

THE PINK PANTHER

H. J. KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 12, 2004



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

There was lots of **community building** at Kaiser School this weekend! A wonderful group of parents gathered to celebrate **Latino Heritage at our potluck on Friday night**. Delicious food and good company! What a delight to see our graduate, Olivia Ruiz, dancing so professionally on stage. **Thanks to parents and grandparents who made this a very special occasion.**

Saturday's Beautification Day was attended by **over fifteen families** who helped weed, put in new soil, pull out trunks of old trees, water and plant native plants to attract butterflies. Thanks to the leadership of **Janan Apaydin and Tom Rust and their band of trusty gardeners**. It was wonderful to see so many families take part.

It was fun to get together with some of our **veteran families (parents of 5th graders) who had bid on a dinner at my home** on Saturday evening. Our staff members who helped prepare and serve the meal included **Tom Rust and Tom Harris, Janan Apaydin and Ruben Aurelio and his wife, Kristen. Steve Neat** was a guest of the families. Such fun.

Following is an article about ways that our **families can help support the education of their children**. Involvement in the school activities is one of the prime areas of support, and we are forever grateful for the parents who give so much of their time to help at school and we invite everyone to join in on the activities that promote the sense of community that is so special at Kaiser.

GETTING INVOLVED

IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

What does getting involved in my child's education mean? It means working with your child's school to ensure the best education possible.

Children benefit greatly when parents take an active role. They are more likely to:

- Enjoy learning and school life
- Improve their skills and attitudes
- Do better in school
- Develop confidence in themselves
- Become better prepared for the future

How can I get involved?

By teaming up with your child and his or her school.

The **keys** are to:

- Help your child get the most from studying.
 - Get to know your child's teachers and principal, subject matter and school policies
 - Take part in school activities
 - Show your child that you value education
- Your child's education depends on teamwork!

START AT HOME

Make your home a good place to learn and study. It can help to:

- Set aside a quiet time that's good for the whole family
- Turn off all TVs and radios
- Have your child study, do homework or read. Use this time yourself to read, write letters or pay bills

Make a study center. To set up a good place for studying:

- Use a desk or table
- Make sure there's good lighting
- Provide paper, pencils, a dictionary and other needed supplies
- Set clear rules about study time. Plan for breaks. Reward and discipline fairly and consistently.
- Learn about different study techniques. Ask teachers how you can help your child make the most of study time.

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Help with homework

- Review homework with your child, but don't actually do the work. That's his or her responsibility!
- Help your child prepare for the next day's lessons.
- Help him or her break up large projects into smaller tasks
- Be available by letting your child know that you'll help find the answer to any question (for example, you can help your child by visiting a library or looking things up on the internet)
- Read together every day and set a good example by reading yourself.
- Provide interesting reading material by checking out books from school and public libraries, magazines, and newspapers.
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Be patient and flexible. Building new habits takes time for everyone.

Katie McLane

upcoming calendar

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| Wednesday, October 20 | School Site Council |
| Thursday, October 28 | Picture Day |
| Saturday, October 30 | Walk-a-thon |
| Mon - Fri, November 1 - 5 | MINIMUM DAYS- Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Monday, November 1 | PTA Board Meeting |
| Tuesday, November 2 | Election Day |
| Thursday / Friday November 11 / 12 | Veteran's Day Holiday – School Closed for Students |
| Wednesday, November 10 | PTA Meeting/Math Night |
| Wednesday, November 17 | Harvest Festival and School Site Council |
| Monday - Friday, November 22 - 26 | Thanksgiving Holidays - School Closed |

ALTERNATIVE TO HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTIES

For those whose beliefs do not include the celebration of Halloween, there will be an alternative party. Please stop by the office and offer to help.

!!! DEADLINE TO VOTE IS MONDAY OCTOBER 18TH !!!

Please pick up registration forms in our main office or at your local libraries. You can show an example of community participation with your vote! Every vote counts!

PTA Membership

Congratulations Kaiser parents! 61% of you have joined the PTA! We're over half way through our PTA Membership Drive with only 4 more innings to go. **Mr. Aurelio's and Ms. Yang's class** are neck in neck with 74 runs each. **Rust's Rocketpower** was knocked out of first in the fifth but is still close behind with 71. Nine of the eleven classes have achieved over 50% enrollment! **Help your child's class reach their goal of 100% by becoming a member today!**

PTA Directories Are On Their Way!

The PTA Directories have hit the printing press and **should be done by the end of the week.** If you are a PTA member, look for a copy in your child's back pack. **Attached to the directory will be your PTA membership card.** Use the access code and password on the back of the cards for the "members only" section of the National PTA website www.pta.org. **If you aren't a member yet, join today for \$7 and receive a copy!**

Member Benefits from National PTA

Are you aware of the different sponsors National PTA has developed relationships with to provide product and service discounts for PTA members?

FedEx/Kinko's Inc.--

Through this relationship, FedEx/Kinko's will offer an exclusive 25-percent discount pricing to PTA members on all of its products and services (some restrictions apply) with the exception of those located in hotels and convention centers.

To sign up for the discount card, members can get to the customized FedEx/Kinko's/PTA Web page through a link from the National PTA Members' website or by typing the URL:

<http://psg.kinkos.com/pta/>

Members will be required to enter the password (**pta**) in lowercase to access the sign-up information.

Kidz-IDz--As advocates for child safety, Kidz-IDz and National PTA are proud to embark upon an all-out effort aimed at significantly improving child safety at school and at home. Through this initiative, every PTA-affiliated school is eligible to receive a free ID card for all its

students, plus educational safety aids that can be used in the classrooms to supplement any existing safety programs or during a school's own designated Child Safety Week (such as safety videos, music CDs, and books).

Each PTA-affiliated school is eligible to receive a free Student ID Card (\$15 retail value) for each child enrolled at the school. The school registration kits enable each student to get the school's customized, full-color, hard-plastic ID Card!

Barnesandnoble.com--National PTA and Barnesandnoble.com have developed a discounted online bookstore for PTA members featuring over one million titles of books, textbooks, audio books, music, DVDs, and videos. Members will save 5 percent off all purchases on any products ordered from this site in addition to any normal site discounts of up to 40 percent.

PTA members can enter the storefront home page directly through a link from the National PTA Members' site or by typing in either of the following URLs: www.pta.org/bn or www.pta.org/barnesandnoble.

WALK-A-THON PLEDGE PACKETS WENT HOME ON FRIDAY!

Cynthia Thompson has done it again! She has volunteered to head up the Walk-a-thon and all of the committees are beginning to get to work. Thanks to **Trish Wittmer** for coming to speak to our kids about the goals of the Walk-a-thon! Your bright orange packets should have gone home on Friday. Please check with your child if you did not see it.

TEE-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Deadline for tee shirt design contest is almost here! **Wednesday, October 13th** is the final day to turn in a black and white 8 1/2 b 11" design.

Encourage your child to participate.

Leftovers (repeats from previous week)

ROCKRIDGE LIBRARY OFFERS SPECIAL EVENTS

Toddler Story Times

are 1st and 2nd Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Pre-School Story Times

are 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Pajama Story Times

are 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

October Special Events

include the **Bat Lady** who has an amazing presentation on bats next Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 7:00; **Scary Stories** and **Papel Picado cutouts**.

November Special Events

include Word for Word live theater presenting "The Master-Maid" on November 16th at 7:00 p.m.

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**GARDEN MEETING
AT JANAN APAYDIN'S HOME**

Parents who are interested in discussing the future **goals for Kaiser gardening** projects are invited to come to a meeting next **Tuesday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m.** Her address is 3814 35th Avenue (Between Kansas and California) in Oakland.



NEED PICK UP TRUCK FOR BOOK CASE

Norma Rivadeneyra has a book case which she is willing to donate to Kaiser School if someone is willing to pick it up and bring it to the school.



HEALTH AND FITNESS PROGRAM

Our Health and Fitness program has been focusing on the **respiratory system and the circulatory system**. Please take a little time to discuss these systems and their parts (heart, lungs, blood vessels, trachea, throat, etc) with your children to reinforce these lessons. Thank you! **Ms. Theis**



Musicians without instruments? Oh no...!

INSTRUMENTS NEEDED

Do you have an instrument that you no longer play and might want to donate to Kaiser School, so that we could loan it to a child learning to play an instrument? **We have many children wanting to play and not enough instruments to go around.** Check with your friends and relatives.

We will definitely give you a hefty **tax deduction**.



CREATING COMMUNITY FOR GIFTED LEARNERS

If you have a child who makes connections in unique ways and expresses a tremendous amount of creativity, he or she might be gifted. **Jill Reese** is our staff member who coordinates the efforts on behalf of the **GATE program** and she provides in-services for our staff on a yearly basis. **Mel Stenger** has been the principal of the GATE summer school program for many summers and **Ruben Aurelio, Tom Rust and Mel Stenger provide in-services** for promoting higher level thinking for our school district.

We encourage our parents to register for the Parent Institutes which are offered in San Francisco at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on October 23. Reservations are \$89 and must be made this week. (650) 342-9200. Registration is also on line at www.CAGifted.org

Sacramento will be host to the 43rd annual state conference for the California Association for the Gifted in 2005. Save the dates of February 2-27 because this promises to be the best conference yet. CAG has created a Strategic Alliance with legislators and other educational organizations to promote advocacy for gifted learners.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: IN MAIN OFFICE AND FOR NOON RECESS

If you would be willing to spend an hour or so one day a week either answering the phones in the main office or helping watch the youngsters in the cafeteria or on the upper field, Robin Sasada and Katie McLane would love to hear from you! **Please call 879-1710. We would be forever grateful!**

