

# Pony Express Newsletter

October 2015

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Andrea Delgado, PTA President

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Now that we have had a month of school, things have settled down. Students have adjusted to the routines of the school and classroom. Student assessments have been completed to learn where the students are academically. Now, we are fully engaged in teaching Common Core Standards in each classroom. This is a new way of learning for many of our students as they are asked to explain how they arrived at an answer instead of just producing an answer. We are all on a learning curve and must remember to be flexible and patient. The students at Pony Express are awesome and rise up to the challenges that we are requiring. Any help at home is greatly appreciated.

### Important October Dates:

October 7 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sly Park Parent Meeting 6:00pm
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting 6:00pm
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival 5:30pm-8:00pm
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup>	Red Ribbon Week

## **STATE TESTING RESULTS**

Last spring, 3rd-6th grade students took the Smarter Balanced Assessments in English Language Arts and Math based on the new Common Core State Standards. These standards set higher expectations for our students than ever before. These results will establish a new baseline as they cannot be compared to results from previous standardized testing. As a school, we will be reviewing the test data to determine how we support students academically this school year.

## **BOOK FAIR / LIBRARY**

Thank you to Pony's Librarian, Mrs. Haleem, for organizing a wonderful Book Fair. She loves encouraging students to read. The library checks out on average 2,500 books per month. The more your student reads and can comprehend what they are reading will prepare them academically for success in college and careers in a globally competitive society by the end of high school.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

All items of value that are found on campus are placed in the lost and found gray garbage can located in the multi-purpose room. Now that the weather is changing, we are already finding clothing left on the play yard daily.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Every year it seems parents have questions concerning daily attendance. Regular attendance is an important part of your child's learning. Missing whole days, arriving late and leaving early contributes to student's missing instruction time. Realistically, we know that days will be missed due to appointments, illness and family obligations; but with your help these disruptions can be kept to a minimum. REMINDER: If students arrive late or leave early they must be signed in/out in the office. Absences should be reported either by phone or a note to the office.

## **DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP STUDENTS:**

There is NO student drop off in the parking lot from 8:30am to 9:00am and from 3:00pm to 3:30pm. Safety cones are placed at the entry way to school at these times to minimize traffic congestion and maximize safety when your child arrives and leaves school. You may also drop your child off and pick him/her up at the gates

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along Los Cerros Avenue. Do not double park, make U-turns or jay walk when dropping off or picking up your child. Please remember to use the crosswalks and thank our crossing guard for his efforts.

When waiting for your child after school, please wait at the front of the school or outside the side gate. Teachers accompany their students to the front of the school at dismissal time.

The city police frequently patrol school parking lots and neighboring streets. Do not park in the fire lanes or bus lanes in the school parking lot. Do not block neighbors' driveways when parking on the street. Continuous violations will result in your license plate being recorded and tickets being issued.

## **SLY PARK 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENT MEETING**

Parents are invited to attend an informational meeting held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 in the multipurpose room from 6:00-7:00. This information meeting will review the events your child will experience at Sly Park, such as parent drivers and chaperones, payments, fundraisers, behavior contracts, and supplies needed for the trip.

## **RED RIBBON WEEK**

It is an ideal way for people and communities to unite and take a visible stand against substance abuse. During the week of Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, Pony will be having activities to promote a drug free lifestyle. This year's theme is: Love Yourself, Be Drug Free.

Sincerely,

*Debra Hetrick*

Principal

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## **PTA President's Message**

Hello Everyone! First I would like to thank the parents and staff who were able to attend our first PTA meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Collectively, we gained great ideas, as well as feedback on past events that was much needed from parents and staff. We were able to decide on having Pony t-shirts being readily available for purchase at the school. Mrs. Hetrick, your enthused principal, was able to kick off Spirit Fridays and encourage teachers and students to wear school colors proudly. Pony t-shirts are a big part of our fundraising this year, so if you were able to purchase a t-shirt for your child or yourself, a big THANK YOU! You can still purchase them in the office from Sheila or Carol.

October is amongst us, and that means we are underway with our Harvest Festival fundraising event on October 30<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 8pm. I haven't had a chance to walk around and meet every teacher yet; I've been speaking through Mrs. Hetrick. I will make my rounds this month and talk to every teacher in person. For now, THANK YOU, teachers, for your continuous support of your PTA and its fundraising goals for this year.

This year one of our rockin' PTA parent members, Lorena Orozco, is coordinating our festival. Thanks Lorena! Look out for new attractions, as we come together to make this a fun evening. Returning this year will be the entertaining Taiko Drummers! Last year they had kids volunteer to learn to drum along with them, and it was quite the show! Parents, if you haven't already done so, ask your child (ren) what their class has begun to come up with for their fundraising booth(s). You will be amazed at some of the ideas students have come up with, as well as parents, for this awesome fall event. I have seen someone create a toilet bowl out of paper,

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card board, and a bucket, and, using toilet paper rolls, call it a toilet paper toss . . . into the toilet. Sounds crazy, but then you get those games that actually have pulley systems made to distract your throwing an object into a designated arena of stringed beads and papers. Amazing right? Can you think of something else? Come on out! The students will definitely have a safe and fantastic evening to be with their friends and family, while enjoying the booths their peers have come up with.

**We are asking for families to donate a bag of candy for the booth prizes. Any size bag is welcomed! Please turn them into your classroom or the front office, and thank you so much in advance!**

**Volunteers Needed for: Event Set Up, Parking Attendants, Event Clean Up – Let us know if you can help.**

I would like to thank Rod and Erin Fong for their continuous “hands on board -engagement” and foresight of all the activities happening at Pony Express. A snippet about them: They are retired but are still going strong, now splitting their time with their daughter, Alyssa, in 4th grade with Mrs. Eberle, and son Conner, starting at Sam Brannan Middle School. They are able to put most of their time into supporting the school through the PTA, and if anybody deserves to be thanked, it should be them. They are part of the reason I'm helping out this year, and once you get a chance to talk to them about what's happening at the school, you will want to thank them and shake their hand for what they have accomplished in order to make this campus enjoyable for your child. From creating the website and making sure the information is accurate to fundraising management, filing, distributing information to classes, coordinating, supervising, and so much more, they do it all. This is definitely a job, and they are not getting paid! But they hardly complain and they just do it. Thank you guys. BTW, the other part of the reason I joined PTA is because I share three awesome kids at this school - Maleeya, AJ, and Sophia - just three of the 400+ super great kids we have here at Pony Express.

### **Membership/Non-Membership, I just want to volunteer when I can:**

One thing I would like to pass on and this is very important. You don't have to be a member of the PTA to help. And whether or not your child is staying at Pony for the long haul, you should consider whether it's in your lifestyle to be a part of the PTA. I say this because each member and Board member usually moves on when their kids graduate 6th grade. For this reason, this school does need parents who are willing and ready to be a part of PTA or volunteer to help at PTA events. In addition to this, you would need to learn the ropes. A huge example why is because it's vital to learn the logistics and realization of just how much the school really relies on PTA for the fun stuff that has your child wanting to come back to the school for more! For two people it *can* be a job. However, if we had 3-4 teams of two people, it would be *less of a job process and more of a recreational process*.

This article is a bit long, but we will be cutting short on monthly newsletters and moving towards quarterly newsletters (reason being, we would like to save on ink and paper). For your convenience, everything you need to know about what is happening at our school is readily available and updated online at our website. Please save it for your reference: <http://ponyexpress.scusd.edu>

Do you have any questions? Please ask away! See you around school and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Andrea Delgado*

PTA President

Agalleguillos@yahoo.com

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## PTA General Association Meeting Agenda Tuesday, 13 OCT 2015 6:00pm-7pm

2015-2016 Board:

President	Andrea Delgado	Fundraisers	Erin Fong
Vice President	Rodney Fong	Reflections	Vacant
Treasurer	Matina Bragas	Newsletters	Rebecca Ramirez
Secretary	Rebecca Phillips	Newsletter Distribution	Erin & Rod Fong
Raley's & Nugget	Matina Bragas	Website Administrator	Erin Fong
Scrip		Dad's Club	Vacant
Membership	Rodney Fong	Marquee	David Cooper
Assemblies	Audrey Hemesath	Box Tops for Education	Matina Bragas

- ◆ Call Meeting to Order . . . . . Andrea
- ◆ Previous Mtg Minutes. . . . . Rebecca
  - ⤴ September 8th General Association meeting
- ◆ Financial Report . . . . . Matina
  - ⤴ Sept/Oct Budget Report
- ◆ Principal's Report . . . . . Ms. Hetrick
- ◆ Teacher's Report . . . . . TBA\_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Report of the Executive Board . . . . . Andrea
  - ⤴ Sept Board Mtg – Proposed 2015-2016 PTA Budget
  - ⤴ Oct Board Mtg - Scheduling of School Events
- ◆ Reports by Committee Coordinators
  - ⤴ Fundraising Events. . . . . Erin
  - ⤴ Student assemblies. . . . . Audrey
  - ⤴ Membership. . . . . Rod
  - ⤴ SCRIPS/BoxTops for Education. . . . . Matina
- ◆ Unfinished Business. . . . . Andrea
  - ⤴ Box Tops for Education Coordinating Volunteer
- ◆ New Business . . . . . Lorena
  - ⤴ Harvest Festival
- ◆ Dates and Announcements
  - ⤴ Next PTA mtg TBA
- ◆ Adjourn

Website:  
<http://www.ponyexpress.scusd.edu>

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