

Pony Express Newsletter

September 2016

Debra Hetrick, Principal

Rod Fong, PTA President

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

First Day Packets: Be on the lookout for the first day packets coming home. Please fill out the emergency card, library agreement and internet usage agreement. We need the emergency cards to update your student's information in our attendance program to ensure a prompt response in case your child is sick. Please provide the school with a few phone numbers and contact information. If your number changes during the year, please update the information.

Important March Dates:

September 5	Labor Day-No School
September 16	Spaghetti Feed
September 21-23	Book Fair
September 22	Back to School Night 5:30PM-7:00PM
October 11	PTA Meeting 6:00PM

Meal Application or Income Form Helps Boost Funding: Two years ago, the state changed the way it funds public schools. School districts now receive significantly more money for students who need extra resources: Low-income students, foster youth and English language learners. SCUSD needs your help in determining the income levels of our families. Please fill out the form in the First Day Packet to help our school receive additional funds.

Spaghetti Feed: Friday, September 16, 2016: With the support of several parents, Pony Express is having a welcome back kick-off dinner. The police department will have a finger print booth available for our students as well as a demonstration from the K-9 unit. Proceeds will assist parents having difficulty with the finger printing fees.

Back to School Night: Thursday, September 22, 2016: Back to School night is a time when parents meet with the teacher to find out what the academic goals are for your child's grade level, discuss and review expectations and support for the classroom.

5:30 – 6:00 - In the Multipurpose Room – meet the staff and hear what exciting events are planned this year

6:00 – 6:30 - In the classroom

6:30 – 7:00 - Switch to the next classroom (if you have more than one student at the school)

Some classes may present the entire hour. Look for a flyer from your student's teacher.

Traffic: We have almost 450 students enrolled at Pony this year. Traffic will be heavy and parking difficult. Designate a pickup area that you and your student agree upon. That will eliminate some confusion. **Please continue to encourage your child to use the cross walks for their safety.**

Our parking lot is **only** open to staff and individuals that have business on campus. Park only in the designated parking slots as we need to keep the fire / bus zone clear of cars. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Book Fair: Come visit our book fair being run by our dedicated Librarian, Mrs. Haleem. The book fair will be open September 21st-23rd. Parents are welcome to stop in 15 minutes before school starts on each of those days. The book Fair will be open during back to school night from 5:30-7:15. Please stop by and support your child's love of reading.

Friday Morning Exercise: To promote physical health of our students, we will be having the first 10 minutes each Friday designated to moving, exercising, and dancing. Our PE teacher, October Reyes, will lead the entire school with fun motivating activities.

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Let's have a great awesome year!

Sincerely,

Debra Hetrick
Principal

PTA President's Message

Hello Pony Parents:

On behalf of the Pony Express Elementary School PTA Board, I would like to welcome all the parents, staff, and students to another exciting school year. While these last few days of summer may have been met with resistance from our kids, parents have probably been looking forward to getting back into a more routine environment. So to help ease our kids from the transition of the dreamy days of summer to the higher thinking of academia, PTA will endeavor to bring enjoyment and enrichment to their experience. PTA will accomplish these and other goals through social events and student assemblies.

As optimistic as PTA is towards accomplishing our goals, it needs to be realized that PTA is a voluntary organization composed of parents and teachers. To conduct a social event or undertake an enrichment program entails financial obligations, and the PTA deals with these obligations through fund-raising efforts and donations. This school year, PTA's initial list of fund-raising and social events are:

<u>SEP:</u> Coupon Bk Fundraiser; Spaghetti Feed, sponsored by Pony Parent Action Committee.	<u>OCT:</u> Harvest Festival; Gift Card Fundraiser.
<u>JAN:</u> Family and Friends Movie Nite.	<u>NOV:</u> Holiday and See's Candies Fundraiser.
<u>MAR:</u> Spring Fundraiser.	<u>FEB:</u> Family Dance and Silent Auction.
<u>MAY:</u> Staff Appreciation.	<u>APR:</u> Ice Cream Social.
	<u>JUN:</u> Play Day and BBQ Hot Dog Lunch.

PTA's list of student assemblies, which we generally will have at least six of during the school year, have not been finalized and listed, due to PTA's budget having not been ratified by the membership at this time.

Speaking of PTA membership, the PTA needs no less than fifteen paid members, of whom at least three shall serve in the offices of president, secretary, and treasurer. Membership dues are \$6.00 per year and does not obligate the member to attend meetings or volunteer their time. PTA's working capital is composed entirely of earnings from fundraisers and donations. From each \$6.00 collected, only \$.75 is deposited by the treasurer in our account. Pony PTA's proposed budget for this school year is slightly in excess of \$20,000.00. Viewed in this fashion, it is easy to understand the importance for the parents, teachers, and community to support the Pony Express PTA. So if you have the opportunity (member or not), attend one or all of our association meetings and learn what's going on at our school and with our students. Our first General Association meeting will be held on October 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you and welcome to Pony.

Sincerely,

Rod Fong
PTA President
