

Pony Express Newsletter

May 2018

Gino Dobrescu, Principal

Rodney Fong, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Pony Families,

I hope this letter finds you in peace, health, and much love! We have 33 days of school left. This doesn't mean that we can already check out of school. We cannot afford to do so as the remaining days are full of very important activities. These include learning the remaining standards at each grade level, completing our annual state testing, field trips, and some of the usual end of year activities.

State Testing: As we mentioned in our last edition, CAASPP (*California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress*) will be administered to

our students enrolled in grades 3rd – 6th grade. The test has two components in both Language Arts and Mathematics. Our teachers have worked diligently the whole year to provide rigorous instruction and we know our students are prepared to prove to the world that there is strong education at Pony! We have also taken various practice and diagnostic tests to make sure our students perform well and receive the recognition they deserve! I would like to thank all of our teachers and parents who have been working collaboratively to maintain high expectations. Good luck Riders!

On Test Day

- Be sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Experts recommend that 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 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.

Staff Appreciation Week: The second week in May is staff appreciation week. This is a time when we pause from our daily fast routines and acknowledge the very hard working and dedicated people that work for your children and whose impact is everlasting. What makes Pony a very special place is the extraordinary teachers, office staff, plant manager, custodian, para educators, noon duty and before/after school staff cooks and others who work tirelessly to ensure the success of our students. Please take some time during this week to thank a Pony staff member. I thank them multiple times per day for all the meticulous work that goes unnoticed!

Book Fair: This year's book fair is May 23rd – 25th open for parents from 8:30am – 11:00am and from 3:07pm – 3:30pm. It will also be open during Open House from 5:00pm – 7:15pm!

Open House: Wednesday, May 23rd will begin at 5:30pm and end at 7:00pm. We will start in the multipurpose room

Important May Dates:

May 1 st -18 th	CAASPP Testing
May 7 th -11 th	Staff Appreciation Week
May 8 th	PTA Meeting 6:00PM
May 23 rd	Open House
May 23 rd -25 th	Book Fair
May 28 th	Memorial Day (No School)
June 8 th	Picnic on the Green 11:30AM-12:30PM
June 12 th	Kindergarten Promotion
June 13 th	6 th Grade Promotion
June 14 th	Play Day/Last Day of School

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at 5:30pm, introduce our amazing staff, discuss our accomplishments and goals for the year, have an opportunity to get some food (couple of food trucks will be available), and then let you visit classrooms. Please plan to attend this great evening and see some of this year's accomplishments.

Picnic on the Green: Friday, June 8th, from 11:30am – 12:30pm. Please 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 cool activity.

Proper Attire for Students:

Please follow these guidelines before you decide what to wear during the warmer days:

- No tank tops
- No midriffs
- No spaghetti straps
- No flip-flops
- Shorts must be fingertip length or longer
- Closed-toe shoes with socks are best

Let us all work together to finish this school year on a very positive note.

Much love, everyone!

Gino Dobrescu

Principal

PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

With just about six weeks until the end of the school year, this will be my last newsletter article, and it follows a busy month of April. We successfully completed Pony's first annual (?) Fun Run. We set an ambitious goal of raising \$10,000, and while we did not meet this, the Pony community did collect pledges totaling a respectable \$8,789.25. I would like to thank all the many volunteers that came out to cheer the kids on, count laps and pass out water. This event was followed by our annual Ice Cream Social, an event we hold each year to bring students and family members together to socialize and enjoy a relaxing evening before the final push to the end of the year. That said, the monies collected pays for the ice cream and condiments and helps with the purchasing of year end classroom supplies. Another big thank you for participating and/or volunteering during this event. As with most activities, we save the best for last...I'm talking Staff Appreciation and Play Day. Staff Appreciation is held during the entire week of May 7th, with breakfast for the staff every morning and culminating in a catered luncheon on Friday, May 11th. Fliers have been distributed requesting donations for breakfast items and/or monetary donations. Tuesday, May 8th, will also be our last PTA meeting for the year. We have yet to vote in a Board for next year, so nominations for officers will be taken during our May association meeting, followed immediately with elections. Come join us and receive one raffle ticket per person for a chance to win a gift certificate to a local restaurant. The agenda for the May 8th meeting is as follows:

♦ Call Meeting to Order

♦ Report of Meeting Minutes

- ◊ 14 NOV 2017 Association Mtg
- ◊ 13 FEB 2018 Association Mtg
- ◊ 10 APR 2018 Association Mtg

- ◊ 09 JAN 2018 Association Mtg
- ◊ 13 MAR 2018 Association Mtg

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- ◆ Financial Report
 - ◊ 2017/18 financial report
 - ◊ Approve/ratify expenditures (checks)
 - ◊ Mid-year Audit
 - ◆ President's Report
 - ◊ Past Month's activities: Fun Run; Ice Cream Social
 - ◊ Important dates/planned activities
 - ◊ Board Nominations/Elections
 - ◊ Play Day
 - ◊ Board Nominations/Elections
 - ◊ Staff Appreciation
 - ◊ Staff spirit-wear balance paid
 - ◆ Principal's Report
 - ◆ Old Business/New Business
 - ◊ Old Business: nothing to report
 - ◊ New Business: RISO copier; Electronic Marquee
 - ◆ Committee Reports
 - ◊ Fundraising
 - ◊ Assembly
 - ◆ 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,

Rodney Fong
PTA President