

# Pony Express Newsletter

May 2015

Debra Hetrick, Principal

David Cooper, PTA President

## Principal's Message

As we approach the final five weeks of school, we have no intention of slowing down. Our calendar is booked with completing the state testing, field trips, learning, and activities.

The staff is deeply appreciative of the generosity of PTA to organize Staff Appreciation Week. We felt spoiled every morning and it was topped off with a luncheon on Friday. Thanks to all who organized and participated to make this a wonderful week!

### Important May/June Dates:

May 4-8	Staff Appreciation Week
May 12	PTA Meeting 6:00 pm
May 18-22	Book Fair
May 21	Open House 5:30-7:00
May 25	Memorial Day/No School
June 5	Volunteer Recognition Picnic on the Green
June 10	Sixth Grade Promotion
June 11	Last Day of School

**Book Fair:** May 18-22. The book fair will be open from 5:30-7:30 during Open House.

**Pony Express Open House:** Thursday, May 21 will begin at 5:30 and end at 7:00pm. We will meet in the multipurpose room at 5:30, introduce our wonderful staff, discuss our accomplishments and goals for the year, and let you visit classrooms. Classrooms will be open allowing teachers and students to showcase the year's activities. Please plan on attending this important night with your children.

**"Girls on the Run"** is a life-changing, non-profit prevention program for girls in the 3rd through 8th grade. Erin Duarte, one of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and Shiela Darvell, our clerk have been working with a group of girls to inspire confidence in a healthy atmosphere. The culminating activity will be a 5k run on May 16th. You can sign up for this run also. Go to their web site for details.

**Track:** Our PE teacher, Mr. Heinrichs, will be taking 60+ 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to the annual track event in June. Each event will be from 2:30-5:30 on Tuesday and Thursday. We are looking for parent volunteers to assist, cheer, and pass out water to our participant. If you are interested, please let Mr. Heinrich know.

**Volunteer Recognition:** Please plan on visiting us on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30 in the morning to honor our tireless volunteers. There are several classes that will perform that morning.

**Mark your calendar for Picnic on the Green:** Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-12:30. Come and have lunch with your student at our annual Picnic on the Green. Bring a picnic lunch, blanket, umbrella, and spend lunch with us for this fun filled activity.

**Runnin' for Rhett Youth Fitness Program:** Congratulations to all who participated in the Runnin' for Rhett Youth Fitness Program and ran 2.62 miles. Thank you to Mrs. Hemesath, parent volunteer, who trained about 70 students twice a week for 5 weeks.

**Nature Bowl Competition: engaging youth in science, conservation and citizenship:** Pony Express took a third grade team and fifth grade team and participated in a Nature Bowl competition at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The teams spent countless hours learning about the Northern California environment prior to the competition. Thank you to Mrs. Wortman and Mrs. SanAhmadi for taking on this project. The student teams competed in 6 categories and had to answer tough environment-related questions aligned with State Science Standards. Congratulations to both teams for a job well done. We are proud to announce that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team won their division and have advanced to the finals. They compete on May 16<sup>th</sup> at California State University, Sacramento. Wish them luck!!

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Team

Cali Kuang    Caiden Gross  
Jizelle Ly    Lisa Pan  
Jalen Kwong    Alejandro Nambo

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

Nate Benner    Parker Phillips  
Audrey Pon    Maleeya Delgado  
James Kubish    Michelle Erickson

Sincerely,

*Debra Hetrick*

Principal

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## PTA President's Message

In the song **The Circle Game**, Joni Mitchell poignantly compares the swift passing of time during childhood to a carousel as “the seasons go round and round and the painted ponies go up and down.” With the end of the school year quickly approaching and my daughter finishing sixth grade (congrats Dylan), it’s my turn to jump off the Pony Express PTA “merry-go-round” so others can climb on board. I do it with mixed emotions – excitement about new adventures ahead, but sadness at leaving this great school behind.

If last month’s Ice Cream Social was any indicator, the future of the Pony PTA is in good hands. Up and comer Andrea Delgado and her merry band of sundae-teers put together a great event, with sweet treats, raffle prizes, music, art fun and wall ball. We had a great turnout, **served nearly 200 sundaes and made \$400!** This was the PTA’s first ice cream social, but hopefully will become an annual event.

Of course putting on these events requires a healthy PTA. With that in mind, the PTA will be finalizing its Board officers for 2015-2016 at our last **PTA meeting** of the year on **Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00**. We must fill the positions of President and Treasurer to continue to operate, so come to the meeting and see what support you can give. Whatever you have to offer, I guarantee Pony will be the better for it and you will too.

As we wrap up the school year, we honored the teachers and staff at Pony Express with **Staff Appreciation Week** from May 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Every day, volunteers provided breakfast items to the staff, and the celebration culminated in a luncheon at the end of the week. Thanks to everyone who donated money or a food item.

I also want to express my appreciation to all the volunteers who have given their time to Pony Express throughout the school year. Whether it was coming to a PTA meeting, volunteering time at a school event, or writing a check for a fund raiser, you made such a difference for Pony’s students. In addition, I want to salute Principal Hetrick and the rest of the PTA Board for going “above and beyond” in their support of Pony Express. **What a great group of people!** It’s been an unforgettable year and I’m so glad Rod and Erin Fong twisted my arm to take on this position, though my arm still hurts a little when it rains. See you around!

Sincerely,

*David Cooper*

PTA President

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## PTA General Association Meeting Agenda Tuesday, May 12, 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
- ◆ 2015-16 PTA Board Elections. . . . . David/Rod
- ◆ New Business/Open Mic . . . . . David
- ◆ Dates and Announcements
  - ▲ Book Fair, May 18-22
  - ▲ Open House, May 21
  - ▲ Volunteer Recognition, June 5
  - ▲ Sixth Grade Promotion, June 10
  - ▲ Last Day of School, June 11
- ◆ Adjourn

*Thank you for supporting the PTA*