

THE PINK PANTHER

H. J. KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 14th, 2004



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings in this joyous New Year! I just listened to a "Perspective" on KQED that talked about the importance of taking time each day to think about something for which we're grateful. Doesn't that sound like a wonderful way to begin the new year?!

I'll begin by saying that I'm grateful for the warm and loving community of Kaiser students, staff and parents. Clearly, this is the best place in the world to be working and it's such a joy to know how much we all impact each other in a positive way. Our children can't help but pick up the thoughtfulness that everyone demonstrates toward each other on a regular basis! It's a beautiful thing!!

It was delightful to see so many families at the holiday programs and we are now planning for our Asian Heritage Night on January 28 (even though it states January 21st in our PTA directory.) If you'd like to help plan the event, please let us know.

There are several great articles in this month's edition of "Parent Press" which accompanies this week's Pink Panther.

Another meeting for interested parents is scheduled for this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Please be sure to let your friends and neighbors know! We will definitely have spaces for fourth and fifth graders next year as well, due to the fact that our

third and fourth grades are not currently at full capacity.

Take a minute to consider having your child enter the Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest here at Kaiser. It is a requirement for fourth and fifth graders that they prepare something for the oratorical fest, although they do not have to compete. Our school's oratorical competition is on Wednesday, January 26th in the morning in the auditorium.

Four representatives will be sent to the district competition scheduled for Tuesday, February 15 from 8:30 to 12:00 p.m.

What are you grateful for?

Katie McLane

Upcoming



Calendar

Monday, January 3	School Reopens/ PTA Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 12	PTA Meeting – Learning Styles and Integrating the Arts
Monday, January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday- No School
Wednesday, January 19	School Site Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 26th	OUSD Martin Luther King Oratorical
Friday, January 28	Family Night Chinese New Year's Celebration
Friday, January 28	Minimum Day- end of first semester

**WOW!
MORE MULTIPLICATION WHIZZES!!**

Added to the list of students who know their multiplication tables through nines in less than three minutes are the following:

3 minutes: **Gabriel Alexander, Yelena Keller, Devin West, Julien Tell**

2 minutes: **Dashiell Tavernit, Lesdi Goussen, Sierra Donaldson**

1 minute: **Shane Sasada, Marshall Wentworth, Gregory Belvin, Dominic Patterson, and Maddy Gelb**

These quizzes are being done in the computer lab, so the kids need to have keyboarding skills as well!

ORANGES, ANYONE??

Many of you remember tasting the delicious oranges from Joyce Staples' orange grove in Orland, CA. She is interested in knowing how many of our families would be interested in ordering bags (10# or 50# which sell for \$5 and \$15). Please let Robin know if you are interested.

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING OUR
PTA TREASURER??**

Our wonderful PTA Treasurer, Kristen Cashmore, has business responsibilities which are making it difficult for her to continue with her responsibilities as the PTA treasurer. At this point, the books are in perfect order and the budget is balancing, so it would be a great time to come in and help us all out. Currently, our assistant treasurer, Cyndy Speers, collects and counts the money, so the main responsibility of the treasurer is to make out checks and to prepare monthly statements for the PTA Board meetings, as well as to monitor that we don't go over budget in any area. **PLEASE call Susan Simonds, our PTA President, at 843-8858** if you are interested, or know of a parent who might be willing to assume this responsibility. Thanks so much!

**AFRICAN AMERICAN 2005 CALENDARS AND
CHECKBOOK PLANNERS**

One of our parents, Patricia Wright, is taking orders for calendars and checkbook planners. She is donating 25% of the \$16.35 price to Kaiser's PTA. If you are interested in purchasing some calendars, stop by the office. All orders must be prepaid by January 28th and checks should be made out to Patricia Wright.

**PARENT EQUITY FORUM: LEADING MY
CHILD TO EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY**

The Alameda County Office of Education is sponsoring a dialogue with Enid Lee to address parents and their power to lead their children into academic success and educational equity. The conversation will cover language, culture, and race topics. She will emphasize reading as a tool to move children forward in education. Parents will receive guidance and practical strategies to exercise their parental rights and responsibilities.

Several of our staff members and School Site Council will be attending this FREE conference on Friday, January 21 from 9:00 to noon. You can register online by going to www.acoe.org or stopping by the office to pick up a registration form.

PARENTAL STRESS SERVICE, INC.

This service is a nonprofit agency with offices in Oakland that has been serving the needs of parents and caregivers throughout Alameda County for over 30 years. They offer resources and support to caregivers and children in a number of ways including: 24-hr. Family Support Hotline, Foster Parent Advice Line, Respite Childcare, Parent Education Classes, Counseling, Families in Transition and CalWorks. To learn more about their programs call 800 893-9230 or visit the hotline at www.psshelphelp.org

ATTENDANCE WAS AN ISSUE IN DECEMBER!

Our overall attendance rate was 95.68% in December. When we drop below the 98% mark, we lose money- big time! Last year we lost over \$18,000 over the course of the year which amounts to half of a new teacher's salary, so you can see how important attendance is to us!
Congratulations to Mr. Stenger's K class (98.33%) and Mr. Neat's class (98.22%) for maintaining the excellent attendance rate in December.

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE AWARDS



The following students received awards for **No Absences** and no more than one tardy:

Emmett Blunt, Andrew Eeckman, Maya Kelleher, Max Whaley, Emmanuel Levy, Ahmad Mabry, Alvon Marshall, Grace Nwakudu, Sage Smith, Aidan Walker, Brianna White, Joshua Castille, Kira Debro, R.J. Sasada, Otis Statum, Taki Taki, William Huang, Alexis Marshall, Ricky Walker, Zoe Hill, Olivia Kelleher, Neil Wessling, Benjamin Fratti, Je'son Johnson, Terris Ricks, Antoine Rocha, Sydney Imus-Hanlon, James Madison, Matthew Madison, Campbell Ryder, Savannah Whaley, Tommy Gonda, Sophia Lee, Sarah Percy, Yasmine Wilson, Alexis Carney, Tim Say, Jacquez Clifton, Kyle Debro, Alexander Intchovski, Andrew Lo, Dale Ricks, Germane Rivers, Paul Stenger-Morgante, Reggie Woodard, Maddy Gelb, Lesdi Goussen, Dominic Patterson, Shane Sasada, Lana Taki, Julien Tell and Marshall Wentworth.

PIANO LESSONS on Wednesdays

The New Year is a great time to start piano lessons taught by Kaiser Orff instructor, Laura Sherman, who has been teaching piano privately for years. Laura can be reached at LauraSherm@SBCGlobal.net or come to see her during lunch or at 3:00 p.m. on either Tuesdays or Fridays. Lessons are on Wednesday afternoons.

Do you know a boy who loves to SING?

from: www.pacificboychoir.org/auditions.html

PBA Criteria:

Next auditions: January, 2005

Though a musical background is helpful, the Boychoir does not require auditionees to have previous musical experience. The purpose of the audition is to determine

- ability to match pitch
- ability to identify musical elements
- joy in music
- willingness to learn

Interested families are invited to call (510) 452-4PBA to be contacted with more information or to make an audition appointment.

OPEN ENROLLMENT TRANSFER WINDOW PERIOD FOR THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR IS TWO WEEKS ONLY!

January 10th - January 22nd

If you have siblings who you'd like to register for next year, please go to Portable 15 to fill out the forms. Be certain that your friends and neighbors realize that we must fill out the forms during this time period!!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ORATORICAL CONTEST DISTRICT RULES

1. Students must present a form of oration...not a song.
2. In the interest of space and time, participation is limited to four entries per school.
3. Maximum time limit for each group is 5 minutes; 3 minutes for individuals.
4. No costumes, props, or special effects are allowed.

5. Any quotations or copyrighted materials used in the oration must be identified with the original author's name.

Students will be judged in four categories:

1. Original speeches/original poetry
(Original speeches are speeches written by the presenter and presented by one person. Original poetry or prose written by the presenter and presented by one person.)
2. Individual poetry/prose
(Individual poetry/prose is poetry/prose written by someone other than the presenter and presented by one person only.)
3. Famous speeches
(Famous speeches are speeches or excerpts written by noted authors and presented by one individual person only.)
4. Choral speaking/dramatic skits
(This category consists of original or famous works presented by two or more students.)

CITIBANK CORPORATION AWARDS GRANT FOR INTERVENTION

Thanks to PTA Fundraising Chairman, Cynthia Thompson, we were able to secure a grant for \$2,000 to be used to help support students and their families with academic or advocacy needs.

Instrumental Music Lessons

Taught By Renae Briggs

If you are interested in having your child take instrumental lessons, please contact Renae Briggs at renaeb@california.com or stop by the computer room at the end of the day. Currently she teaches our brass instrumentalists on Mondays and Thursdays. She will work with younger musicians if the family is willing to rent an instrument. Please contact her for fee schedule and availability. She would also be willing to teacher adults.

PTA Directory A Terrfic Value

Over the holidays I was reminded as I referred to the directory, how very professional looking it is! Thanks again to all the parents who sent in their information and GIANT thanks to Nicol Blakely and her dad for the printing. It really looks fabulous!

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR WEBSITE?

Please take a minute to go to www.kaiserelementaryschool.com to see our website. It is still a work in progress, but does offer many pieces of information that you may want to access. The Pink Panthers are also available for viewing with an Acrobat program. Thanks to Renae Briggs for her amazing help.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE TO BEGIN AFTER SCHOOL ON MONDAYS AND/OR THURSDAYS

If you have a 4th or 5th grader with an instrument, Davis Waugh will be offering an opportunity to learn to perform in an ensemble. He is a jazz musician (who also happens to be our health and fitness instructor) and is completing his major in Music at San Francisco State this spring. The sessions will be approximately an hour long and \$6.50 per lesson or \$65 for a ten week session. There will be two ten week sessions offered this spring and students are encouraged to take both sessions. There will be an opportunity for performing for the school.

If you are interested, you must call the school and let us know, so that we can forward your interest to David by Thursday. He will let you know, depending on the interest, which days (Monday and/or Thursday) the jazz ensemble will practice.