



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court, Oakland, California 94618 (510) 879-1710

School & Community Newsletter February 28, 2006

Message from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

We are thrilled to welcome young Jocelyn Camille Bailey to the world! She was born at 7:04 p.m. on Saturday, February 26, 2006 at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, and weighed a healthy 8 lbs. 4 oz. Paul and Amelia Bailey are doing well and are very proud parents! They thank all of you who have helped them prepare for this joyous arrival.

This was definitely a Kaiser-filled weekend for lots of folks. A wonderful group of families and friends turned out for our Black History Potluck, Oratorical and Dance festivities and our immeasurable thanks to Tracy Levy who coordinated the event. She was mentored by Andrea Nobles who had chaired this event for the past two years, and it underscored the importance of "passing the torch" because it makes the event so much easier to plan. Coordinating the food presentation was Cynthia Thompson and she was greatly assisted by a number of terrific volunteers, many of whom were new kindergarten parents. We love how everyone pitches in! Our children were spectacular and we all had a wonderful time, thanks to everyone's energy and participation.

Saturday night two of the auction events were celebrated by the happy bidders- the Ladies' Bunko Night was at the home of Debra Kay, and Mel Stenger hosted a group of delighted guests who enjoyed an epicurean feast at his home. Our thanks to those who offer these spectacular events at the auction each year.

On February 28th there will be a School Site Council meeting at 3:45 in the library to plan for next year, and we are also awaiting news as to whether or not we will be in the final running for the California Distinguished School award. We should hear very soon if the committee of judges is going to schedule a visit to Kaiser.

This is also the time when the PTA needs to put together a nominating committee to develop a slate of officers for next year. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please call the school and leave a message for Lisa Downes or Lesley Clark. If you would be interested in serving on the PTA Board next year, we need to hear from you. Just put your name on a slip of paper, indicate that you're interested in taking a leadership position, and we'll find something just for you!! Never let it be said that we don't welcome volunteers!!

A message or two to pass along to parents: 1) We have concerns about the speed at which some families zoom up the hill to the school at the end of the day. One can never know whether there will be children in the circle and we don't want to take chances with their safety. 2) The pile of sweaters, jackets, lunchboxes and other paraphernalia is becoming unmanageable again. Please stop by and rescue the lost jackets that somehow get left on the playground, in the hall or outside on the tables. Because there are no names on the inside, we cannot return them to their rightful owners and they will be donated to a worthy cause soon.

This Thursday, March 2nd is Read-Aloud day to honor Dr. Seuss. We invite parents to offer to read a book to a child, or a whole class that day. Talk with your child's teacher.

Don't forget to RSVP to the Pajama Party on March 8th at 6:00 p.m. It is our Music and Literacy Night and each child will receive a book that evening. We need to have an accurate account of the anticipated participants to assure that we have enough pizza. There will also be a special storyteller on hand to entertain us! Looking forward to seeing all of you at these events.

- Katie

Getting In The Know

Earth Day gardening day Saturday, April 22 with community volunteers. We will probably be moving our gardening boxes to another location that day as a portable will be moved in over the summer.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS UPDATE!

STARTING IN MARCH THERE WILL BE NEW SESSIONS OF:

MAD SCIENCE (spring session: 3/27 - 5/22)

KAISER MIRACLE CHORUS (OYC) (spring session: 3/21 - 5/30)

CHESS (spring session: 3/22 - 6/7)

LEGO ENGINEERING FOR GRADES 2-5 (spring session: 3/17 - 6/9)

NEW! LEGO PRE-ENGINEERING FOR K-1 (spring session: 3/21 - 5/30)

AFRICAN DANCE (spring session: 3/17 - 6/9)

If your child wishes to join or continue in one of the above after-school programs, please sign up NOW! A packet with flyers and registration information for all of our spring session went home with last week's issue of the Pink Panther and will also be available on our website, www.kaiserelementaryschool.com.

Some partial scholarships will be available for some of these programs. If you would like to request financial assistance for your child, please ask in the office for a scholarship application. Completed applications should be turned in to Robin in the office.

DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE MARCH 3rd.

Late application submissions will not be considered.

Questions? Call Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679, or even better, email me at katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net.

How to use the Pink Panther

To include your story or information in your school newsletter: check with Katie McLane, then forward to both editors by 5:00 p.m. on Sundays, at cara_eva@hotmail.com and kbradley@ix.netcom.com

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb 28 Tuesday	School Site Council Meeting 6:30 (see pg. 5)
March 6 Monday	PTA Board Mtg. 7pm
March 8 Wednesday 6:00 to 8:00	Family Music and Literacy Night Science Fair at Kaiser
March 13-17	MINIMUM DAYS for parent/teacher conferencing
March 28 6:30pm	K-3 Orff performance

END OF YEAR TAX DEDUCTIONS??

Our families have been so incredibly generous already this year, but if you need to have a tax deduction which will go to support the programs at Kaiser, **please send a check to our Kaiser PTA. We are a 501 c.3 organization and any contribution is tax deductible.**

If you have friends or neighbors who believe in public schools but do not have children in the system, please let them know that they can support Kaiser or their neighborhood school. It is important that we begin letting people know that a lot of good things are happening in Oakland's schools!

How to Reach Kaiser

Our phone number is (510) 879-1710 (includes a 24 hour message service).

Principal Katie McLane's email address is Catherine.Mclane@ousd.k12.ca.us

How to use the Kaiser School Website

For our public information, be sure to visit and browse www.kaiserelementaryschool.com and to participate in the school community group go to, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/ and join!!

Made For Us

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ORATORICAL FEST!

On Friday evening we had the opportunity to hear kindergarten student, Terrin Flores perform "Peace" by Carmen Campanioni; Emmett Blunt, first grader, performed "I Say I can When Others Say I Can't" by Ruby Blunt; third grader Mercy Nwakudu presented an original piece "I Wonder How it Feels to be Free" and Keturah Nobles delivered "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou; Marina Donaldson, fourth grader performed "Martin Luther King, Jr. by Useni Eugene Perkins and fifth graders Maiyah Phelps –original "Freedom's Path" and Christina Bates recited "If" by Rudyard Kipling. We also were thrilled by Ms. Haruyama's first graders who presented a beautiful poem about freedom.

Others who participated in the fest at our site included Ms. Gorham's class, Natalie Ryan, Lucie Gaw and Sage Smith, Jordan White and Aidan Walker, Sam McGynn-Mandel, Amari Harmon, Lorice Dykes, David Suruki, Slater Hitz, Aaron Elliott, Naomi Kushins, Alexis Carney, Mikaela Briggs and Maya Lopez, Sierra Baxter, Emma Braden, Heather Davis, Camille Hooks and Jolisa Davis, Nora Pots, Olivia and Maya Kelleher, Megan DeVecchi, Annelise Eeckman, Kendall and Madison Murphy, Neill Wessling, Cully Barr and Marcello Ferrari, Khari Campbell-Wright and Antoine Roca, and Lily DeVecchi. We hope even more of you will participate next year!

Our district-level winners were: Emmett Blunt (bronze), Ms. Gorham's class (silver) and Maiyah Phelps and Christina Bates (gold). Congratulations to everyone for representing yourself and Kaiser School so proudly. Also, thanks to Trish Gorham who coordinated the oratorical fest and to our judges: Mr. White, Ms. Brooks and Mrs. Eastman!

February at Rockridge Branch Library

7:00pm Tuesday, February 28th -- Kalimba music by Carl Winters, the Kalimba King. The kalimba is an African instrument, played with thumbs. Winters performs both African and American music. Free, for all ages. Erica Siskind, Children's Librarian, Rockridge 5366 College Ave, 510-597-5017 esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org

Family Music and Literacy Night- at Kaiser

March 8- 6:00 to 8:00

We'll have a Story teller, pizza and crafts in addition to first graders performing demonstration of musical integration with their reading and math.

Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas!

Community Gardeners

For the remaining gardening dates for the rest of the school year. Please mark these important dates on your calendar. We are trying to be consistent with the last Friday (or Thursday) of the month.

Sat., March 18, 9AM-1PM- This is the Saturday community day

Thurs., March 30, 3PM-5PM- This is a Thurs as the 31st is a holiday

Sat., April 22 - our Earth Day gardening day with community volunteers.

Fri., April 28, 3PM-5PM

Thurs., May 25, 3PM-5PM- This is also a Thurs as the 26th is a holiday

Thank you,
Tom & Janan

Welder Desperately Needed! Please Call Us

Do you know someone who is a welder? We have immediate need for someone to fix one of **our new tables** in the auditorium! There are also some other projects that are on a "to do" list... Call the Kaiser office...

Kids Take the Page

Responses to paintings in the DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, written by fifth graders in Mrs. Reese's class 2/14/06

Boy, don't you turn back. Don't look another way because you find the world is coming to an end. Don't you let nothing hold you back or get in your way. If it does, knock it over now. Boy, I want you to dream big to the end...to leave some left for the rest. Now son, I don't want you to let go. Hold on as long as you can. You got to think again if you want to win. **By Kemomni Pitre**
(Inspired by "One Night to Another" by Yves Tanguy)

Pride
Confidence
Power
Brown
White
Tastes like sweet sugar in a river drifting away
Mankind is in tears
By Trevor Wilson
(Inspired by First Figure by Howard Bentre')

Sadness everywhere. People screaming and yelling. Fires spreading over fields of blood. Darkness. People disappearing in the dark. Hand grabbing children away from their parents. Now it ends, nothing but blood left. Villagers gone, now all that is left is me.
By Christian Morgan
(Inspired by Anthropomorphic female mask by Burkina Falo, Mossi people)

I want to escape. I want to get out of this vile hole in which I'm stuck. I wish to join the world as it was, but I can't, I can't.
By Nick Smith
(Inspired by a shrine figure, anonymous)

I am a napping horse made of wild twigs. I am a dreaming horse ready to be freed. I dream of running wild across the windy plains. I dream of running wild in the dangerous desert. I am a wild horse, ready for any danger.

By Iris Esquivel
(Inspired by Deborah Butterfield's "Horse")

Mystery Cup
A cup of passion and mystery.
Used by only the powerful and greedy. Making you feel cold inside, making you feel upset. It is like a cup of all your wishes or even dreams, and feels as soft as newly fallen snow. Shaped so delicately. Not much looking even like a cup nor a lantern. With not too much detail, the handle looks to be shown as someone powerful or no longer here.
By Salina Wittmer
(Inspired by A ceremonial palm wine cup)

Colors everywhere.
The canvas is filled, anger in their mind. Colors thrown, whipped, zipped, blotted, dotted. Like a long lost love or loss or peace and tranquility. Hatred has not faded. It is a never ending sea. Love is nowhere to be found. Peace has been bound to the roots of hatred, not to be released only by love and peace. Blood is darkened by hate. This is war- it is on earth.
By Ian Alexander

School Site Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

OUTCOMES

- ◇ Review and make budget modifications as needed for 2005-2006 SPSA Plan
- ◇ Review attendance & discipline data
- ◇ Prioritize needs for SPSA
- ◇ Input on budget
- ◇ Public Input

3:45 Agenda Overview

3:50 School Site Council
 ✓ Approval of Minutes

3:55 2005-2006 SPSA Implementation
 ✓ Budget modifications?
 ✓ Other school issues?

4:00 Data Discussion
 ✓ How well are we doing?

4:20 Single Plan for Student Achievement for next year
 ✓ Priorities around:

- Safety
- Physical environment
- ELA
- Math
- Other?

4:35 Budget input
 ✓ Budget presentation

4:50 Public Input

4:55 Meeting Debrief – How did we do?

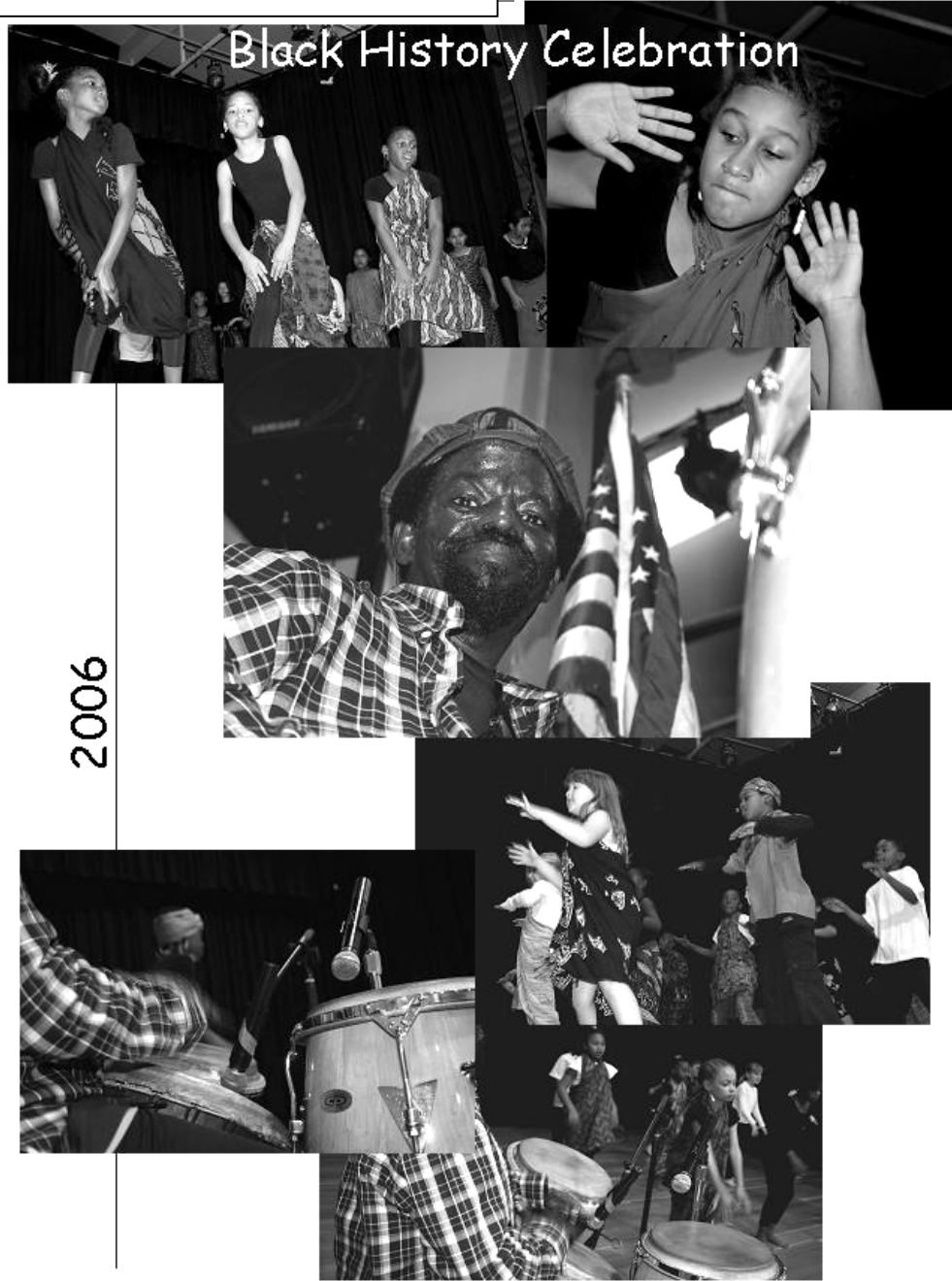
5:00 Adjourn

You make me feel like...

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I want to say thanks a million to all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to lend a helping hand at our black history program. We could not have done it without you. This was my very first time chairing this event, and I must say it wasn't easy with a toddler running around. I want to give a special thanks to **Andrea Nobles** for patiently walking me through the process. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! - Tracy Levy

Photos: M. Ryder. Donate your pix from the celebration, at the Kaiser office!



2006