

The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 18, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

We've just finished our CST testing and teachers are preparing their final assessments to mark the progress of the children. It's part of the joy of our profession to see the children's growth. I wish you could see teachers' faces when they realize what the kids have accomplished. Day by day it often seems like very little changes, but when we look back we can see how far we've come. In a way it's like climbing a mountain; you see a step here and there and realize you're moving a few feet, but when you get the chance to stop and look back you can see how far you've climbed.

Two weeks ago a couple of truancy officers came to talk to me about unsupervised kids staying here for long periods after school. They've asked me to keep a log of unattended children and to notify parents. This is for the safety of the children. Please do not tell your children they can hang out on the upper playground even "for a little while" without supervision. Behavior deteriorates quickly in the absence of an adult. Our school is centered on children's learning and safety, and we do our best to make that happen for all children, all the time.

The staff will spend some time this Wednesday evaluating our program to see what adjustments we need to make for continued success next year. Your input is also welcome; just email me. The newspaper this past week brought stories of impending cuts from the state budget, so everything is not guaranteed in our regular school program, but most likely our regular education program will be the same or very similar. Most probably we will continue the same intervention supports and enrichment classes that we've offered this year. At this time it also looks like we will be again offering art, music, computer, library and PE to every child every week. Of course, most of those "extras" are due to the generosity of you, our parents!

Did you see the science projects on exhibition? The kids again did a wonderful job in displaying their talents and intelligence. A special thanks goes out to Mr. Ross for organizing the science fair, to the judges (Marcia Brooks, Oscar Campos, and Janan Apaydin) and to all the parents who guided their kids to get the project done! This week we will have Open House in conjunction with both Music Night performances. Please visit the classrooms at 6:00 to see academic work samples and displays of art projects. So much to celebrate! So much to appreciate!

As we near the close of the school year I'm reminded of how much and how often parents contribute to our school in terms of effort, time and funds. So many people supported the Walkathon in early May, and last fall, the Benefit Auction! And we have so many classroom volunteers, room parents, and people who help us in too many ways to be listed here! In gratitude, the faculty and staff of Kaiser Elementary want to invite you who have volunteered at our school to a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on Wednesday, May 27, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. The only caveat is that we'd like to know how many to expect, so please write your child's teacher a note or call the office to RSVP. Thanks.

Mel Stenger, principal

Getting In The Know

Summer Intervention begins June 23. There has been some confusion about confirmation letters for the program. If you have turned in your registration and have not received a letter specifically telling you that your child could not be accommodated, your child is enrolled. Robin will be sending letters by postal service this week.



Oh c' mon, you' ll be here anyway! Our music instructor, Kathy Quain, is looking for some parents to help onstage on May 19. Please contact her at kathyquain@sbcglobal.net

Our Walkathon was Saturday, May 2. To be considered for prizes you need to turn in your pledges!

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/)**

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
May 19	Music Night / Open House for K-3, 6 p.m. -park on the upper playground
May 21	Music Night / Open House for 4-5, 6 p.m. -park on the upper playground
May 22	No School in lieu of Lincoln's Day
May 25	No School Memorial Day
May 27	Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, 1:30 p.m.
May 29	Walkathon pledges due
May 29	Kaiser ALIVE Picnic 5-7:30 p.m.
June 9-11	Minimum Days: 1:25 p.m. dismissal

Kaiser Alive! booklets were due Friday. If you forgot, you can still turn them in by Tuesday.

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.**

Calendar of upcoming events:

- May 19: K-3 Open House and Music Night, 6 p.m. Park on the upper playground.
- May 21: Grades 4-5 Open House and Music Night, 6 p.m. Park on the upper playground.
- May 22: No school
- May 25: No school
- May 27: Volunteer celebration, 1:30 p.m. We want to thank everyone who has volunteered in our school this year.
- May 29: Kaiser Alive! Picnic at Lake Temescal at 5 p.m. Prepay for a meal (\$6) in the office.
- June 5: Ice Cream Social to welcome new families. 6:30 p.m. on the playground!
- June 9-11: Minimum days; dismissal at 1:25 p.m.
- August 31: School starts

Kaiser ALIVE! Closing Remarks

Kaiser ALIVE has come to a close....By now all of you will have turned in your booklets and we have begun the tally to see how successful you have been. Our profound hope is that you tried new things, went many fun places, and most of all that you will continue to actively learn, initiate, volunteer and energize.

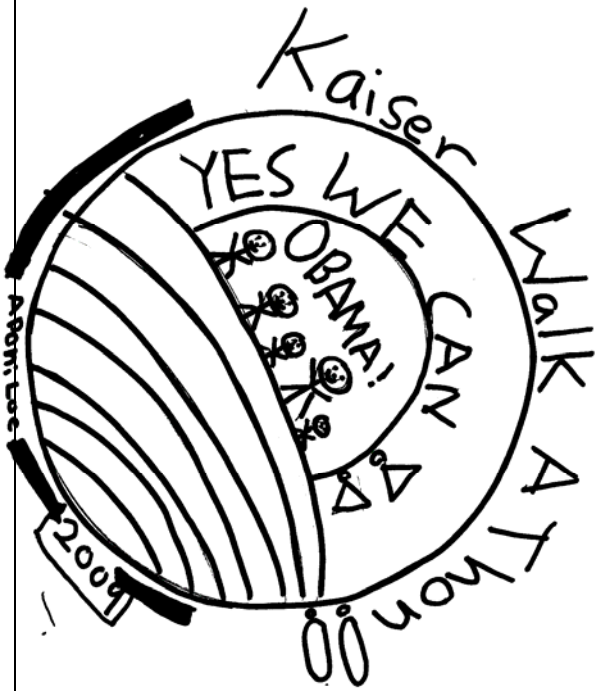
Please join us for the celebration party. We will be presenting the participation medals for all, trophies to the top point earners for each grade and drawing the names for the raffle prizes. We would love to see everyone at the park. There will be games and food and plenty of fun. So come and celebrate!

Please note that children who are unable to attend the festivities are still entered into the respective raffles, are still eligible for trophies and may pick up their medals and prizes (if appropriate) from Robin in the office the week of June 1st.

Kaiser ALIVE! Celebration Party
Friday May 29th
Lake Temescal Park (Broadway Side)
5 PM to 7:30 PM

KAI SER WALKATHON

Congratulations to Aponi Loe
for her winning T-shirt design!



Remember....

Pledges Due by May 29th!

Once all the pledges are in, the prizes for most money raised and the most laps walked as well as the pizza party for the class to raise the most money will be handed out!

Thank You!!!!

The Walkathon would have not been a success without the help of several people, and I thank you so much for your help!! Thanks to Shalonda King for heading up the registration, Sarah Coulthurst for heading up the food, Monica Lannon for making the delicious wraps, and Alison May for her fabulous job of procuring donations. Thank you for Robin Quamina for the snow cone machine and to Maureen Caldwell-Meurer for the donations from Noah's Bagels.

Thank you for all the volunteers that helped out on the day of the Walk A Thon! Without all your help, it would not have been a success!!!

Please don't take clothes from the Lost and Found unless it's yours. And please remember to mark your child's clothing!

SUMMER PIANO LESSONS!

Where: Kaiser School

When: June 15 - August 12 (1 x week)

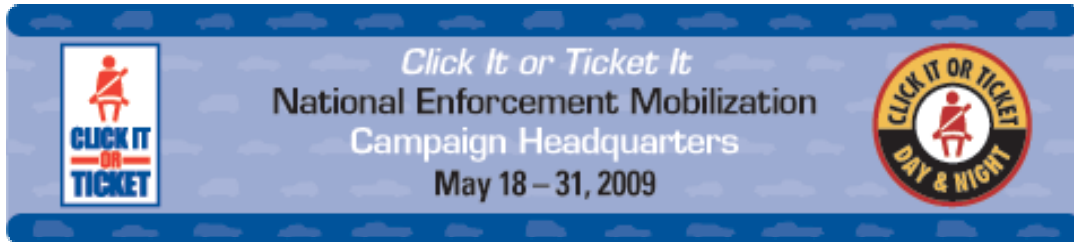
Cost: \$20 per lesson + book

Call: Marilyn Marsh (at Kaiser since 1994)

Phone: (510) 923-1620

Kaiser Elementary School Wellness Council

Helping to Raise Healthy Children



Eat right, get plenty of sleep, watch for cars crossing the street, wear a life jacket in a boat, wear your helmet if you are riding your bike or skateboarding. All those things our mom told us and we are now telling our children. Safety first.

Do you know what the most important thing you can say or do for your children? Use seat belts every time you are in the car. Put your children in the back seat and use a booster seat!

According to SafetyBeltSafeU.S.A., car crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for children and young adults. More than 90% of safety seats are incorrectly installed. More than 80% of the children under four who were killed in accidents would have survived had they been safely buckled in. Their parents didn't think it would happen to them. It is always "the other guy." Don't let it be you. Remember this:

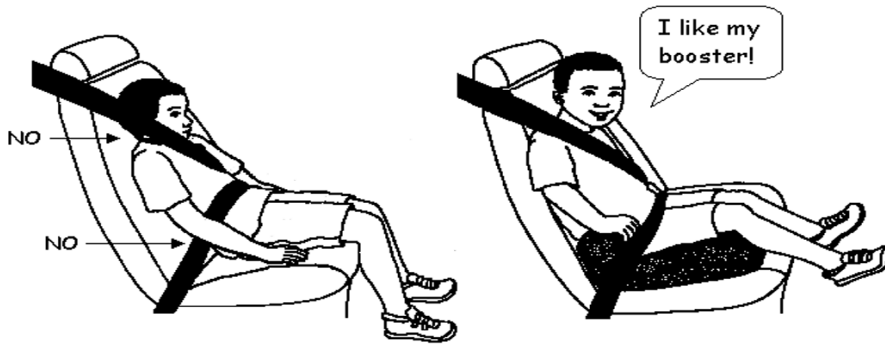
Boosters Are For Big Kids

Most kids need to ride in a booster seat from about age 4 until at least age 8-10.

If your child isn't using a booster, try the simple test below the next time you ride together in the car. You'll probably find that your child is not yet ready to use a safety belt without a booster.

The 5-Step Test.

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?



The back seat is the safest part of the car for all passengers. Recent research shows that children should ride in the back seat until they reach age 15.

So, you are home safe! How about having a healthy snack?

Ingredients

Walnut-Raisin Somersaults This recipe serves: 16

1 cup all-purpose flour	2 tablespoons sugar	2 tablespoons butter, chilled
1/2 cup low fat cottage cheese	1/2 cup raisins	3 tablespoons chopped walnuts
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon	1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract	3 tablespoons raspberry jam

Cooking Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, stir the flour and sugar together. Using a pastry blender or two knives, cut in the chilled butter until the mixture resembles coarse meal. Stir in the cottage cheese and gather the dough into a ball. Knead the dough a few times in the bowl and cover it loosely. Chill for one hour. This recipe can be made ahead at this point and stored overnight in the refrigerator before baking.
2. Combine the raisins and walnuts on your cutting board and chop them finely. Transfer the mixture to a small bowl and stir in the cinnamon and vanilla.
3. Heat the oven to 325°F. Line a baking sheet with foil and set aside.
4. Lightly flour your work surface and a rolling pin. Divide the dough in half and lightly flour each piece. Roll out each piece into a 12x5-inch rectangle. Place one rectangle with the long side toward you. Brush the bottom half with half the jam. Sprinkle it with half the raisin mixture and fold the top half of the dough over it to cover the filling. Cut the folded strip crosswise into eight, 1 and 1/2-inch wide cookies. Place the cookies 2 inches apart on the baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining dough, jam and filling.
5. Bake the cookies until golden, about 30 minutes. Transfer to a rack to cool and serve.

Serving Size: 1 somersault 85 calories per serving

Enjoy! Make some of these for the next Kaiser bake sale.
