

Pony Express Newsletter

March 2018

Gino Dobrescu, Principal

Rodney Fong, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Pony Riders,

We are already in March. This means we have 68 days left of this school year, and only 12 days left in the second trimester. It is imperative for all of us to remain focused so we can finish our second grading period on a positive note. Teachers have been working extremely hard (at no other segment do teachers work harder than elementary school teachers) to teach standards aligned with the adopted state common core standards. Every Thursday, during the early release time, teachers have been meeting together either at grade level or as a staff, to plan units of instruction, create common assessments, analyze students' work, and exchange curriculum and pedagogical ideas to better address individual needs of all of our students. Please continue to assist your student(s) at home as much as possible (no more than 1 hour per day – 30 minutes for reading and 30 minutes for math, social studies, language arts, projects, etc.). Additionally, tutoring is still available and thank you for agreeing to take advantage of this intervention.

Minimum days for Parent Conferences

We have scheduled minimum days starting **Friday, March 16th** and ending on **Friday, March 23rd**. During these 6 days, dismissal time is at **1:40pm**, with kindergartners following the normal dismissal time at **12:20pm**.

Spring Break

Spring Break is the last week of March, from **Monday, March 26th** to **Friday, March 30th**. Please enjoy your family and friends during this time.

Attendance

Please continue to do the best you can to drop off and pick up your student(s) on time. School starts at 9:00am sharp but we provide free breakfast for all students starting at 8:30 every day. We have a *morning walking the track routine* from 8:45 – 9:00am to warm us up for each day. With that being said, we are experiencing a high number of tardy students on a daily basis which means these students miss out on important parts of their education. We are also experiencing a lot of early pick-ups due to various reasons. These interruptions are detrimental to our learning. If at all possible, please try to schedule doctor's appointments outside school hours and yes, we do understand that there are emergencies that cannot be avoided. However, please know that we must work together to ensure the success of all of our students and this can only happen if they are present in school. Please also consult the parent/student handbook for additional information about specifics regarding our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Final thoughts

In behalf of our entire Pony staff, we would like to thank our families for their support with all our field trips, with PTA as well as School Site Council, and for all the volunteers who are investing hours in the classrooms. We really and truly appreciate all of you! Please know that we are here, in partnership, and at your service with much love!

Gino Dobrescu

Principal

Important March Dates:

March 2 nd	Family Friday in the Library 8:15PM-8:45PM (First Friday of every Month)
March 13 th	PTA Meeting 6:00PM-7:00PM
March 16 th -23 rd	Minimum Days: Parent-Teacher Conferences (Dismissal at 1:40)
March 26 th -30 th	Spring Break
April 13 th	Fun Run

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PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

Just flipped the calendar again. Seems like I just took down the Christmas lights...oh wait, those were the lights at the Family Dance. That's right, we closed the month of February with our annual Family Dance, which in my humble opinion, was a success. Pizza, popcorn, ice cream, and refreshments were enjoyed by everyone. Our evening's DJ, Buzzard-Ball Entertainment, spun the vinyl (at least that's what they did in my day) and kept everyone on their feet, while Paparazzi Photo Booth provided the opportunity to memorialize the event. I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped out during the event; you made it possible for the Pony kids to have a great evening of fun. Speaking of volunteers...of interest that I hope everyone would think about is the nomination of officers for next year's PTA Board. There needs to be at the very least, three positions filled, namely President, Secretary, and Treasurer, in order for a Unit PTA to conduct business. Nominations for officers will be taken during our March association meeting. Remember, nominees must be PTA members for at least 30 days prior to their nomination. Finally, on April 13th, Pony Express will hold their first ever Fun Run (jog-a-thon). This will be one of PTA's more ambitious fund-raising events, involving the entire student body, teachers and staff. Much more information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, the agenda for the March 13th meeting is as follows:

- ◆ Call Meeting to Order
- ◆ Report of Meeting Minutes
 - ◊ 14 NOV 2017 Association Mtg
 - ◊ 19 DEC 2017 Board Mtg
 - ◊ 09 JAN 2018 Association Mtg
 - ◊ 13 FEB 2018 Association Mtg
- ◆ Financial Report
 - ◊ 2017/18 financial report
 - ◊ Approve/ratify expenditures (checks)
 - ◊ Mid-year Audit
- ◆ President's Report
 - ◊ Current PTA membership
 - ◊ Important dates/planned activities
 - ◊ Ice Cream Social; Fun Run
 - ◊ Board Nominations/Elections
- ◆ Principal's Report
- ◆ Committee Reports
 - ◊ Fundraising
 - ◊ Assembly
- ◆ Motion to Adjourn

As noted above, PTA nominations will soon be our #1 topic of discussion, so please be thinking about our future. If you are interested in a position and would like more information, please email me at rodney.fong@gmail.com. So come and join us.

Sincerely,

Rodney Fong
PTA President