



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Call me a bleeding-heart liberal, but I'm having a time of it, trying to hold all the political and cultural pieces together. It was Presidents' Day yesterday, tomorrow we're having some elders from the African American community come to tell their stories to our kids, Friday evening is our African American potluck, we are in the midst of an exciting presidential race, our government seems to think they can legislate school reform with "No Child Left Behind" laws, and our governor wants to slash the education budget 10%. Well. What are we to do?

Sunday evening I went to hear Parker Palmer speak. He is a writer who spent the bulk of his career working with service workers such as teachers, nurses, and ministers, helping them to connect community, spirituality, and identity to their work; to connect "soul" to "role." To Know as We are Known and The Courage to Teach are two of his books. By now you're probably wondering what the second paragraph has to do with the first.

One of the surprises from the talk was Palmer's belief that inner work, building the person, greatly influences the outer conditions in our institutions and society. In other words, we don't change the world by changing policy, but by changing people. This has profound implications in the way we treat each other and conduct our schools. It's not enough to impart skills to our children in school, we are charged with teaching them how to be human, how to be persons. Or from John Keats, we must "school an intelligence to make it a soul."

How does this relate to the first paragraph? I believe that in building up the souls of our children we cannot fail to build up our culture and our country. While it is important to educate our children about national politics and electoral processes, what could be more patriotic than teaching them to really listen to another person, to be fully present? Such relationships build the fabric of our society and prepare our kids to become citizens who can handle the big issues because they understand how those issue influence relationships. And what could be more patriotic than coming to a school potluck celebrating one of our cultures. We model for our kids how we express our culture (if we are African American) and how we appreciate other cultures (if we are "other"). Please come on Friday evening.

The individual child, the school, the community. Our work here is hugely important and has positive effects throughout our country.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Let's Hit a Bull's Eye!

Holiday's are over, auction is past, tax time is near (think DEDUCTION) and spring is in sight! Do your part to help us hit Kaiser's pledge fundraising goal of \$15,000 as our annual pledge drive kicks into high gear! Please read over the pledge request letter attached to the back of this week's Pink and consider who could be a more worthy recipient of your pledge than the Children of the Kaiser School community. Keep an eye out for the giant dartboard that will be hanging in front of the school to help us track our progress and let's put a dart DEAD CENTER!!!



Congratulations to Alex McSpadden who competed in the Math Matters competition against 130 fifth graders from around the Bay Area. Alex won 1st place! He won a laptop computer for himself and a \$300 gift certificate from Amazon.com for Mr. Neat. Great job Alex! We're all very proud of you!

Congratulations also to 1st grader, Jake McRae. Jake won 2nd place in his age division at MOCHA's Re-Create recycled art contest. His artwork "Old-New Cow" will be on display in the Kaiser Office from 2/20-2/29.

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 is not deleted accidentally!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb. 20	SSC meeting
Feb. 22	African-American Heritage Potluck 6:30
Feb. 24	ALIVE program meeting 10:30am (for location call 510.536.9173)
Feb. 27	PTA board meeting
March 5	General PTA meeting
March 7	Baseball orders due to Robin
March 10-14	Parent-Teacher conferences – 1:25 early release daily

The Pink Panther is also available at
www.KaiserElementary.org

Conference week is coming up the week of March 10. Our priority for conferencing will be children who have intervention plans happening.

Regretfully, we do not have supervision for children before 8:30 a.m. or after 3:10 p.m.

Some chronically tardy children may lose recess time to make up for instructional minutes.

PTA News

Take me out to the Ball Park...

Oakland A's tickets are now available to Kaiser families and friends for a cut rate and the A's will donate \$8/\$10 of every ticket we buy to Kaiser School!!!!

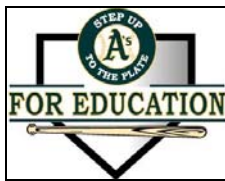
Simply...

- Look for the order forms (plaza level \$22 / field level \$28) attached to previous Pink
- Select which games you would like to attend
- Return to Robin with your completed order form and a check to Kaiser School PTA by March 7
- Tickets will be mailed directly to you at the address you provide on the order form by the Oakland A's

Extend this offer to family, friends and co-workers!!

All seats on a single order form will be together and all Kaiser seats will be in the same area!!

This is a fun and easy way to raise money for our school!



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/

Kaiser ALIVE Program Kick-Off

Thanks to the hard work of our PTA grant writing committee, the Kaiser School PTA has been awarded a \$1,500 Healthy Lifestyles grant from the California State PTA. With this money, we plan to launch our **new Kaiser ALIVE! Program**—Actively Learn, Volunteer, Initiate, Energize—starting on April 1.

All students will be given an "ALIVE" passport in which they can check off activities they've accomplished during the two months of the program. These activities are aimed at getting our Kaiser students to explore their environment, try new things, get active outside, and learn the value of volunteering in their community. Activities will range from things as simple as flying a kite or building a sand castle to more involved tasks such as volunteering at an assisted living center or joining an organized sports team. Each item has a point value, and parents will be required to sign off on each item that their child has accomplished.

At the end of the program, we will have a party, tentatively scheduled for May 31, to celebrate the students' achievements. All students who participate will receive a Certificate of Participation and those who earn certain point levels in their passport will receive medals, trophies and, for those earning the most points, a gift card to a store such as Target or the Sports Authority.

Since this is a new program, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Are you interested in helping us determine what items are put in the passport and how we structure this program? Then please join us at our next meeting on Sunday, February 24, at 10:30 (location yet to be determined). Please call our ALIVE program coordinator, Darlene Smith, at (510) 536-9173 to let her know you'd like to help, or you can e-mail her your ideas at Darlene.smith@kp.org.

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

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