



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court, Oakland, California 94618 (510) 549-4900

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 12, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

You've probably had the experience where your child will remind you of something of which you have no memory. After they talk about the event for a few sentences you'll remember and wonder why it was so important to them. Sometimes we want our kids to remember, and sometimes we want them to forget other things. If we knew how to make something stick...wow! There wouldn't be a need for schools, but that's another story.

Last week I was walking down Piedmont Avenue with my partner and our son between us. We were heading toward a Chinese restaurant when a man behind us shouted, "Jesus Christ! Goddam faggots!" We kept walking. Although I was immediately concerned for our safety, the man turned around. Then I wondered how this event would affect my son. Did it hurt him? Would he be afraid for us? Would the event motivate him to speak up when he hears his friends use that word? Would he be kind to others who are different from him?

Last year I listened to a story told by an Oakland Principal, Dietra Adkins, about a teacher who changed her life. She described having a wonderful first grade teacher who listened to her, respected her, corrected her and challenged her. She remembered when the teacher said, "Dietra, you can be anything you want to be," over and over. When Ms. Adkins went to college on a scholarship for one subject, she enrolled and did a double major, adding education. She really wanted to be a teacher. She believed in herself because of what her teacher told her years before.

"Gone With the Wind" won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1939. One of the parties had an antebellum theme, with the women in hoop skirts and the men in morning coats. They processed in to a grand hall decorated as a Southern Plantation. Hattie McDaniels who had won Best Supporting Actress could not attend the ball because she was black. The producers of the ball wanted things to be very authentic, so they hired a Black Gospel Choir and dressed them as slaves to entertain the partygoers as they came in. The choir they hired was from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alabama, directed by Martin Luther King, Senior. Martin Luther King, Junior, was a boy of 10, dressed in slave rags, singing in the choir. I wonder what effect this experience had on him. Maybe the irony of it all sunk in. Maybe he was hit with the injustice of the exclusion of blacks. We'll never know.

We do know though, that we never know when what we say or do will affect someone or how it will. Take a moment on the upcoming holiday to do something memorable with your child.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Check Out These Resources!

Now you can see what books are in Kaiser School's library online! Go to <http://library.ousd.k12.ca.us> then go to "Kaiser", then go to the catalog tab to search for books in our library. Wow!

Another great online resource available to you is Net Trek.

Go to <http://school.nettrekker.com/frontdoor/>

User name: ousdtrek

Password: ousdtrek

Our school district has subscribed to this site to provide resources for teachers to plan their classes, and for parents to get information for their children. I showed this to Ms. Bailey and she was amazed!

Teacher In-Service on Jan. 26

January 26 will be an in-service day when the faculty will review how the students are doing, how we are doing, and how we can improve. We welcome your input. If you want to leave a note for us in the office, I will convey your ideas to the staff. We're always looking for ways to improve.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Jan. 19	MLK Jr. Day – No School
Jan. 21	Family Reading Night & PTA general meeting, 7 p.m.
Jan. 26	In-Service day – No School
Jan. 28	PTA board meeting
Jan. 30	Asian potluck
Feb. 16	Presidents Day – No School
Feb. 27	African American potluck

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_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 is not deleted accidentally!

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

ASIAN HERITAGE POTLUCK

January 30, 2009

Volunteers, ideas and enthusiasm are welcome for the planning of this year's Asian Heritage Potluck. It would be wonderful to display music, food, arts and crafts, decorations and/or performances that represent the cultural diversity of Asian students and families attending our school. Please contact Karen Orsulak, the ad-hoc coordinator, at 510-729-6141 or karen.orsulak@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have any suggestions for the evening. If anyone has any contacts or has talent to provide some of the entertainment, please speak up ASAP. Although the event has tended to celebrate Lunar New Year, since it is around this time of year, it does not need to be solely focused on Chinese and Vietnamese New Year. Let's be creative and inclusive and have a fun time! If anyone would like to co-chair the evening, your help is welcome. I also need help with decorating the school lobby sometime in the next couple of weeks. Thanks, Karen Orsulak.

The budget for our school depends on our enrollment. We are trying to determine how many children we can take in next year at various grade levels. If you know that your child will not be returning next year, please call Robin to let us know.

Mark Your Calendar for Family Reading Night!

The PTA will host its annual Family Reading Night on Wednesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. Please join us for an hour of storytelling, hot chocolate and fun! Everyone is encouraged to come in their PJs and bring pillows and blankets. We hope to have some special storytelling guests.

This night also will serve as a General PTA Meeting night. The PTA president, Janice Murphy, will be in the library to give all members an update on our current budget and answer any questions you may have about any PTA-related issue.

If you plan to attend, please detach the portion below by Monday, Jan. 19, and give it to Robin Sasada in the office so that we can make sure we have enough hot chocolate for everyone. Hope to see you there!

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 Yes, we will be there!

Number attending _____

Name: _____