



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Depending on the kindness of strangers...

Dear Kaiser Families,

Over the Presidents Day weekend my family and I went to Tahoe. Last year at the Benefit Auction I had won a weekend by selecting the right cupcake. The parents and grandparents of one of our students had generously donated the weekend at their vacation home as a prize. Such generosity!

My partner picked up our sons from their schools. Mary had told us to leave by 1:00. We left at 3:00. The downpour started before we hit the Carquinez Bridge and continued. We crept along with the boys asleep with their iPods, and finally ate at 7:00 in Auburn. By 8:30 we had to pull over so Vince could put cables on the front wheels.

The man in front of us was struggling, and when Vince went to find out about it, we learned his battery was dead so he couldn't pull forward or back up, as is needed when you put on chains. We pulled alongside and gave the family a jump. They waved us a happy good-bye and we continued on our journey.

The snow continued to fall. It was dark. It was very cold.

We were on the descent to Lake Tahoe, when a "thp-thp-thp-thp-thp" sound came from the left front wheel. I pulled over and Vince found that one of the cables had broken, but he managed to fix it. The same thing happened twice more, and we were beginning to wonder if we would make it. We tried playing the radio, but soon settled into anxious silence, listening for further odds sounds from our tire cables as we slowly drove our way toward the house.

Going up a hill the cable came off completely. With only one wheel able to get traction we were stranded. I had no idea how far away the house was. At midnight we found ourselves in a strange neighborhood, cold, cranky, and with no idea what to do. Vince went up to the house and knocked. The light came on.

A couple of guys came out, helped us transfer our stuff, and drove us to the house. What a relief to arrive! A few minutes later the doorbell rang and it was the men, telling us that the woman across the street had seen what happened and had come over to warn them that the car would be towed (\$400) if we left it on the street, so she had the men come back so we could all push the car into her driveway. The next morning she came up and picked us up so we could get the car and go get new cables.

Tennessee Williams wrote "A Streetcar Named Desire." In it Blanche DuBois said she depended on the kindness of strangers. The phrase gets thrown around a lot, but it settled in my mind this week. The strangers in Tahoe went out of their way to help us. The whole series of events came out of the generosity of a family here at Kaiser. I am a very lucky man.

Mel Stenger, Principal

# Getting In The Know

## Gentle Reminders:

- When dropping children off please use the circle, and pull as far ahead as you can. Please do not drive into the schoolyard near the portable classrooms or use the faculty parking lot for a quick turnaround.
- Please do not leave your children unattended for long periods before or after school.
- Please refrain from using cell phones in the school building.
- Please remind students to take their things to the upper field before school to meet their class and teachers at 8:40, unless it is raining.

The next SSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18. We will be talking about our plan for next year, budget changes, and what it all may mean for us.

**Our African American potluck and celebration will be this Friday, February 27, beginning at 6:30. Everyone is welcome!**

## FEBRUARY IS MATH FACTS MONTH!

**Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors**  
PTA President: Janice Murphy

**Pink Panther Staff**  
Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd  
Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb. 27	African American potluck
March 4	General PTA Meeting
March 18	SSC Meeting
March 19-20	Parent Teacher Conferences – min. days
March 25	PTA Board Meeting
March 27	Assembly: East Bay Community Orchestra 1:30 p.m. all grades
March 30	Cesar Chavez Holiday No School

### 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!

### 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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/)**

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



**RED BOY  
PIZZA**

Kaiser Pizza Fundraiser: March 24, 25, 26.

Take a night or two off from cooking dinner

Eat pizza or get take-out from Red Boy Pizza on Redwood Road on those nights and Kaiser School will get 15% of your check. Flyers will be sent home in the Pink Panther during the second and third week in March.

### Oakland A's Ticket Sales Coming in March

Look for order forms in the Pink Panther in March. The price of the tickets is discounted and Kaiser will make \$8.00 for every ticket sold. Here is a sneak peek at the games we can select from so you can start planning.

April 25	Sat	1:05 vs. Tampa Bay Rays
May 22	Fri.	7:05 vs. Arizona Diamondbacks
June 5	Fri.	7:05 vs. Baltimore Orioles
June 27	Sat.	6:05 vs. Colorado Rockies
July 17	Fri.	7:05 vs. Los Angeles Angels
August 2	Sun.	1:05 vs. Toronto Blue Jays
August 16	Sun.	1:05 vs. Chicago White Sox
Sept. 20	Sun.	1:05 vs. Cleveland Indians



Kaiser's web site needs a new web-mistress / master. Duties include weekly updates (about 10 minutes), posting of special events (e.g., Auction), and periodic content overhauls, mostly at the beginning of the school year. You need to know HTML, some graphics, how to move files between your computer system and our web site host, and general best practices for maintaining web sites. Interested? Please contact Kimberly Carl, (510) 338-8756 or [kcarl@berkeley.edu](mailto:kcarl@berkeley.edu).