

Pony Express Newsletter

April 2015

Debra Hetrick, Principal

David Cooper, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Parents do make a difference! We still have important work to do in the remaining two months of school. Many outside activities will be starting for students and it can become difficult to remain focused. It's important to continue monitoring homework, attend school each day, be on time and be prepared. Your support and help is crucial.

Important April/May Dates:

April 14	PTA Meeting 6:00 pm
April 22	Spring Picture Day
April 24	Ice Cream Sundae Social 5:30-7:00 pm
May 4-8	Staff Appreciation Week
May 12	PTA Meeting 6:00 pm
May 21	Open House
May 25	Memorial Day/No School

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System

Students in 3rd – 6th grade will be taking California's new statewide student assessment this month. The CAASPP tests are aligned with the new Common Core Standards, which are more challenging and rigorous than the old California Standards. The standards are more challenging because they require students to learn skills – such as academic writing, research and solving problems – in addition to memorizing content. Because the tests will measure skills, we expect that they will be more challenging for students. The window of testing will occur from Tuesday, April 21st through Thursday, May 8th. Please make sure your student is in school these days and ready to give his or her best effort. This is the time for them to show how much they have learned.

On Test Day

- Be sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Experts recommend students at this age need eight to ten hours of sleep to function at their best.
- Have your child eat a healthy breakfast to help them be more alert and concentrate better.
- Make sure your child is organized and prepared for their school day so they only need to focus on doing well on the test.
- Remain positive and show interest in the test.
- Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If your student gets nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help him/her practice some relaxation techniques.

I am proud of the incredible dedication and hard work from our teachers, parents and students. Pony Express is a high achieving school because of the work that each individual does each day. The home connection and partnership we have with you is important and working together will positively impact the students at our school.

Sincerely,

Debra Hetrick

Principal

Pony Express Newsletter

April 2015

PTA President's Message

Spring break is behind us and the Pony PTA is galloping toward the homestretch of the school year. We are kicking off the month with a weeklong visit from the **Crocker Museum's "Art Ark"** from April 11-17. The Ark is a mobile art education center designed to bring original works of art and activities to schools throughout the Sacramento region. The Art Ark is distinguished in the nation as one of the first mobile art museums and is one of the few to include hands-on learning. This is a great example of your PTA dollars hard at work enhancing your child's education. Thanks to Assembly Coordinator Audrey Hemesath for getting the Ark parked at Pony!

Next up is the **PTA meeting on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:00**. We are in desperate need of folks willing to serve on the PTA Board next year. At a minimum, we must fill the positions of President and Treasurer to continue to operate. Come to the meeting and see how **giving a little bit of your time can make a big difference** at Pony. Want a smaller role? Consider volunteering to organize one of Pony's school events, such as the Harvest Festival or the Family Dance. I'm not above begging...PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE! We really need your help.

Have you heard the one about having Sunday on a Friday? No, I'm not talking about disrupting the space-time continuum, it's the **Pony Ice Cream Sundae Social on Friday, April 24 at 5:30**. There will be raffles, art fun and other giveaways, but basically this is a COOL excuse for to come together, say hi, and load up on toppings. For all the info, see the bottom of this page. Your attendance will be the cherry on top!

Looking ahead to the first week of May, we will be honoring the teachers and staff at Pony Express with **Staff Appreciation Week**. Every day, volunteers will provide breakfast items to the staff, and the celebration will culminate in a luncheon at the end of the week. **Please let the PTA know if you would like to show your appreciation of the staff through a monetary donation or by providing a breakfast item.** Thank you!

Sincerely,
David Cooper
PTA President

Ice Cream Sundae Social



Ring in Spring with an evening of ice cream, art fun, and raffle prizes! Sundaes are \$2 and include a scoop of vanilla or chocolate ice cream and toppings.

All participants will be automatically entered into a raffle held at the night of this event. Lucky names will be chosen to win:

- Leatherby's Treat Bag
- Costco \$25 Gift Card
- Two Century Theater Movie Tickets
- Surprise Give-Aways!

Order your sundaes now! All preorders will be automatically entered into a second raffle where two lucky names will be chosen to win:

- Four VIP Wristband Tickets for Funderland
- Family Pass for the Sacramento Zoo

Preorder forms, with payment, are due Friday, April 17th. One entry per family.

PTA General Association Meeting Agenda Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 6:00 PM

2014-2015 Board:

President	David Cooper	Fundraisers	Erin Fong
Vice President	Rod Fong	Newsletter	Rebecca Ramirez
Treasurer	Teresa Kim	Newsletter Distribution	Erin & Rod Fong
Secretary	Rebecca Phillips	Website Administrator	Paul Hemesath
Raley/Nugget Scrip	Matina Bragas	Marquee	Dave Kim
Membership	Rod Fong	Box Tops for Education	Matina Bragas
Assemblies	Audrey Hemesath	Harvest Festival/Family Dance	Patricia Cooper

- ◆ Call Meeting to Order David
- ◆ Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes. Rebecca P.
- ◆ Financial Report Teresa
- ◆ President's Report David
- ◆ Principal's Report Mrs. Hetrick
- ◆ Teachers' Report
- ◆ Reports by Committee Coordinators
 - ▲ Membership. Rod
 - ▲ SCRIPS/Box Tops for Education. Matina
 - ▲ Student Assemblies. Audrey
 - ▲ Fundraising Events. Erin
- ◆ Ice Cream Social. Andrea
- ◆ Staff Appreciation Week. David/Rod/Erin
- ◆ 2015-16 PTA Board Nominations David/Rod
- ◆ New Business/Open Mic David
- ◆ Dates and Announcements
 - ▲ Spring Picture Day, April 22
 - ▲ Ice Cream Social, April 24
 - ▲ Staff Appreciation Week, May 4-8
 - ▲ Next PTA meeting, May 12
- ◆ Adjourn

Thank you for supporting the PTA
<http://ponyexpress.scusd.edu/>