

Pony Express Newsletter

September 2018

Gino Dobrescu, Principal

Diana Chow, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Pony Families,

Welcome back to the 2018 – 2019 School Year. I hope you had the best summer vacation yet. Below you will find some important information to consider as we kick off the new school year.

First Day Packets: Your student will bring home a folder with several forms that need to be filled out and returned to school. These include: the *emergency cards, free and reduced lunch forms, library agreement and internet usage agreement*. Our district receives significantly more money for students who need extra resources: low-income students, foster youth and English language learners. Please make sure these forms are returned to school immediately so we can update your student's information in Infinite Campus to ensure a prompt response in case your child is sick. Please provide several phone numbers as you fill out the emergency card. Remember to inform us if your phone number(s) change during the year.

Important September Dates:

September 11 th	PTA Meeting 6:00PM
September 17 th -21 st	Book Fair
September 19 th	Back to School Night 5:30PM-7:00PM

Back to School Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 19, 2018**. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to find out what are the academic goals for your child's grade level, discuss and review expectations and support for the classroom. The schedule is:

5:30PM – 6:00PM - In the Multipurpose Room – meet the staff and hear the exciting events planned this year.

6:00PM – 6:25PM - In the classroom – followed by a 10 minute transitional time.

6:35PM – 7:00PM - Switch to the next classroom (if you have more than one student at Pony).

(Some teachers may present the entire hour. Look for a flyer from your student's teacher).

Traffic: We have more than 400 students attending Pony this school year. Traffic will be heavy and parking difficult. Designate a drop off/pickup area that you and your student agree upon. This will make it easy for all of us. **Please encourage your child to only use the cross walks for their safety.** Also, the parking lot in front of our school is **ONLY** open to staff and individuals who have business on campus. Park only in the designated spots and remember we need to keep the fire/bus zone clear of cars. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Book fair: Our first book fair is scheduled for September 17th – 21st. It is run by our very dedicated Librarian, Mrs. Haleem and will be open each of those days 15 minutes before school starts (8:45 AM – 9:00 AM). The book fair will also be open during Back to School Night from 5:30 PM – 7:15 PM. We kindly ask that you stop by and support your child's love of reading.

Hours of Operation:

Daily Schedule: 9:00AM – 3:07PM Monday – Wednesday and Friday, and 9:00AM – 2:07PM on Thursdays for teacher collaboration time.

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:00AM - 4:00PM and Thursday 8:00AM - 3:00PM. Please note that your child can only be dropped off in the morning 15 minutes before school starts and must be picked up no later than 15 minutes after school. Please make the necessary arrangements for drop off and pick up times.

Breakfast: Cafeteria serves breakfast at 8:30AM every morning.

Walk the track: Every morning from 8:45AM – 9:00AM. This is a healthy tradition/warm-up to get us ready for the day. Everyone is invited!

I wish you the best school year yet! Go Riders and Much love!

Gino Dobrescu

Principal

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PTA President's Message

Dear Pony Express families,

Welcome to a new school year at Pony Express! I want to introduce this year's PTA Board: Karen Lookingbill, Secretary; Lucy Norvall, Treasurer; Jennifer Fischetti, Assembly; Rebecca Ramirez, Newsletter; and myself, Diana Chow, President. I want to invite you to be a part of our Pony Express Elementary PTA family. Why should you join PTA? Simple. Besides the proud and priceless smile on your child's face, other benefits are:

- Online parenting resources, including Our Children Online Magazine,
- E-newsletters on parenting and legislative issues,
- Discounted member rate for PTA's annual national convention, magazine subscriptions, etc.
- The PTA Takes Action Network, connecting you to Congress when help is needed on issues important to children, schools, and families.

Pony Express Elementary PTA is also responsible for events your child enjoys each year including: Special Assemblies, Family Dance, Ice Cream Social, and Play Day on the last day of school. Time limitation? **Joining PTA does not require you to attend meetings or volunteer your time.** It means that you have a vote on what goes on at the school which your child attends.

Pony PTA membership fee is \$6.00 per person, and is open to student(s), parent(s), guardian(s), grandparent(s) and anyone who wishes to help contribute to our school, including relatives and friends on the other side of town or in different states. Of the \$6.00 membership fee, \$5.25 goes to pay yearly dues to District, State, and National PTA. Only \$0.75 goes to the general Pony Express Elementary PTA fund. If you are able to give a little more than the \$6.00 membership fee we would really appreciate it. The students at Pony Express would really appreciate it too! Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Electronic payment option will be available soon. At this time, the membership fee is collected in **cash only**. Please leave a note with your name, e-mail address, contact phone number, student's name and room number, at the front office and I will send a membership envelope home with your child within 2 business days. If you do not have that envelope after 2 business days, then please contact me at ponypta@gmail.com. If you would like to hear more about activities we have planned for this school year, please join us at the upcoming PTA meeting on **Tuesday, September 11th at 6:00PM**, in the **multipurpose room. *Kids are welcome!***

Last, I believe that it takes a "Community to raise a child". Our local businesses feel the same too. I invite you to please stop by a bit early on **August 30th**, the first day of school, for *free coffee* donated by **Starbucks** and *orange juice* donated by **Nugget!** Just look for the PTA Table with the Nugget balloons. Thank you for being a part of the Pony Family. Please join our Pony Express Elementary PTA family too. We need you to help contribute to the success of our school.

Sincerely,

Diana Chow
PTA President