



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 23, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

Conferences happened last week and it was a time for parents and teachers to meet and discuss efforts to support kids in their development for the rest of the school year. It was a time for us to encourage you not to get "tired" and to give it another push. If you want to give me some feedback about the conference process, feel free to email me at mel.stenger@ousd.k12.ca.us. After sitting in on some of the conferences, I feel like we're starting new efforts for trying once again to help our children succeed.

Last week we also had a School Site Council Meeting during which I described the current state of our achievement and our plans for next year. A condensed version: currently 65% of our kids are at or above benchmark in English/Language and 70% in math. This is about the same level we had on last year's standardized test in May, so we're hoping that these positive scores will translate on those tests too. Next year the federal target to meet will be 57% in ELA and 58% in math, so we're looking good. Over the past 2 years we have assembled a team of intervention support tutors to help the teachers meet the needs of children on different levels; we will continue that support program next year. As you may know, the federal NCLB (No Child Left Behind) laws keep increasing the targets so that by 2014 all 100% of children will be above benchmark. (I know that doesn't make sense, and we're hoping that the current administration will revise NCLB.) There has been tremendous growth in some grades and I am proud of their work. We have a great school!

Next Monday, March 30, will be Cesar Chavez day, and there will be no school. It's also an opportunity to find out a little about the Latino labor hero to whom we owe so much. With Dolores Huerta he founded the Farmworkers' Union and furthered the rights of farmworkers across our country. Google him with your child and see what you can find!

Friday night was the Vernal Equinox, the beginning of Spring, the change of seasons, the date when day and night are equal. Look around, the hills are green and dotted with wildflowers and daffodils. The weather is getting a bit more pleasant and the kids a bit more rambunctious! It's also the pagan celebration of Ostara which celebrates fertility and that light is overcoming darkness. It's a time of planting and tending gardens, of new beginnings and new actions. This holiday was made into the Christian holiday of Easter another celebration of new life.

You may have heard the President's message he sent to the Iranians wishing them a happy celebration of their New Year, Nowruz or NoRooz (literally New day, New Year). Its history goes back over 2,500 years and establishes the year as 365 days. We join with the president in wishing all people of Persian or Iranian descent, or who celebrate Nowruz, a joyful New Year!

Last week I looked out my office window to see a wild turkey hen making her way through the grasses on the hillside. Maybe she was scouting out a nesting site. Take a minute, look out your window, see a miracle of new beginnings.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

A chance to serve our community!

Our PTA is still looking for people to help next year. We are looking for a Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, After-School Programs coordinator, Walk-a-thon Chairperson and Book Fair Coordinator. If you have questions about any of these positions, or want to immediately volunteer (yay!) please email our current president, Janice Murphy, at janice-murphy@sbcglobal.net Thanks!

Please take the time to complete a Use Your Voice Survey for each of your children. Your participation guides us in our plans for next year. Send the completed survey to your child's teacher or the office, or print out the final page if you do it online; choose whichever option makes you comfortable.

If you would like to work as a substitute teacher, our district is looking for you! You need a bachelor's degree and to have passed the CBEST. Please contact Stephanie A. Joseph in Human Resources at 879-8590 for more information.

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Janice Murphy

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

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

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
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
April 1	PTA Association Meeting
April 1	Kaiser ALIVE kickoff and Math & Science Night
April 6-10	Spring Break – no classes

2009-2010 School Calendars are available on the OUSD website. Mark your calendar for the start of school – Monday, August 31, 2009!

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/



Please give any outstanding ticket orders to Robin in the office. We will accept late orders until Thursday, March 26. Thanks for your support!



RED BOY
PIZZA

This Week!

Take a night off from cooking and help our school.

March 24, 25, 26, Kaiser friends and families will receive 15% of the revenue from pizza sales at **Red Boy Pizza** on Redwood Road in Oakland. Save the flyer from this Pink Panther and present it at the restaurant when dining in or ordering take-out. You can duplicate the flyer and hand it out to friends or family. See you there!

Oakland Fine Arts Summer School applications are now available in the main office. Glenview Elementary School will be hosting this fabulous program which takes place June 22 – July 17.

CSUEB (California State University East Bay) will be hosting a science fair on Saturday, April 25, from 11:00-4:00. For more information please visit www.sci.csueastbay.edu/festival (Our school science fair will be in mid-May.)

BLACK WOMEN SUPPORT GROUP



Two Groups: Thursdays and Saturdays 10-11:30 am.

Join our open and ongoing support group for Black women exploring their identity as women, Black women, and the many roles they play. We will bring awareness to ways in which culture and society shape our lives and organize our thinking. We will also discuss self-care, relationship management, and coping skills. Other topics will be based on group consensus.

Please contact
Dr. Walters-Knight at (510) 499-4054 or 705-1695 to join.

Location: 419 Kearney Street
El Cerrito, CA 94530