



The Pink Panther
Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School
25 South Hill Court, Oakland, California 94618 (510) 549-4900

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 12, 2011

Principal's Message

Dear Kaiser Families,

First, let me start with an apology. It is my understanding that the K-3 winter performance has been a tradition at Kaiser for years, and many are upset that it was cancelled. The reason the winter performance has been cancelled is because our Orff Teacher started late in the school year. As many can recall, the previous Orff Teacher resigned at the beginning of the school year. Three weeks later, we hired the new Orff Teacher, Eli Wise. Since coming on board, Mr. Wise has done an outstanding job, and I am encouraged that the spring performance will be great.

The other issue is around school budgets. I am in the process of working on the 2012-2013 school year budget and proud to report there are little cuts, but there is one thing I need Kaiser Families to do—complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meals form. Whenever I ask families to complete this form, I often hear “we don’t qualify” or “we don’t eat the lunch.” I understand that many may not qualify, but there are just as many that do not know. The qualifications for this program change every year, meaning that you may not qualify one year, but can the next. Also, the free and reduce lunch program is more than lunch. If 35% or more of the school qualifies for the program, I can have free after-school programs for those students. The forms are on-line and can be found at <https://mealapps.ousd.k12.ca.us>.

If you would like to know about the program or anything about the budget in general, please stop by and let us talk. As always my door is open.

P.S.: I would like to give a whole-hearted THANK YOU to the Kaiser community for selecting me as the Principal.

Darren L. Avent

Getting In The Know

Lost and Found

Parents and students, please check the lost and found for your items. Remaining items will be donated to GoodWill on Friday, December 16th.

Some items are labelled with the following names: Zeb, Olivia H., Isaiah, Javier, Dharmesh, L. Snow, Ralph Lauren (just kidding).

Please label your child's clothes, hats, lunchboxes and umbrellas!
Thanks!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye!

Kaiser's Spring Auction is upon us!

Join us on February 4th at Hannah's On the Bay for fun, games, food, drink and dancing! Tickets are now on sale! \$35 in advance; \$45 at the door; \$60 per couple. Make your checks payable to Kaiser PTA and slip them in the box at the Main Office located in Mr. Avent's office.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Wednesday, Dec. 14	School Site Council meeting
Thursday, Dec. 15	Grades 4&5 Winter Performance, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16	Last day of school before Winter Break
Tuesday, Jan. 3	Classes Resume
Jan. 16	MLK Day; No School

SCHOOL OPTIONS REMINDER

Parents don't forget to pick up your 5th Grader's Options Application for the next desired school you want them to attend. Also, tell a friend about Kaiser School for next year!

See Ms. Thornton for applications.
Thanks.

Check out the complete 2011-2012 school year [calendar](http://www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar) at www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar

How to be in the Pink Panther

The Pink Panther comes out every other week. Look for it in your child's backpack on or around 12/12 and into the New Year.

We welcome submissions from everyone in the Kaiser Community. 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:

joliem29@yahoo.com – Jolie McRae
ingridpatrick@gmail.com – Ingrid Patrick

Please put "Pink Panther" in the subject of your email to ensure that it is not deleted

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES \$ SUPPORTS KAISER'S STUDENTS

Hello Families!

Kaiser is now participating in **Tyson Project A+** as well as the Box Tops for Education program.



These products are sold at Lucky's, Safeway or any grocery store that sells Tyson or Box Tops products; just look for the label.

Please clip & save Tyson and Box Tops for Education labels and place them in the Box Tops box in the school office.



All the money received helps support our students.

Also, think of us when you shop online. Go to www.kaiserelementary.org and click on the Amazon button on the home page.



You can also shop on eScrip at www.escrip.com. Please make sure your "group selection" is Kaiser Elementary School PTA, Oakland, CA.



PTA Qs & As

This is a NEW, regular addition to the Pink Panther with the intention of clarifying how the PTA works, so that members of the Kaiser PTA can actively participate in the enrichment of our school program and parental encouragement of our great Kaiser Faculty and Staff. If you have questions that you would like to ask, you can e-mail them to our Kaiser PTA Parliamentarian, Monte McClain @ KaiserParliamentarian@gmail.com. This Question and Answer section will be a regular part of the Pink Panther, composed by the PTA President (Renee Griffin-Sanchez) and our Parliamentarian (Monte McClain).

1. How are decisions made in terms of PTA priorities and monies?

Our PTA works in function of our By-Laws, which were drafted and revised by an elected committee and then approved by a vote of the entire PTA population at our September, 2011, meeting. The PTA Executive Board—your elected representatives, interpret our school priorities, work towards establishing what we want to do to enrich our Kaiser School program and empower all our children to grow and expect success academically, socially and intellectually. This Board is elected by the general PTA population of members at the annual elections held in the Spring.

The meetings and work of both the PTA Executive Board and the meetings of the general association members follow the representational rules laid out in “Robert’s Rules of Order.” Although these often are foreign and unfamiliar to us today, they are the rules used by our national, State and local governmental bodies, as well as nearly all non-profit and for-profit boards. These rules exist in order to ensure that things are transparent in decision making and, in particular, to ensure that the minority voice (or voices) is always heard and never overlooked. In a sense Robert’s Rules of Order makes sure that a majority of people cannot just take over and do what they want to do. As per our By-Laws, the Parliamentarian elected to the Executive Board is responsible for educating both the members of the PTA and Executive Board in how our By-Laws and Robert’s Rules function.

All decisions, and votes, in particular regarding the use and release of monies has to be voted upon and cleared by the entire Executive Board. If they are not approved, they cannot happen and/or will not be reimbursed or paid.

2. How can we trust the PTA Executive Board?

Trust is always a choice, and yet the Executive Board was elected by the members of the Parent Teacher Association at the end of the previous school year. The actions of the Executive Board are always recorded in the minutes (or official notes) of the meeting of both the Executive Board and the General Association. So everything is transparent from our financial audits, to meeting minutes, and to the ways in which we make our decisions. The PTA is a representational association. No one person (or small group of people) can simply do what they want. Leaders are elected by, and thus responsible to, the members of the General Association. On a certain level, trust is not part of the equation, for if you do not trust someone, you should not vote for them.

3. How can I make our voice heard to help shape the future of Kaiser School?

The PTA is a representational body: that means they do not have to do what any one person or small group wants, but the PTA leadership is responsible to represent the global concerns, desires and dreams of our association. You can make your voice heard by attending PTA meetings (the next one is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th) or by speaking with PTA Executive Board Members before the next stated meeting of the Board (Wednesday, January 4th). You can also run for office, as per the actions of the Nominating Committee – to be elected at our January Association Meeting in conjunction with the work of the PTA Parliamentarian.

COATS COLLECTION

The Kaiser Elementary Girl Scouts are collecting coats for One Warm Coat. Please bring clean coats in good condition to school between Wednesday, December 7 and Wednesday, December 14. Look for the donation box in the front hallway outside the Main Office. The coats will be donated to a local homeless shelter. We need both kids' and adults' sizes. Thank you!

TOYS for TOTS

Daisy's are sponsoring **TOYS for TOTS** at Kaiser!! You will see a large decorated can in front of the school by the office. Let us get our Kaiser Community to fill the can many times over !!

Girl Scouts and the firefighters at Fire Station #18 are working to collect these toys for delivery to the kids in need!! Donations of unwrapped toys or books will be accepted until this Friday, December 16th.

All Hands On Deck for the 2012 Kaiser Elementary School Auction

Join together to make sure our children continue to

Sail to Success



Saturday, February 4th, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight

At the lovely Hannah's by the Bay in Alameda

Bring friends, relatives, and have a wonderful evening raising money for the Kaiser children.
TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Advance tickets are \$35.00 per person or two tickets for \$60.00.
\$40 at the door, so buy in advance!

Request services or items from your employers, friends, and acquaintances! If you have donated services or items, contact Mari Cocek at mcocek@sbcglobal.net.

To advertise your business in the Auction program, contact Mary Campbell at mipromotion@aol.com.

To volunteer to help on the auction committee, contact Kim White at kimberleewhite@hotmail.com.

To help with your class project or class basket, contact Anja Qualls at anja4now@yahoo.com.

Let's come together to weather the economic storm!

Cut
here
✂

Ticket Holder's Name: _____ Your Child(ren)'s Teacher(s): _____

Yes, I will support Kaiser Elementary School to Sail to Success. I will purchase _____ # of tickets at \$35 per person or \$60 for two tickets. *Ticket Purchase Price* \$_____

I would like to underwrite the cost of a ticket for my classroom Teacher or another Kaiser staff to enjoy an exciting and enjoyable evening as we Sail to Success. *Donated Amount* \$_____

I am sorry, I cannot attend the 2012 Kaiser Auction but will gladly donate the enclosed to amount to make sure our children Sail to Success. *Donated Amount* \$_____

Total Amount Enclosed \$_____

You may pay with the attached *One-Time Credit Card Authorization Form* or make your check payable to Kaiser PTA. Place all forms and payments in the clear box labeled 2012 Kaiser Auction on the front counter in the main office. Your donation is tax deductible. Kaiser Tax ID #94-6184119