

Pony Express Newsletter

March 2016

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, Interim PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

As we head into March, our teachers and students have been working hard on targeting and improving our reading, writing and math skills. The staff is a great team that has been collaborating and learning behind the scenes aligning the standards or teaching practices to create consistency and high quality across all classrooms. Pony Express teachers have rallied around this opportunity to develop the highest possible quality program for our students.

Important March Dates:

March 8	PTA Meeting 6:00PM
Mar 21-Mar 25	Spring Break
April 1-April 8	Minimum Days (Parent Conferences)

Minimum Days for Parent Conferences

Starting Friday, April 1, 2016 through Friday, April 8, 2016 students will be dismissed at **1:40** except for Kindergarteners who will be dismissed at their regular time of 1:00.

Parent Teacher Association

I want to encourage Pony parents to attend PTA meetings that are held monthly. This organization helps support the goals of the school and provides parent/student/community nights and activities. We will be looking for a new PTA President as the year ends, and would love for more parents to become involved in the school.

Attendance

We are experiencing a very high number of tardy students on a daily basis. Please remember that school starts at 9:00am sharp and breakfast starts at 8:30am. It is important that ALL students are here every day and on time. Students are allowed onto the campus at 8:45 to walk the track and prepare for their day.

We are also experiencing a high number of early pick-ups. I understand that doctor's appointments and emergencies do occur but, the number of early dismissals has become chronic and interrupts the learning environment at the school. Students with multiple early dismissals will be receiving a letter of concern. We must work together to ensure OUR children receive a great learning experience for the entire time they are in school. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Traffic Reminders

At drop off and pick times, we ask that you PARK your car so your child can enter and exit the car onto the sidewalk. Please do NOT double park and drop your student off behind a parked car or have your child dart out into the street. Please have your student walk through the crosswalk where the traffic monitor can help them safely into the school. It is helpful to continue driving in the direction your car is facing instead of making a U-turn in front of the school. This will allow for a smoother traffic flow. As a reminder, the school parking lot is for the staff to park and bus loading zone. If you do drive into the parking lot, please park your car in a parking slot. Thank you for your continued cooperation and patience. The safety of your student is Pony's number one concern.

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Spring Break

Spring Break begins March 21- March 25. There will be no school at that time. Have a wonderful and safe vacation from the staff at Pony Express.

Sincerely,

Debra Hetrick

Principal

PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

Pony kids (and their parents) glowed Friday night, February 19th at our annual Family Dance Event and from what I observed, it was a glowing success. And for this terrific night, we should give a big shout out to Akima Martin and (from the way Akima described her team) the "Merry Moms of Mirth," namely Amy Williams, Andrea Delgado, Rebecca Phillips, Raleigh Klein, and Jennifer Fischetti. And my sincerest apologies if I failed to mention anybody else working with Akima.

On Friday, March 4th, if you need somewhere to unwind from the busy workweek, head over to Lowbrau Bierhall and help kick off Lowbrau's event called "First Friday with Drakes." Lowbrau Bierhall, a German restaurant featuring traditional and gourmet house made sausages and a wide selection of German and craft beverages, has graciously offered to donate a portion of their First Friday with Drakes earnings (\$1.00 for each beverage they sell) to Pony Express Elementary School PTA. Lowbrau is located inside the MARRS (Midtown Arts, Retail, Restaurant Scene) Building at 1050 - 20th Street, Sacramento. Lowbrau is "kids friendly" from 2 to 9 PM. So come on out to Lowbrau Bierhall this Friday night and celebrate First Friday with Drakes by enjoying food, friends, and drink while also helping Pony Express Elementary School.

On Tuesday, March 8th, there will be a PTA Board Meeting at 5:30 pm, followed by the General Association Meeting at 6:00 pm. The main topic of discussion this evening will be nominations for the 2016 – 2017 PTA Board. Nominations will be accepted for president, secretary, and treasurer. These three positions must be filled in order to have a functioning PTA recognized by the National and State PTAs. Also on the evening's agenda will be discussions regarding the upcoming ice cream social and the all-important "staff appreciation." Hope to see you Tuesday evening.

Sincerely,

Rod Fong

Interim PTA President

Spring Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Spring Fundraiser. We raised over \$1750! Congratulations to our top sellers!

Top See's Candies sellers: Simi Deol and Kailee Tomita-Yee

Top ChicoBag seller: Simi Deol

Top seller in combined sales: Simi Deol

Top selling class: Mrs. Hashimoto

