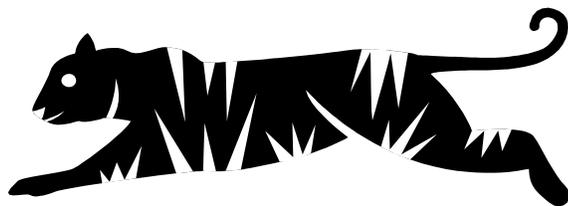


THE PINK PANTHER

H. J. KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 16, 2004



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our website is up !!

(kaiserelementaryschool.com) is up and being updated. Thanks to everyone who has tried to make this a reality, Renae Briggs took the bull by the horns and worked on it this weekend. She would like to know what you would like to see on the website. Please email her at Renaeb@california.com. It is interesting to read about Henry J. Kaiser, Jr., the man after whom our school was named.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Family Math Night and the GATE meeting on Wednesday evening. We had over 125 people in attendance! Hopefully, evenings like this will be as well attended in the future.

Our staff had an in-service over the Veterans' Day weekend and we looked at issues of equity, safety, writing focus, dyslexia and the pacing of the mathematics standards. There was lots of relevant discussion that was focused on the importance of being certain that all of our children are learning the standards that are set forth at each grade level.

I was re-reading an article this weekend that resonated with me and I thought I'd share it with you.

A philosophy professor brought an empty jar to class. He filled it with rocks about two inches in diameter and asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was. Then the professor picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar as an astonished class looked on. He shook it lightly and

the pebbles rolled into the open areas between the rocks.

He asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was. Without a word he picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course the sand filled up the remaining spaces. "This is like your life," the professor told the class.

"The rocks are the important things- the character traits that give your life its meaning, create for you a reputation and, if lost, would cost you dearly: integrity, respect for self and others, self-esteem, responsibility, and trustworthiness.

"The pebbles are the other things – life skills that make life liveable, such as a sense of humor, flexibility, empathy, tolerance, and courtesy.

"The sand is everything else-the small stuff, such as finding your niche and enjoying music, gardening and art.

"If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the rocks or the pebbles. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have room to develop the characteristics that make up the rocks your life will be built on. Take care of the rocks and pebbles first; they are critical to maintaining a balance. The sand will fill in the cracks and crevices, making life worthwhile."



PTA Membership

After 9 weeks of slugging it out, the official PTA Membership Drive has come to an end.

Congratulations to our three winning teams, **Rust's** Rocketpower who delivered **95** runs, **Ms. Yang** who finished with **89**, and **Reese's** Pieces who came in third with **83** runs. School wide we achieved 71% enrollment.

It is never too late to increase that number and join the PTA. We will be making very important

decisions this year about the future of our PTA. If you want a voice in that decision, you must be a PTA member. Join today!



**FIFTH GRADERS
CLEANED AND REFURBISHED
COMPUTERS**

Under the direction of Renae Briggs, Mrs. Reese's fifth graders spent half a day taking apart and cleaning computers that they were then able to take home. Mr. Neat's fifth graders are scheduled to work on their computers on December 6th. The computers are outfitted with "bundles" of fifth grade academic practice as well as 6th and 7th grade programs.

**FAMILIES WHO NEED TO HAVE
COMPUTERS IN THEIR HOMES SHOULD
CONTACT MRS. MC LANE**

If you do not have a computer in your home, please contact Mrs. McLane and we will work with Renae Briggs to find one for you that has educational material suitable for your child's grade level.

Upcoming calendar

Thursday / Friday November 11th & 12th
Veteran's Day Holiday – School Closed for Students

Wednesday, November 10 PTA Meeting/Math Night
Monday - Friday, November 22 - 26
Thanksgiving Holidays - School Closed

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Wednesday, Dec. 1st School Site Council
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

**LOTS OF RESOURCES ON MRS. REESE'S
WEBSITE**

For the past five years, Jill Reese has been adding references to her website, many of which would be helpful to all of our parents. Now, you can go to our Kaiser website and click on "Classrooms" then click on Reese and you will find a multitude of resources.

Thank you, Jill, for being on the "cutting edge."

DAVID WAUGH IS TAKING OVER THE



HEALTH AND FITNESS PROGRAM!!

We are delighted to welcome David Waugh to Kaiser School. He will take over the **Health and Fitness Program** and continue the program which Morgan Theis began this fall. In addition to his experience working with children in a number of capacities, he is also a musician. Currently he is finishing his training at San Francisco State University.

Kaiser's Walk-A-Thon: A Walk on the Wild Side

Remember to get those pledges in today!! **All pledges need to be received by this Friday, November 19th** for students and their classes to be eligible for the awards ceremony. Pledges should be turned into Robin or your child's teacher.

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR A GREAT WALK-A-THON!!

ONE WARM COAT

Brownie Troop #1877 from our own Kaiser School will be collecting "gently worn" coats, which will be donated to the East Oakland Recovery Center, in time for the colder weather season. This coat drive begins today and we will be collecting coats through the end of the month. The drop-off location is the large wardrobe box in the main hallway, decorated by the Brownies with their images of what One Warm Coat and community service mean to them. If you have any outdoor wear at home that is in good condition but that you and your family members haven't worn for a while, consider a donation to our coat drive.

Thanks in advance for all your support of this effort. Last year, Brownie Troop #1877 collected over 90 coats for the East Oakland Recovery Center and the families that they support.

**(THIS IS WORTH ANOTHER MENTION)
PLEASE DON'T MOVE THE ROPE!**

There is **limited parking for staff members** at Kaiser and we must reserve all the spaces behind the buildings for staff parking only. We understand how frustrating it is to have to park and walk up the hill, but there is no other alternative. We have had a few near misses with cars driving behind the auditorium. Our children exit to the playground from the auditorium, using the access road behind our buildings. **Thank you for your help!**

NEED TRANSPORTATION FOR YOUR CHILD?

Are you searching for transportation? Look no further. Transportation services are available for your child after school. Space is limited. For more information, call parent Tracy Levy at (510) 465-1385.

HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!

Have you been wondering what you're going to do with your children during our Thanksgiving vacation? Child care is available for your son or daughter. Space is very limited. Call today. Tracy Levy @ 465-1385.

G.A.T.E. NOTES: WHAT DOES DIFFERENTIATION LOOK LIKE IN A CLASSROOM??

Teachers can differentiate instruction in a variety of ways. At the core, differentiation simply seeks to provide varied learning options in a classroom to make curriculum and instruction the best possible fit for learners who, though they have many things in common, differ in some important ways from one another. The following are some of the ways students who are operating above the grade level standards can be challenged:

Depth- Challenging students to go deeper and more elaborately into an area of study...to look beyond the surface. To recognize the specialized vocabulary, details and attributes.

Complexity- Helping students make connections, see relationships between, and across subjects and disciplines. Looking at, and studying, "real world problems."

Acceleration- Moving more quickly, picking up the pace of the learning.

ARE THERE KINDERGARTEN PARENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO WOULD LIKE TO START A DAISY GIRL SCOUT TROOP AT KAISER?

If there are any kindergarten parents interested in starting a Daisy Girl Scout Troop here at Kaiser, please contact Lesley Clark at lesleyrc@aol.com or 531-0114. Leading a Troop can be great fun and rewarding and can be done by one parent Leader, Co-Leaders, or a Co-Op Troop led by several parents.

The Daisy program in Girl Scouts is specifically for kindergarten-aged girls, giving them an introduction to Girl Scouting and all sorts of fun activities. Daisies have the opportunity to earn “petals” by completing certain requirements and have the ability to participate in Council-sponsored events. Daisies bridge up to Brownies after kindergarten. If you think this sounds like something you would like to do, don’t hesitate to call!

WEBSITES THAT SUPPORT MATH AND READING

As I reviewed Mrs. Bailey’s weekly note to her parents, I was reminded that all of our parents need to know about websites that offer interactive learning for students as well as helpful practice. **For math:** www.harcourtschool.com. You will need a password to be able to enter the site. The password is: Andrews. First go to the above web site. Then click on “The Learning Site.” Next, click on “Math.” Then, click on the 2002 version of our math text. Click on the number “3” next. From there you can choose what to work on. Please browse this site with your child so he/she becomes comfortable using it. There is also a fun link called, “That’s a Fact!” This allows your child to check their skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. It goes through 6th grade math.

There is also a website that is directly related to our new Open Court Reader 2002 text.

The **site for reading** is www.sra4kids.com. If you wish to visit this site, click where it says “Free Student Activities.” This link is in the green section on the left side of the screen. Next, click on “Open Court Reading Free Student Activities.” From there, choose your child’s grade level and the unit they’re working on and have fun!

Schedule for Winter Concerts

<u>December 14th</u>	<u>December 16th</u>
Stenger	Byers
Apaydin	Blunt
Rust	Pletcher
Yang	Bailey
Neat	Wade
Reese	African Dance

Cookies In a Jar

Colleagues of Trish Whittmer are having a fundraiser to help pay for some of the expenses related to Vanessa’s leukemia treatments. They are selling different varieties of layered dry cookie ingredients in a Mason jar with a fabric topper on the lid. The recipe is included for the purchaser to add the wet ingredients for instant cookies. They make great gifts for the holidays, and are also great to have on your shelf for any cookie attack moments! If you are interested in purchasing “Cookies In a Jar”, please pick up a form in the office.

TABLES AVAILABLE

Kaiser has an overstock of long tables which our families are free to take home if there is a need. Please let Katie McLane know this week if you are interested in picking one up.