

Pony Express Newsletter

October 2016

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, 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 at 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 5	Sly Park Meeting 6:00PM-7:00PM
October 11	PTA Meeting 6:00PM
October 25-28	Red Ribbon Week
October 28	Harvest Festival 5:30PM-7:00PM

SPAGHETTI FEED

Thank you to Elizabeth Hall, Shilo Baena, Tahirah Preston, and Tannia De La Sancha for being the main organizers. They devoted many hours to make the Spaghetti Feed an awesome success. They were deeply appreciative of the generosity that parents provided with donations of sauce and helping out that night. Your support will supply our students recess equipment for the year. Students are less likely to get into trouble when they have enough equipment to participate in games.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

We had a big turnout at Back to School Night. We hope all of your questions were answered on expectations in the classroom and homework.

STATE TESTING RESULTS

Last spring, 3-6 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. 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.

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.

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DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP STUDENTS:

There is NO student drop off/or pick up in the parking lot. 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 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 guards for their 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 school at dismissal time. Parents will be allowed onto campus after the bell at 3:17 pm.

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 6TH GRADE PARENT MEETING

Parents are invited to attend an informational meeting held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 in the multipurpose room from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. This informational meeting will review the events your child will experience at Sly Park, 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 24-28th, Pony will be having activities to promote a drug free lifestyle. This year's theme is: You Only Live Once, Be Drug Free.

Sincerely,

Debra Hetrick

Principal

PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

We're heading into our second month of the school year, and October marks the beginning of an active period of time. I'm talking fundraisers, school activities, holidays. And of course, we kick all the festivities off with Pony's annual Harvest Festival, scheduled for Friday, the 28th of October, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. **Please understand this is not a PTA fundraiser.** The Harvest Festival is a teacher/classroom fundraising event. PTA sponsors, assists, and supports the Harvest Festival, but this annual event sets the foundation for the teachers' respective financial war chests. The funds each teacher earns helps them with their classroom supplies, class projects, and field trips. Start watching for fliers later this month.

October is also the month PTA will have its first association meeting. It is scheduled for 11th of October, beginning at 6:00 pm. The agenda will be as follows:

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Report of Meeting Minutes

- ◇ 10 MAY 2016 Association Meeting
- ◇ 15 JUN/17 AUG/13 SEP 2016 Board Meeting

Financial Report

- ◇ 2016/17 Budget Report

President's Report

- ◇ Spaghetti Dinner
- ◇ New Student Assembly Coordinator
- ◇ Coordinator for Harvest Festival
- ◇ PTA Financial Audit
- ◇ No FEB association meeting
- ◇ Next PTA association meeting NOV 08

Principal's Report

- ◇ Nothing to report

New Business

- ◇ Portable lighting equipment for Pony

Old Business

- ◇ Nothing to report

Committee Report

- ◇ Fundraising

As mentioned above, we are still in need of a volunteer to chair the Harvest Festival Committee. If interested, please email me at rodney.fong@gmail.com. So come and join us at the October PTA meeting and find out what we have planned for this school year.

Sincerely,

Rod Fong
PTA President
