



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 8, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

Bittersweet. That's how many of us are feeling as we come to the end of the year. So much has happened, so many relationships have changed and grown.

We've accomplished a lot this year. Our children have worked hard, played hard, and grown like weeds! They are proud of what they've done and they should be. You should also be proud. (I am fiercely proud of our learning community—teachers, staff, students and parents—and we will be here for a very long time.) Many of you have been here regularly, giving of your time and energy. Your presence here has made a huge difference in the development and growth of the students. You have also made a difference in the culture of the school. The presence of caring, supportive adults is one of the differences that make Kaiser School a truly wonderful place. *Thank you for being here!*

A year's growth is made of many moments, both official and unofficial. It's like watching your child grow; from day to day we can see any change, but when we look back over time we see a big difference. If you keep a family calendar (we keep ours on the refrigerator!) you can do a simple review of all the "official" moments like the beginning of school, winter performance, spring break and all the rest. These are the events that help us all mark time and celebrate progress, and form memories, especially for adults.

Of course, there are also all the other moments that mark your own child's year. Getting used to the new teacher and their rules, friendships and conflicts, afterschool classes, Adventure Time, academic successes and challenges, birthdays, overnights, homework routines and struggles, "visiting" the principal, field trips, stickers and smiley faces, time outs, hugs, doing the Walkathon, performing for parents and grandparents...take some time to remember those moments before they fade away. These moments all blend together to make a season of love.

Today I was reminded in several ways how uniquely special this school is. The day started with 2 meetings for special needs kids; it was wonderful how the adults brought their skill and compassion to the meetings to work together for each of the students' needs. Then I met with Linda Pulido, a parent here as well as my operations support person, to discuss budget, schedule and calendar; her skill at what she does helps our school run smoothly. Right after lunch I met with Marjie Potts, a former Kaiser parent and current gardening coordinator, to get details about the grant she got to teach our children about gardening. Later this afternoon the fifth graders played the teachers in a friendly game of kickball. The whole school attended and the student council gave each child some chips and a juice drink as a special snack. During the game I talked with a parent about choosing a middle school, and he offered an ear for my questions about how to help my own sons. At the end of the day I felt extremely graced and lucky to be connected to this community, and to be enriched by all the growth and interactions for so long. It was a day that I felt that dreams do come true!

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Getting In The Know

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The end of the school year is also a time to say good-bye. We bid a fond farewell to the fifth grade who are moving on to middle school. We also say adieu to a few other children who are moving to other schools, other cities, and even other countries. When I taught Kindergarten we used to sing a song at the end of the day. It's sometimes called "The Carol Burnett Song" because she used to sing it at the end of her TV show. The words are appropriate here:

I'm so glad we had this time together
Just to have a laugh and sing a song
Seems we just get started and before you
know it
Comes the time we have to say, 'So long.'

So now summer. Well, 10 weeks at least, until we return for another wonderful year of learning and growth. Until then, relax, be happy, have fun. See you all on August 31! Here's to summertime!

Mel Stenger, principal

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
June 9	Gardening Day, 2 p.m.
June 9-11	Minimum Days: 1:25 p.m. dismissal
June 10	5 th Grade Promotion, 1 p.m.
June 11	Last day of school
June 23	Summer Intervention Begins
August 31	School Starts, 8:45 a.m. Class Assignments posted in the morning

Please resolve any missing library book or textbook issues. District policy is to hold report cards until these issues are resolved.

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.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S WALK-A-THON PRIZE WINNERS!!!

Most Laps Walked:

Andrew Eeckman from Ms. Apaydin's class wins for Most Laps Walked, Upper Grades
Andrew walked 85 laps!

Andrew's Prizes: Gift Certificate to 510 Skateboarding and passes to Castro Village Bowl, Scandia Family Fun Center and Boomers of Livermore and Walk-A-Thon tee-shirts.

Caiden McDonough from Ms. McGhee's class wins for Most Laps Walked, Lower Grades
Caiden walked 60 laps!

Caiden's Prizes: Gift Certificate to Build-A-Bear Workshop and passes to Castro Village Bowl, Scandia Family Fun Center and Boomers of Livermore and Walk-A-Thon tee-shirts.

Most Money Raised:

Sabrina Boerner from Ms. McGhee's class wins 1st Place, Most Money Raised
Sabrina raised: \$474.00!

Sabrina's Prizes: Two Premier Passes to Pier 39 including a discount book and parking voucher for the day, as well as Walk-A-Thon tee-shirts.

Isaac May from Ms. Bailey's class wins 2nd Place, Most Money Raised
Isaac raised \$421.00!

Isaac's Prizes: Two Premier Passes to Pier 39 and Walk-A-Thon tee-shirts.

Mr. Ross' class raised the most money.

Spring Pledge Drive

Thank you very much to all of our Kaiser Families who have donated to our pledge drive. If you have been waiting for our Spring Pledge Drive, now is the time! We are asking families to help us support the great programs offered at Kaiser School by making a pledge donation. We recommend \$75 per child.

We thank you for your support. Checks should be made payable to Kaiser School and may be dropped off in the PTA box in the office.

LAST CALL FOR LOST & FOUND

The lost and found is all folded and ready for pick-up outside of the office up at school. Thanks to all who stopped by to help. The Salvation Army will be coming to pick up any unclaimed items on Friday, June 12th -- so be sure to take a peek (or remind your child to) before school is out next week.

Kaiser Elementary Wellness Council Kick Off Event Was a Big Success

On Sunday, June 7th, about 75 people gathered for the PTA's Wellness Council kick off garden jazz celebration. At this event, a core group formed to: implement recycling and compost, coordinate a weekly produce stand, expand the garden program, design Wellness publications, and raise funds for these programs. We will be developing these projects over the summer, and plan to start implementation in the fall.

Many thanks to Kaiser volunteers Liana Held, Barbara Blaser, and the Marchetti-Rose family, and to Kaiser teachers, Ms. McGhee, Mr. Toomer, and Ms. Apaydin, and everyone else who supported and assisted with this event. Thanks also to the musicians, Hanif and the Sound Voyagers, and to the individuals and companies that donated, including the Claremont Hotel, Full Plate, the Bread Garden, and John Gilmore.

Definitely look forward to more Kaiser Wellness happenings next year!

SUMMER PIANO LESSONS!

Where: Kaiser School
When: June 15 - August 12 (1x week)
Cost: \$20 per lesson + book
Call: Marilyn Marsh (at Kaiser since 1994)
Phone: (510) 923-1620

SPACE LIMITED -- CALL SOON!

SUMMER TUTOR AVAILABLE

College student available to tutor in Spanish, English, Math, and other subjects this summer. Flexible hours.

**Please contact Ellen Robertson if interested at
510-444-7973 or 510-501-1438
email: erobertson18@yahoo.co.uk**

SUMMER READING



PROGRAM 2009

The Oakland Public Library invites Oakland's youth to "**Be Creative @ Your Library**" this summer. Kids, ages 13 and under, are encouraged to visit one of our branches to sign up and start reading their way to great prizes starting June 13 and running through August 9, 2009. (Pre-readers can participate by having someone read to them.) Prizes include books and tickets to some of Oakland's hottest attractions.

To entice young people to use Oakland's libraries, we've lined up a summer's worth of free events featuring live animals, puppet shows, storytelling, music, magic, comedy, arts and crafts, and more. The fun begins with a **Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Party** on Saturday, June 13, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. out on the Children's Room patio. Children will be treated to face painting, sidewalk chalk art, ice cream, a scavenger hunt, music, and creative projects. And, back by popular demand, kids will get an opportunity to **Dunk the Librarian!**