

# Pony Express Newsletter

May 2017

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, PTA President

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

As we approach the final seven weeks of school, we have no intention of slowing down. Our calendar is booked with completing the state testing, field trips, learning, and activities.

**State Testing:** The [California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress \(CAASPP\) System](#) is administered to 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

There are four components that each student takes along with science for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. It takes students, teachers and parents working together to prepare our students for this rigorous test. We are proud of our students for wanting to do their utmost best.

**Staff Appreciation Week:** The first week in May is staff appreciation week. During this time, we acknowledge the special people working for your children. Teachers, office personnel, custodians, Para educators, noon duty, before and after school staff, cooks and so many more are responsible for making Pony the great school it is. If you get a moment, thank a Pony staff member, as I will. They are the unsung heroes of your child's school life. I thank them... and I hope you will too!

**Book Fair:** May 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. The book fair will be open from 5:30pm-7:30pm during Open House.

**Pony Express Open House:** Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> will begin at 5:30pm and end at 7:00pm. We will meet in the multipurpose room at 5:30pm, introduce our wonderful staff, discuss our accomplishments and goals for the year, and let you visit classrooms. Classrooms will be open allowing teachers and students to showcase the year's activities. Please plan on attending this important night with your children.

**Mark your calendar for Picnic on the Green:** Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am-12:30pm. Come and have lunch with your student at our annual Picnic on the Green. Bring a picnic lunch, blanket, umbrella, and spend lunch with us for this fun filled activity.

## **Proper Attire for Students**

Now with the warm weather upon us students are able to wear very comfortable summer clothing. However, please follow the following guidelines:

- **No tank tops**
- **No spaghetti straps**
- **Shorts should be of fingertip length or lower**
- **No midriffs**
- **No flip-flops**
- **Shoes with socks are best!**

**Box Tops Contest:** With seven weeks of school remaining, we will be having a Box Tops contest. In the month of May, the class that collects the most Box Tops will receive a pop-corn party. This event is a great opportunity for our school to support PTA efforts.

Sincerely,

*Debra Hetrick*  
Principal

### Important May Dates:

May 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Appreciation Week
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting 6:00PM-7:00PM
May 16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Book Fair
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Open House 5:30PM-7:00PM
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day (No School)
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Picnic on the Green 11:30AM-12:30PM
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School

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## PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

We're sliding into May with something like six weeks to go before the summer break. Like the previous thirty or so weeks, they too will probably fly by for the PTA, beginning with PTA's hosting of Staff Appreciation Week for all of Pony's finest. This particular event starts on May 1<sup>st</sup>, with breakfast every morning, and culminates in a luncheon for the staff on Friday. Pony teachers are some of the most hardworking people out there, and they certainly deserve the gifts, potlucks, and whatever else our school community decides to pull together for them. So if you have the opportunity, say hi and show them your appreciation.

Speaking of appreciation, I would like to thank this year's PTA Board and Committee Chairs: Matina Bragas; Raleigh Klein; Erin Fong; Rebecca Ramirez; Debra Hetrick; Jennifer Fischetti; and Jaime Szeto for all their help and support. Furthermore, thanks to the many parent volunteers that gave through their time and efforts and/or donations throughout the school year. Without this community there would not be a Pony PTA. Thank you.

On Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, PTA will convene its last association meeting for this school year. The main topic for the evening will probably be Play Day, but aside from this important agenda item, if there is a topic you would like to have included, 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
  - ◇ 04 APR 2017 Association Mtg
- ◆ Financial Report
  - ◇ 2016/17 Budget Report
- ◆ President's Report
  - ◇ Ice Cream Social
  - ◇ Staff Appreciation
  - ◇ 2017/2018 PTA Board
  - ◇ Play Day – Last Day of School
- ◆ Principal's Report
- ◆ Old Business/New Business
- ◆ Committee Reports
- ◆ Motion to Adjourn

Sincerely,

*Rod Fong*  
PTA President

## A Message From Mrs. SanAmahdi's Class

Dear Pony Express Families,

I'd like to inform you about plastic, and what it does to our environment. I'd also like to ask that you reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic waste. Plastic covers our planet. The North Pacific Garbage Patch contains seven million tons of plastic. It is about twice the size of Texas and lethally impacts everything from plankton to whales. Even Kamilo Beach, in a remote corner of Hawaii, is known as "Plastic Beach" due to the plastic that accumulates on its shores.

In the U.S alone, we can produce enough plastic water bottles to encircle the Earth five times. This is only five percent of the world's plastic. Americans use two and a half million plastic water bottles every hour and throw away thirty-five billion bottles a year. Most of this plastic ends up as litter in our oceans, as only about twenty-five percent of plastic produced in the U.S is actually recycled.

Over five trillion plastic bags are produced each year, and one hundred sixty bags are made a second. Seventeen and a half billion plastic bags are given away by supermarkets, which is equivalent to two hundred ninety bags per person. Supermarkets are beginning to ban plastic bags now, reducing their usage of plastic. Bringing your own reusable bag can save thousands of plastic bags a year. Use reusable bottles and reusable containers for lunch, instead of one-time-use bags and bottles. Just remember: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Sincerely,

*Alyssa Fong*