



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court, Oakland, California 94618

New Number! (510) 549-4900

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Last week I wrote that I had a visit from Jody London, our newly elected school board representative who will be taking office in January. One of the issues we talked about was a move by our interim superintendent, Dr. Roberta Mayor, for the “right sizing” of schools, that is, responding to the question of whether *small schools are too expensive and should be closed*. Friday I received and responded to an email soliciting principals’ responses on the topic. This topic is surrounded by related issues of economics, race, city politics, school access, and student performance.

We’ve attached to this newsletter a flyer about community meetings about the issue on September 22, 23, 29, and 30. After these meetings final criteria will be set on October 1, and the list of schools being considered for closure on October 3. Final decisions will be made on December 17. It is important that those who are organizing the community meetings see that Kaiser parents are not complacent about whether our school should remain open. It’s also important that the organizers see the diversity of our community and encounter us at many places around the city. Please refer to the flyer to find the closest meeting to you, or any one you can attend. Please go, make yourself known as a Kaiser parent, and let them know you want our school to continue!

Great Schools at www.greatschools.net is a website that offers lots of information for parents. Some is general, some is specific, and some is about particular schools. The site includes information about what is being taught at different grade levels. It also has a link for Kaiser’s latest test scores. Check it out!

Childhood obesity and diabetes are at epidemic proportions. I’m asking you all to take a look at what type of foods you’re including in the lunches. I received an email this week from a website that gives information and recipes for healthy eating. You might want to visit www.parentsagainstjunkfood.org and check out its offerings. Let’s do our part to promote healthy diets!

Autumn officially began this morning, September 22, at 11:44:18 a.m. (I Googled it!) It’s the season of gathering in, of harvest, of reflection and reconsideration. We join with those among us who celebrate the changing seasons. Ramadan is also here for the Muslims among us. That religious observance began September 1 and lasts for a month. We will begin the Jewish High Holy days with Rosh Hashanah on September 29, and we acknowledge our Jewish families in this time of reflection. As we get to know each other, we get to know our celebrations and how we mark the progression of time. Let’s acknowledge our connectedness!

Mr. Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

School Site Council meetings will be the third Wednesday of each month. Please note that this is a change from the Tuesday meetings published earlier. Our next meeting will be October 16 at 4 p.m. in the library. All are welcome!

Don't Delay! Join Today!

Have you had a chance to send in your PTA membership yet? The membership fee is only \$10 per person. The PTA supports many programs at Kaiser that help to make it such a great school. Thank you to those of you who have already joined. Also, thank you to the many people who donated money to the pledge drive. If you have any questions about membership, contact Joyce Wessling at 531-7161 or cronwessling@earthlink.net.

Sign-up for the OUSD E-Newsletter.
Learn important district-wide information.

To sign-up, visit the OUSD website:
www.ousd.k12.ca.us

and select the "Join Now" box on the lower left side of the page.

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. 12-26	Sally Foster Gift Wrap School Fund Raiser
Sept. 24	PTA Board Meeting
Oct. 5	Kaiser Garden Day 10-3
Oct. 10	Staff Development Day No School
Oct. 13-17	Conference Week Minimum Days All Week
Oct. 17	Latino Heritage Potluck
Oct. 29	PTA Board Meeting
Nov. 8	Kaiser School Auction

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/kaiserelementarvschool_group/

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

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Janice Murphy

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

Kaiser Kiosk

DONATE A BOTTLE!?!

Please consider donating a bottle of wine (or more!) to the “Instant Wine Cellar” for this year’s auction. To give, simply pick up a bottle of wine (\$10 value or greater, please) and drop it off in the school office. FYI: The BevMo 5¢ sale is going on right now—buy one bottle, get the second for 5¢. Keep one for your home and donate the second to your school. No brainer—and just think what this would amount to if every family did it!

HOW ABOUT DONATING A HOUSE!?!

Do you have a vacation home or time share? How about airline miles? If not you, does someone in your family or a good friend? If so, please consider donating them to this year’s auction. Last year we were lucky enough to get a two-night stay in an apartment in New York City as well as a weekend at a house in Tahoe—both from within the Kaiser community.

Contact Alison May ASAP, at 530-6264 or alisonemay@gmail.com with your generous offer. Thank you!

Use GoodSearch to Search the Internet

What if Kaiser School earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from **Yahoo**, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall that donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy’s, and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop; every time you place an order through GoodShop, you’ll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Kaiser School as the charity you want to support. And be sure to spread the word!

We will have a Kaiser Beautification Day on October 5, 10:00-3:00. It’s a good thing to come and help the school look more beautiful!

Kaiser Kiosk

Community Input Needed

The mayor, Oakland City Council and the Department of Information Technology are looking for your input around the issue of wireless broadband needs for the city of Oakland.

To volunteer, please contact Oaklandwireless@tellusventure.com or call 764-2425. For questions, please contact Brian Tino Granados at bgranados@Oaklandnet.com or call 238-6407. Public meetings will be held for interested citizens to give input at the following locations and times:

Council Member

Date and Time

Meeting Location

Jane Brunner

September 23 at 7 p.m.

N. Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Pat Kernighan

September 24 at 6 p.m.

Clinton Adult Education Center

International Boulevard and 7th Ave

Nancy Nadel

September 25 at 5:30 p.m.

West Oakland Senior Center

1724 Adeline St.

Final Week for Sally Foster Sales!

We're in our second and final week of the Sally Foster gift wrap sale. It's a great opportunity for you, your family, and friends to stock up on all the necessary supplies for gift giving, while supporting our school. Fifty percent of all sales are donated to the Kaiser PTA. If each student sells \$52 worth of merchandise, we will meet our budgeted goal of \$6,500. Out-of-town family and friends can support your child's fundraising efforts by ordering online. Shipping is free if you spend \$70 or more.

Send emails through the seller's section at www.sallyfoster.com. Our school's account number is 370976.

Please hand in completed order forms with payment to your child's teacher by Monday, September 29.

Thank you for your support!