



THE ANCHOR

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOVEMBER

- 1 Flag/Drill Practice 3:45-4:45pm
- 2 Picture Retake Day
- 3 Mandatory Marching Practice 3:45-4:45pm
- 4 Magazine Sale Order Turn In @ lunch
- 5-6 Stage Band & Panache Retreat
- 7 PTA Board Meeting, 5pm
- 8 Magazine Sales Order Turn in @ lunch
- 8 [PTA Restaurant Fundraiser Night-Pizzicato Pizza](#)
- 8 Mandatory Marching Practice, 3:45-4:45 pm
- 9 End of 1st quarter
- 10 Teacher Planning Day, No School
- 11 Veterans' Day, No School
- 11 Veterans' Day Parade (Marching Band & Aux. Units participate)
- 15 Mandatory Marching Practice, 3:45-4:45 pm
- 17 Mandatory Marching Practice, 3:45-4:45 pm
- 18 Student of Month, 11:15am
- 21-25 No School
- 21-22 [Parent/Teacher Conferences](#) 8:30 am-11 am, 12-4 pm, & 5-8 pm (look @ attachment)
- 25 Macy's Winter Parade (Marching Band participates)

DECEMBER

- 1 Magazine Sale prizes delivered
- 1-2 Fall Play-North Woods Nonsense
- 2 Choir & Panache @ Alpenrose
- 2 Panache @ SWCC & Mult. Village (evening)
- 3 Panache Holiday Bazaar
- 4 Panache in Hillsdale
- 5 PTA Board Meeting, 5pm

School News:

Pre-Order Gift Cards by Nov. 4

In addition to our Dough for Dollars night on **November 8th**, you can preorder Pizzicato

\$20.00 gift cards and 20% of your purchase will come back to RGMS PTA! To order online with a credit card: <https://rgms.schoolauction.net/pizzicato/give>. To pay by check: Download the order form at www.graypta.org, fill it out and drop off at the front office with your check (payable to RGMS PTA). Don't forget to put your student's Period 6 teacher on the order form.

RG Clothing Closet-

The RG Clothes Closet is a wonderful resource for parents and children of RG. All parents and friends of RG are invited & welcome to drop off items of clothing. All items of clothing are welcome - men's, women's & children of all ages clothing. Shoes, socks and accessories are also welcomed. You are invited to drop items off at the main office, labeling them as donations to the RG Clothing Closet.

The Clothing Closet is open to all students and families of RG who need clothes, back packs, new shirts, or just a new look. Clothes that are damaged are given to Goodwill, and clothes that are in used & good condition, kept in the closet. In order to visit the Clothing Closet, please contact the school counselor and make an apt. to come and visit us, and enjoy a free shopping experience!! We currently have tons of great stuff. Please make a point to come down and visit and collect some great stuff! [If you wish to volunteer, or have any questions, please contact the RG Clothing Closet Chair: Jackie Paris. Contact info: \(503- 528-4406\) \[jackieparis@comcast.net\]\(mailto:jackieparis@comcast.net\)](#)

A note from Mary Jo, PTA Pres.:

This month you are going to see three(!) PTA fundraisers around the RGMS campus: **Magazine Sales, Pizzicato Night and Gift Card Sales.** Magazine Sales is a one-shot deal that families can participate in voluntarily. Pizzicato Night is on November 8th and 20% of all sales go back to Gray. Gift Card Sales (aka "Scrip") is a monthly, year-round activity.

I've been hesitant to participate in the scrip program over the years, but not anymore. Last month I purchased Fred Meyer cards for the first time through the scrip program and it was SO EASY! I just dropped my check off with the order form in the school office and one week later – cards in hand and I'm off to the newly remodeled Freddie's.

The PTA needs to raise money. We absolutely cannot do all of our wonderful events and services without funds. **Selling gift cards is the only – I repeat only – fundraiser that doesn't cost the buyer anything that they aren't already going to use.** Your money is "filtered" so we get a commission but you get the entire amount back to go shopping! **It doesn't get much easier than that.**

Next gift card sales is due November

7th. Download your order form on the PTA website <http://www.graypta.org/RGMS/Welcome.html> or get one in the office. Checks made out to RGMS PTA. RGMS PTA has budgeted to earn over \$7,000 in net income this year from just Magazine and Gift Card Sales alone. If every family bought \$100 grocery scrip each month, we'd meet our goal in a few short months. So, please pay attention to what comes home and the messages you receive on-line from PTA. We are grateful for your participation.



THE ANCHOR

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES INFO

No School November 21-25

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on **Monday, November 21st** and **Tuesday November 22nd**. Conferences will be held in an “arena style” format. This means all of the teachers will be in a central location. Language Arts, Math, Science, ESL, and Special Education teachers will be in the cafeteria. Elective teachers will be in the library. Parents/guardians will need to **sign up** for a **conference time upon arrival** on the day of the conference. Since students have multiple teachers, it is not feasible for us to try and pre-schedule appointments. The arena style format allows parents to quickly see which teachers are available and maximize conference times. It is advisable that you sign up for all of your conferences upon arrival or as soon as you can after arriving. Conferences will last 5-10 minutes, depending upon the subject, so you will want to plan accordingly. If you need more time with a teacher, you will need to schedule that on another day.

CONFERENCE DATES & TIMES Monday, November 21st & Tuesday, November 22nd:

- 8:30 am - 11:00 am
 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- (last conference begins at 7:40pm)

*Please note, teachers will have a lunch break from 11:00-12:00 pm and a dinner break from 4:00-5:00 pm on both days. They **will not be available** for conferences during these times.*

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

- **Cafeteria:** ESL, LA/SS, Math, Science, Special Education, and Technology teachers
- **Library:** Art, Music, PE, and World Languages teachers (Katie Gunderson-French I-
Monday, November 21st, 2-4pm & 5-6:45pm only
Room 114: Lisa Hyde, Counselor,
Monday, November 21st only

SIGN UP PROCEDURES

- ☒ Pick up a copy of your student’s schedule and test information, if available, from the table in the main entry when you arrive.
- ☒ Sign-up for all conferences when you first arrive so that you will be able to meet with all of your student’s teachers. **Conference sign-up sheets are located by each teacher’s conference location.**



SUGGESTIONS

- ☒ The busiest conference time is usually in the evening. If you can come mid-morning or mid-afternoon, more than likely, you will be able to see each teacher with a minimal wait.
- ☒ If you feel you need additional conference time, set up a time with the teacher at the conclusion of your conference.

There will be **NO** school for students November 21st - November 25th.

We look forward to seeing you at conferences. If you have any questions about conferences, please call the school office.

Sincerely,

Beth Madison
Principal





THE ANCHOR



Note from the Principal:

We continue to have an excellent year at Robert Gray Middle School. We celebrated our community with Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day, attended by 131 guests who listened to our very talented musicians and student speakers, enjoyed refreshments sponsored by Lamb's Thriftway and our PTA, and classroom visitations. Many thanks to Marcia Waugh, Heidi Sivers-Boyce, Kath Axline, Hilary Conway, and other parents that volunteered time & energy for this great event. Our attendance rate remains high & our discipline rate very low, both signs of a healthy school community.

The EdBox Gradebook went live, giving parents and partners the first-ever comprehensive access to student information, a very exciting step forward. November brings parent-student-teacher conferences and I anticipate a large turnout and a significant sharing of information.

I have been asked why Robert Gray Middle School was rated as "Satisfactory" rather than "Outstanding" as in the past on the recently-released 2010-11 Oregon School Report Card. In looking at the Report Card, you will note that we are on the very high end of Satisfactory and we boast many strong areas. The Oregon Department of Education raised the math achievement cut scores for the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test (OAKS)

last year. As a result, a significantly higher percentage of students did not meet or exceed in math. The ODE has imposed higher cut scores this year for reading as well, so it will not be a surprise when fewer students meet or exceed. This will affect Adequate Yearly Progress as well as the School Report Card. Our School Improvement Plan in the past few years has focused on writing. With our writing scores at a high level, we are in a good place to focus on reading and math and have written SIP goals to reflect this.

As you may have heard, PPS is launching a plan to adjust school enrollments. RGMS is a targeted school for the 2013-14 school year, with planning happening next year. The district has set 600 students as the optimum size for middle schools and we are around 425. While it is wonderful to have such a small school, it's true that others are at or above capacity, and with more students, we can have more elective offerings. The current 5th grade class is pretty large, so we should have stable enrollment next year if the forecasting remains the same. During the 2013-14 school year, we expect the completion of the redeveloped Hillsdale Terrace. After it opens, 120 apartments and seven homes will be occupied, with an unknown number of students coming to RGMS. We are working with the district to ensure that this influx is accounted for when enrollment increase is discussed.

I have been active in keeping the RGMS website up to date with the latest information on our myriad events and opportunities.

One of my many goals this year is to continue to develop the website so it becomes a comprehensive tool for gaining the information you need, when you need it.

Thank you to all of you who have come forth to help so much this year. I have never experienced such a generous community of support and it continues to not just impress me, but truly warm my heart. It is a joy to be the principal of Robert Gray Middle School.

Beth Madison,
Principal, RGMS

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www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/gray

Teachers: 8:30am-4pm

Students: 9:15am-3:45pm