



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 5, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

This past Friday there were several staff members out ill. Please help your children remember to sneeze into their elbows (new recommendation by doctors) and to wash their hands with soap and water for 15 seconds several times a day (touch is the most common method of spreading germs). The flu season seems to be upon us and is starting strong!

Phone madness! We've asked everyone to not let children bring cell phones to school. They are not necessary here. Robin will gladly call parents if needed, or let children call parents. Last week we had a phone theft in one class and too much time was spent dealing with it. We also had two instances of phones ringing during classes and disrupting the sessions. Please tell your children not to bring phones, pagers or other electronics to school.

We have weekly meetings on Friday mornings called SST meetings (Student Success Team). Teachers bring a profile of a struggling student for presentation to a group of teachers, the school psychologist, myself, the special ed teacher, student/family support person and the parents to discuss ways of helping the student succeed. (For more information about the SST process, go to our website.) Often difficulties center around reading. Here are a few ways to help:

- Read to/with your child every night. This becomes a routine and helps children love reading.
- Help them sound out words while doing homework or spelling, but while reading simply repeat the word correctly, have the child repeat it, and move on. Fluency is more important at that time than explain the sounds of each letter.
- For increasing fluency: Choose a page from a book on your child's level. Have them read for one minute (timed). You then re-read the passage having your child track while you read. Finally have the child re-read the same passage again, and your child will see growth.
- Model reading yourself. Read lots of things for many reasons so your child sees that reading is an important part of your life.

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up the week of October 12. **There will be minimum days all week next week, with dismissal at 1:25. Please make arrangements so your child is not left sitting for the extra time.** Some teachers may have started already because it's difficult to get through the whole class in one week. This conference is a time to check to see how your child has done so far and to set some long range goals. Teachers have reviewed last year's assessment data and the results from work and quizzes your child has done this year. Working together you should be able to set some realistic goals and some methods for achieving those goals. Remember: Smart is not something you are, it's something you get!

Mel Stenger

Getting In The Know

Stay Connected

- Join the Kaiser community message **Yahoo Group**: kaiserelementaryschool_group. Click on Join Group and email the moderator with your student's name and teacher to be verified and granted approval to become a member.
- Kaiser's also now on **Facebook!** Become a fan!

Kaiser Wellness Council Updates

Keep up to date with the Kaiser Wellness Council at our website, www.KaiserElementary.org.

LUNCH SUPERVISOR NEEDED

Interested in being a lunchtime yard supervisor? We need another lunchtime supervisor. This person would work under the supervision of the principal and in conjunction with classroom teachers. Duties include monitoring the children's behavior, helping pass out and collect play equipment, supervising the passing of kids to and from lunch, monitoring the lunchroom, administering first aid, helping to solve social conflicts, as well as other duties related to the position. The required schedule is 11:30-1:00 daily. Experience in supervising children is preferred. If you are interested, please contact the principal at

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!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Oct. 9	No School
Oct. 10	Berkeley Project Work Day
Oct. 12-16	Conference Week 1:25 dismissal all week
Oct. 16	Latino Heritage Potluck 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	Halloween Parade
Nov. 14	Kaiser Auction 6 – 11 p.m.

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/

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

The online Pink Panther includes information from our Wellness Committee

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd
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HELD OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!

SALLY FOSTER SALES

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN GREAT PRIZES BY ORDERING UNIQUE GIFT GIVING ITEMS

ONE WEEK ONLY ~ NEW DEADLINE ~ OCTOBER 9TH

*ADDITIONAL ORDER PACKETS LOCATED ON THE INFORMATION TABLE IN THE MAIN HALL
or
ORDER ONLINE - KAISER SCHOOL ACCOUNT #0370976*

Latino Heritage Potluck

Kaiser Elementary will once again host the annual Latino Heritage Potluck on Friday October 16th. This event is intended as a celebration of "Latino" culture and tradition. And gives **all Kaiser families** the opportunity to celebrate Latino Heritage month together.

Bring your families favorite dish to share. There will be activities for the kids and entertainment for all. Please join us!!

Computer Lab Update

My name is Rick Chan Frey and I'm the new computer teacher at Kaiser this year. I've worked as a computer programmer and computer teacher for many years (I actually was the computer teacher at Kaiser 26 years ago) and I'm just finishing up a PhD in education at Cal focusing on literacy development and technology.

Computer classes are moving along. My main goals for the beginning of the year are to introduce the most basic, essential elements of understanding how to work with computers, and to try to find a way to do it that the kids actually have fun with. Some of the critical early ideas are basic pieces like folders, files, directories, opening, closing, saving, reloading and looking around. I loaded a series of nested directories filled with some great pictures downloaded from the web-pictures of tigers, elephants, planets, etc. The kids got to look around, navigating in and out of folders, to find pictures they liked, ones their friends were looking at, all the time learning how to navigate inside Apple OS X (the operating system on the iMacs in the lab).

The next piece is learning what to do when you find something. Once they opened a picture, we've been playing with basic photo editing. The idea is that applications typically offer you tools for working with whatever it is you're looking at. Photo tools like zooming in, zooming out, selecting, cropping, rotating, and even basic image transformations (e.g. color, brightness, contrast) are all easy to work with. The kids have been fun making glow in the dark sharks, blazing red suns and neon green panda bears.

The most recent piece has been taking these two developing sets of skills and leading them towards a standard graphic design program. Due to problems with licensing and my distaste for Microsoft, I installed Open Office on each of the machines in the lab. Open Office is put out by Sun and is an entirely free suite of office applications. In every way they are the equivalent of Microsoft Office, they can read and write office files, but because they are open source, they tend to be much more reliable, bug free and cost free and work great for lab installations.

We've started using the draw program that is a mix between Microsoft Publisher and an illustration program. This type of program opens up a critical pair of computer concepts: objects and properties. A drawing object (like a rectangle on the screen) can be selected and its properties (color, style of line around the edge, does it have a shadow, etc.) can be manipulated for varying effects. Students learn about selecting, grouping, layering, alignment all of which provides a great space for creativity, exploration and developing a sense for how these ideas work together to allow them to create a wide range of possibilities.

Coming up in the next few weeks will be our first forays into designing hybrid documents with print, design and text blended together. The 4th and 5th graders are pretty close to ready to create and print their first attempts and 1st-3rd grade students will work from templates I designed to help simplify the work space and structure their projects. The goal is that kindergarteners through 5th graders will learn a range of skills that allow them to work on computer literacy projects that connect directly to what they're working on in class. Students will be making posters, garden signs, bake sale advertisements and eventually, little books-either for themselves or for younger students. But the main focus will be on computer skills, literacy projects, integrating classroom themes. Along the way we'll take some time to take apart some machines, do upgrades and repairs, try out our computer skills in a wider array of applications (e.g. Google Earth, Apple's Photo Booth), and eventually we'll see about some programming, web page design and digital video/photography for the Pink Panther, school website or other literacy projects.

We're also considering having an after school computer class(es). I wasn't ready at the beginning of the year to start it in sync with the other classes, but we're curious if parents would be interested. If you are, please contact me (rickchanfrey@mindspring.com). If we get enough interest, we might be able to start something this year, otherwise, we could start after winter break. If you do write, please include your child's age and grade and any special interests you might have (programming, digital photography, computer repair, etc.).

Rick

Kaiser Elementary School Wellness Council

Helping to Raise Healthy Children



Welcome to fall in California. Some of you may have moved here from other states where at one time burning leaves was a tradition. Most communities stopped leaf burning as part of the Clean Air Act. For anyone with asthma or a breathing problem, this was a long awaited change.

Fall also brings National Fire Prevention Week. Take some extra time to talk to your family about fire safety. The life you save might be your own.



Here are some important things to do:

- **Talk to your child about fire**, it is hot, it burns, it can hurt you.
- **Let your child know hear the smoke alarm sound.**
- **Tell your child not to play with matches or lighters they may find.** Keep them in a safe location.
- **Show your child how to crawl low in case of fire.** Practice, practice, practice.
- **Teach the stop, drop and roll techniques.** Practice, practice, practice.
- **Practice your fire escape plan:** Everyone needs to know the plan and practice the plan, routinely. Pick a day-the 1st Sunday say, and practice.
- **Tell your child not to hide in case of fire or if they see fire fighters.** Teach them things like touching the door to see if it is hot before they open it.
- **Visit a fire station, arrange for them to meet real fireman and talk about fire prevention.**
- **Set a good example-if you start a fire for cooking while camping put it completely out.**

Many of us have issues and concerns that have followed us from childhood into our adult lives. Fire is not pretty. It needs to be respected. Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen. And one in the car. Know how to use it. Please be careful. You are all important to us. *Barbara Blaser, RN*

Please use the activity below to help children identify fire hazards. Give them a pen and paper and ask them to search your home for fire hazards. Have them help make an evacuation plan. How will everyone get out and where will you meet when you get out? Try across the street.

11. How Many Fire Dangers Can You Find?

Circle all the fire hazards in RED!



"Which room does not have a fire hazard?"