

Principal's Message

Dear Pony Families,

First of all I would like to thank you for EVERYTHING you've done this year: for transporting your children to and from school every day, for supporting them at home, for participating in all extra-curricular activities thus far, for supporting Pony Express with all major events and fundraisers, plus many more other reasons. My staff and I are truly fortunate to work with such extraordinary families and we are honored to serve you and your children. There are six weeks left before the end of this second semester and parent teacher conferences. Parent-Teacher conferences will happen between March 15th – March 22nd. Should you have any academic concerns, please contact your student's teacher.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment is an opportunity for families who reside within SCUSD's boundaries to apply for spots in schools other than their neighborhood school or to apply for enrollment in specific specialty programs and schools. Pony Express has 20 openings for kindergarten students. The dates for Open Enrollment this year are February 5th – February 19th at the end of the day. After your child has been accepted into the school, you must complete the registration process at the Enrollment Center to attend the new school of choice. Parents must indicate on the Open Enrollment application any Special Education Program Services their child is currently receiving. Students requiring special programs as a part of their Individual Educational Program (IEP) can participate in Open Enrollment based on space availability in both the required program and the school of choice. Students receiving Speech/Language Services, Resource Specialist Program (RSP) Services and students who are fully included may apply for their school of choice through Open Enrollment. Parents interested in their child attending a specific special day class (SDC) Program should contact their Program Specialist in the Special Education Department (916-643-9174). For additional information, you may visit the district's website at scuds.edu.

ACADEMIC UPDATES

Our students have shown a lot of growth since the beginning of this school year in all core subjects. As I visit the classrooms on a daily basis I can assure you that our teachers are the most dedicated educators on the planet: they deliver creative and engaging lessons, provide ample time for collaborative learning, and invest a lot of energy in teaching Common Core State Standards. Additionally, our teachers meet at least once per week to plan units of instruction and common assessments, and constantly monitor their students; progress and adjust their teaching methods to reach all types of learners.

SCHOOL CLIMATE UPDATES

I am very happy to inform you that thus far we've had a fantastic and productive school year. Every month we talk about a character trait. Collaboration, confidence, gratitude, perseverance, and perspective-taking are the traits we've introduced so far. The remaining character strengths are empathy, integrity, self-discipline, responsibility, and optimism. Every morning students hear a quote regarding the monthly character trait we are focusing on and periodically they are reminded about character development. To that end, please continue to work with your student regarding what it takes to be a successful and productive citizen. We all know the famous saying, "it takes a village..."

ATTENDANCE and TRAFFIC REMINDERS

Please do your absolute best in making sure your student is dropped off on time. Lately, we have been experiencing more students coming in late or picked up early. This puts a big dent in their education; it interrupts the teaching and learning. Please make the necessary arrangements and adjustments. We are truly hoping you will partner with us to ensure maximum teaching and learnings don't get interrupted. Thank you for your cooperation. Also, please continue to be the very good and law-abiding drivers that you are. Safety is our top priority!

Gino Dobrescu - Principal

Important Dates

NO school on 2/11 and 2/18	No School - Spring Break 4/15 - 4/19
Family Dance on 2/22	Teachers & Staffs Appreciation 5/6 - 5/10
PTA Meeting on 3/12 - Voting for 2019-20 board, 5 pm - 6 pm	NO School on 5/27
Fun Run on 4/5	Picnic on the Green on 6/7, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Ice Cream Social & Silent Auction on 4/11	Play Day on 6/13 (Last Day of School)

PTA President's Message

Dear Pony Express Families,

It's been a fun school year so far..., Harvest Festival, Family Movie Night, Art Ark, School time Assembly performances, Art Contests, the complimentary Breakfast with PTA (formally known as Meet the Principal) on the last Friday of each month are just some of the events and activities sponsored by the Pony Express PTA Board 2018 -19. We, your PTA Board, are excited to bring you and your family more upcoming events as the year progresses. One of those being the Family Dance on February 22, 2019, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Please visit our website <https://ponyexpress.scusd.edu/join-your-pta> for more information. Volunteers or monetary donations are needed and welcome.

As we continue to plan fun and educational activities for your student(s) and your family/ families, we also need to elect new PTA Board members for 2019-20 to ensure the continued future success of the Pony Express PTA. Newly elected officers take office on July 1, 2019, and training are available both from the existing board and the 3rd District California PTA..

Please see the link <https://ponyexpress.scusd.edu/join-your-pta> for the volunteer job descriptions for the upcoming vacancies - *President* and *Secretary*.

Please contact PTA at ponypta@gmail.com or leave a message at the front office if you are interested in this rewarding experience! The election for the new board will be on March 12, 2019, during the PTA Meeting from 5 pm to 6 pm. The meeting will be located in the Cafeteria. Door prizes and light refreshments will be available. Kids are welcome!

Thank you for being a part of the Pony Family. Please join our Pony Express Elementary PTA family too if you have not already. We need you to help contribute to the success of our school.

Sincerely,

Diana Chow – PTA President

Follow us on **Facebook** under **Pony Express Sacramento PTA** and **Instagram** under **PonyPTA**.

<https://ponyexpress.scusd.edu/>

Have Questions? Want to volunteer? Email: [**ponypta@gmail.com**](mailto:ponypta@gmail.com)