

# Pony Express Newsletter

March 2017

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, PTA President

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

As we head into March, our teachers and students have been working hard on targeting and improving our reading, writing and math skills. The staff is a great team that has been collaborating and learning behind the scenes aligning the standards and teaching practices to create consistency and high quality across all classrooms.

Pony Express teachers have rallied around this opportunity to develop the highest possible quality program for our students.

### **Minimum Days for Parent Conferences**

Minimum days start Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and goes through Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

During those 6 days, students will be dismissed at **1:40pm** except for Kindergarteners who will be dismissed at their regular time of **12:20pm**.

**Lost Phone:** One of our instructional aides misplaced her Metro phone on campus last week. She had special pictures of her grandchildren on the phone that are dear to her. If you happen to find a Metro phone, please return it to the office.

**Dogs on Campus:** We have many staff members and families that are dog lovers. However, the district has a NO ANIMAL POLICY on school grounds except for service dogs. Please do not bring your dog(s) on school grounds. The sidewalk is neutral where you can wait for your student with your dog. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

### **Attendance**

We are experiencing a very high number of tardy students on a daily basis. Please remember that school starts at 9:00am sharp and breakfast starts at 8:30am. It is important that ALL students are here every day and on time. Students are allowed onto the campus at 8:45am to walk the track and prepare for their day.

We are also experiencing a high number of early pick-ups. I understand that doctor's appointments and emergencies do occur but, the number of early dismissals has become chronic and interrupts the learning environment at the school. Students with multiple early dismissals will be receiving a letter of concern. We must work together to ensure OUR children receive a great learning experience for the entire time they are in school. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

### **Spring Break**

Spring Break begins April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school at that time. Have a wonderful and safe vacation from the staff at Pony Express.

In closing, we want to thank our families for your diligence in having your students at school on-time and well-prepared for learning each day. In addition, please continue to be mindful that our students' academic day continues until dismissal each afternoon and it is very important that students are not dismissed early unless an unavoidable appointment or emergency is involved as valuable instruction from the teacher can be missed in addition to required assignments. As always, thank you for supporting the wonderful teaching and learning taking place here at Pony Express.

Sincerely,

*Debra Hetrick*

Principal

### Important March Dates:

March 14 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting 6:00PM-7:00PM
Mar 17 <sup>th</sup> -Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	Minimum Days (Parent Conferences)
April 10 <sup>th</sup> -April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break

### SaveAround Coupon Books

"SaveAround" Coupon Books were donated to Pony Express. These are the same coupon books that the students sold the beginning of this school year for \$25.00. The coupon books are good for the next nine months and are selling for \$10.00. If you are interested, please see Carol or Shiela in the office.

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## PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

As promised, the stars were out for Pony's "Hollywood" themed Family Dance on Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. The large enthusiastic crowd of students and their parents "rocked" to the music of a live DJ. By all accounts, everybody had a great time. So please join me in thanking Akima Martin, who once again organized a great evening of music and dance. Other parent volunteers that helped make this a fantastic evening include: Andrea and Joseph Delgado, Courtney DeShields, Jennifer Fischetti, Erin Fong, Catherine Hashimoto, Carolyn Hotaling, Raleigh Klein, Leticia Martinez, Amy McAllister, Rebecca Ramirez, Korena Thomen, and my deepest apologies if I left anyone out. Thanks to all. While I am taking the time, might I add a big "hooray" to Rick "the energizer bunny" Crossing Guard, for all his efforts in keeping our kids safe and the traffic moving. Thanks too, to his assistants.

March 14<sup>th</sup> is our next PTA Meeting. The main topic for this evening will be the accepting of nominations for next year's PTA Board. Positions up for nomination are: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Aside from the nominations, 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 meeting is as follows:

- ◆ Call Meeting to Order
- ◆ Report of Meeting Minutes
  - 07 FEB 2017 Association Mtg
- ◆ Financial Report
  - 2016/17 Budget Report
- ◆ President's Report
  - Family Dance
  - Spring Fundraisers
  - Ice Cream Social
  - Officer Nominations, MAR/APR
  - Next PTA mtg 04 APR
- ◆ Principal's Report
- ◆ New Business
  - Board Nominations
- ◆ Old Business
  - Nothing to Report
- ◆ Committee Reports
  - Fundraising
  - Family Dance
  - Student Assemblies
- ◆ Motion to Adjourn

As noted above, PTA Board elections 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](mailto:rodney.fong@gmail.com). So come and join us.

Sincerely,

*Rod Fong*  
PTA President

### Pony Express Spring Fundraiser

This year's fundraiser is with MixedBag Designs, a Bay Area company that has fund-raised with many local schools. Catalogs and order forms will be distributed **Friday, March 10th**. Orders, with payment, are due **Monday, March 27th**. Also, online orders are available at [www.mixedbagdesigns.com](http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com) for the entire spring season! Use our **fundraising ID 354854** all the way until **June 30th**, and Pony will receive 40% for every online order (even sale items!).

### Girl Scout Cookies

Are you looking for Girl Scout cookies? They are available to purchase before and after school in Mrs. Bowland's classroom, room 4. We have Carmel Delites, Thin Mints, Thanks Alots, Smares, Lemonades, Shortbeads, Peanut Butter Patties and Peanut Butter Sandwiches. Thank you for supporting Girl Scout Troop 1996.

### Pony Indeed Will Help Animals in Need

Girl Scout Troop 1996 in cooperation with Pony Express is hosting a donation drive to benefit the Front Street Animal Shelter. The shelter needs your assistance in providing for the numerous animals they care for and shelter. You may bring your donations to the Pony Office during school hours through March 15<sup>th</sup>. Donations needed are blankets, gas cards, newspapers, dog and cat toys, cat beds, dryer sheets, dog and cat food and foster supplies. Thank you in advance for your donations.