

THE PINK PANTHER



KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 21, 2003



CHECK OUT THE DATES

OCTOBER

- 21 School Site Council Meeting
- 22 Minimum Day
- 24 Bake Sale/Neat
- 25 WALK-A-THON
- 25 Community Impact Gardening
- 25 Make a Difference Day
- 27 African Dance
- 28 Picture Day
- 29 Minimum Day
- 31 Halloween Festivities
- 31 African Dance

NOVEMBER

- 3-7 Parent- Teacher Conferences
MINIMUM DAYS
- 3 Brownie Meeting
- 3-26 Brownie's One Warm Coat
Drive
- 5 Minimum Day
- 7 African Dance
- 7 Bake Sale/
- 7 Gardening/Start at 2:00
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY
- 12 Minimum Day
- 14 African Dance
- 14 Bake Sale/
- 17 Brownie Meeting
- 19 Minimum Day
- 21 African Dance
- 21 Bake Sale/
- 27-28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

REMEMBER

**Saturday, October 25th is
Kaiser's Annual
Walk-a-Thon
9:00am-3:00pm**

**Don't miss out on all the
festivities and the chance to
earn money for our school.
Pledge sheets are due on
Wednesday, October 22nd.
Bring donations of water
and juice to the office. Sign
up to work in the bulletin
board in the hallway!**



A MESSAGE FROM MS. MCLANE

THANKS AGAIN TO OUR WONDERFUL FAMILIES!

Friday's Latino Heritage Potluck was a lovely evening, complete with authentic costumes and dancing, and Carmit Bat-Shalom led the children and adults in songs from "south of the border" Thanks to the parents who joined in the festivities on stage and muchas gracias to the families who brought delicious food to delight our palates. Thanks, also, to Anna Patterson, Kristen Cashmore and Linda Pulido-Esquivel for coordinating the program!

Some of our parents have asked about why we seem to have such an emphasis on the Academic Performance Index, and what we plan for the students who have not reached the grade level standards. The API scores merely reflect the overall academic growth of our students from year to year. We have had so many changes in the testing format and in our student body in the past three years, that it is a little difficult to measure yearly progress for the individual children, but one thing is for certain: We must provide the instruction in the key standards for each grade level, or we are short-changing your children. We want our Kaiser students to be academically prepared for the

challenges that the middle school will provide, and we want them to enjoy learning now and in the future.

Our focus is more on the instructional component than on the testing results, but all of the assessments along the way in reading and math can help direct and improve our instruction. We have a strong staff and we have children who want to learn, and we have parents who are very supportive, so we should be seeing more and more of our children mastering the grade level standards.

For some, there are gaps in learning, usually caused by an uneven educational path. There may have been movement between schools, excessive tardies or absences or some kind of learning difference which has yet to be discovered. We have found that if students are with us for three years or more, that 95% of them reach a basic level or above (proficient and advanced) of competency. We continue to share that expectation for all of our children.

Can't wait to see all of you this Saturday at the Walk-a-thon! I've told the children that I will sponsor each of the walkers with a \$1.00 flat pledge for each child. Parents, be sure to invite grandparents, aunts and uncles to join in the festivities on Saturday. We'll have books available for holiday giving and the "barbecue

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MS. MCLANE CONTINUED...

team" is back again to fix some mighty fine hot dogs and hamburgers. We thank Robin Sasada and Kristen Alvarez for guiding this operation and ask everyone to sign up for a shift during the event that begins at 9:00 a.m.

**HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES
ON OCTOBER 31ST**

For our new families, we have a rather scaled-down version of a Halloween celebration. Some families choose not to participate and they sponsor an alternate activity in Room 24 (next to the office.)

Our parade will be from 2:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. and then children may return to their classes or go home with their parents. Changing into costumes will take place between 1:45 and 2:15, so parents that want to help their children get their costumes together should plan on being here around 1:45. We will have lunch and lunch recess as normal from 12:25 to 1:05 p.m. There will be no after-school bake sale on Halloween.

**Changes to
African
Dance
Schedule
for 10/24**

Friday's African Dance schedule will change the upcoming weeks. Friday, October 24th, there will be no African Dance. Instead, students will have classes on Monday, October 27th at their normally scheduled times. African Dance will resume on Friday, October 31st, as normal, after the Halloween Parade and festivities.

**Reminder: Walk-a-Thon
This Saturday!!**

Don't forget the Walk-a-Thon this Saturday, 9a.m. - 3p.m. at Kaiser School. Be sure to bring your sponsor sheets with at least \$20 in pledges to be able to walk. \$25 will get you a free Walk-a-Thon T-shirt. We are looking forward to seeing all of our students there and having a good time. Don't forget that the money we earn will help pay for a new play structure, Ms. Bat-Shalom, Ms. Pearl and the many extras that is provided by the PTA.

Parents: We are still looking for volunteers to help out on the day of the Walk-a-Thon. Sign-ups are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. We still need water and juice for the kids. Please bring in your donation to the office. Our event is only as successful as our parent participation.

See everyone on Saturday!

**Olivia Kelleher is
T-Shirt Design
Winner!**

First grader Olivia Kelleher submitted the winning design for the tee shirts that will be given to each child that has at least \$25 dollar in pledges on their pledge sheet.
Congratulations Olivia!!

**ATTENTION ALL
GRILLMASTERS:****THE WALK-A-THON FOOD
COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!**

Please contact Katy @ 336-9679 if you are willing to help us with grilling on the day of the Walk-a-Thon. Also needed are volunteers to help with the food sale. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Walk-a-Thon bulletin board in the main hallway. Donations of sodas and juice box/Capri Sun type drinks and charcoal would also be appreciated (these can be dropped off in the office this week) Please drop off donations or let us know what you plan to bring by Thursday so that we know what we'll need to buy. If some people could bring ice chests filled with ice on Saturday morning, that would be very helpful too. Thanks!

**BOOKS
AROUND
THE
CLOCK?**

OK, OK, the Book Faire isn't around the clock, but it is around the corner! Join us on Saturday 10/25 in the Multi-Purpose Room during the Walk-A-Thon for some great books. And get a sneak preview Friday afternoon -- we'll be ready for customers by about 4. Walking and reading -- what better way to spend a Saturday?

**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL
MEETS OCTOBER 21ST
AT 3:30 in the LIBRARY**

All members of the Kaiser Community are encouraged to come to the School Site Council meeting today to help us determine the direction that we will focus our support and finances

Días de los Muertos

You are invited to the 10th Annual Community Celebration of Días de los Muertos/Days of the Dead free to the public in the Museum Gardens (Participation in the celebration is free. Because of the city of Oakland's budget crisis, the museum must charge admission to the exhibition galleries this day but will charge only half price.) Sunday, October 26, 2003, 12:00 noon to 4:00 P.M. at the Oakland Museum of California in the Museum Gardens 1000 Oak Street (one block from Lake Merritt BART station & across the street from Laney College) Oakland, California with Grupo Xiguía Rafael Jesús González, Luz Alvarez Martínez Bea Carrillo Hocker, Ballet Folklórico Mexicano Yolanda Aranda Coria, Arturo Gómez, Ixim-Tinamit, Robé Canek (Roberto Vargas).

EMERGENCY CARDS

We still have many students who have not turned in their emergency cards to the office. Starting next week, cards will be going home with students for completion. Cards need to be filled out and returned to school immediately. Please remember that if something happens to your child, we are unable to get in contact with you if we don't have your emergency card on file.

**HENRY J. KAISER, JR.
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
25 SOUTH HILL COURT
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94618
(510) 879-1710**



PTA CORNER

*Linda Pulido-Esquivel
President*



October is sweeping right along, we had a good turnout for the Latino Heritage Potluck on Friday night - it was quite a fiesta! There was great food, the Ballet Folklorico de Carlos Moreno - Juvenile performed, and Carmit Bat Shalom led the children in song and dance. Big thank you to the committee, Ana Patterson, Ruth Robleto, and Kristen Cashmore, for doing a great job making this event happen.

I also want to remind you that our 27th Annual Walkathon and Book Faire are this Saturday, October 25th. It is not too late to get walkathon pledges ask your relatives and friends to see if they will sponsor you and help Kaiser School. Pledge sheets are due Weds. October 22nd. Remember this year we are raising money for our PTA sponsored programs as well as the new play structure. If you haven't signed up to volunteer yet, volunteer sign-ups are on the bulletin board across from the main office or you can call Robin Sasada at 879-1710. If you are interested in helping with the Book Faire, please contact Lesley Johnson-Gelb at 834-0646.

If you haven't yet joined the PTA, it is not too late. This year we combined PTA Membership and the Pledge drive as one event. PTA membership is \$25.00, If you can, we are also asking that you make a tax-deductible Pledge donation to Kaiser PTA so we can continue to offer Orff, Art

supplies, Ms. Pearl's services and other ongoing programs as well as help raise additional funds needed for our play structure.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Kaiser School. It is families and communities working together that ensure our children will benefit from the best education possible. We appreciate your help driving on field trips, helping with the bake sales, attending meetings and events, as well as your giving spirit.

Coins for Kaiser Kids



The Kaiser Kids Coin Drive is moving in the right direction. Our jug is getting fuller and fuller as each day passes. Parent, faculty, staff and our great students are all emptying their pockets, purses and piggy banks...they are looking for coins in cars, washing machines and dryers. They are giving us the change from their bake sale money and they are sharing their allowances.

Special recognition to the folks who dropped in dollar bills at the Latino Potluck last week...the jug is getting so full that we might have to empty it this week.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in this part of the Pledge Drive.

Remember, every coin you donate gets us closer to the purchase and installation of our new play structure. The jug will be out during the Walk-a-Thon, so bring those hidden coins from home and join in the fun!!!

Got Box Tops?

Hey Kaiser Families...do you have box tops for education that are sitting around the house waiting to be taken into school? Please bring them all in now, as we must send out our first batch no later than October 31st.

There is a box in the office, so don't delay...and get them in today!

We redeem these box tops for valuable and much-needed school equipment.

PTA Directory Forms

Do you value Kaiser's PTA Directory that makes contacting other parents and kids oh so easy? Do you value the Directory for play dates and birthday parties?

Then, please send back the form that was attached to the Pink Panther two weeks ago. This form allows us to release your information to the PTA.

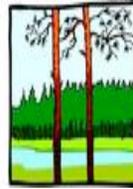
Don't worry, we never give out our information to anyone. It just stays within Kaiser's community. Please get your form in today so we can produce this valuable tool.

HELP YOUR STUDENT'S CLASS EARN A PIZZA OR ICE CREAM SUNDAE PARTY WITH 100% PARTICIPATION IN KAISER'S MEMBERSHIP/PLEDGE DRIVE.

THE DEADLINE FOR JOINING IS **NOVEMBER 15TH**, SO PLAN ON JOINING TODAY IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY.

KAISER KIDS NEED YOU TO JOIN TO HELP RAISE OPERATING FUNDS FOR NEXT YEAR'S PTA BUDGET AND HELP PAY FOR MATTING AND INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW PLAY STRUCTURE.

Gardening
News
by Ms.
Apaydin
and Mr. Rust



Thanks to the following parents (and students) of the 1st Friday of the Month Gardening on Friday, September 26th: Dennis (Savannah's Dad), Michael (Brianna's Dad) and Katherine (Jonathan and Benjamin's Mom). Working together, we accomplished 1) removal of non-native plants from the fenced slope area, addition of a puddle and irrigation repair preparing for the new butterfly plants! In addition, we renovated the classroom boxes, weeding, adding soil and fertilizer, transplanting plants, turning compost and getting the boxes ready for classrooms to use!

Upcoming Gardening Dates (mark your calendars now!) are as follows: Saturday, October 25th from 9:00am-12:00pm is Community Impact Gardening Day (this is the same time as the Walk-a-Thon). Friday, November 7th from 2-4pm (earlier than normal due to the minimum day) 1st Friday of the Month Gardening, and Friday, December 5th, 3-4pm 1st Friday of the Month Gardening.

We need donations of large plastic garbage cans to hold mulch. Do you have one you are not using? Bring it by and let Ms. Apaydin or Mr. Rust know that you brought it! Thanks!

Membership/Pledge Drive 2003-2004

Lesley Clark/Cynthia Thompson



Kaiser's Membership/Pledge Drive is getting closer and closer to the 1/2 way mark in dollars with almost 60% of our families joining in the fun.

Thanks to all the Kaiser families and staff who have taken the time to make a contribution to our PTA.

During these tough budgetary times, the support that we can give our school will make the difference between mediocre programs and great programs. We want all of our Kaiser Kids to have great programs and a wonderful environment to be in daily.

Your dollars go to help pay for the copiers, Ms. Pearl, PE, Art and Computer instruction as well as special classroom supplies and teacher funds. These dollars are all channeled back directly to our children.

Please take a moment to join today, at the amount your budget will allow. All of Kaiser's Kids deserve pizza and ice cream parties for achieving 100% participation in the Membership/Pledge Drive.

Thanks to the families of the following kids for joining recently:

Nicolas Cassman
Kyle/Kira Debro
Benjamin/Ishaq Cash-Jauregui
Margaret McKay
Dominic Patterson
Sam/Elliot Starratt-McCune

If you believe you have joined, but your name has never appeared in lights in the Pink Panther, please contact Lesley Clark at 531-0114 or lesleyrc@aol.com.

Ms. Carmit: What a Treat!



Kaiser School is so lucky to have Ms. Carmit Bat-Shalom to instill in our kids a love of music!! Where most schools are lacking in music, we are lucky enough to have our children with Ms. Bat-Shalom twice a week. She teaches them wonderful songs, helps them work on movement and improv and gives our children a wonderful music education.

Ms. Bat-Shalom, a native of Israel has been in the United States for 20 years. Chance brought her out West, and she's spent time in Hawaii and Texas as well as California. Ms. Bat-Shalom is a musician who has played the piano since she was six and the guitar since she was 14. She actually still plays on her original guitar that she got when she was a teenager.

Ms. Bat-Shalom has always loved singing and to make herself a more versatile singer, she has learned other languages to help add to her repertoire. She speaks English, Hebrew and Spanish fluently and has learned some Swahili, Italian, Zulu and a smattering of Asian languages to facilitate teaching music and new songs to our children.

Ms. Bat-Shalom is also an avid dancer, enjoying folk dancing, ballet and freestyle movement. She teaches our children movement and helps them to incorporate it into the musical pieces that they are learning.

Ms. Bat-Shalom has her AA from Laney in Vocal Music. She plays the saxophone and the recorder. She has also studied Spanish through Vista College. She has two of the three certificates available for teaching Orff music.

Ms. Bat-Shalom has worked in a variety of settings, including the Volunteer Center for Alameda County where she helped students set up Service Learning Projects. She began her musical teaching career by

volunteering and teaching music in her son's classroom. She spent four years teaching at Roosevelt Elementary in San Leandro and worked in their Fabulous Friday Program, where students could take their arts based electives on Friday afternoons.

Ms. Bat-Shalom believes that music with a multi-cultural emphasis is important in the schools. Her Orff Shulwerk (schoolwork) training has been an important part of her teaching training. She feels that the program makes a lot of sense in that it is inspired by teaching oral traditions, celebrations, songs and stories. Ms. Bat-Shalom believes that everything that we teach our students can be traced back to its roots in an indigenous culture and it's the culture that gives it form, melody and lyrics. She loves what her students teach her each day, about themselves, music and her own teaching.

Ms. Bat-Shalom has a son Christopher who is thirteen, plays the drums, sings and acts. They say the apple does not fall far from the tree! Ms. Bat-Shalom is engaged to be married to her fiancé Charles on 4/4/4! Won't that be a lucky day for Carmit, Charles and Christopher?

Another Steve Up Our Sleeve? How Lucky is Kaiser!



Kaiser's own Mr. Wade has been teaching in Oakland for over fourteen years. Kaiser's been lucky enough to have him for 10 of those years, having swept him away from Manzanita! Mr. Wade has mainly taught second and third grade, but this year has been promoted up to the fourth grade. He is excited about working with the older students and getting their perspectives on life and learning.

Mr. Wade grew up in Southern California, and moved north around 20 years ago. He was attracted to the Bay Area's activism and participated in many anti-nuclear protests. He's even been arrested several times for civil disobedience.

Mr. Wade has his own music business, putting on concert, mainly to raise money for political actions. He plays the guitar himself. Mr. Wade has a BS in Conservation and Resource Studies and a Teaching Credential and an MS in Environmental Education from UC Berkeley. Mr. Wade did his thesis on using children's literature to teach environmental education.

Mr. Wade enjoys working with students and watching when the light bulb goes off and the student realizes something new. He likes to watch his students discover their own answers from their investigations. He focuses on Math and Science in his classroom, feeding off what he calls the "natural curiosity" that kids have. He wants his students to have a joy of learning and feels strongly that teaching is more than just the academics. It's developing the whole child, teaching them caring, mutual respect, how to get along, how to listen and how to be good sports.

Mr. Wade views his role as part teacher, part parent, part therapist, multiple roles to help develop his students as people.

Mr. Wade feels that teaching keeps him young and that he learns something new from his students each and every day...no two days are alike. He likes to keep his perspective and his sense of humor.

Mr. Wade married his wife Martha in 2000 and they have a son, Jonah who is six months old. They also share their lives with their dog, Delilah and their cat, Chloe.