



# THE ORCA OBSERVER

November 2023

“Nothing lasts forever, even cold November rain” — Axl Rose

## Cabrillo PTO Highlights

### PTO Weekly Updates

This year, one of the major goals of the PTO is to create more *efficient and meaningful communications*. Think: less is more and quality over quantity. Last week, we published our first **PTO Weekly Updates** post. This post will be sent every Tuesday and consolidates standalone fundraising, volunteer, and reminder posts sent by the PTO into one message. We will continue sending the monthly newsletter on the first school day of the month to educate parents on important topics and expand on key fundraising efforts. And we may still send the occasional stand-alone post when the topic is time-sensitive or requires special attention, but we promise to keep these messages to a minimum!

### RaiseRight Fundraising Kickoff

In case you missed it, today we launched a holiday RaiseRight Fundraiser! Buy gift cards for your friends, coworkers, and family from the comfort of your couch. Take advantage of the **New Participant Incentive** and earn a free gift card for signing up and making 3 qualifying purchases. Click **Get Started** to sign up and download the app. <https://www.parentsquare.com/feeds/24031919>

### Halloween Spooktacular

**Thank you** to the families, staff and community members who attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cabrillo School Halloween Spooktacular! The weather was beautiful and a great time was had by all!

This family-fun event wouldn't have been possible without the many volunteers who turned out to donate items and their time. A *special* thank you goes to VPs of Fundraising, Liz Harrington and Michelle Ryan, and Volunteer Coordinators, Stephanie Poloni and Amanda Bianchi, who led the charge.

### Spooktacular Volunteers

- |                        |                         |                   |                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Abigail Ng OHS         | Danita King             | Kellie Samson     | Nienke Levin-Mertz   |
| Adam Daum              | Elaine Tam              | Kimberlee Ebyam   | Rachel Limon         |
| Aimee Lauer            | Elizabeth Castellon     | Krista Atchley    | Rachel Spetman       |
| Alex Meilandt OHS      | Elizabeth Shurko        | Kristen Simmonds  | Rebecca Pilapil      |
| Alice Chan             | Erica Greulich          | Kristine Gee      | Rebekah Platzer      |
| Alicia MacDonald       | Erin Gale               | Lauren Ciocia     | Reese Roldan         |
| Ally Ng OHS            | Erin Mustille           | Lauren O'Connell  | Ricardo Pereira      |
| Amanda Bianchi         | Eryn Bergquist          | Lauri Binsfeld    | Ryan Frayne          |
| Amber Porter           | Finau Zepeda            | Leah Arata        | Sara Rueschenberg    |
| Ana Martinez           | George Redmond          | Leia Harrington   | Saroj Quinn          |
| Angelica Cadden        | Gianna Franco           | Lenna Shamiya     | Scott Higdon         |
| Annabelle Phillips OHS | Helena Nieve            | Lesley Chang      | Shanna Girard Romano |
| Atticus Acquarelli     | Jacqueline Jax Martinez | Lisa Alasandro    | Silvia Gomez         |
| Aubrey Wong OHS        | Janelle Lara            | Lyla Reiner       | Sophia Hauser        |
| Benjamin Ebyam         | Jaxon Harrington        | Mara Higdon       | Sophie Sage          |
| Brad Ryder             | Jayden Harrington       | Maria Downs       | Stephanie Harrington |
| Brad Switzer           | Jena Dickow             | Maria Sage        | Stephanie Poloni     |
| Brenda Ceden           | Jessica Massoni         | Marie Russo       | Taryn McCabe         |
| Britney Balestreri     | Josiah Downs            | Melinda McCabe    | Taylor Roldan        |
| Carolyn Edwards        | Julie Ausiello          | Michael Dougherty | Taylor Ryder         |
| Casey Porter           | Julio Zepeda            | Michelle Nieve    | Teresa Bovee         |
| Cherry Tingin-Kohl     | Kaila Defries-Rangel    | Michelle Ryan     | Tristen Fredrickson  |
| Christy Susnow         | Kaila Shimizu           | Miranda Wyatt     | Veneranda Redmond    |
| Corina Brammer         | Karla Ribeiro           | Naz Amirsoleymani | Wes Harrington       |
| Daniel Torero OHS      | Katlynn Nguyen OHS      | Neveah Mauricio   | Yevgeniya Bugovskaya |



# Parent Square 101

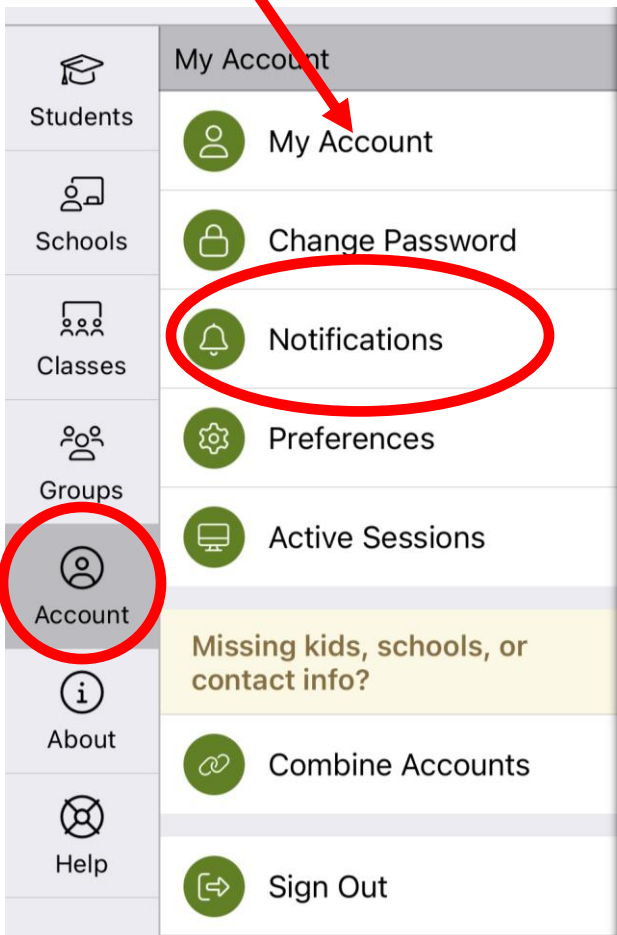
Staying on theme with efficient communications, this month we look at ParentSquare **notification preferences**. Customize how you receive alerts – more, less, email, text, that nagging little number on your app, now or later. The power to enhance your ParentSquare experience is at your very fingertips! Continue reading for instructions on how to adjust settings from your mobile device or desktop computer.

## Mobile:

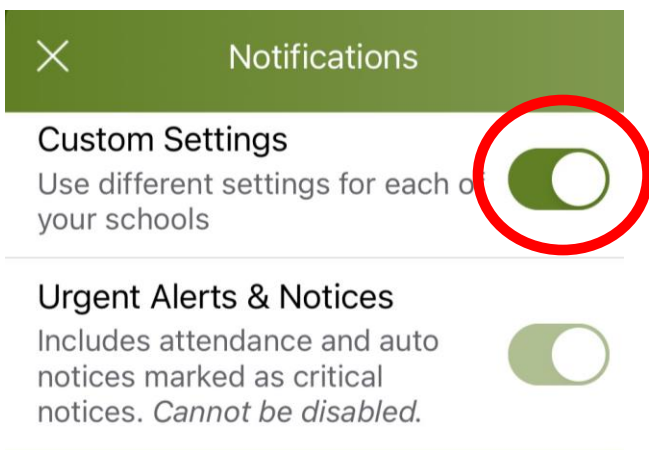
1. Open the ParentSquare **main menu** (3 lines).



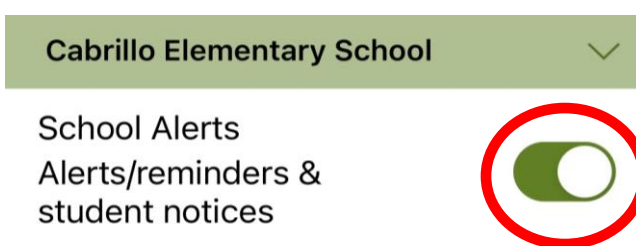
2. Click **Account**, then **Notifications**.  
*Note: Click **My Account** to review your contact information and correct as needed.*



3. Toggle the **Custom Settings** button to expand options for both Cabrillo School and Pacifica School District.  
*Note: Urgent Alerts & Notices cannot be disabled.*

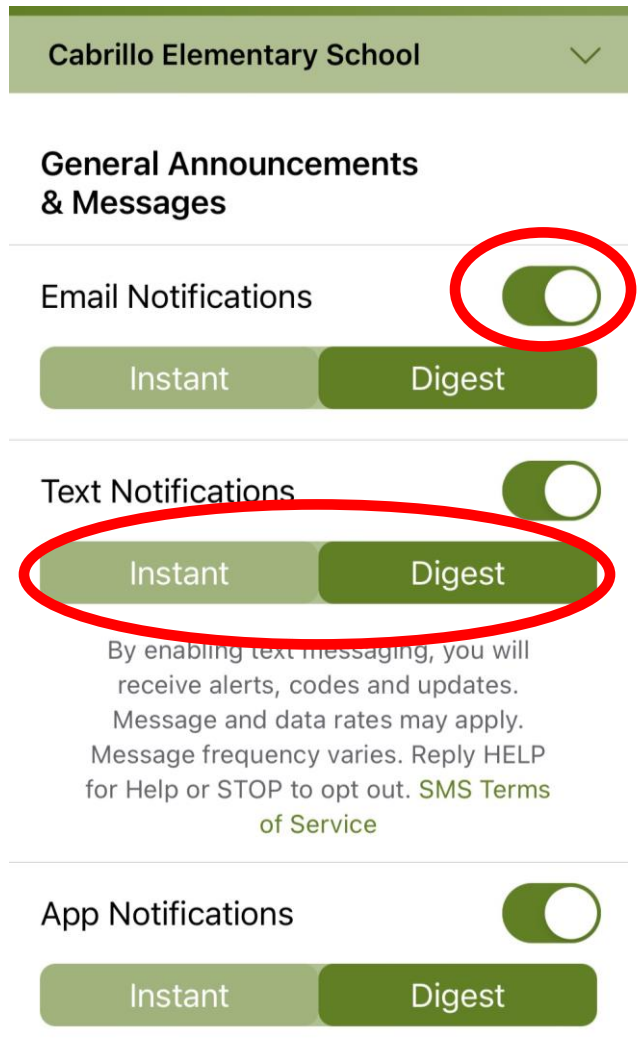


4. Turn on or off **Cabrillo School alerts/reminders & student notices** (we recommend keeping this on).

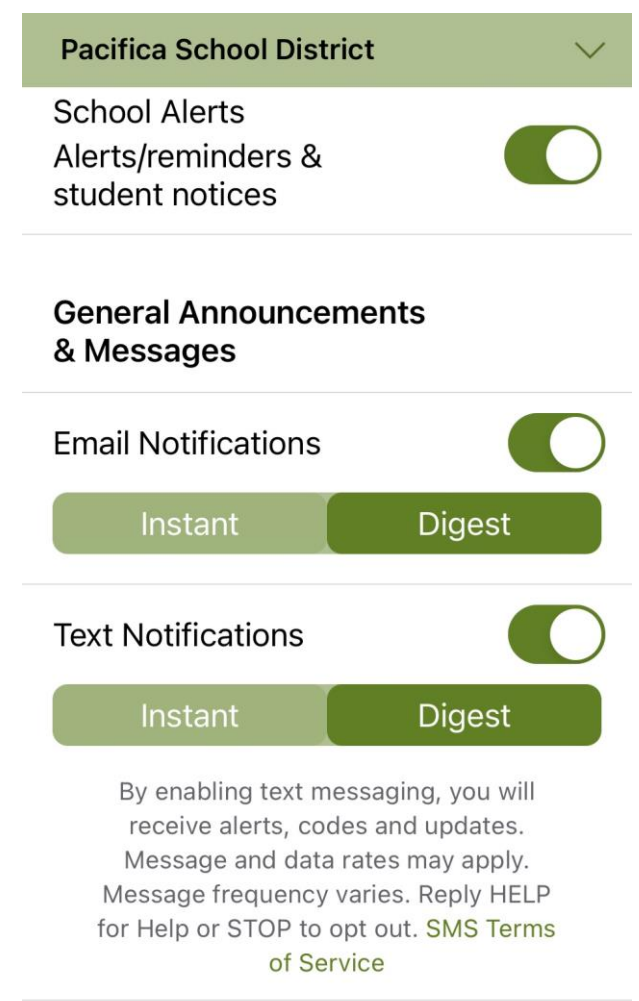


5. Adjust how you'd like to receive alerts for General Announcements & Messages: **Email, Text and/or App Notifications**. Choose one or a combination of methods.

6. For notification preferences you turn on, choose Instant or Digest. **Instant** notifications give you an immediate alert. **Digest** notifications compile alerts from the day into one message you receive later in the evening.

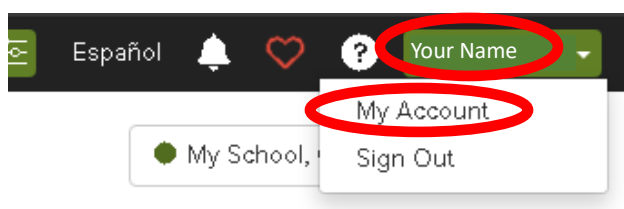


7. Click **Pacifica School District** and repeat steps 4 through 6 to adjust district-wide notification preferences.



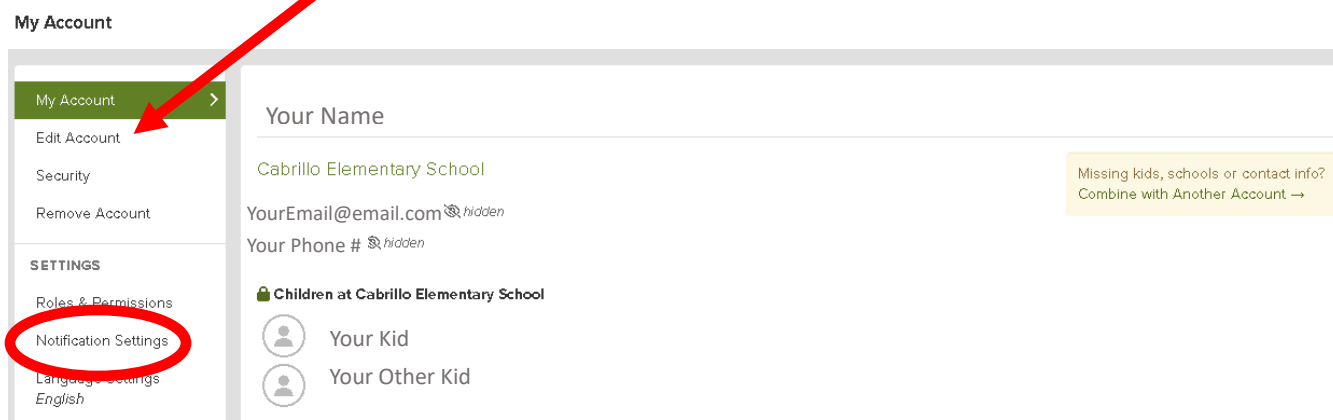
## Desktop:

1. Click on **your name** then **My Account** from the drop-down menu.



2. Click on **Notification Settings** from the left-hand menu.

*Note: Review your contact information and click **Edit Account** to correct as needed.*

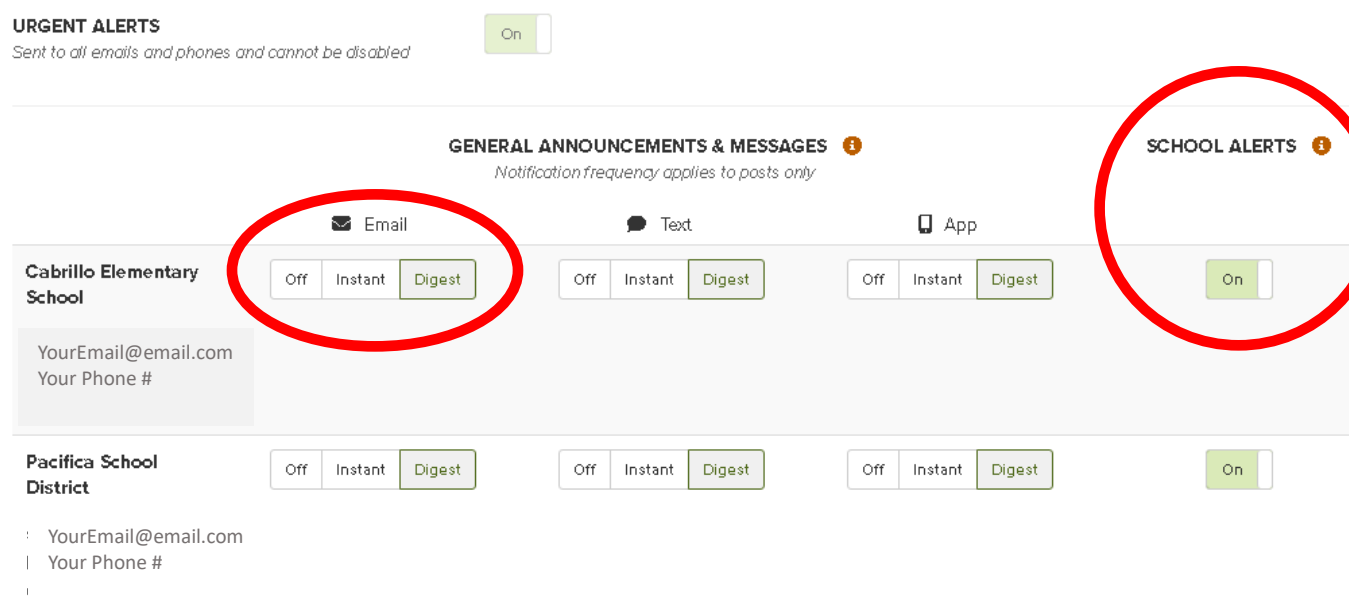


3. Turn on or off **Cabrillo School Alerts** (we recommend keeping this on).

*Note: Urgent Alerts cannot be disabled.*

4. Adjust how you'd like to receive alerts: **email, text and/or app** for General Announcements & Messages. Choose one or a combination of methods.

5. For alerts you turn on, choose Instant or Digest. **Instant** notifications give you an immediate alert. **Digest** notifications compile alerts from the day into one message you receive later in the evening.



6. Repeat steps 3 through 5 for **Pacifica School District** notifications.

## Volunteer Spotlight

*In the spirit of providing more meaningful communications, we are adding a new section to our monthly newsletter: the Volunteer Spotlight. We will give an in-depth look at important, but vacant, volunteer roles.*

Are you interested being a voice for Cabrillo at the District Level? Consider becoming a **Parent Council Representative!**

The Parent Council is a group comprised of representatives from Pacifica School District schools. As [Parent Council Rep](#), you will have the opportunity to help shape curriculum, policies, facilities and more at Cabrillo and throughout the district. You will also oversee the election of Cabrillo's Elna Flynn Award recipient for outstanding volunteer service. Attend monthly meetings with the superintendent, governing district board, and Cabrillo PTO to make positive changes for your child's school experience. Two motivated individuals are needed to help represent Cabrillo. Click [here](#) to find out more information about this vital role.



### From the Staff Room

Cabrillo School welcomes 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Melinda McCabe to our Orca community! In 2021, Ms. McCabe was a paraprofessional in Michele Sullivan’s fifth grade class, where she got to know the students, staff and parents and fell in love with the Pacifica community. Last year, she taught first grade in the Millbrae School District, but always hoped to come back to Cabrillo. Ms. McCabe taught jewelry making classes for the past fifteen years all over the Bay Area while writing and publishing two books. Ms. McCabe’s mom was a high school teacher and always encouraged her to become a teacher. Ms. McCabe’s own child, Alex, is a 6th grader at Cunha Middle School in Half Moon Bay, and she is a proud aunt to her two nephews, Indigo and Kodiak, who attend Cabrillo School.

*“I’ve lived on the coast for 19-years and this community is my home. The teachers and staff here are the kindest people I’ve ever known. Painting faces at Cabrillo’s Spooktacular this last weekend was pure joy. Talking to children who were there with grandparents, parents and cousins is one of many reasons I love this community. Folks seem to truly want to help one another. Everyone here is so supportive, kind and wants to raise empathetic children. I am honored to be one of the new members of the Fourth-grade team here at Cabrillo and thank the staff and PTO for making me feel so welcome.” - Melinda McCabe*



### Community Corner News and events from community partners

# Pacifica Girls Softball League



**Spring 2024  
Registration Open!!!  
Ages 4-14**



[www.thepgsl.com/registration](http://www.thepgsl.com/registration)

**Early Bird!!!**

| Division | Age on 9/1 | Players / Team | Practices / Week | Games / Season | Early Bird Fee Through 11/15 | Regular Fee Through 1/5 |
|----------|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6U       | 4-6        | 8-10           | 1                | 8              | \$175                        | \$225                   |
| 8U       | 7-8        | 12             | 2                | 10             | \$225                        | \$275                   |
| 10U      | 9-10       | 12             | 2                | 12             | \$275                        | \$325                   |
| 12U      | 11-12      | 12             | 2-3              | 12             | \$300                        | \$350                   |
| 14U      | 13-14      | 12             | 2-3              | 12             | \$300                        | \$350                   |



*The mission of the Pacifica Girls Softball League is to provide an opportunity for girls ages 4-14 to play softball in a positive, fair, instructional and safety-oriented environment with emphasis on the development of qualities such as leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship, citizenship and friendship with mindful adherence to the Code of Ethics of the American Softball Association. We are a non-profit, all volunteer organization and count on parent participation for coaching, field maintenance, snack shack duty, and fund-raising.*