



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 10, 2010

Dear Kaiser Families,

Last Saturday marked Kaiser School's Annual Walkathon! Families of all variations were there, and the age range went from infant in arms to the wise veterans of life. The gathering was truly a testament to our school community is all about: people coming together to do a fundraiser but having a lot of fun at the same time. We should be proud and thankful to be part of such a community, where parents not only encourage their children to support their school, but the children themselves truly support their school and show it by turning out in large numbers to raise money for our educational programs.

It's just not possible to express thanks to each person who gave their time and energy. If you helped, please accept a "Thank you!" from me on behalf of the staff and children at our school. There is no way we could make sure that we mention everyone's name, so I will take the time to mention only one: Linda Pulido. Linda was the head of the committee and worked tirelessly for numbers of hours to pull together the support people, iron out all the details, and maintain her smiling face and patient attitude through it all! Our heartfelt thanks go out to you, Linda!

We just passed Mother's Day. Like a lot of people I think my mom is pretty special. And like a lot of people I remember that no matter what we did she never stopped loving us. That's a huge life lesson. When I'm having difficulty with my boys, I'll call Mom and ask, "What do I do about...?" Often she'll have sage advice that boils down to "make sure they know you love them," even (and especially) when they are acting out!

It's important to remember that constant love when we talk about bullies and their victims. I think one of the hardest things about the issue is that we need to re-frame the situation so that we let go of the notion of "us and them." It's often not so easy to see, especially when our child comes home and says that they didn't do anything, that so-and-so "just hit me!" Many professionals in human development see bullies and victims as 2 sides of the same coin. Bullies are very often victims themselves. In our lessons about bullying in our classrooms, we teach that there are bullying *relationships* involving bullies, victims and bystanders—and that everyone is getting something out of the relationship.

Bullies are turning their pain and anger on others they see as weaker, so it becomes a power dynamic. Many of us buy into the idea that the bully is the only problem. I think we need to look deeper into why each person involved in such a set up. In the past week I've counseled kids who were arguing in the classroom and fighting on the playground. In those situations I sensed that the one who caused it was in some way looking for power because they felt weak, and the victim also feels weak and so gives in. In addition to letting the bully know that their behavior is not ok, we must find ways to help both bullies and victims feel confident and competent so they won't need to resort to bullying to satisfy that hunger, or cave in to bullies because they don't feel strong. So what do we do? The profiles of both the bully and victim come across as people who need more love and support. It is clear that we need to make real in our everyday actions our beliefs that each individual is a valued and precious human being. We do this by recognizing them, being present, listening, and reacting with kindness and respect. Just like our mothers would!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

What's for Dinner?

Check out www.supercook.com, a recipe search engine that suggests recipes for ingredients that you have in your home.

The Kinetic Arts Center will perform physical art with a math and science theme at an assembly for the Kaiser kids on Tuesday May 18th from 10-11 am. .

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

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
May 17-21	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 18	Kinetic Arts Center Assembly, 10-11am
May 19	SSC Meeting, 4pm
May 21	ALIVE Booklets DUE!
May 27	Instrumental Music Concert, 6:30pm
May 28	No School
May 31	No School
June 2	Volunteer Celebration
June 4	ALIVE Picnic Celebration at Lake Temescal
June 11	New Families Ice Cream Social, 6:30pm
June 16	5 th Grade Promotion, 1pm
June 17	Last Day of School

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

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

Kaiser Kiosk

Kaiser ALIVE! Updates

Good News – Kaiser ALIVE has been extended for another week! Many of you may have noted that the booklet states that the program ends May 14th. This year we have decided to extend that date to May 21st. That gives you a full extra week to rack up those points!

Please note that the Kuk Sool points were omitted. They should be listed as 15 points.

Please be sure to bring your booklet back to your teachers by Fri May 21st so we can tally up the points. Medals and trophies will be awarded at the annual picnic on Friday June 4th at Lake Temescal.

In the meantime – Keep up the great work!

2010 Kaiser ALIVE Raffle Prizes

<u>Points</u>	<u>Drawing</u>
100 – 149	Webkinz
150 – 199	One year Kids National Geographic mag or \$20 Gift Card to Target/Game Stop
200 – 249	Six month subscription to Club Penguin/Moshi Monster or \$30 Gift card to Target/Game Stop
250 – 299	iPOD Shuffle
300 +	Choice of 4 season passes to either Great America or Six Flags Marine World

Teacher Appreciation Week is 5/17 – 5/21

We need your help coordinating food, flowers and goodies to show our appreciation to our wonderful Kaiser teachers. Please contact your room parent for details.

Families from each class provide breakfast and lunch for our teachers every day during this week and we need your help soliciting and coordinating contributions from your class.

The schedule for the week is:

Monday – Kindergarten families (Banks, McGhee)

Tuesday – First Grade families (Araki, Haruyama)

Wednesday – Second Grade families (Gorham, Yang)

Thursday - Third Grade families (Bailey, Hunter)

Friday – Fourth and Fifth Grade families (Neat, Apapydin, Ross)

**You are invited to join the
First Family & Community Action Meeting for Oakland Citywide Schools
Saturday, May 22
10 AM to Noon
Sequoia Elementary
3730 Lincoln Avenue
Refreshments
Translation & Childcare provided***

Your Voice Counts and Your Actions Matter! If there ever was a time to be actively engaged in what's going on in all of our schools, our community, it is now! This meeting is being called by a group of parents who attended Jody London's Community Engagement Workshop. We feel it is critical to form a district-wide parent group with the potential of creating a stronger support system for our children to succeed. We hope this meeting will set the momentum for family & community involvement & engagement. Everyone is welcome.

* For childcare & translation services please RSVP to: Nancy Deming at 290-4875

4th and 5th grade students are proud to present their 2010 Spring Music Concert on Thursday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m. Parents are invited to visit the classroom at 6 p.m. for Open House preceding the concert. Please see note that went home with students for more details.

Kaiser Girl Scouts' May meetings are on Monday the 10th and the 24th. Our last meeting at Kaiser is on the 24th and it will be the bridging/pinning ceremony. Parents are welcome.

If you are interested in becoming a girl scout troop leader for next year please contact me as soon as possible. It's a lot of fun. A great way to make new friends and provide girls with unique learning opportunities. Email Lori Admokom at lusocha@sbcglobal.net or call 510-763-7027.

Noah's in Montclair has kindly offered to donate a once-a-week batch of day-old bagels for Kaiser teachers, staff and parent volunteers to enjoy. They need to be picked up at Noah's on Wednesday evening between 6:30 and 6:45 pm and dropped off at Kaiser the next morning. Simple.

If you'd like to volunteer to handle this at least one of the remaining Wednesdays of the school year, please contact bagels@kaiserelementary.org and let us know which Wednesday(s) you can help. We'll send you the details (one phone call, one pickup, one drop off) and in return you'll receive the undying gratitude of the Kaiser teachers and staff.