

Debra Hetrick, Principal

David Cooper, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Now that we have had a month of school, things have settled down. Students have adjusted to the routines of the school and classroom. Student assessments have been completed to learn where the students are at academically. Now we are fully engaged in teaching Common Core Standards in each classroom. This is a new way of learning for many of our students as they are asked to explain how they arrived at an answer instead of just producing an answer. We are all on a learning curve and must remember to be flexible and patient. Our teachers are mastering the new curriculum, receiving support from district training specialists and attending trainings throughout the year. The students at Pony Express are awesome and rise up to the challenges that we are requiring. Any help at home is greatly appreciated.

Important October Dates:

Oct. 8	Sly Park (6 th Grade) Meeting 6pm-7pm
Oct. 14	PTA Meeting 6pm-7pm
Oct. 20-Nov. 2	ReUselt Clothing Drive
Oct. 23-31	Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 24	Harvest Festival 5:30pm-8:00pm

BOOK FAIR / LIBRARY

Thank you to Pony's Librarian, Mrs. Haleem, for organizing a wonderful Book Fair. Through your support and her efforts, the earnings from the book fair totaled \$1,481. Our students will have new books to read as Mrs. Haleem places orders throughout the school year. Please contact her if your student has a special book they would like the library to carry.

LOST AND FOUND

All items of value that are found on campus are placed in the lost and found gray garbage can located in the multi-purpose room. Now that the weather is changing, we are already finding clothing left on the play yard daily.

ATTENDANCE

Every year it seems parents have questions concerning daily attendance. Regular attendance is an important part of your child's learning. Missing whole days, arriving late and leaving early contributes to student's missing instruction time. Realistically, we know that days will be missed due to appointments, illness and family obligations; but with your help these disruptions can be kept to a minimum. REMINDER: If students arrive late or leave early they must be signed in/out in the office. Absences should be reported either by phone or a note to the office.

DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP STUDENTS

There is NO student drop off in the parking lot from 8:30am to 9:00am and from 3:00pm to 3:30pm. Safety cones are placed at the entry way to school at these times to minimize traffic congestion and maximize safety when your child arrives and leaves school. You may also drop your child off and pick him/her up at the gates along Los Cerros Avenue. Do not double park, make U-turns or jay walk when dropping off or picking up your child. Please remember to use the crosswalks and thank our crossing guard for his efforts.

When waiting for your child after school, please wait at the front of the school or outside the side gate. Teachers accompany their students to the front of school at dismissal time.



The city police frequently patrol school parking lots and neighboring streets. Do not park in the fire lanes or bus lanes in the school parking lot. Do not block neighbors' driveways when parking on the street. Continuous violations will result in your license plate being recorded and tickets being issued.

SLY PARK 6TH GRADE PARENT MEETING

Parents are invited to attend an informational meeting held on Wednesday, October 8th in the multipurpose room from 6:00pm-7:00pm. This informational meeting will review the events your child will experience at Sly Park, parent drivers and chaperones, payments, fundraisers, behavior contracts, and supplies needed for the trip.

RED RIBBON WEEK

It is an ideal way for people and communities to unite and take a visible stand against substance abuse. During the week of October 23rd to October 31st, Pony will be having activities to promote a drug free lifestyle. This year's theme is: Love Yourself, Be Drug Free.

Sincerely,

Debra Hetrick

Principal

PTA President's Message

The hectic first month of school is in the rearview mirror, so hopefully you and your family are now settling into a groove. It can be hard to shift into "school mode" after summer, but I've been impressed with the number of people already lending a hand to make this a special year at Pony Express.

With that in mind, I want to thank everyone who responded to our initial effort to grow our PTA ranks. Remember, the membership drive is ongoing and PTA envelopes can be found in the school office. Please join if you can. At last month's PTA meeting, we had a good mix of first timers and familiar faces in attendance. Folks had a bite to eat while discussing plans for the upcoming school year – from assemblies to fundraisers to special events. I even made feeble attempts at PTA humor! Stop by on October 14th at 6:00 pm and see what we've got cooking. As always, PTA membership is NOT required to attend.

If you can't make the meeting, there are other ways to show your support and help raise funds for our school. The ReUselt Clothing Drive runs from October 20th to November 2nd. The mobile unit will be parked at Pony to collect your gently used clothing and household donations. By cleaning out your closets, you can help local nonprofit organizations and bring in dollars benefitting our school. I call that a "win-win."

Also, mark your calendars for the Harvest Festival on Friday, October 24th from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. This has grown into one of Pony's best events, bringing the school community together for fun, games, and food, all while raising money to support school field trips and purchase classroom supplies. I call that a "win-win-win" and you will call it a great night for the whole family!

Finally, for those shoppers already looking ahead to the holiday season, keep in mind the PTA will be offering ways to turn your gift-giving into big bucks for Pony Express. The PTA will once again be selling gift cards, where retailers will contribute anywhere from 2% to 20% to our school. Also, if you treasure finding the



perfect stocking stuffer (and helping Pony), the PTA will be sponsoring a new fundraiser to help you find just what you're looking for. Details coming soon. Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

David Cooper

PTA President

PTA Vice President's Message

As this year's Coordinator of Pony's PTA Membership Committee, I would like to welcome the Parents and Teachers of Pony Express. Being the Membership Coordinator, it's my task to reconnect with last year's members and encourage new parents to join this year's PTA. It sounds easy...but I haven't a clue where to start. So if there are any readers that would like to share "how-tos", I'd love to hear from you. For now, let me say that joining PTA is just a small way of showing your support for Pony Express. Your \$6.00 annual dues allows you to vote on important issues heard at scheduled PTA meetings, as well as elect and cast votes for PTA Board members. However, joining PTA does not require attendance at meetings and meetings are open to non-members. At the time of this newsletter's distribution (probably sometime during the fifth or sixth week of school), we have a total of 48 paid members. I have a self-imposed goal of 100 members, but I need your help. Thank you for showing your support.

Sincerely,

Rod Fong

PTA Vice-President and
Membership Coordinator

Pony Express Spirit Wear

Hello Pony Panthers,

Show your school spirit! It is time to order your 2014-2015 Spirit Wear. See the attached flyer for clothing options. To order, submit the order form to your child's teacher or to the office. Be sure that size, color and quantity have been filled out. Also include child's teacher name and room #. Your order will be available for pick up in the office approximately 2 weeks after your order is submitted. Make checks payable to Pony Express PTA. Don't miss out Panthers! Order now!

ReUseIt Clothing Drive

Monday, October 20th to Sunday, November 2nd

Start cleaning out your closets and garage for our 2nd annual clothing drive! Donations can be brought to the school office, during school hours only, starting **Monday, October 6th**. Donations can be placed directly in the mobile drop box in the school parking lot, beginning October 20th. For a list of acceptable items, visit our [Current News](#) page. If you would like a collection bag(s), email ponypta@gmail.com

PTA General Association Meeting Agenda Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 6:00 PM

2014-2015 Board:

President	David Cooper	Fundraisers	Erin Fong
Vice President	Rod Fong	Newsletters	Rebecca Ramirez
Treasurer	Teresa Kim	Newsletter Distribution	Erin & Rod Fong
Secretary	Rebecca Phillips	Website Administrator	Paul Hemesath
Raley's/Nugget		Marquee	Dave Kim
Scrip Program	Matina Bragas	Box Tops for Education	Matina Bragas
Membership	Rod Fong	Harvest Festival/ Family Dance	Patricia Cooper
Assemblies	Audrey Hemesath		

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Report of the Executive Board Rebecca P.
 - ▲ Sep 9th Board Mtg
- ◆ Reports by Committee Coordinators
 - ▲ Fundraising Events. Erin
 - ▲ Student Assemblies. Audrey
 - ▲ Membership. Rod
 - ▲ SCRIPS/BoxTops for Education. Matina
 - ▲ Harvest Festival. Patricia
- ◆ New Business/Open Mic David
- ◆ Dates and Announcements
 - ▲ ReUselt Clothing Drive, Oct. 20 – Nov. 2
 - ▲ Harvest Festival, Friday, October 24
 - ▲ Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23 – 31
 - ▲ Next PTA meeting, January 13
- ◆ Adjourn

Thank you for supporting the PTA