

THE PINK PANTHER

H. J. KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 27, 2004



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Everyone is getting excited about the upcoming events this week! **The Halloween parade is scheduled for Friday, 1:15 to 2:00** (weather permitting) otherwise, we'll simply march through the halls and admire each other's clever costumes. There is, as always, an option for families who do not choose to have their children participate in the parade. Just send your child with some special snacks to share and the children will gather in one of our rooms to enjoy an alternate party. The parade will end at 2:00 p.m. and the rest of the day will be business as usual. The **book faire** will be open on Friday afternoon after the parade.

The children and parents are working hard to ensure that **the Walkathon** will be a huge success. Please read all the information from the committee which is attached to the Pink Panther on bright colored paper. **We need your pledge sheets back on Friday if at all possible.** Turn them in to your child's teacher on Friday with a minimum of \$25 in pledges. Remember that there are prizes for the most number of pledges, the highest amount of money collected and the farthest distance walked. Most important of all, **we want everyone to participate and have a great time** while earning money for the school.

While visiting my grandchildren in Seattle this past weekend, I helped my grandsons find all the books from the Seattle Public Library which they had checked out. We found books under the car seats, by every comfortable chair, under the pillows in the

"grandparents'room" and some were actually on a special shelf near the front door. Needless to say, this is a task for all of us to remember to do periodically. You will be receiving, within the next two weeks, letters to remind you of **overdue books** from our Kaiser library. Please have a special place in your home where you keep books to be returned. Thank you!

See you all at the Walkathon and Book Faire on Saturday!

WELCOME TO THREE NEW MEMBERS OF KAISER'S STAFF!

A warm welcome goes to **Mrs. Andrea Pletcher**, our new **second grade teacher**, who will be taking over for Mr. Aurelio. She and her husband have been living in Berkeley for the past three years while he was working on his electrical engineering degree. She substituted in the OUSD and then taught middle school before returning to complete her teaching credential at Holy Names University. **We are delighted to have her join us!**

Our new custodian, **Ingrid Thomas**, commutes from Stockton each day, leaving her home before 5:00 a.m. to arrive here by 6:30 a.m. Her hours are 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day and she has full responsibility for our site. Prior to coming to Kaiser, she was a custodian at Castlemont High School. **After being here only seven weeks, Mr. Ronald Jackson was promoted to Sequoia Elementary School, a slightly larger school.**

We received a wonderful surprise from the **Dept. of Elementary Education** last week when we were told that we would **have a library clerk arriving on Monday!** Her name is **Polly Thy** and she is being paid from another budget source (Measure E) which was passed by voters last year to support music and libraries in our elementary schools.

She is the mother of two pre-teens and stays amazingly calm and industrious! Welcome to Kaiser!

Katie McLane

upcoming calendar

Thursday, October 28 Picture Day
Saturday, October 30 Walk-a-thon

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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

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Monday, December 6 PTA Board Meeting

December 6-17 Food and Clothing Drive

Tuesday, December 14 Winter Holiday Performance

Thursday, December 16 Winter Holiday Performance

December 20-31 Winter Recess - School Closed
School reopens January 3, 2005

Walkathon Tee Shirt Design Winner

Congratulations to **Dale Ricks** who created an absolutely fabulous design for our Walkathon tee shirts! The personality and clarity of the design won over the judges!

There were so many excellent entries (over 100) and they are posted all around the school!

"TELL US MORE ABOUT THE WALKATHON..."

We have heard from a number of families new to the school that we haven't described what happens at the Walkathon. So here goes!

Send your pledge sheets (with a minimum of \$25.00 in pledges) into the office on Friday, Oct. 29, unless you still need more time to sign pledges on Friday night. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 30, students come into the main hall and line

up behind their teacher's name and receive a "walking card" after they turn in their pledge sheet. With their walking card around their necks, they head off around the school, stopping at three stations to have their cards stamped. **Every so often they get a prize or a treat as they pass the kindergarten room prize booth.**

Students may walk all day, or any part of the day, and when they are finished, they bring their walking card back to the check-out station. We then mark the number of times the child walked around the school's perimeter on your copy of the pledge sheet and that is the number of laps for which the children collect money.

Great food is available all day and there is also a Book Faire in the auditorium. Parents are encouraged to join in the fun and you, too, can get pledges from your friends if you'd like!

PICTURE TAKING SESSIONS ON THURSDAY, OCT. 28th

We will be sending home the order envelopes with this Pink Panther. Children are to bring them to their teachers on Thursday morning. Please note that we take both individual and group shots. If children are absent, they will not appear in the class picture.

There will be make-up times for individual photos.

9:00-9:20- Bailey
9:20-9:40- Stenger
9:40-10:00- Apaydin
10:00-10:20- Blunt
10:20-10:40- Reese
10:40-11:00- Pletcher
11:00-11:20- Yang
11:20-11:40- Rust
11:40-12:00- Neat
1:00-1:20- Wade
1:20-1:40- Byers

Emergency Cards Needed Now!

The following families need to return their emergency cards to the office immediately:

Neijah Cox
Hannah Caldwell
Arther and David Suruki
Marquis Taylor
Jacquez Clifton



PTA Membership- 7th Inning Stretch

We're going into the **final stretch** of the game with only two innings left! If you haven't joined the PTA, **now** is the time to do it. At the end of the nine innings the top three classes will receive an **ice cream party with ice cream provided by Dryers**. As it stands right now the leading teams are **Reese's Pieces, Ms. Yang, and Rust's Rocketpower**. You can help your child's class earn an Ice Cream Party by joining the PTA today. There are membership forms in the office and the fee is **only \$7 per parent**. You will also receive a membership card and an invaluable School Phone Directory with your membership.

PTA Directories Are Here!

The PTA Directories are finished and should have gone home with your child last Tuesday. If you have joined the PTA and did **not** receive your directory, please contact **Lisa Downes at 532-5913 or limar2@aol.com**.

If you aren't a member yet, join today and receive a copy! There are membership forms in the office. 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.



NAME STORIES

inspired by reading On Mango Street
by Sandra Cisneros

My English name means helpful and hard working. It is a tall skyscraper reaching for the clouds. It is blue sky on a sunny day. I think that the syllables in my name are like metal because it sounds hard and strong. I like when my name shouts along the rugged mountains. Christopher was a saint who guided travelers. ---**Christopher Martin**

In English my name means graceful. It dances around like smooth drops of water trickling down shiny gold. My middle name Meleokiau (Mel-E-O-kye-ow) is a morning name because in English it means "morning song." A beautiful song, a wonderful song. It is a Hawaiian name and I love it. My name is always happy even when I am not. When I say my name I feel the warm, smooth air coming out of my mouth. It sounds like a happy song to me. It lights up all the darkness and livens up all dullness. Some people day it wit rough, sharp curves on the A's and clenching teeth on the N's, but I say it like what it means: **Graceful Hannah Meleokiau Ayasse**.

In English my name is blunt, blunt like a clean diary, no thoughts, no happiness. In Spanish my name means jagged, jagged like the mountains after which I'm named. Jagged like life's sharp ends and cool valleys. In Spanish I am Sierra (roll the r's) the unexpected, just like jagged mountains.

Born in the year of the dog rolling and playing carefree as the wind. I think as a dog walks, proud, brave, loyal. There is a down-side as every mountain, dog or name has. I am teased because of the soda so many people love. Sierra Mist. I will never forget the bitterness of the soda, or of the name.

I will not be Sierra the soda. Instead, I will be Sierra the jagged, uneven mountains, Sierra the proud, brave, loyal dog. Sierra the unexpected! ---**Sierra Donaldson**

**-- Leftovers --
(repeats from previous week)**

**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.

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!

**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.