



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

*Our Benefit Auction was truly a "Fun-Raiser!"  
Thank you, Alison May, Auction Coordinator!*

Dear Kaiser Families,

Here we are, the week before Thanksgiving break. It's time for some reflection on gratitude, thinking about our accomplishments and taking joy in what makes Kaiser a wonderful learning community. I know some of the teachers are leading their students through the process of discussing and writing about gratitude and the things they are grateful for. You can take this time as an opportunity to guide your own children in developing their sense of thankfulness.

- Help your child write a list of people and things for which they are thankful. They can share this list with friends and relatives on Thanksgiving Day.
- If your family does practice a religion, guide your child in writing a Thanksgiving Day prayer or blessing before the meal.
- Model gratefulness and appreciation for your children and tell them what you're doing and why you're doing it. They will learn from your example.
- Encourage your child to write an appreciation note, which is like a thank you note except that it's not for a specific thing. It's simply a note telling someone how much you appreciate them for what they do and how much they are part of your life. Imagine the delight and surprise upon receiving one of those!
- Tell your child that you are grateful for them and name a very specific reason. Giving the reason makes your sentiment much more believable, and contributes to its uplifting effect.

So now that I've given all this advice about how to develop gratitude in our children, I'd better set an example, especially with the last item. Here is a short list of why I am thankful:

I am grateful for you, our parents and guardians, who prepare your children so well and support the teachers in their efforts. We know how complex and difficult it can be to raise your children—feed, clothe, shelter, guide, nurture, respond, enjoy, read to, monitor hygiene, intervene when needed, work hard at your careers to pay for everything, getting the kids here on time, advocate for, nurse, medicate, enjoy, pray with, celebrate, teach respect and courtesy, help with projects, tell to listen to the teachers, volunteer with PTA, SSC, and in the classrooms, relearn math while helping with homework, discipline and train, pass on values, drive all over town, plan birthday parties, give music lessons and nag for practice, surprise with gifts at the holidays—and all the countless things you do to bring us these joyful beings with whom we work every day. We humbly thank you!

I appreciate our clerical support staff who are the wonderful "worker bees" who keep the processes of our school flowing. Miss Pearl makes all the copies and manages supplies for our teachers, keeps an eye on the Kindergartners at lunch and recess, and lends her constant smile and cheerful laugh to our school atmosphere. Mira Santos, our community liaison and intervention specialist acts as a catalyst to bring support to parents, smooths the connections between the school and the parent community, and manages the intervention program for our students to help them progress into proficiency and beyond! Miss Susanne runs Adventure Time and also works as intervention support for our school. Robin Sasada does everything: she runs the office, manages records and paperwork, keeps me on track, manages our budget, orders materials and supplies, pleasantly welcomes everyone to our school, sorts the flow of *all* questions and information for all of us, bandages kids when they get hurt, knows everybody's schedule and where all the kids are, and remains a charming delightful presence in the face of enormous stress and responsibility.

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# Getting In The Know

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Accolades, acknowledgments, and indebtedness go to the faculty here at Kaiser School, who are the heart, soul, and strong back of our school. They do the real work to make Kaiser the successful school that we are. The teachers develop and implement a superior academic program, monitor the progress of our children, provide interventions, and guide the growth of our children at school. Our certificated teachers pursue professional development on their own time to maintain their licenses and improve their skills. Our enrichment teachers gift our children with art, music/band, PE, computer, and library classes, which we at Kaiser consider an integral part of our program. Our teachers constantly collaborate to improve their practice and maintain a dynamic of authentic teaching and learning. Our teachers work many hours overtime into the evenings and weekends, fret and stress over children who are not progressing, plan special activities to “spice it up” a little. I have attached an article that I found this week describing stories of elementary school teachers; I think it sheds some light on what our teachers face. The men and women who teach our children come to me in the intimacy of my office to share their joys and sorrows, their tears of frustration and celebrations of delightful success. They are truly *parents in place*, the legal term that means that teachers are the parents of our children while they are at school. They love our children and we love them!

Finally, I am thankful for our students, your children, who come to school every day with hopeful faces and open minds. They work and play and give their all to grow and try to do their best. They pay attention and do their work and *model for us* cooperation, trust, and sharing. They bring us their best work time after time, hoping for approval and praise. They courageously face their mistakes and work on self-improvement. We adults would do well to take their example in many ways. What gifts they are!

So there it is. So much to be thankful for. Have a wonderful week off!

Mel Stenger, Principal

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Nov. 14	SSC Meeting
Nov. 19-23	Thanksgiving Recess— No School
Nov. 28	PTA Board Meeting
Nov. 30	Report card period ends
Dec. 5	Kindergarten & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Info Night, 6:30
Dec. 18	ORFF Music Concert 7pm
Dec. 20	Instrumental Music Concert, 7pm
Dec. 24	Winter Recess Begins

### 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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/)**

### 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 e-mail:

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

Please put “Pink Panther” in the subject of your email to ensure that it does not get deleted accidentally!

### Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:

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

### Pink Panther Staff:

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd  
Copyeditor: Wendy Harcarik

# *A Night in New Orleans*

## **A Night in New Orleans was Night of Fun!**

For those of you who missed it, our auction "A Night in New Orleans" held this past Saturday at the Masonic Center, was a lot of fun with great food, great decorations, and fabulous items on which to bid. **THANK YOU TO ALISON MAY, OUR TIRELESS AUCTION CHAIR, WHO MADE IT ALL HAPPEN.** None of it could have been pulled off so seamlessly without Alison's steadfast efforts. Thank you also to Kimberlee White, who organized and cooked the delicious Louisiana fare, and to all of the many, many volunteers who helped with everything from event planning, set up and closing tables to check out and final clean up. It is the dedication of parents such as these that makes Kaiser School such of wonderful "community of learners"!

- Janice Murphy, PTA President

A big **Thank You** goes out to all you volunteers who gave time and energy to make our Benefit Auction a success! In addition to Alison May, the Auction Coordinator, and Kim White, many people helped make this a successful event. Rather than leaving someone's name out, I will give a big **Thank You** to all!

- Mel Stenger, Principal



The auction was a huge success! Thank you so much for coming, participating, volunteering & bidding -- we raised a lot of money for our school!

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LEFT BEFORE CHECKING OUT – you need to pick up your items and pay for them. There will be a PICK-UP Open House at Alison May's house!

What: Auction PICK-UP Open House

When: Saturday, November 17 between 1 & 5 p.m.

Where: Alison May's house - 4605 Park Boulevard

What to bring: Your checkbook to settle out your account balance.

If you can't make it on Saturday, please call me to make arrangements for early pick-up during the evenings this week. **EVERYTHING MUST BE PICKED UP BY SATURDAY** -- I am hosting out-of-town guests for Thanksgiving and I need my guest-room back!!!

Alison May  
530-6264, [alisonemay@comcast.net](mailto:alisonemay@comcast.net)

# KAISER KIOSK

## ORFF Music Winter Concert Tuesday, Dec. 18th 7 p.m.

Students in grades K-3 report to their classroom by 6:45 p.m.

Parents gather in the auditorium to enjoy their children's singing.



## Instrumental Music Winter Concert Thursday, Dec. 20th 7 p.m.

Students report for tuning -

6:30 p.m. - string instruments

6:45 p.m. - wind instruments

Students should wear dark bottoms and white tops.



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s play.

### Mark your calendars!

**Thanksgiving vacation is the entire week of November 19.**

### There will be an information for Kindergarten and Fifth Grade on Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30p.m.

We apologize for needing to schedule this event on the first night of Hanukkah. It was the only evening open before the beginning of Options Month which begins December 7.

### SALLY FOSTER UPDATE -

If you have any changes to your Sally Foster order -- such as items missing or other corrections that need to be made -- please let Janice Murphy know by no later than *this Thursday*, November 15th. You can reach her by calling (510) 482-5453 or e-mailing her at [Janice-Murphy@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Janice-Murphy@SBCGlobal.net).

### Left Jackets -

Two jackets, men's, were left at the auction on Saturday. One red and black, long, wind breaker type jacket with TAOS embroidered on it. Also, a brown, barn jacket with a Subaru key in it was left. If either of these belong to you, please pick up in office.

### Lost Keys -

A set of Honda keys were lost at the auction. If you picked them up or found them, please return to office.

**Do you know Janice Oubre?** If so, please have her contact Alison May at 530-6264, [alisonemay@comcast.net](mailto:alisonemay@comcast.net). She won some items at the auction but pick them up and Alison would like to get the items to her.