

THE PINK PANTHER



KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 23, 2003



CHECK OUT THE DATES

SEPTEMBER

- 24 Minimum Day
- 24 Brownie Parent Meeting
7:00pm School Library
- 26 Bake Sale/Blunt
- 26 African Dance
- 29 Brownie Meeting

OCTOBER

- 1 Minimum Day
- 3 Bake Sale/Stenger
- 3 African Dance
- 6 Brownie Meeting
- 8 Minimum Day
- 10 Bake Sale/Staples
- 10 African Dance
- 10 Latino Heritage Potluck
6:00pm Multi-Purpose Room
- 13 PTA Board Meeting
- 14 Staff Development Day/
School Closed
- 15 Staff Development Day/
School Closed
- 17 Bake Sale/Reese
- 17 African Dance
- 20 Brownie Meeting
- 22 Minimum Day
- 24 Bake Sale/Neat
- 24 African Dance
- 25 WALK-A-THON
- 29 Minimum Day
- 31 Halloween Festivities
- 31 African Dance

**In Memory of Lost Lives of
September 11, 2001**

**Terror in the heart
And you sadly lost your lives
To a crashing plane**

**Group Haiku from Room 6,
Ms. Yang's Third Grade Class**



A MESSAGE FROM MS. MCLANE

Thanks to all of our families for helping with the traffic congestion by not parking on the uphill side of South Hill Court during drop-off and pick-up times. We also want to acknowledge the wonderful cooperation of the parents waiting outside for their students for African dance lessons. We have had a great working relationship with the staff of Adventure Time over the years and need to acknowledge that the Adventure Time program rents our auditorium from the school district from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Our use of the auditorium for classes has been cooperatively worked out with their director.

Thanks, too, for the energy and support which has gone into the Friday class bake sales. So far, each class' funds have been increased by over \$225 due to the generosity of classroom donations and the support of our entire community which participates in buying the goodies.

Update on some of the issues facing us this year:

1) Attendance is the number one priority of Dr. Randolph Ward, the state administrator of the OUSD. As he noted in the letter sent to you this summer, he is asking us to hold meetings with all families of students who are considered

truant. As a result, if a student arrives at school 30 minutes late on three separate occasions, he/she by definition is a truant and we must hold a SART (Student Attendance Review Team) meeting. Three unexcused absences also require a meeting, so please help us out by letting us know why your child is absent. Our former attendance clerk, Miriam Bolanos, resigned at the beginning of the school year, so Robin Sasada has had double-duty! We appreciate the help we have gotten from several parents who offered to call families or to answer the phones.

2) Specialty teachers (known as Prep teachers) to provide instruction to the students while the teachers receive a 50 minute/week time for preparation and to contact families were to have arrived last week. We did get one substitute on Friday. Until we know who is coming, their areas of specialty and the time the district allocates to us, we are unable to determine what our other needs might be. For instance, if the specialty teacher is a PE person, we would not need to tap into the money allocated by the PTA. If the person (or persons) are computer savvy, then we could reallocate funding that is being held to provide that support to our children.

3) Library books are being reviewed by a retired librarian, our teaching staff, and other

MRS. MCLANE CONTINUED

interested parents to eliminate books that have not circulated and to make room for the beautiful elementary library from the Arts School. There are also several boxes of books which we will send over to the Arts School for their middle school program. In this process, teachers will also add books to their classroom libraries and then we will have other books available to our families to take home with them. We are hoping to have the children able to use the library this coming week.

4) Custodial services have been cut back dramatically throughout the district and Kaiser no longer has a half-time night custodian. Mr. Ray Sanchez is doing a yeoman's job from 6:00 to 3:00 each day and when he leaves, we are in charge. If night meetings are scheduled at the school, please make sure that I know. Otherwise, there will be no one to open or close the building. So much for my resolution to leave school by 5:30 p.m. each day and go to the gym!!

5) Before school , after-school and lunch-time supervision is limited! We can fill one more position at lunch when an attendance person is hired if that person will work an extra hour. Thanks to those of you who have been volunteering on the playground and in the lunchroom. It has been a terrific help!

In closing, we are going to work our way through these hurdles as we continue to focus on the learning that is happening in the classrooms. Our thanks, again, to Mr. Eric Ross who is teaching the third grade class in Mrs. Fragosos

absence. She is looking forward to returning in early October. We have a terrific staff who share a commitment to providing a learning environment where your children will thrive!

**WALK AROUND
THE CLOCK**

The kick-off assembly and distribution of packets for this year's Walk-a-Thon, Walk Around the Clock, will be held this Wednesday, September 24th at 11:15am with cheerleading parents Michael Campbell and Trish Wittmer (are they professional cheerleaders?). Packets will come home on Wednesday, so please have your children start getting sponsors right away. Remember that this is an event where the kids get the pledges from other family members, friends and neighbors. There are some incredible prizes available for the students that get the most sponsors and collect the most money...tickets to see the Lion King which comes to San Francisco this winter! Thanks to Robin Sasada and Kristin Alvarez for co-chairing this event!! Volunteers are needed, so check the front bulletin board for committee sign-ups and join in the fun!

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**Membership/Pledge
Drive 2003-2004**

Lesley Clark/Cynthia Thompson



The Membership/Pledge Drive is at \$11,048 of our \$35,000 goal. And going strong. Special kudos and congratulations to the following leaders who are on their way to pizza parties by getting 100% participation: Mr. Aurelio's class at 71.43%, Ms. Apaydin at 69.57% and Mr. Rust at 50.00%. Outstanding performances!! It should also be noted that all classes are now at 20.00% or above! Please check the bulletin board in the main hallway and the great charts in your children's classrooms for updates. Remember that our first goal is 100% participation on the part of all Kaiser families and \$35,000 to help make the money we need to install and provide matting that will make our new play structure and reality safe place for all Kaiser students!

If you need another Membership/Pledge brochure, they are available on the counter in the Main Office and at all school and PTA events. It's never too late to join and ensure that your child's class makes their goal of 100% participation. We want all Kaiser classrooms eating Pizza for the great job that they have done!

Thanks to the following Kaiser students who have joined this week:

- Heather and Jolisa Davis
- Lesdi Goussen
- Alina Hubbard-Riley
- Alyssa Kunesh
- Naomi Kushins
- Steve Neat
- Keturah and Eric Nobles
- Jill Reese
- Corey Saephan
- Aaron Saetern
- Ariel and Nia Vason

DID YOU KNOW?

A recent article in the New York Times stated that two in ten educators in America are men. Kaiser is really beating the odds with a staff that has eleven classroom teachers, five of whom are men. Our resource program has a male and a female working with our children and when we get a prep teacher, there is a strong chance that we might get another male. I know, for a fact, that these statistics are unusual for any elementary school and I feel strongly that male role models in the primary grades are beneficial for our children. In addition, it makes for more dynamic staff interactions!

Latino Heritage Potluck



The Latino Heritage Potluck Planning committee is being formed at this time. If you are interested in planning this fun-filled cultural evening or are interested in helping the night of the event, please contact Ana Patterson at 251-1177 or Linda Pulido-Esquivel at 569-2048. A planning committee meeting will be set up in the upcoming week details to follow. Gracias!

Staples/Stenger (K): Kid-friendly stilts, large balls, smaller squishy balls, jump ropes, bean bags

Blunt/Apaydin (1): Balls, jump ropes, hula hoops and bean bags

Rust/Aurelio (2): Individual jump ropes, hula hoops

Fragoso/Yang (3): Jump ropes (long and short), bean bags and backboard for basketball hoop

Wade/Neat/Reese (4-5): Soccer balls, basketballs, jump ropes, hula hoops

PTA CORNER

Linda Pulido-Esquivel President



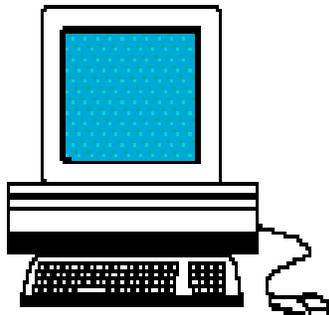
NOTES FROM ROBIN:

IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN YOUR ENROLLMENT PACKET YET, PLEASE TAKE TIME OUT TO DO IT TODAY!! IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THE EVENT OF A CRISIS SITUATION. REMEMBER THAT THIS IS FIRE SEASON AND WE'VE HAD RECENT QUAKES ON THE HAYWARD FAULT. DON'T LEAVE YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY COMPROMISED.

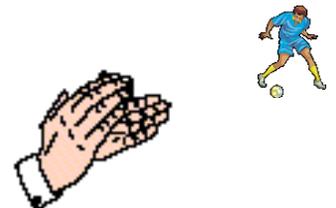
AND ON THAT NOTE, IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE, WE HAVE THE EMERGENCY SUPPLY BINS. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE MOVED YOUR CHILD'S PACKET FROM LAST YEAR'S CLASS BIN TO THIS YEAR'S BIN AND THAT YOU HAVE REPLACED ANY OUTDATED FOOD OR JUICE PRODUCTS. LET'S KEEP KAISER KIDS SAFE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. WE WILL BE SENDING OUT BAGS TO NEW FAMILIES SHORTLY.

VISIT KAISER'S WEBSITE:

www.kaiserelementaryschool.com



PHYSICAL EDUCATION WISH LISTS



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