



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Dear Kaiser Families,

We celebrate love!

This coming weekend many of us will celebrate Valentine's Day by giving expressions of love to our closest friends and family. Greeting card companies say about a *billion* Valentine cards will be sent or given this week. That made me wonder a bit about where it all came from, so I did a little research into its history and origins. Wow! The things we can learn with a few clicks on the Internet!

Some sources said that there was a priest in ancient times named Valentine who secretly performed marriages for Roman soldiers who were required to remain single—thus he was a real advocate of love. Other sources point to a Roman fertility holiday called Lupercalia during which a female goat (lupa) would be sacrificed to increase the fertility of the young people of the villages, and the Church wanted to take over the holiday and Christianize it. Whatever the reason, we've been celebrating the holiday since about 496 AD, a really long time.

But what *is* love? Love is hard to define. The wonderful writer C.S. Lewis (*The Chronicles of Narnia*) wrote about the four types of love: *storge*, *filia*, *eros*, and *agape*. (I don't know why he named them with Greek words!) *Storge* is affection of people who are together by chance or by family ties for things, as in, "I love my sister Janet." *Filia* is the friendship of those who share deep and common bonds, as in, "I love my best friend Bob because we sing together." *Eros* is the love that mates have for each other which usually includes physical intimacy as in, "I love my spouse." And *agape* is the unconditional, indestructible love that parents have for their children (and for those who are spiritual, that God has for people) as in, "I love my baby and nothing will ever take that away." There are all different kinds of love, filling our lives with happiness at different times and in different ways, and they are all good! Let's celebrate!

From Wikipedia: *In some North American [elementary schools](#), children decorate classrooms, exchange cards, and eat sweets. The greeting cards of these students often mention what they appreciate about each other.* We have that custom here too, so please watch your child's teacher's newsletter for details about what's happening this week in their rooms.

How can we help our kids appreciate it? One of the wonderful things I've witnessed in the classrooms is an activity called "Appreciations." The teacher quiets the class and then invites kids to publicly "appreciate" someone or something. It begins with things like, "I appreciate extra recess time." Then it progresses to deeper issues like, "I appreciate the way we all support each other in our class." This activity guides children in speaking their heart. What a wonderful world we would have if we all "appreciated" each other like that every day!

So here I go: I appreciate the way the parents in our community work so hard to support their kids and our school by giving their time, money, and vocal encouragements. I appreciate you all! Happy Valentine's Day!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Want to join the School Site Council? The SSC monitors the school programs and progress in general. We meet monthly, third Wednesdays, to review how things are going and to ask questions and give input. We need two new members. If you are interested, please email Patricia Broadbent at pbroadbent@actransit.org or leave a message for the principal in the office. It's an easy way to help!

Medical Supplies Drive

Please help us gather supplies for the relief efforts in Hati. Supplies may be dropped off in each class.

- Kinder – non-latex gloves (one size fits all)
1st – antibiotic ointment and hydrocortisone ointment
2nd – rolling bandages and surgical masks
3rd – sterile gauze pads and adhesive bandaids
4th – triangle bandages
5th – iodine

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

The online Pink Panther includes information from our Wellness Committee

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
Feb. 15	NO SCHOOL – President's Day Holiday
Feb. 17	SSC Meeting
Feb. 24	PTA Board Meeting, 6:30
Feb. 26	African American Potluck, 6:30
Mar. 3	General PTA Meeting, 6:30
Mar. 12	Report Card Period Ends Minimum Day
Mar. 17	SSC Meeting, 4:00
Mar. 18-19	Parent-Teacher Conferences Minimum Days

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/

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd
Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

PTA CORNER

Big News for Budding Artists!

KidzArt is now offering shorter, more affordable KidzArt sessions for their Friday class. Here are the dates:

NEW February Mini-Session: \$55.00

Start Date: 02/05/2010

End Date: 02/26/2010

Description 4 classes total. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

NEW March Mini-Session: \$55.00

Start Date: 03/05/2010

End Date: 04/02/2010

Description 4 classes total. Mar. 5, 12, 26; Apr. 2.

April Mini-Session: \$55.00

Start Date: 04/16/2010

End Date: 05/07/2010

Description 4 classes total. Apr. 16, 23, 30; May 7.

June Mini-Session: \$55.00

Start Date: 05/14/2010

End Date: 06/11/2010

Description 4 classes total. May 14, 21; June 4, 11.

To register online, please visit www.kidzarteastbay.com <<http://www.kidzarteastbay.com>>

Events at Oakland Public Libraries

Shadow Puppetry

The [Oakland Museum of California](#) presents Shadow Puppetry with artist Cheryl Perko in celebration of Lunar New Year. Welcome the Year of the Tiger with stories, Zodiac shadow puppet crafts, and your own puppet show.

2/9 6pm Cesar Chavez Branch, 3301 East 12th St., Ste. 271

2/13 2pm Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave.