



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 8, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Someone said to me recently that parenting is a thankless job. The comment caught me off guard because a "thankless job" is usually something that no one else wants to do. At my house cleaning out the refrigerator is a "thankless job." Picking up the litter off the front sidewalk is a "thankless job." A thankless job is something that you have to do because not doing it will cause more problems later, but no one really notices or appreciates your efforts. Nothing could be further from the truth regarding parenting.

In an effort to enrich and expand our parenting efforts our PTA has started a program called Kaiser ALIVE. The children all received passport booklets last Wednesday which describe different activities you can do with your children. The kids get points and prizes, but the real reward is that time you get to spend with your children doing something which is enjoyable and participating in life together. April 12 is Dear Day (Drop Everything and Read!), so it's an opportunity to read with your child. National Library week is April 13-19; what a wonderful thing it is to take your child to the library! Another activity in the booklet which is special to me is to help your child write a letter to a relative. Oh yes, it is a learning standard for the third and fourth grades, but it's much more than that. Imagine how it will warm someone's heart and add to your family's memory when your child takes the time to actually write a real letter.

These activities and more are described in the Kaiser ALIVE passport booklet. I applaud the efforts of our PTA to encourage activities which support our parenting efforts. The activities in this program help our children build relationships, develop values, and reflect on their personal growth. These are hugely important aspects of parenting which are not part of the official school curriculum.

True, very few people get recognized for their parenting efforts except on Mother's Day, Father's Day, and when we get really old. No one thanks us for our day-to-day routines and dedication, but people do notice. Your dedication shows up in how well your children grow, perform, and ultimately enjoy life. The time and effort that you put in on a daily basis reveals itself in the human being that you are creating. All your big efforts, all your sacrifices, and all the little things you do day in and day out, week after week, add up to your contribution to society. I believe that you truly are **creating a human being**, and that we are working together to **re-weave the fabric of our civilization**. This is hardly a "thankless job."

**Mel Stenger, Principal**

# Getting In The Know

## Upcoming Concert May 10th 7pm Oakland Youth Chorus

Any parents interested in reserved seating \$20(rows 1-8) may see me for tickets. I have purchased 16 tickets so that the Kaiser parents/community might all sit together or close up in order to see and hear the great job our kids have done this year. OYC is not selling rows this time instead they are offering reserved seats. Call me if you are interested #486-9454. Kathleen Ferris

## Request for Feedback

If you had a conference during the last session and would like to give feedback about the process, please email the principal at [mel.stenger@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mel.stenger@ousd.k12.ca.us) Names will remain confidential. Mr. Stenger will share the feedback with the faculty.

## Summer Is Fast Approaching

Can you believe summer is almost here! Have you been wondering how you're going to get your child from program to program? Do you have a plan for summer care? Wonder no more, God's Chosen Generation Family Day Care has limited space for drop-off and pick-up services as well as summer care.

For more information, please contact Tracy Levy at 510-532-7585 or email [leejoellevy@aol.com](mailto:leejoellevy@aol.com).

**The Pink Panther is also available at  
[www.KaiserElementary.org](http://www.KaiserElementary.org).**

## 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
April 15	SSC meeting
April 30	PTA board meeting
April 28- May 9	Standardized testing
May 3	Walkathon & Book Fair
May 7	PTA general meeting

Teacher Requests: Because it is unclear what the grade configuration will be and who will be teaching which classes, please do not submit specific teacher requests. If you would like, you can give us a note describing classroom practices which have been successful with your child. That information can be used to help us configure classes as well as help the new teacher better serve your child.

## 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/)**

## Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Janice Murphy  
VP Communication: Lisa Downes

## Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd  
Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

## *Getting In The Know*

### **Let's get busy, Kaiser School!**

We all know the importance of being active. It stimulates your mind, keeps you fit, and helps prevent diseases. But how about enjoying activities simply because they are FUN? There are so many awesome things to do, both outside and inside, that will keep your brain fresh and creative.

We have created for the students at Kaiser a passport to good health that will give them opportunities to be active and participate in a program in which they will be rewarded. Starting April 2, 2008, your child may use this booklet of suggestions for ways to stay fit, in mind and body. They can choose from activities that encourage them to play on their own, or they may select a page that will get them out in the community or enjoying fun things with the family.

The passport booklet takes into account every age group from K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. That way everyone can participate and have a chance to win fabulous prizes. We have some great prizes to give out at the end of the ALIVE program, and we want EVERYONE to qualify for the prize drawing at the end of the year! In order to do that, we need you as a parent, coach, or teacher to witness and validate the child's passport on the line at the bottom of the appropriate page.

One passport is required for each student at Kaiser School. Participants' names will be entered in a drawing to win prizes based on these levels:

- 100-149 points
- 150-199 points
- 200-249 points
- 250-299 points
- 300+ points

Each child will be eligible for the drawing only if s/he has earned the minimum 100 points. However, all students will earn a participation medal at our program-end celebration. Also, the student in each grade who earns the most points will win a beautiful trophy!

Teachers will collect the passports on Monday, May 19. Please encourage your child to fill as many pages as he/she can. The more they do, the better the prizes are at our end of program celebration on Friday, May 30! We are hoping that our children will experience something new and test their limits.

**Be ALIVE!**

**Actively Learn Initiate Volunteer Energize**



## TAKE ACTION NOW!

Join us in protecting our children and California's future.

The Governor's proposed 2008-2009 budget contains disastrous cuts to education and children's programs.

We urge you to take three actions to "Flunk-the-Budget."

1. Starting this Friday and continuing each and every Friday; email, call or visit your local legislators in their district office to express how harmful these budget cuts will be to our children. A sample letter and phone script are available here:

<http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/downloads/FTBLetterSamples.pdf>

To find your legislator go to: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

2. Participate in "Flunk-the-Budget Friday" activities, including a SUPER "Flunk-the-Budget Friday" activity on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact your local PTA council or district to see what may already be planned in your area. Send the message loud and clear to your local legislators that this budget hurts our children! For more ideas go to:

<http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/downloads/FTBTakeAction.pdf>.

3. Join us in Sacramento on Thursday, April 24 at 11:00 am for a rally at the capitol. This event will include PTA members from all over the state. (If your PTA is planning to join us, please let Lindsay Shoemaker, Communications Specialist ([lshoemaker@capta.org](mailto:lshoemaker@capta.org)) know.

Please visit the "Flunk-the-Budget" section at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) to obtain more information on "Flunk-the-Budget Fridays" activities, fact sheets, sample letters and the "Flunk the Budget" logo.