



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 29, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Thanks to all of the children and families for your warm smiles and hugs on the first day of school! Many teachers were here over the weekend to make sure things were ready. A special note of thanks goes to Robin Sasada, our fabulous administrative assistant, for all her overtime and extra help. She even brought in her family last Saturday to help us get it all together. Our staff is delighted with their classes and is ready for the challenge of another year. We welcomed 47 new kindergartners and a few upper grade kids too. We're glad you're all here to join our learning community.

We also welcomed two new teachers to Kaiser. Jessica Banks is teaching kindergarten; she comes to us with experience teaching in other Oakland schools. Misato Araki joined our staff to teach first grade after her experience teaching at the Friends School in the city. Both teachers are highly qualified and experienced, and they are eager to meet your families and get to know your children. We will publish a complete staff roster with this newsletter in the near future.

Back to School Night will be next Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30. Parking for that event, and all evening events, is on the upper field. This program is to inform parents of the curricular program teachers are presenting to your children. It is not a conference time. The evening will begin with Kindergarten through 2nd grades presentations in their classrooms from **6:30-7:00**. Then we will move to the multipurpose room for some remarks by myself and our PTA. It is important that parent attend this portion to learn about our school-wide efforts this year, and vote to approve our budget. We will also be voting for School Site Council members. After that meeting, the upper grade teachers will do their presentations from about **7:45-8:15**. We look forward to seeing all of you then.

It was a smooth beginning for everything except the traffic situation. The limited parking space we have on campus is reserved for teachers and staff. The best places to park are on Hiller Drive or North Hill Court. Please do not park in the circle, behind the buildings, or in either staff lots. Also, there is no parking on the uphill side of South Hill Court before and after school. Sadly there simply isn't enough space for our parking needs on campus. Thank you all for your cooperation. Here are a few other gentle reminders:

- Our phone number is changing. It is now 549-4900. For the next few weeks our old number should still work.
- Please don't use cell phones in the school.
- In the morning we ask that Kindergartners use the door near the portables and all other students go to the upper field to line up.
- If you are meeting your children after school, please wait for them out front. If they are older, consider having them walk down to Hiller Drive.
- For safety we ask that kids don't bring glass bottles for drinks, and that they wear shoes that cover their toes.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Getting In The Know

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

We have two themes for the Kaiser learning community. The first is "Community and Collaboration" and flows out of educators' movement to improve collaboration among teachers and to reach out to the family communities that we serve. The teachers will have a collaboration period each week during which they will work together to provide equitable curriculum and more focused intervention for the children who need it. Our other theme is "Give Us a Day." I am challenging every parent of every child to be involved inside the school building at least one day this year. What could be more important? Last year we reached a participation rate of nearly 75%!

We have all prepared for a wonderful year. Let's work together to make it happen!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Lunch is now \$2.25 and milk is 40 cents. If you want to prepay, you can make a check to Food Services, put it in an envelope with your child's name and teacher's name, and turn it in to the office.

SAVE THE DATE

Kaiser School Annual Auction, November 8. Look out for more information in the coming weeks.

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
Sept. 1	Labor Day – No School
Sept. 3	Back to School Night 6:30 p.m.

Congratulations to our track stars! Bryan Morris, Nyela Cade, and Nyela Jones were on a team who participated in the 2008 USATF Junior Olympics in Omaha, Nebraska, this summer. They brought home the gold!

Our phone number has changed. We are now at 549-4900. Rollover service is supposed to continue for several weeks, but sometimes it doesn't work.

How to Reach Kaiser School

Our phone number is **(510) 549-4900** (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>

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

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

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