

Pony Express Newsletter

November 2017

Gino Dobrescu, Principal

Principal's Message

Dear Pony families,

Hello humankindess! Thank you everyone for ALL you did to assist with this year's Harvest Festival. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fong, the entire PTA team as well as our extraordinary teachers and parents for your labor of love. It is much appreciated.

We have completed two months of education and we can already see much progress being made by our students. It is most rewarding to see children learning to read, modeling with mathematics, observing and experimenting the world around, problem solving, interpreting and understanding more complicated text - all these experiences represent tools for future academic success and otherwise. Please continue to support your student, assist with homework when necessary and make sure all work is completed on time and turned in. Just a few minutes of quality time each day makes a huge difference in their overall development. Also, please continue to remind them about proper behaviors at school including reviewing teacher's expectations so their learning is not negatively affected in any way.

Parent Conferences

Frist trimester Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up. Your child's teacher will inform you with the exact scheduled time and date. You should hear from them by the end of the month. Please call the school to schedule one if you don't hear from the teacher by November 24th. A parent teacher conference is a very important time. This is an opportunity for the parents to see how their children are progressing academically toward meeting the learning goals and standards in reading, writing, and math. This is the time to evaluate grades, to look at the progress for the respective grade levels, as well as to set goals for the next trimester. It is imperative that parents use the feedback from the teachers to assist their children academically and behaviorally so that they can be successful. It is suggested that parents talk to their children prior to the conference. Prepare a list of notes you want to discuss with the teacher that you would like to share such as your concerns, the child's home life, any major changes, or anything else that is worrying your child. You may also prepare a list of questions that will help you have a productive conversation with your child's teacher including academic and behavior expectations for success.

Preparing for Colder Weather

November usually brings rain so let us dress appropriately. This means it's time to pull out the other type of clothing: jackets, sweaters, gloves, hats, etc. To avoid the loss of any items we encourage you to put your child's first and last name as well as their teacher's name somewhere so they can be easily identified.

Washing hands:

Please remind your student to wash their hands frequently before eating, after using the bathroom, or when they come inside from playing. We want to make sure they remain healthy and we recognize that hand washing is by far the best way to keep students from getting sick.

Attendance

It is extremely difficult to get a solid education when students are not in school. We at Pony strongly believe that the first step in having a successful school life is by attending daily. It is also difficult for the teacher to maintain high

Rodney Fong, PTA President

Important November Dates:

Nov. 6 th	School Site Council
Nov. 9 th	KCRA Canned Food Drive Ends
Nov. 10 th	Veterans Day (No School)
Nov. 14 th	PTA Meeting 6:00PM
Nov. 15 th	Bullying/Cyber Prevention Training
Nov. 20 th -24 th	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1 st -8 th	Parent/Teacher Conferences

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academic expectations when students are frequently absent. Plenty of studies show that when students are not in school not only do they fall behind academically but they also have a higher chance of getting in trouble. Please note that there are cases of excused absences (please see below) but all other absences are considered unexcused and students will be marked as truant.

Excused Absences:

1. Illness or injury
2. Having medical or dental services rendered
3. Quarantine under direction of County/City Health Officer
4. Funeral/memorial services/bereavement
5. Court appearance
6. Religious holidays

With much love and respect,

Gino Dobrescu
Principal

PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

A quick reminder to everyone that the Pony PTA membership is **\$6.00 per adult** and is open to parents, guardians, and grandparents. Joining PTA does not obligate anyone to attend meetings or in any way volunteer their time. So, if you would like to join Pony PTA, please leave a note with your **name, email address, student's name and room number**, at the front office and I will get a membership envelope to you.

It was another fun and festive evening at Pony Express, with the annual Harvest Festival. Hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves and used this fun-filled Friday as a springboard into their holiday spirits. Speaking of which...PTA has started our Holiday Gift Card fundraiser and will be followed by our annual Holiday Gift Wrap/See's Candy fundraiser later in the month.

Also this month at our PTA meeting, aside from seeing the happy faces of your PTA Board members, you could possibly have your questions and/or concerns regarding **Pony's GATE Program** addressed by our guest speaker, the GATE Coordinator for the SCUSD, **Kari Hanson-Smith**.

So, if you would like to hear more about our fundraisers and the GATE Program, please join us for our next PTA meeting on November 14th at 6:00pm in the multipurpose room. The agenda for the NOV meeting follows:

Sincerely,

Rodney Fong
PTA President

- Call Meeting to Order
 - ◊ Introduce Guest Speaker
- Report of Meeting Minutes
 - ◊ 10 OCT 2017 Association Mtg
 - ◊ Approve/ratify expenditure
- Financial Report
 - ◊ 2017/18 financial report
 - ◊ Approve/ratify expenses (checks)
- President's Report
- Guest Speaker: Kari Hanson-Smith
- Principal's Report
- Old Business
 - ◊ Purchasing PTAEZ financial software
 - ◊ Proposed Pancake Fundraiser
- New Business
 - ◊ Spirit Wear
- Committee Reports
 - ◊ Fundraising
 - ◊ Assembly
- Motion to Adjourn