

Pony Express Newsletter

December 2016

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Families:

December is here and three weeks before our winter break. We are taking advantage of every minute we can to teach. The staff would like to thank you for supporting your child's learning at home. Continue those efforts during the break. With the time off from school for Winter Break, it is important that students take time to continue reading, writing, and practicing their math facts every day. Make learning fun by building learning into your daily routine so students understand the importance of being a lifelong learner. We want you to know that your involvement is not only appreciated, it makes such a difference in your child's education.

We would like to thank all of you who have and will be attending our Parent/Teacher Conferences. The teachers worked hard to prepare for these conferences. We appreciate that many parents have rearranged schedules or took time off from work to attend. This extremely high level of participation speaks highly of your interest in your child's education. We hope you leave the conference with a clear picture of how your child is progressing and your questions answered. Working together as a **Team will** only benefit your child. Please take some time to review with your child the report card and set some goals together for learning in the New Year.

Now that the winter months are upon us, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for cold weather. Most days we go outside for recess and it is important that students come to school with a warm jacket and appropriate shoes.

We are fortunate to have Rick, our traffic man, crossing our students every morning and afternoon. He is a dedicated volunteer that wants all students to be safe during those times while keeping traffic flowing. We have made many attempts to have drivers slow down in front of the school or follow traffic laws including not making U-turns. We have tried many methods unsuccessfully and decided to try traffic cones. We spoke to the neighbors and got a positive thumbs up. We have also contacted the city traffic engineers for their opinion and advice. They have been out on several occasions to observe traffic. We are hoping to get approval for several crosswalks, one on 56th Ave & Los Cerros and the second on Los Cerros Drive. As they provide advice, you will see changes or modifications with the cones. We want to thank the neighborhood for your support and understanding.

School is closed for the holidays from December 26 - January 6, 2017. School will resume on January 9, 2017.

Important December Dates:

December 1 st -9 th	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Shortened Days)
Dec 26 th -Jan 6 th	Winter Break
January 17 th	PTA Meeting 6:00PM

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We are so grateful to you for sharing your children with us this year. Enjoy your time together during the winter vacation. This busy time of year is a nice time to reflect and prepare for a fresh start in the New Year.

Our Pony Express family would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Debra Hetrick

Principal

PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

Welcome back from this year's Thanksgiving break. I hope everyone had a terrific time, and, like our family, I hope everyone enjoyed good company, good food and good weather, all of which made up for the horrific traffic. Speaking of traffic...it's a good time to give thanks to Pony's "crossing guard Rick" and his partners Joe (back gate) and Brian (SLP intersection), for keeping the cars moving and our kids safe.

A huge thanks to all our parent volunteers and everyone who braved the stormy weather to attend our annual Harvest Festival. I know it has taken awhile (counting, recounting, and just to be sure, counting again, and on top of that...the counting of late tickets), but the tally has been finalized and our teachers raised over \$4000 for their classrooms.

At the end of November we completed our Gift Card and See's Candy/Holiday Fundraisers. Our Gift Card fundraiser earned a bit over \$700.00 for our students. We are currently processing the See's Candy/Holiday fund-raising orders now. Sometime during the week of December 19th, the orders will be distributed.

I would like to remind everyone that there is no scheduled PTA meeting for the month of December and that our next association meeting will be on January 17, 2017. If there is a topic you would like to have included on the January agenda, please let me know at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,

Rod Fong

PTA President
