

# Pony Express Newsletter

April 2017

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, PTA President

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Spring is here and that means we have completed three-fourths of the school year. With that being said, we love seeing our students each day, on time and ready to learn. Every day of learning makes a huge difference and keeps students actively engaged. We look forward to celebrating their continued growth as we commit ourselves to finishing the school year strong.

Parents do make a difference! We still have important work to do in the remaining two months of school. Many outside/afterschool activities will be starting for students and it can become difficult to remain focused. It will be important to continue monitoring homework, attend school each day, be on time and be prepared. Your support and help is crucial.

We are excited that a new "Loading Zone" installed by the city has been established in front of the school. A sign has been posted in that zone to encourage parents to drop off or pick up only. This will keep traffic moving. Our crossing guard, Mr. Rick, and the school thanks you for your cooperation each day and to all who consistently follow the rules to keep our students safe.

## **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System**

Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking California's new statewide student assessment this month. The CAASPP tests are aligned with the new Common Core Standards, which are more challenging and rigorous than the old California Standards. The standards are more challenging because they require students to learn skills such as academic writing, research and solving problems – in addition to memorizing content. Because the tests will measure skills, we expect that they will be more challenging for students. The window of testing will occur from Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure your student is in school these days and ready to give their best effort. This is the time for them to show how much they have learned.

## **On Test Day**

- **Be sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Experts recommend that students at this age need eight to ten hours of sleep to function at their best.**
- **Have your child eat a healthy breakfast to help them be more alert and concentrate better.**
- **Make sure your child is organized and prepared for their day so they only need to focus on doing well on the test.**
- **Remain positive and show interest in the test.**
- **Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If your student gets nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help him/her practice some relaxation techniques.**

We also have registered our Kindergarten students for next school year. If you have a student that has not been registered, please give us a call or come visit us in the office so that we can make sure incoming students have everything they need to start Kindergarten.

I am proud of the incredible dedication and hard work from our teachers, parents and students. Pony Express is a high achieving school because of the work that each individual does each day. The home connection and

## Important April Dates:

April 4 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting 6:00PM-7:00PM
April 10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break (No School)
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ice Cream Social
May 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Appreciation Week

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partnership we have with you is important and working together will positively impact the students at our school.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this year and all of our activities and fundraisers a success. Our PTA continues to find great ideas to support our students and our school programs.

Have an awesome Spring Break and I hope that you find time to enjoy your family, relax, recharge and return to school ready to learn!

Sincerely,

*Debra Hetrick*

Principal

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## **PTA President's Message**

Hello Pony Parents:

By the time you receive this latest newsletter, our MixedBag Fundraiser will have just been processed, and your purchases will be distributed upon students' return from Spring Break. And with our return from the break, PTA will begin preparations for Pony's Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction, taking place on April 28th. This fun evening will be followed by the event of the year...for one full week beginning Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, PTA and all the parents get the opportunity to show our appreciation for the work the teachers and staff at Pony contribute towards the social and educational growth of our students. Personally, I could not say enough for all they have accomplished with our two kids.

April 4<sup>th</sup> is our next PTA Meeting. The main topic for this evening will be the accepting of nominations and the subsequent election for next year's PTA Board. Positions up for nomination and election are: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Aside from this important agenda item, if there is a topic you would like to have included on the agenda, please let me know so that I may have time to amend the agenda. In the meantime, the agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Call Meeting to Order
- Report of Meeting Minutes
  - 07 FEB 2017 Association Mtg
  - 14 MAR 2017 Association Mtg
- Financial Report
  - 2016/17 Budget Report
- President's Report
- Principal's Report
- Old Business
  - Board Nominations
- New Business
  - Board Elections
- Committee Reports
  - Fundraising
  - Student Assemblies
- Motion to Adjourn

As noted above, PTA Board elections will soon be our #1 topic of discussion, so please be thinking about our future. If you are interested in a position and would like more information, please email me at [rodney.fong@gmail.com](mailto:rodney.fong@gmail.com). So come and join us.

Sincerely,

*Rod Fong*

PTA President