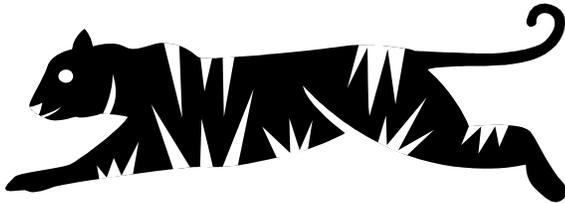


THE PINK PANTHER

H. J. KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 19, 2004



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Never a dull moment! **Our wonderful and talented Ruben Aurelio** has been recruited for a vice-principal job at Elmhurst Middle School in East Oakland. Many people have been aware of Ruben's talents and it was only a matter of time before his leadership skills would be discovered and "put to the test." The timing isn't great, but I have been in contact with several teacher-training institutes and will be working with our Human Resources department to find a good match for our school. We wish Ruben all the good luck in the world as he embarks on a very challenging road. His wonderful people skills, sense of the "big picture", ability to speak fluent Spanish, technology skills and attention to the issue of equity for all children will benefit the middle school staff and children. **We wish him well and want him to know how much his spirit and skills will be missed by all of us!**

As I mentioned to the group of people in the L.A. audience on Friday, it is vitally important for a principal to help encourage and strengthen the capacity of all of the staff members. Sometimes it means losing a great teacher to allow another school to make improvements. **We have tremendous leadership capacity here at Kaiser** and all of our staff members share in the decisions that affect their practice. We draw on each other's areas of strength and discuss the difficult questions that impact the instructional practice for our children. Know that our staff will work closely with the lucky

new staff person who assumes the position of second grade teacher.

Katie McLane

WALK-A-THON PLEDGE SHEETS- Principal Doubles Amount!

Each year the principal pledges \$1.00 flat fee for each child who participates in the Walk-a-thon. This year she is doubling the amount, so please add \$2.00 flat fee to your pledge sheets **with Mrs. McLane's name as sponsor**. When it comes time to collect the pledge, the chairman of the Walk-a-thon committee (**Cynthia Thompson**) will bill her directly for the total amount, rather than have each child collect from her.

How are your children doing in getting pledges? Remember that there will be **terrific prizes** for children who walk the farthest, get the largest number of pledges and those who collect the most amount of money. Our goal is to earn \$20,000 and with the energy that our children and families have, we're sure to achieve that goal.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOCUSING ON WRITING STRATEGIES

This year our staff is focusing on writing strategies that will help the children engage in meaningful writing and from time to time we will print some of the student work that was produced after we have had an inservice from two of our incredible staff members, **Tom Rust** and **Mel Stenger**. Last week Mel Stenger did an exercise with us that used a prompt from The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros. Some fabulous student writing emerged from an extension of the lesson in one of our classrooms. **Be sure to check out the bulletin boards, as they reflect the students' work or details of the writing process.**

upcoming calendar

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

ARTS CONFERENCE

report by Margaret Yang

I attended an in-service given by the **California Arts Project**, director Kathie Kratochvil and sponsored by our district and coordinated by **John Broussard, the district's Teacher on Special Assignment for the arts**. Kathie introduced the new Visual and Performing Arts Standards which were adopted by Oakland Public Schools and the State of California in 2000. The document was written by artists, art educators, and teachers. This new document contains both standards and frameworks.

Instead of just the frameworks (what the students are to do), we now have standards (outcomes: what the students are to know at the end of each grade level) that are part of California's core curriculum.

The law now states that instruction in the visual and performing arts should be made available to all students.

The arts are now open to receiving funding from the "No Child Left Behind" legislation because of the fact that they are now part of the core curriculum. Our district is also using Measure E money to fund the instrumental music program.

Jessica Evans, our district's elementary education director, came to the in-service to ask us

what we feel the district needs to do to support the arts. We, the group of art educators, stated that teachers in the district need arts training and support from the district integrating the arts into the school day.

READING

WITH YOUR BEGINNING READER- AGES 6-9

At this stage, your child knows more and more words and is learning to read on his or her own- and loves to show you!

Ways to build reading skills:

- Use word games to teach new words.
- Have your child read to a younger brother or sister
- Ask your child to be your "reading helper"- by finding items on a shopping list, for example.
- Have your child write letters to friends and relatives. Offer help, if needed.

Take turns reading aloud- Switch after every page or chapter. When your child reads, show you are listening. Laugh at the funny parts. Nod your head to show you understand.

If your child has trouble with a word, you can ask them to guess what word would fit best, sound it out from the letters or simply, say the word so that your child doesn't get frustrated.

Praise your child's efforts- encourage him or her to keep reading. Criticism may hurt your child's confidence. It also may take the fun out of reading. Reading should always be a pleasurable experience!



Let's Mix it Up with Ms. Bailey!!

Ms. Mix arrived last March, but this is her first year as a permanent teacher at Kaiser. She and her third grade class are off to a great start!!

Last spring, Ms. Mix came to us to fill in for Ms. Fragoso, a long-term teacher here at Kaiser who fell ill and was unable to complete the school year with her class. Ms. Mix loved her new students and their unique personalities, although it took a while for them to adjust to her style of classroom management. She wishes that she had a longer period of time with those students and she found it very challenging to send them on to fourth grade last June.

Ms. Mix has been an **Oakland resident** since she was nine years old, having lived for brief periods of her young life in the valley towns of Modesto, Oakdale and Gustine (where??). She is an only child whose Mom placed a high value on education. Ms. Mix attended Allendale Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School, and Skyline High School. At Skyline, Ms. McLane's son, Alex Harp tortured Amelia during classes that they had together.

Ms. Mix's favorite teachers include Ms. Lord-Walker, a science teacher at Skyline, who she says connected personally and emotionally with all of her students. Ms. Rutherford, Amelia's sixth grade teacher at Allendale provided a great sense of humor in everything that she did with her students. Ms. Anderson, an English teacher at Bret Harte was strict and gave Amelia great examples of how to add structure to her classes. Ms. Mix has blended all of these attributes in her teaching style.

Although she originally came to us as Ms. Mix, **she was really Ms. Bailey last spring, having married Paul Bailey in December 2003.** Paul and Amelia met

while both working at Albertson's where Ms. Bailey was a cake decorator. Ms. Mix used her cake decorating talents to support herself while completing her **Deaf-Ed degree at Fresno State University.** Prior to coming to Kaiser, Ms. Bailey substituted in both the Oakland and San Leandro Unified School Districts.

Paul and Amelia live in the Laurel District here in Oakland. They enjoy watching movies, going out to the movies and reading together. Ms. Bailey is also an avid dancer, having taken jazz and tap while growing up. Ms. Bailey actually started tapping at the young age of two! In fact, she and our own Mr. Rust are currently taking a tap class together, where Ms. Bailey hopes to re-kindle her "dance fever!"

We are so glad that Ms. Bailey (Ms. Mix?) was able to return to us this year. She is a welcome addition/return to the Kaiser community!



Leftovers (repeats from previous week)

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.



PTA Directories

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.**

KAISER ELEMENTARY – SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 20, 2004

Meeting Agenda

OUTCOMES

- SSC and SAC Distinction at Kaiser Decided
- Assessment Data Understood
- Budget Review Conducted
- CCR Mini Observation Understood

Meeting Roles

Facilitator: Renato

Timekeeper:

Notetaker: Malia

- 3:45 Welcome and Agenda Overview**
✓ Approval of September 15 Minutes
- 3:50 SSC and SAC**
✓ Louise Waters Memo
- 3:55 Data Summary**
✓ AYP Review – Handout for Discussion
✓ CST Analysis – Handout and Evaluate Supplemental Services
- 4:20 Budget Review**
✓ Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA)
✓ Results-Based Budget (RBB)
✓ SSC Role is to Monitor, Advise and Approve
- 4:45 Mock CCR Mini Observation and Teacher Interview**
✓ What is it?
✓ How can parents support?
- 4:50 Public Input/Other Business**
- 4:55 Debrief Meeting**
- 5:00 Adjourn**