

The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 22, 2010

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. If you missed out on the scheduled dates you can contact your child’s teacher to set up an appointment.

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 62% of our kids are at or above benchmark in English/Language and 78% 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! We also reviewed the site plan for next year; most of our program will remain the same except that we will be asking you, through the PTA, to help cover some of the budget cuts.

We have a comprehensive intervention system and team of intervention personnel intended to provide support for children who need it. Although our resources are limited we can often help and sometimes refer parents to other sources of support. You can find out more about the whole system at our school’s website, www.kaiserelementary.org. Look for a link called “Pyramid of Intervention.”

Teachers also provide education and supervision around the development of social skills. They teach Second Step lessons to the class and have class meetings to discuss bullying or other social problems. This week we had sessions with classes with Kidpower. The presenter talked about how to be safe in relationships and on the playground. Teachers received information to use with their classes. To find out more visit <http://www.kidpower.org/who-we-serve/how-to-stop-bullying.html>.

Next Monday, March 29, 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 Farm Workers’ Union and furthered the rights of farm workers 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 date when day and night are equal. Look around, the hills are green and dotted with wildflowers and daffodils. The weather is absolutely fabulous 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.

Some of the first-graders pointed out a wild tom turkey on the hill the other day. His tail was spread and he was calling for a mate. Take a minute, look out your window; see a miracle of new beginnings. Happy Easter, happy Passover, happy spring!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Thank You for Supporting the Girl Scouts

Thank you to the Kaiser community for your support of the Girl Scouts' booth sales and pre-sales. We sold over 200 boxes at our booth sales and many bought individually from the Girl Scouts. The 40 girls far exceeded the original goal of selling 400 boxes—they sold more than 3,000 boxes of cookies!

We are very proud of all the teamwork that went into making this possible. Thanks to Monica Yu and Cammeran Johnson, our cookie managers! We couldn't have done it without you two for sure!

Just a note to remind parents, students and teachers that the Encyclopedia Britannica is available online through the OUSD website. Click on for students and families and then OUSD libraries. The online encyclopedia is on the right-hand side under resources.

**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
Mar. 24	Golden Bough Celtic Music, 10 a.m., all grades
Mar. 24	PTA Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 29	Cesar Chavez Holiday NO SCHOOL
Apr. 1	Elementary Music Festival, 1-2:45 p.m.
Apr. 1	Kaiser ALIVE Begins
Apr. 5-9	Spring Break NO SCHOOL
Apr. 14	Math / Science Night & PTA General Mtg., 6:30

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/)**

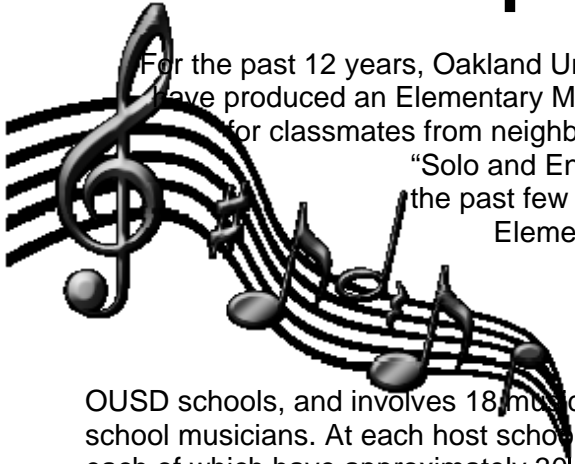
Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

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

Elementary Music Festival at Kaiser on April 1



For the past 12 years, Oakland Unified School District elementary music teachers have produced an Elementary Music Festival for their young musicians to perform for classmates from neighboring OUSD schools. Formerly known as the “Solo and Ensemble Festival,” the event has transformed over the past few years into what is now simply referred to as the Elementary Music Festival.

The Music Festival is held annually, usually the week before Spring Break, at 10-15 OUSD schools, and involves 18 music teachers, 45 schools, and over 2,000 elementary school musicians. At each host school site, there are 2-3 additional participating schools, each of which have approximately 30 minutes of total performance time. Performances can involve any *number* of performers—full-ensemble, solo performances, small group performing ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, etc.)—in a variety of categories (band, orchestra, guitar, choir/vocal, and percussion). The number and combination of performers, and the type of music performed, is chosen by the music director of each participating school. At some festival sites, all participants will join together at the end of the concert to perform the same piece of music, in the same spirit of OUSD’s Jazz and Orchestra Festivals, which have featured combined, large-group finale performances at the end of these concerts for the past 8 years.

In addition to furthering the Music Festival tradition in OUSD Music Programs, the Elementary Music Festival provides a performance opportunity to OUSD’s budding young musicians to share and celebrate their talents with each other and with classmates from other OUSD schools. It is also a great collaborative opportunity for our music teachers to work together toward our common goal, vision, and passion for providing a comprehensive music education for every child, grades K-5, in the Oakland Public Schools.

Kaiser’s Music Festival is April 1, from 1 to 2:45 p.m.

Kaiser Kiosk

A PARENT EDUCATION EVENING

Parenting With Positive Discipline

Are your kids fighting, whining, not cooperating
or just generally driving you crazy?
Do you want to have more fun as a parent
and feel more connected to your child?
Come learn a common-sense approach that works!

Thursday, March 25, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Childcare provided.

No cost. Please RSVP to Cynthia Freeman (cynthia.freeman@att.net or
510-430-8088)

so we know how many adults and children to expect.

St. Paul Lutheran Church 1658 Excelsior Ave. in Oakland

(Corner of Excelsior and Woodruff)

The Positive Discipline approach is for parents who are looking for long-term parenting skills that will encourage their children to think for themselves, become more responsible and have a greater respect for themselves and others. The teachings of Positive Discipline are filled with non-punitive, respectful methods that incorporate kindness and firmness into parenting, help parents get to the core of their child's misbehavior, bring more joy into the home and give parents a sense of ease and joy in parenting. This philosophy of working with children has been made popular over the last 20 years by the work of Dr. Jane Nelsen and her series, "Positive Discipline."

The facilitator, Lisa Fuller, MSW, CPDA has been facilitating parenting classes in the East Bay for the past 4 years. She is a compassionate listener who is committed to empowering parents and children through the use of Positive Discipline's common sense principles. Positive Discipline is an integral part of her life with her husband and three children.

ANNOUNCING!

"Take My Word For It" - Creative Writing and Art Summer Camp 2010
Paper & Palette - Exploring Your Writer and Artist Self

Do you love to write?
(or maybe you would like writing more if you could just come up with some cool ideas?)

Do you love to make art?
(or maybe you would like art more if you could learn to use some new materials?)

Come join us this summer and explore your writer and artist self!

When & Where ?
Camp will be held at the spacious and beautiful Classroom Matters,
a tutoring center in Berkeley, 2436 Sacramento Street (at Dwight).

Who?
Our East Bay camp is an all-girl camp. Campers should be going into 4th, 5th and 6th grade in Fall 2010.

2010 East Bay Sessions
(All camp days are from 9 am - 4 pm.)

SESSION A (2 weeks) June 21- July 2

SESSION B (1 week) July 5 - July 9

SESSION C (2 weeks) July 12th - July 23rd

Please see www.blog.takemywordforit.net for info on pricing, instructor bios, and registration.

Lost, and not yet Found!

We have jackets, sweatshirts, socks, pants, shirts, coats, sweaters, hoodies, pullovers, vests, outerwear, overwear, and every kind of wear all over the place! We have stuff on the upper field, classrooms, hallway, and multi-purpose room. We have old clothes, new clothes, hand-me-down clothes and hand-it-over clothes.

We probably even have some of **your** clothes!

They're Lost, and not yet Found! They're piling up!

Come and get your stuff!