

Pony Express Newsletter

February 2017

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that we are already into February. This school year is moving along at a fast pace. There are six weeks of school left before the end of the second trimester and parent conferences. If you have concerns academically, contact your student's teacher.

Important February Dates:

February 7 th	PTA Meeting 6:00PM-7:00PM
February 13 th	No School (Lincoln's Bday)
February 20 th	No School (Washington's Bday)
February 24 th	Family Dance

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment is an opportunity for families that live within SCUSD boundaries to apply for spots in schools beyond their neighborhood school or to apply for enrollment in specialty programs and schools. Pony Express has 15 openings for kindergarten students. The dates for open enrollment are from February 7 starting at 8 a.m. – February 21 ending at 5 p.m. Once your child has been accepted into the school, you must register your child at the Enrollment Center to attend the new school of choice. The dates are April 3-7, 2017 & April 17-21, 2017 (closed April 10-14 for Spring Break).

Parents must indicate on the Open Enrollment application any Special Education Program Services their child is currently receiving. Students requiring special programs as a part of their Individual Educational Program (IEP) can participate in Open Enrollment based on space availability in both the required program and the school of choice. Students receiving Speech/Language Services, Resource Specialist Program (RSP) Services and students who are fully included may apply for their school of choice through Open Enrollment. Parents interested in their child attending a specific special day class (SDC) Program should contact their Program Specialist in the Special Education Department (916-643-9174).

TRAFFIC REMINDERS/STUDENT SAFETY

At drop off and pick times, we ask that you PARK your car so your child can enter and exit the car onto the sidewalk. Please do NOT double park and drop your student off behind a parked car. Please have your student walk through the crosswalk where the traffic monitor can help them safely cross the street. In the past, students have darted out into the street before we began encouraging all student to use the crosswalk at all times. It is helpful to continue driving in the direction your car is facing instead of making a U-turn in front of the school. Cones were added to prevent U-turns and this allows for a smoother traffic flow. We are working with the city to add a drop off and pick up zone in front of the school for your convenience. As a reminder, the school parking lot is for the staff to park and bus loading zone. If you do drive into the parking lot, please park your car in a parking slot. Thank you for your continued cooperation and patience. The safety of your student is Pony's number one concern.

PICKING UP STUDENTS EARLY AND CHANGING END OF DAY PICK UP PLANS

Our front office is very busy during the day supporting the daily activities that happen at school. Lately, we have been experiencing more parents picking their student up early or changing how your child will get home. We are hoping that you will make plans ahead of time before your students arrives at school. Every time we must notify your student's classroom, it interrupts learning and stops the flow during that lesson. When we have multiple requests, it becomes

Pony Express Newsletter

February 2017

problematic. We are hoping you will partner with us to ensure the maximum teaching time does not get interrupted. If you must pick up your student or call the school, please only call if it is an emergency. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Debra Hetrick
Principal

PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

This is our first newsletter since December, so here's wishing everyone a Happy New Year! We just had our Family Movie Night where "Secret Life of Pets" was shown to a large crowd of students and their parents. From what I saw, the movie was enjoyed by everyone. Just before the movie was shown, our Family Dance coordinator announced the theme for this year's Family Dance. The two themes presented to the students for their consideration and subsequent vote earlier in the day were, "Hollywood" and "Space." The theme, "Hollywood" was overwhelmingly selected by the students. So, on February 24th, with the lights shining, the photo booth camera rolling, and the DJ calling the action, we should have a memorable evening. Additional information regarding the dance will be sent home with your student in the days to come. On February 7th, we will be having our next PTA Meeting. If there is a topic you would like to have included on the agenda, please let me know so that I may have time to amend the agenda. In the meantime, the agenda for the February 7th meeting is as follows:

- Call Meeting to Order
- Report of Meeting Minutes
 - 08 NOV 2016 Association Mtg
 - 22 DEC 2016 Board Mtg
 - 17 JAN 2017 Board Mtg
 - 17 JAN 2017 Association Mtg
- Financial Report
 - 2016/17 Budget Report
- President's Report
 - Spring Fundraisers, Chico Bags/Sees Candies, early MAR
 - Movie Night
 - Family Dance, 24 FEB
 - Officer Nominations, MAR/APR
 - Next PTA association mtg MAR 14
- Principals Report
- New Business
 - Nothing to Report
- Old Business
 - Nothing to Report
- Committee Reports
 - Fundraising
 - Family Dance
- 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,

Rod Fong
PTA President
