

Pony Express Newsletter

November 2016

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Fall is in full swing and the cooler days of autumn are upon us. This also means rain which is a welcome sight. November brings us the third month of school and a time to look at the progress of our students before parent conferences in just 4 weeks. As the year progresses, continue to keep communication open with your child and his/her teacher. Ask your child about the details of the school day and interesting things he/she has learned in class. Communicate also with your child's teacher when necessary in order to keep information clear and avoid misunderstandings or miscommunication.

Important November Dates:

November 8	PTA Meeting 6:00PM @ Round Table (Bel Air Shopping Plaza)
November 11	Veteran's Day (No School)
November 21-25	Thanksgiving Break
December 2-9	Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences are around the corner. Start expecting a schedule when to meet with your child's teacher. The schedules will be going home soon. If you have not signed up for a conference or you have not heard from the teacher by Tuesday, November 25th, please call the school to schedule one. A parent conference is a time to meet with the teacher one-on-one to see how your child is progressing academically toward meeting the standards in reading, writing and math. This is an important time for students, parents and teachers to evaluate grades, discuss progress toward grade level standards and to set goals for the coming months. Use this opportunity to hear the feedback from your child's teacher as to work habits and school behavior they observe in your child each day, to ask questions and learn your child's strengths and academic areas that may need more attention so we can work as a team to support your child in the 2nd trimester.



SHORTENED DAY SCHEDULE

1-3 Grades 9:00-1:40
4-6 Grades 9:00-1:41
Kindergarten: schedule stays the same

Benchmark Testing that covers the first trimester common core standards will begin being administered the week before break and the week after for students in 2nd-6th grade.

Preparing for Colder Weather means it's time to get out the sweaters, jackets, hats, and gloves again. Please put your child's first and last name and teacher name on all outerwear so we can identify who it belongs to.

Daily Attendance is crucial to your child's education. Pony Express's attendance rate is 96%. In order to keep our attendance rate up and students on target for learning, we need to make sure students attend school daily. When your child attends schools, they are more likely to succeed academically. It's difficult for the teacher to provide academics when a student is frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in school, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble and worse case drop out of school as they get older. Lists of excused absences are listed below. All other absences are considered unexcused and could result in the student being a truant.

Excused Absences

1. Illness or injury.
2. Having medical or dental services rendered.
3. Quarantine under direction of County/City Health Officer
4. Funeral/memorial service / bereavement.
5. Court Appearance.
6. Religious holidays.

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BIG THANKS! to PTA for organizing a wonderful Harvest Festival and a shout out to the teachers, students and parents for helping with individual class games. We had a wonderful turnout and all seemed to have a great time.

During this time of being thankful, I encourage you to model gratitude for your child. According to Zig Ziglar, a motivational speaker, "Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions." Modeling simple acts of gratitude for your child will assist them in learning the positive impact we can all have on others. I am grateful to be at Pony Express and to work with a wonderful community of students, staff, and parents.

Sincerely,
Debra Hetrick
Principal

PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

So we can now check off September and with it the Save Around Coupon Book fundraiser, but before we do, I would like to give a big hooray to Jack Hashimoto, who sold the most coupon books this year...he just keeps making mom proud. And don't look now, but October has just slipped by, and just like that, Harvest Festival is but another terrific memory of our times at Pony Express. So it's time to move on...and I'm talking move festivities in the shape of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Which brings to mind our current gift card fundraiser, as well as our upcoming See's Candies and Holiday Gift Wrap fundraisers. I know it seems like the first few months of school is filled with fund-raising activities, but please remember that all monies earned goes towards the enrichment of all our students. This is accomplished through supplementing teachers with their classroom supplies, assisting with field trip transportation costs, organizing student assemblies, and providing for various school activities. And, when called upon at times, PTA has been able to provide the school with copy machines, sound systems, stage equipment, and most recently, portable outdoor lights.

Our next PTA meeting happens to fall on Election Night, November 8th. Therefore, our association meeting site is changed to the large banquet room inside Round Table Pizza, located in the Bel Air Shopping Center at 1307 Florin Road. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. The agenda will be as follows:

Report of Meeting Minutes

- ◇ 11 SEP 2016 Association Mtg
- ◇ 15 JUN/11 SEP 2016 Board Mtg

Financial Report

- ◇ Current 2016/17 Budget Report

President's Report

- ◇ Save Around Coupon Books
- ◇ Harvest Festival
- ◇ Portable lights purchased
- ◇ No PTA association mtg scheduled

Principal's Report

- ◇ Ms Hetrick

New Business

- ◇ Nothing to report

Old Business

- ◇ Nothing to report

Committee Report

- ◇ Fundraising

So come and join us after visiting the voting booth and find out what we have planned for the next few months.

Sincerely,
Rod Fong
PTA President
