



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

“School” is in full swing now. The routines for families, teachers and students are pretty much established and now we’re just refining and shaping. (Please see the Gentle Reminders). I hope your home routines are also firming up. Every family should have a time and place set aside for students to do homework and a time for reading. Younger students should be reading with their adults.

These routines should become a habit, so you don’t need to think about it, like gassing up the car, or putting away groceries. That way the mind is free to concentrate on *the learning* that should be taking place during homework and reading time. Educational research shows that children whose parents read with them become better readers; similarly, if you involve your children in the math of your household (shopping, budgeting, measuring, purchasing with cash, balancing the checkbook...) they will become better mathematicians.

The morning circle routine could use a little help. Please pull all the way around, when space allows, and drop off your children nearer the front door. Please don’t stop by the gate. Thank you all for being patient and cooperative to help traffic flow.

And thank you all for respecting my request to meet your kids outside and going to classroom after dismissal time. Thanks, too, for using cell phones outside. Those two little changes have really made the hallway a different place!

Volunteering has begun to build steam. Regular classroom volunteers are beginning and I’ve seen some “Give Us a Day” forms showing up, too! The best way to be an effective one-time volunteer is to pre-arrange it with your child’s teacher. You can leave them a message through the office, a note in their box, or by email. Thanks to those of you who have already given us time!

Great Schools at greatnews-noreply@greatschools.net is a website that offers lots of information for parents. Some is general, some is specific and some is about particular schools. This week for example they included information about what is being taught at different grade levels. They also have a link for our latest test scores. Check it out!

Finally, we need to continue to prepare for a “non-routine”, a catastrophe. Pete Normandin, our site safety coordinator, tells me we have fewer than 30% of families responding to requests for emergency packs for their kids. I know it’s not pleasant, so just take a deep breath and do it, and then you won’t need to think about it until next September. I’ve attached a sheet describing our emergency evacuation procedure describing what we’ll do in the case of a major disaster. Please review it so we’re all prepared!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

GENTLE REMINDERS

A few "Gentle Reminders" to help our school run better and more courteously:

- ❖ We are not equipped to microwave student lunches
- ❖ Please practice with young children to make sure that they can open their lunch containers and dress themselves after toileting. (Especially for Kindergartners.)
- ❖ Please use cell phones outside only.
- ❖ Beeping your horn on the traffic circle doesn't help.
- ❖ Please wait for students outside near the picnic tables after school (except for Kindergartners)
- ❖ If you arrive after 9:15 please stop in the office with your child. Before that you can send them directly to the classroom. And please let your child stay through the end of the day.
- ❖ Please return "First Day Packets", including the lunch form, and emergency packs if you have not yet done so.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Sept. 19	SSC Meeting
Sept. 17-28	Sally Foster Sale
Sept. 26	PTA Board Meeting
Oct. 12	Staff Development Day—No School
Oct. 15-19	Parent-Teacher Conferences (1:25 release every day)
Oct. 19	Latino Heritage Potluck
Nov. 10	Kaiser Auction: "A Night in New Orleans"
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day—No School
Nov. 19-23	Thanksgiving Recess—No School

How to be in the *Pink Panther*

To include your story or information in your school newsletter: forward your news, questions, or article to both of the editors by **5 p.m. on Sundays** via email:

carriemail2001@yahoo.com – Carrie Shepherd
jolie@earthlink.net – Jolie McRae

How to Reach Kaiser School

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

To participate in the school community group,
 go to (and join) this website:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/

2007-2008 Pink Panther Staff:

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Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:

PTA President: Janice Murphy
 VPs Communication: Kim Carl
 Kiki Bradley

Kaiser Kiosk



Volunteer Needed!!!

Oyster Shucker Enthusiast for our "Night in New Orleans" Fresh Oyster Bar at the Kaiser School Auction, November 10

Please contact Kim White @ kimberleewhite@hotmail.com

Sally Foster Sale Begins September 17!

The Sally Foster giftwrap sale begins next week and runs through September 28. Every child will receive an envelope with a catalog full of giftwrap, chocolate, and gift items. **50% of every purchase goes directly to Kaiser PTA** and the programs it supports. Sales can also be placed online at www.sallyfoster.com, which allows friends and relatives from across the country to participate.

Installation Help Needed

We're looking for someone to install some DVD/VCR players in classroom. We have the players; we need help installing them. If you can help us out, please contact the office. Thanks.

Have You Joined the PTA Yet?

Have you had a chance to send in your PTA membership yet? Thank you to those of you who have joined already. Also, thank you to the many people who joined and who also donated money to the pledge drive. Remember, the PTA supports many programs at Kaiser that help to make it such a great school. There is an award for PTAs that get enough members by October 1st, so let's try and get as many as we can by then. Our goal is to get 100% percent membership. The class that gets to 100% first will get a bowling party. If you have any questions about membership, contact Julie Mills at 531-8699 or julieandlarry@sbcglobal.net.

Sundays In The Redwoods Outdoor Concert Series

Enjoy Four Free Outdoor Concerts

@ Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park

3330 Joaquin Miller Road

Gates Open @ 2pm Concerts Begin @ 3pm

September 23 - "Classical Sounds" featuring the Oakland East Bay Symphony, conducted by Michael Morgan

September 30 - "World Music Fest" featuring the John Santos Quintet with Papa Mambo

October 7 - "Gospel: A Joyful Noise" featuring Sunny Hawkins

October 14 - "The Jazz & Neo-Soul Experience" featuring Goapele

Presented by the Office of Parks and Recreation and Councilmember Jean Quan