

# THE PINK PANTHER



KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 16, 2003



## CHECK OUT THE DATES

### DECEMBER

- 16 Winter Performance
- 17 Rudy Tapero/Wind Instruments Storyteller
- 17 Minimum Day
- 18 Winter Performance
- 19 Bake Sale/Apaydin
- 22-Jan 4 Winter Break

### JANUARY

- 5 School Reopens
- 5 Brownie Meeting
- 6 School Site Council Mtg. 4pm
- 7 Minimum Day
- 9 Bake Sale/Blunt
- 9 Gardening Day 3:15-5:15pm
- 12 Brownie Meeting
- 12 PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 14 Picture Make-Up Day
- 14 Minimum Day
- 14 PTA Meeting 7:00pm
- 14 FAMILY MATH NIGHT
- 16 Bake Sale/Staples
- 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY
- 12 Diane Frelatte/Storyteller
- 21 Minimum Day
- 23 Bake Sale/Stenger
- 24-25 Brownie Overnight Trip
- 28 Minimum Day
- 30 Bake Sale/Reese
- 30 Asian Potluck 6:30pm

### WINTER PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 7:00 p.m.**

Band with Mr. Lockett, Orff Music with Carmit Bat-Shalom: Mr. Stenger (K), Miss Blunt (1), Mr. Aurelio (1/2), Ms. Yang (3), Mr. Wade (4) and Ms. Reese (5).

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 7:00 p.m.**

Orff Music with Carmit Bat Shalom: Mrs. Staples (K), Ms. Apaydin (1), Mr. Rust (2), Mrs. Fragoso (3) and Mr. Neat (4) and the African Dancers.

**Note: All classes BOTH NIGHTS return for the finale**



## A MESSAGE FROM MS. MCLANE

I love this time of year because of the many opportunities to see our own students and staff performing here at Kaiser and out in the community! This weekend I had the good fortune of seeing Olivia Ruiz dance in the Ballet Folklorico at Chabot College, then twenty six of our wonderful third-fifth graders in Kaiser's Miracle Chorus performed with the Oakland Youth Chorus on Saturday evening. Sunday, the members of the Linwood Chorus (Janan Apaydin sings with this group) performed here at Kaiser. Next weekend several of our students will be performing with the Oakland Ballet in "The Nutcracker". Hopefully, your family will have a chance to take in some of the wonderful cultural events offered through our churches and community organizations during the holidays. With Chanukah, Kwanzaa and Christmas upon us, it really is a joyous season.

This week our children will have several opportunities to perform for their peers and their parents. On Tuesday and Thursday, classes will be performing some of the activities that are part of their movement/music instruction which they receive each week, thanks to the PTA and a generous grant from the Barrios Foundation. Members

of the band/orchestra will be performing on Tuesday night and The African Dance troupe will perform on Thursday night. Our younger children who participate in the after-school music program with Berglind Matthiason will be on stage at noon on Wednesday and Mrs. Reese's class will be performing at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Plan to come early to pick up your children and you can enjoy this holiday musical.

We have lots of visitors at this time of year, checking out our school and it is always a thrill to have them remark on the fact that music and the arts are alive and well at Kaiser. We are one of the few of the high achieving schools that still have holiday musical programs, believe it or not!

Parents of fifth graders should be planning visits to middle schools during the month of January, so that you have a good idea of the choices awaiting your child. Last week we had representatives from Bret Harte, Montera, Claremont and Far West here to discuss their schools. We also suggest that you check out Edna Brewer and Westlake, both up and coming schools with growing parent support. We'll try to keep you apprised about other tours, events, etc. which can help you make the right decisions about middle school. The open enrollment window is in late January to the end of the first week in February. Our children have four choices: Claremont, Far West,!

**Ms. McLane Continued...**

neighborhood middle schools and open enrollment middle schools. There are some terrific principals in our middle schools and they will work with us to help get Kaiser students into their schools.

My thanks to all the families who support our school on so many levels. I'm thrilled to see the progress on the library, and hopefully, we'll have all the books listed online before the end of the academic year. Marcia Brooks, our new librarian, has been busy working with the staff to order more books for the library from a library bond fund that expires this year. If you'd like to help process the books, or stop by and re-shelve books, we would welcome you!!

These are the last two weeks to make tax-deductible contributions to your favorite non-profits, and as always, we encourage you to remember Kaiser School's PTA as a wonderful investment toward your child's future. We appreciate all that the PTA does to support our children!

Have a happy holiday with your children and may your family have a chance to relax and enjoy each other! Happy Holidays.

**Clothing is Still  
Continuing to Pile Up!**

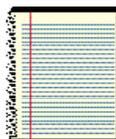
Coats and sweaters are piling up on the rack in the foyer of the multi-purpose and we can't find names on the clothing. It is not necessary to purchase printed labels, all you need is a permanent pen (like a Sharpie) to mark your child's name on the label of the clothing. Don't wait until the evening performances! Clothes left during the Winter Break will be donated to a local charity.

**FAMILY MATH NIGHT  
JANUARY 14TH**

Once again, our popular Math Night is being planned to give parents and kids a chance to discover some of the shortcuts and games that make learning math so much fun! Plan an evening out with your child and come to the math night. We are delighted that one of our parent's companies is willing to underwrite the cost of the food that will accompany our special event.

Please RSVP with Mr. Aurelio or call the office at any time, night or day, to indicate how many from your family will be in attendance. The program will be held in the auditorium and will begin at 6:30 p.m. P.T.A. President, Linda Pulido-Esquivel will have some good news regarding the play structure that evening!

**THANKS  
FOR THE  
DIRECTORY!**



After waiting for several months for all families to respond to the requests for directory information, our PTA Board members, Nicol Blakely and Cynthia Thompson, have been working to put the directory together his past weekend. Our thanks for taking on this Herculean task! One of the benefits of membership in the PTA is having access to our children's classmates' phone numbers for play dates. Thank you, Nicol and Cynthia!

**KINDERGARTEN, 1ST  
AND 2ND GRADE AFTER-  
SCHOOL MUSIC  
PROGRAM TO PERFORM**

Berglind Matthiason's Tuesday and Wednesday musical groups will be performing on Wednesday at noon, at the conclusion of the assembly featuring a woodwind quintet, directed by Rudy Tapiro, a former music teacher in Oakland and former member of the Oakland East Bay Symphony.

**MATHEMATICAL STAR  
ORNAMENTS!**

During this holiday season Ms. Yang's class is providing community service to other Kaiser students by teaching them how to make math star ornaments.

The project includes measurement in centimeters, folding and cutting. So far, Mr. Aurelio's class has come in for a lesson and enjoyed themselves. Thank you to Ms. Yang's star tutors.

**Stop the Elimination of  
Outreach Programs**

Please help by signing and passing on the online petition to stop the elimination of Educational Outreach programs at the University of California:

<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/SAC/>.

These programs help hundreds of thousands k-12 children and undergraduates each year. The program that I've worked with for the past seven years, UC Links, is facing the very real possibility of elimination- even as early as this January!! Thanks for signing and passing this on to others.

## Educational Websites for Kaiser Kids to Enjoy Over the Winter Break



From Renae Briggs, our new Computer Instructor, here are a few sites that are directly related to what Kaiser students will be learning this year. Renae strongly suggests that all parents closely supervise their child's time online and work with them to maximize their quest for knowledge from the computer.

National Educational Technology Standards for Students  
[http://cnets.iste.org/students/s\\_profiles.html](http://cnets.iste.org/students/s_profiles.html)

Open Court Reading Web Links  
<http://www.sraonline.com/index.php/home/ocr02weblinks/203>

Harcourt Multimedia Math Glossary  
[http://www.harcourtschool.com/glossary/math2/index\\_temp.html](http://www.harcourtschool.com/glossary/math2/index_temp.html)

Harcourt Math Online Activities Page (password: Andrews)  
<http://www.harcourtschool.com/menu/principal.html?from=entrance&seriesID=21&back=/menus/math.html>

Yahooligans! Search Engine for Kids  
<http://www.yahooligans.com>

San Diego State University WebQuest Matrix of Activities  
<http://webquest.org/>

Surfing The Net With Kids  
<http://www.surfingthenetwithkids.com/>

FunBrain.com  
<http://www.funbrain.com/>

## GREAT CLASSICS TO ENJOY OVER THE WINTER BREAK



From Marcia Brooks, our new Librarian, here's a list of her personal favorites for Winter Break reading for Kaiser students:

Paddle to the Sea (Holling) K - 3  
 Knots on a Counting Rope (Martin) K - 3  
 Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (Barrett) K - 3  
 My Father's Dragon (Gannett) K - 3  
 Stellanina (Cannon) K - 5  
 Charlotte's Web (White) K - 5  
 Wind in the Willows (Grahame) K - 5  
 Magic Tree House series (Pope) 1 - 5  
 Ramona series (Cleary) 2 - 5  
 Redwall series (Jacques) 3 - 5  
 Bridge to Terabithia (Paterson) 3 - 5  
 The Cay (Taylor) 4 - 5  
 Maniac Magee (Spinelli) 4 - 5  
 The Giver (Lowry) 4 - 5  
 A Taste of Blackberries (Smith) 4 - 5  
 Mists of Avalon (Bradley) 4 - 5  
 Holes (Sachar) 4 - 5  
 A Wrinkle in Time ((L'Engle) 5+  
 The Watsons Go to Birmingham (Curtis) 5+  
 The Devil's Arithmetic (Yolen) 5+  
 Freak the Mighty (Philbrick) 5+  
 Dark is Rising series (Cooper) 5+  
 Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Doyle) 5+

Curl up with your kids and enjoy a great book this Winter Break!

**[www.GreatSchools.net](http://www.GreatSchools.net)**

[www.GreatSchools.net](http://www.GreatSchools.net), is an online guide to K-12 Schools. GreatSchools provides school profiles for every public school across the country and offers parents the opportunity to rate their child's school online!

To add a comment about your child's school click here:  
<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/regSearch/ca/friend>

## MEET MR. BYRNE



Mr. Bart Byrne is a Resource Aid at our school who tutors Kaiser's kids during the school day. He works behind-the-scenes to help Kaiser kids learn to read and build upon their literacy skills.

Mr. Byrne is a credentialed tutor who in his past life worked as both a draftsman and a project coordinator in an architectural office. While a stay-at-home dad of daughter Sarah, Mr. Byrne began volunteering in the schools and became a Literacy Volunteer in the Oakland Reader Program. He has worked for the Oakland Unified School District for three years, two here at Kaiser and one at Sequoia. We currently share Mr. Byrne with another Oakland school, Marshall.

Mr. Byrne loves the diversity at Kaiser, demographically, racially and socio-economically. He attributes our diversity to the fact that Kaiser has been a magnet school and has had the ability to draw students from the entire Oakland community. Mr. Byrne enjoys working with what he calls a "great team of teachers...the best he's seen." He is impressed by the quality of the work our teacher produce and the fact that they are fun people too! He feels strongly that parent involvement is another factor that is important to good education. Kids succeed when they have parents who care. Mr. Byrne's favorite moments with his students are when he sees "the light bulb go on over a student's head."

Mr. Byrne, his wife Leslie (an Elder Financial Trustee) and their daughter Sarah (a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Montclair School) live here in Oakland. Sarah is an avid reader who "inhales books." Sarah also loves arts and crafts and her poodle, Zachary is never far from her side. The Byrne family loves to travel, having recently been to Mexico, Italy, Switzerland, Canada and France. They get their traveling bug from Mr. Byrne, who as a young man traveled throughout the United States on a 30-day Greyhound Bus pass, seeing the sights of our great country. We're glad that he liked California best!!

## COMPUTERS ARE HER THING: MEET MS. BRIGGS



Renaë Briggs is Kaiser's new Computer Instructor who arrived at Kaiser just last week. Our students are already incredibly excited about having the Computer Lab open and we are glad the Ms. Briggs has joined our team.

Renaë comes to us, having just recently completed a year long project with the Oakland Unified School District where she served as a Area Technologist. This project provided tech support to all the schools in Oakland and Renaë was in charge of the elementary schools. Last year, Renaë and her team came to our school and upgraded the computer lab, which had old equipment.

Renaë was impressed with our staff, the school climate and how Kaiser kids are being taught. She was most impressed with the strong sense of community that she saw at Kaiser. She is also very impressed with the number of parents she sees on campus daily.

Ms. Briggs is originally from Ft. Lauderdale. She attended the University of Miami and graduated with a degree in Music from Houston Baptist University. She is credentialed in Texas and Maryland and hopes to obtain her California credential soon. Ms. Briggs has her own non-profit corporation, Access to Technology which provides computers access for kids. You can check it out at <http://www.a2t.org>. Ms. Briggs is a member of the Berkeley Mac User's Group which helps to refurbish computers that are donated to schools and other organizations.

Renaë's first love is music, having been a Band Instructor in both Texas and Maryland. She has played the trumpet in community bands and orchestras and would love to see a cohesive band program in the Oakland schools. Any of us who saw the Fairfield High School

Marching Band is Oakland's recent Holiday Parade would have to agree...a program like that is pretty spectacular. Renaë is a member of the Kiwanis Club, and Drum Corps International. Has marched with the famous Drum and Bugle Corps. Ms. Briggs's interest in computers actually began when she produced and edited the band newsletter in Texas.

Ms. Briggs has worked in both private and public schools in Oakland. While at St. Paul's School, she coordinated the lower school computer program and taught their "Science in Action" classes. St. Paul's had a program with Lakeview Elementary and Renaë worked with them to set up their computer lab. From there she has worked at Westlake, Madison, Carter, Highland, Marshall and Burbank. Renaë is excited about teaching our children about computers and to help them recognize that computers should be used as tools, not toys.

Ms. Briggs has some areas of Southern California that she enjoys, but she LOVES the Bay Area. She enjoys the atmosphere of creativity and possibility that exists here and the fact that people have the freedom to invent their lives and grow in the Bay Area. She says that other places in this country are not like this. About Oakland, Renaë enjoys the rebellious nature of Oakland and the fact that we take pride in being different. She finds people here very accepting and tolerant which she says allows people to live their lives to the fullest. Welcome Renaë!!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIBRARIAN, MARCIA BROOKS



Marcia Brooks is our new Librarian here at Kaiser. She comes to us from the Arts School, where she was their Librarian. In addition to books, Ms. Brooks loves math too.

Marcia graduated from Cal State University, Hayward with a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Psychology. She is a self-described "science nut." Marcia began volunteering at the Arts School when her son was in kindergarten. She taught second grade

math and obtained her emergency teaching credential, allowing her to teach everything from Kindergarten to calculus. Marcia enjoyed the alternative school climate at Arts and the freedom that the teachers were given. She was in charge of the Arts Library, first as a volunteer and later as the hired Librarian. In addition, Marcia has also worked in the District in programs helping teachers learn how to teach algebra. In her past working life, Marcia was a Researcher at NASA and did extensive work for the Farmworker's Union. She was also Cesar Chavez's secretary.

Marcia thought she was retired until Ms. McLane called her to tell her of our opening for a Librarian. Marcia likes working with smaller groups of children, but has been pleasantly surprised to find that the well-behaved Kaiser kids are a joy to work with, in small groups or large ones. She loves the fact that our children are eager, curious, focused and love to read. Ms. Brooks says that her transition into Kaiser has been made easier by Ms. Staples our Kindergarten teacher who was the Librarian several years ago.

Marcia and her husband John Jung, a carpenter and political activist live in Oakland with their son, John who is a senior at Oakland Tech in that school's PAIDEIA program that focuses on Math and Academic Literacy. John is an athlete who was just awarded "Athlete of the Month" from the Chamber of Commerce. He participates in cross-country, martial arts and swimming.

Marcia loves to reach, calling herself an "eclectic reader." She enjoys books written by women and reads a lot of math and science books. Her home is filled with bookshelves, floor to ceiling. Marcia also loves nature and working in her garden.

Marcia has put together a great orientation for our kids, sharing her feelings about books and the fact that they are alive. Marcia's message to Kaiser parents...TURN OF THE ELECTRONICS! She feels strongly that TV and electronic games do not engage our children and they make them passive individuals. The world needs kids who are active thinkers. Marcia, you are so right!

## Holiday Happenings All Around Us: Perfect for Winter Break Activities

- **You Are Invited to WinterFest 2003**  
**Family Explorations at the Oakland Museum of California Sunday, Dec. 21 Noon -4 p.m. 1000 Oak St.**  
The event is free with Museum admission, which is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students and free for children under 6 and OMCA members.
  - ✓ Learn how to celebrate Kwanzaa with educator, Gregory Hodge, and enjoy a special dance performance from African Queens
  - ✓ Storytelling with James Brooks and D.E.A.F. Media (ASL interpreted)
  - ✓ Join in a Las Posadas procession and a special piñata for children
  - ✓ Hear the story of Chanukah and make latkes (potato pancakes)
  - ✓ Make holiday ornaments with D.E.A.F. Media and do other activities including making candles and cards
  
- **Oakland Museum's "Teens: Dare to Dream" Essay Contest**  
In the tradition and spirit of Henry J. Kaiser's philanthropic legacy, the Oakland Museum of California presents the "Teens: Dare to Dream" essay contest, which provides college scholarships to high school students. The contest is open to Richmond and Oakland public school juniors and seniors. Essays will be accepted Jan. 26 - March 31. For information, contact Julia Brashares at (415) 285-4621 or e-mail [juliabrashares@sbcglobal.net](mailto:juliabrashares@sbcglobal.net)
  
- **Attic Children's Theatre Auditions**
  - ✓ Auditions are for children 8-12 years old for the play "The

Wizard of Oz. The auditions will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, Jan. 6, Jan. 7 and Jan. 9, at 4 p.m., at the Attic Theatre 365 45<sup>th</sup> St. in Oakland. Children who accept roles in the show must be able to attend after-school rehearsals at the Studio One Art Center. The registration fee is \$40.

- ✓ "That Funky Doo-Wop," an evening of classic American Music from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Auditions will be held Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, March 9, at 4 p.m., at the Attic Theatre, 365 45<sup>th</sup> St. Registration is \$40. For information on either of these two productions, call, (510) 597-5026.

And don't forget other family favorites:

**Zoo Lights at the Oakland Zoo.** A light display of animals not to be missed. The real animals are sleeping, but the lighted ones are gorgeous. Concessions and rides are open too and oftentimes there are carolers and other entertainers. Zoo Lights is open at 7pm every night through New Year's except for 12/24, 12/15 and 12/31.

**Mormon Temple Light Show:** If you think that the normal lights that light up the temple are spectacular try driving down Lincoln and walking around the flower gardens of the temple which are lit to the hilt. Lights go on at dusk every night. Enjoy the lights and a view of the Bay too.

**Thompson Street in Alameda:** For those that enjoy driving by holiday light shows, Thompson Street in Alameda is a wonderful sight. All the neighbors on this particular block have lighted displays and Santa is there most evenings too! Go after dusk until about 8:30pm. To get there, take the High Street Bridge into Alameda, turn left on Fernside and do down

about three blocks. Find parking on Fernside and get out and stroll each side of the street. Santa's on the island in the middle of the street and the lines are usually shorter than the **Malls!**

**Oakland Public Libraries** The Libraries will be open most of the Winter Break, closing on 12/24, 12/25 and 12/26. Take your children to the library and let them explore. See the list of recommended books from our new Librarian, Marcia Books on page 3 for more ideas.

**See this month's edition of the Parent Press to find more holiday and winter celebrations and activities.**



## EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO GO UP INTO STORAGE THIS WEEK

The emergency packets that we have been collecting for the past couple of months will be placed in storage at the end of this week. If you haven't already, please take the time to get your child's bags filled, labeled and turned in to Robin. **THIS IS SO IMPORTANT!**

Think in these terms...if there was a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault, Kaiser kids will most likely be isolated for a period of time until rescue crews can get to them to help them walk out. Given that we are a commuter school, so many of us live and work quite a ways from the school.

These emergency bags not only provide food and drink for your students, but they have great tokens in them that will help to calm your kids. Many of you have included stuffed animals, family pictures and love notes. These are so important to our kids, and especially if they are in need of comfort.

We know that everyone is busy, but please take the time to complete this important task today. Thanks.



### And Last, But Certainly Not Least, Here's Our Katie, What a Lady!!

In a recent posting to the UCB Parent Newsletter, there was this note, "Kaiser is a small gem of a school in the Oakland hills. It is a K-5 setting with such a diverse (across many lines - socio-economics, race, sexual preference, culture and religion) faculty and parent/student body that it brought me to tears 4 years ago when my child started kindergarten. ...The principal calls all the children "my dears, my darlings" and means it."

They say that the principal is the Head Teacher at their school. They say that good school leaders create a strong sense of community in the school. They say that leading by example is the best for any organization. We truly have a great leader in our principal, Katie McLane. Our Ms. McLane is a wonderful educator who believes strongly in the importance of community in the education of the whole child. She views Kaiser's role as preparing the children academically, creatively, mentally, and emotionally for future adventures and challenges.

Ms. McLane was born in Southern California and graduated from Occidental College with a BA in Elementary Education. After college, Katie moved up to Northern California and taught sixty-six kindergartners in Cupertino every day, in a time when Sesame Street was not available to prepare kids for school. If sixty-six kids were not enough to keep her busy, Katie also completed her Master's Degree in Counseling from San Jose State University during this time.

After four years, Katie returned to Southern California where she married her college sweetheart, Grady. They settled in La Canada, and moved to Boston after Grady returned from Viet Nam, and their first son, Thom was born there. During this time, Katie stopped teaching (can you imagine it?) and pursued her "other" passion, historical preservation. She was a lobbyist for the State of California on historical preservation issues. When they returned to California, Katie worked extensively for the second largest preservation agency in California, Pasadena Heritage. This group, through the energy of Katie and several others has helped to restore and save from developers, Old Pasadena and other surrounding neighborhoods. She was also very active in the Pasadena Arts Council which she feels links closely to her desire to bring an arts influence into the education of our children. While still in Southern California, Katie's son Alex, was born.

Katie and her sons moved up to Northern California when the boys still young. It was then that Katie returned to her teaching roots, working for OUSD, teaching everything from Pre-K to High School. She worked at Thornhill, Garfield, Grass Valley, Montera, Edna Brewer and Skyline teaching and counseling. Ms. McLane was the Dean of Students at Calvin Simmons and the Administrative Vice Principal at King Estates before becoming Kaiser's Principal in 1994. Never one to be idle, she was also Principal at Fremont High, Havenscourt,

Oakland Tech and Emerson during her summers. Ms. McLane's passion for teaching comes from the joy she derives in working with children and watching them grow and mature. She loves it when they come back and tell her that she has made a difference in their lives...or when they bring their own children back to attend her school. Ms. McLane loves watching the development of her students and all of their different potentials. Kaiser provides her that opportunity. With our focus on the Arts we are giving kids great opportunities to tap into their potential in many areas and develop their whole spirit.

Katie's interest in the Arts extends into her personal life where she loves attending plays, symphonies and an occasional movie in her limited spare time. Katie also loves her family dearly. Her son Alex taught at Montera for years and is now the Vice Principal of Monte Vista High School in San Ramon. Alex's wife Lisa is also an educator. Alex and Lisa are expecting a child, Katie's third grandchild, this spring. Katie's son Thom and his wife Karin live in Seattle with their two sons, Declan and Quinlan. Thom is a photographer and a director and writer of independent films and Karin is completing her residency in Dermatology. Thom is enjoying his time as a stay-at-home dad to the boys.

Ms. McLane's passion for education started early on. Her father suffered a heart attack at age 42 and was unable to continue working. Katie's mom was forced to work for one dollar an hour to help the family survive. It was then that Katie's father insisted that his daughters have an education and profession before they married. The educational roots run deep in Katie's family. Both of her sisters are teachers and many nieces and nephews have had careers in education. As a single mom for many years, Katie has always enjoyed the fact that she could blend motherhood and teaching to take care of her family.

Ms. McLane's message to Kaiser parents: It is truly important to spend time reading, listening and talking to your children. Success in school is largely based upon conversation skills that children possess before they enter school. This is one of the clearest indicators of success that educators see. Katie is an advocate of the public schools. She believes strongly that they are the foundation of democracy and important to this country's foundation. Parents have the power to make significant input into the culture of a school and it should be part of every parent's role.

Ms. McLane feels that its members shape Kaiser's community. "The Kaiser community is wonderfully accepting of the diversity of all of our members. We have come together from all over Oakland and created a great example of where choice in public schools can be successful." Katie believes that we have built a family at Kaiser where all of our families feel accepted. I think all of us agree, we are grateful that Ms. McLane is Kaiser's Principal and Leader and that all of us were accepted into this great school that we chose.