are sent home for kindergarten students. While completing activity bags is optional, daily reading with your kindergarten child is recommended.

Some homework in the upper grades require access to a computer and Wi-Fi outside of the school day. If you do not have a computer and/or Wi-Fi connection available to you, please see your child's teacher.

Grades on the report card for each subject area reflect mastery toward content standards. The report card homework grade reflects the student's completion, effort, and utilization of a growth mindset in all homework assignments.

Homework provides opportunities for all students to build study habits, self-discipline, and time management. Please contact your child's teacher if your child truly lacks understanding of a concept during the completion of homework. Always encourage your child and praise their efforts and improvements. If your student is absent, you may request homework when you call the absence line prior to 8:30 AM. The absence line is available 24 hours a day at 646-6663.

Teachers will regularly monitor and evaluate the amount of time homework assignments are taking students to complete. Staff will assess and recommend any adjustments as needed.

If possible, teachers assigning technology-dependent homework assignments will offer non-technology dependent alternative homework assignments if possible.

School staff will make every effort to coordinate projects and larger assignments so that conflicts in due dates will be minimized.

For more information regarding homework, please see PGUSD Board Policy 6154 at [www.pgusd.org](http://www.pgusd.org).

### **Rules of Conduct**

*We believe that:*

All teachers have a right to teach without interruptions.

All students have a right to learn without being disturbed by others.

*In support of our beliefs, the following Rules of Conduct apply to all students:*

- Students will come into the school building quietly and on time.
- Students will follow the directions of all teachers and other school personnel, the first time they are given.
- Students will be polite and respectful to adults and other students at all times.\*
- Students will not use inappropriate language (swearing\*, teasing, name calling, put-downs) at any time.
- Students will not bring candy, gum, or soda to school at any time.
- Students will keep their hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will show respect for the property of the school and the belongings of others.
- Students will settle differences without fighting. \*\*
- Students will arrive at school punctually and with homework completed as assigned.



### **Consequences**

1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence: Teacher notified and staff member speaks with child.

2<sup>nd</sup> Occurrence: Teacher speaks with child's parent and informs principal.

3<sup>rd</sup> Occurrence: Teacher speaks with principal and principal contacts parents.

*Note: Our staff seeks teachable moments for students as well as appropriate consequences.*

\* In the case of swearing and/or obvious disrespect, the student may be suspended immediately.

\*\* In case of fighting, students will be suspended.

**Is it safe?  
Is it nice?  
Is it my personal best?**

### District-Wide Discipline

OFFENSE	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
1. Damage to school property	Parent contact/conference, restitution, suspension	Alternative placement, Expulsion
2. Cheating	Parent contact/conference, Grade adjustment	Course grade adjustment, schedule change, Alternative placement
3. Defiance to staff	Parent contact/conference, Suspension	Parent visitation, Alternative placement, Expulsion
4. Hazing, harassment, threatening	Parent contact/conference, Suspension	Alternative placement, Expulsion
5. Use or possession of illegal substances	Parent contact/conference, Police notification, Suspension, Principal's letter	Alternative placement, Expulsion
6. Theft of school or private property	Parent contact/conference, Restitution, Suspension	Alternative placement, Expulsion
7. Fighting	Parent contact/conference Suspension (principal recommendation K-5), Suspension (6-12)	Alternative placement, Expulsion
8. Disrespect toward others	Parent contact/conference	Parent visitation, Suspension Alternative placement
9. Inappropriate language	Parent contact/conference	Suspension

The goal of discipline is to maintain a positive atmosphere for learning while teaching students to be responsible citizens. Like citizens in any community, students must obey the rules which assure that individual rights are not violated by the misconduct or disruptive acts of others. Administrators and staff are delegated the authority and responsibility to ensure that the desired goals of equal educational opportunity and an environment conducive to learning are achieved. When students misbehave, we give them the opportunity to correct their inappropriate behavior and to find a way to make better choices for themselves. Home and school share the responsibility of helping students develop the life-enhancing capability of self-discipline.

Students are suspended for very serious violations of school rules, based on the Ed Code of California. Suspended students shall be excluded from all school related extracurricular activities during the period of suspension. A suspension may also include but is not limited to the loss of participation in school related activities (such as field trips, school performances, sporting events, classroom/school celebrations, etc.).

**Good Citizen Programs**  
**“You Otter Be A Good Citizen”**  
**Otter Club**



Effective the first day of school, we will establish the Robert Down Good Citizen Otter Club. This will be a good citizen club established to encourage and recognize appropriate school attitude and behaviors.

The following criteria are suggested for monthly selection of Otter Club members.

- Students will do their best on assigned work at school and at home.
- Students will be respectful to others; no name calling, put downs, teasing, etc.
- Students will show proper respect for all adults.
- Students will not hurt others or engage in activities that might be unsafe.
- Students will not use vulgar or inappropriate language or gestures.
- Students will not fight.
- Students will respect all personal and school property.
- Students will use appropriate table manners when eating.
- Students will be helpful and considerate to others.
- Students will arrive to school on time.

**Procedures**

Each month teachers will select good citizens from their class to participate in the Otter Club. The principal will have the list of names of those students.

**Recognition and Awards**

The principal will make monthly presentations in each classroom whenever possible to those who make the Otter Club. Those students who have made the club for seven months or more will be invited to a special celebration at the end of the school year.

**Caught Being Good**

The entire staff of Robert Down School will be on the lookout for students performing acts of kindness during the school day. Students “caught being good” will be given a recognition card and a well-deserved pat on the back. Students may put their cards in the Caught Being Good box in the school lobby. At every Random Act of KINDNESS assembly, all are acknowledged for their good deeds and 12 students names are drawn from the “Otter” box for a special get-together with the Principal.



### Some Ways in Which Volunteers Help

We can use your help in the education of your child. It is absolutely essential that you be involved in your child's schooling. There are two places that you can be involved: at home and at school. First and foremost, your consistent involvement at home will have the most positive impact on your child's learning and is the most realistic for most parents. Please make sure that you are reading the notes coming home from school and are aware of the work being assigned. Make sure your child, not you, does the work. Offer your assistance only if necessary. Secondly, volunteering at the school both during school hours and after school, and on weekends is an extremely useful and gratifying way to help. For the safety of our students and volunteers, all volunteers are required to complete Live Scan Fingerprinting at the Pacific Grove District Office. Paperwork can be picked up in the Robert Down lobby kiosk or online at [pgusd.org](http://pgusd.org). Please call 646-6593 to schedule your appointment. Once clearance has been verified, volunteers will be under the direct supervision of a staff member and will not work alone with students. See below for some suggestions and how you might help.

- ◆ Classroom helpers for a variety of subject areas (reading, writing, spelling, math, art, etc.), listening to children read, working with particular groups or stations as the students rotate, or doing drill and practice with individuals or groups. Parents who can help on a regular basis in this way should contact your teacher to see what is needed.
- ◆ Assist with classroom projects, work on the bulletin boards, or other special needs.
- ◆ Assist with costumes for the Butterfly Parade or plays the class might put on.
- ◆ Participate in P.T.A.
- ◆ Assist in the library.
- ◆ Help on Pride Days held twice per year on a weekend to paint, build, clean, garden, fix and beautify our school building and campus. (Board Policy #7230)
- ◆ Be an art or garden docent.
- ◆ Chaperone a field trip
- ◆ Assist the office or teacher with clerical work
- ◆ Sign up to be your classroom PTA liaison
- ◆ Assist the classroom liaison in special school wide projects sponsored by your child's grade level team



## Guidelines for Robert H. Down School Volunteers and Parents/Guests



We love our parents and volunteers and are thankful for your effective involvement. The staff has put together some guidelines to develop a healthy climate of respect and professionalism.



1. Your role in the classroom is important. Please remember:
  - Give appropriate praise and motivation.
  - Use tutoring strategies such as: repeat directions to the student, allow the student to complete task on his/her own, take a different approach, model a correct response, use visuals, etc.
  - Use appropriate language to guide students rather than just give the answer.
  - Avoid negative comments such as: “don’t act like a baby, you should know this”.
  - Let children make a mistake and say, “try that again”.
  - When child says, “I don’t get it” or “I don’t know what we’re doing”, state the activity in a new way. The teacher will be available should a student need additional help which the parent or volunteer can’t provide.
  - Help all students, not just your own child.
  - Allow your own child to be self-reliant in the classroom.
2. Volunteers need to be trained on the operation of all machines and where/how supplies are utilized. There will be group training at the beginning of each school year. New volunteers should contact the office manager and make an appointment for training as there will be periodic training times available during the school year.
3. Volunteers and parents should display appropriate behavior in the hallways. We would appreciate the hallways being clear during school time (8:45 AM – 3:10 PM).
4. Student behavior is private and is to be dealt with by the teachers and other authorized personnel. Volunteers and parents should adhere to confidentiality in regard to all students. Due to IEPs and other behavior contracts, some students have different expectations and goals. Being respectful towards all students is expected by all volunteers and parents.
5. Volunteers and guests should wear appropriate professional attire: No tank tops, shorts, revealing necklines, hats (indoors), or inappropriate sayings on clothing. Inappropriate tattoos should be covered. Use professional language. No slang.
6. Do not discipline. Let the teacher take over in that area since he/she knows what the child may be working on behaviorally, or if the child has issues affecting behavior that day, etc.
7. Volunteers and parents should be actively engaged in the activity at hand. Please save conversations for outside of school rather than the back of the classroom.
8. Let the teacher be in charge of the lesson and the expectations. Volunteers should take the teacher’s lead and if there’s a question, ask the teacher privately. Classroom protocols are to be followed by everyone.
9. Younger siblings should not be brought to school during your volunteer time in the classroom.
10. In assemblies, parents and volunteers (unless they are specifically helping with a student) should sit behind all of the classes and follow all assembly rules.
11. All rules and regulations governing staff and students at Robert Down apply equally to volunteers and parents. Being on campus is a privilege not a right for parents and volunteers. This privilege can be revoked by the administration.
12. Your classroom teacher may have additional rules which will be given to the parents and volunteers.

### **Parent Teacher Association – PTA**

The PTA is an essential part of the education of all children at Robert Down School. While many PTAs function as a fundraising vehicle, our PTA assists the school in many ways. The Robert Down PTA provides volunteer and monetary support to every classroom, sponsors family fun and educational nights, the annual family dinner and silent auction, book fairs, campus pride days, Dr. Seuss Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, and many other events which enhance the overall climate of Robert Down School.

The PTA membership drive begins in August and all families and staff are encouraged to join the PTA. To learn more about the PTA, please see your classroom liaison and attend the PTA meetings in the school library. Dates and times of meetings are posted on the outside school signs. Additional PTA information will be coming to you via the Otter Times, our PTA sponsored quarterly school newsletter. Messages can be left for the PTA by calling 646-6540 x357.



### **School Advisory Council**

The Robert Down School Advisory Council develops the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) which is a plan of action to raise the academic performance of all students. The advisory council meets on the third Tuesday of the month four times per year at 3:30PM in the school library. All meetings are open to the public. Please contact any member of the site council for more information.

Names of Members	Principal	School Staff	Parent or Community Member
Johanna Kroenlein			x
Elliott Hazen			x
Maria Miller		x	
Kris Stejskal		x	
Laura Rivera		x	
	x		