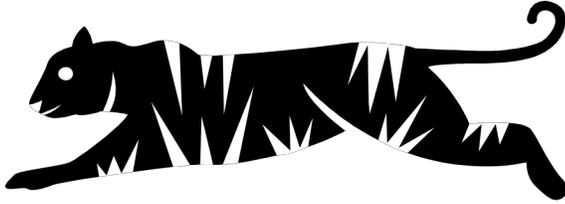


THE PINK PANTHER

H. J. KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
www.kaiserelementaryschool.com

January 18, 2005



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

At our PTA meeting last week we focused on the seven kinds of learning styles that were identified by Howard Gardner and have been used over the past few decades to help teachers prepare lessons that would address the various learning styles. Those attending the meeting felt that this information would be helpful to everyone, so here is the summary, and remember that most of us have at least two strong styles of learning and need to strengthen other areas.

Children who are strongly **linguistic** (word smart) think in words; love reading, writing, telling stories, playing word games, etc.; need books, tapes, writing tools, paper, diaries, dialogue, discussion, debate, stories, etc.

Children who are strongly **logical-mathematical** (number smart) think by reasoning; love experimenting, questioning, figuring out logical puzzles, calculating, etc.; need things to explore and think about, science materials, manipulatives, trips to the planetarium and science museum, etc.

Children who are strongly **spatial** (picture smart) think in images and pictures; love designing, drawing, visualizing, doodling, etc.; need art, LEGOS, video, movies, slides, imagination games, mazes, puzzles, illustrated books, trips to art museums, etc.

Children who are strongly **bodily-kinesthetic** (body smart) think through physical body sensations; love dancing, running, jumping, building, touching, gesturing, etc.; need role play, drama, movement,

things to build, sports and physical games, tactile experiences, hand-on learning, etc.

Children who are strongly **musical** think via rhythms and melodies; love singing, whistling, humming, tapping feet and hands, listening, etc.; need sing-along time, trips to concerts, music playing at home and school, musical instruments, etc.

Children who are strongly **interpersonal** (people smart) think by bouncing ideas off other people; love leading, organizing, relating, manipulating, mediating, partying, etc.; need friends, group games, social gatherings, community events, clubs, mentors/apprenticeships, etc.

Children who are **intrapersonal** think deeply inside of themselves; love setting goals, meditating, dreaming, being quiet, planning; need secret places, time alone, self-paced projects, choices, etc.

If we know and understand these learning styles, it definitely helps us as parents to know how best to support our children. For instance, a child who is learns by hearing (auditory)

Thinks in words, follows oral directions well, is usually well-organized, excels at rote memorization, can sound out spelling words, and develops fairly evenly, whereas a visual/spatial child thinks primarily in images, reads maps well, creates unique methods of organization, learns best by seeing relationships, develops own methods of problem solving, must visualize words to spell them and develops quite unevenly (in spurts).

Our teachers do their best to help identify the child's primary learning style and offer lessons that can be accessed by a variety of learning styles. Interestingly, most teachers were students who accessed knowledge as linguistic and/or logical/mathematical learners, so we rise to the challenge of accommodating all of our wonderful learners. That's the challenge!

The extra programs that are provided by the PTA and the funds that our School Site Council allocates for the arts, give our children many ways to access the curriculum.

OAKLAND'S RETENTION PROCESSES FOR K-5

It is always an interesting quandary, knowing that children learn in so many different ways, that to determine whether or not a child should be promoted, we have to use: 1) district benchmark assessments in math and language arts, the standards-based report card grades and 2) results of the California Standards Test (CST) at grades 2-5.

Children at risk of retention are those performing at the Far Below Basic and Below Basic level on the CST and report card. Mandatory retention occurs when a student is Far Below Basic on all four measures (Math and Language Arts CST and Math and Language Arts report card.)

Our teachers are obligated to communicate with you if there is a possibility of retention and will meet with you to plan a course of action to help your child make academic progress. These meetings will be held during the next two weeks, and then we will schedule a Student Success Team meeting to strategize on the possible ways to engage your child in the learning process.

STATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION - WHAT IS GOING ON?

It was very discouraging to hear that the Governor broke his promise to California's public schools and children (2 billion in cuts for 6 million students). During the last several years, California schools have suffered more than \$9.8 billion in cuts which continue to mean school closures, shortage of librarians, counselors, nurses, art, music and extra-curricular activities. We at Kaiser are fortunate that our parent group and some wonderful foundations have helped us maintain most of these programs, but we are constantly looking for funding sources.

Interestingly, a recent report in Education Week ranked California as 44th in spending per pupil, but a comparison of academic standards to which California holds its teachers and students is ranked higher than 49 other states. In other words, we expect more from our students than all but two other states and yet we fund our education system at the lowest levels.

We are fortunate that voters in California support schools and students (Prop 98 was passed in

1988 to protect schools and students from harmful budget cuts and to set a minimum level of education funding. As a group of responsible public school advocates, we must let the Governor know that the above scenario is ludicrous!

ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT IS ON THE CALIFORNIA STANDARDS TESTS?

The California Dept. of Education website now has a link which has released about a third of the past two years of testing questions, so that you can see how it is that children are tested. Samples of questions that address the State standards can be found by going to www.cde.ca.gov, Click on #3 "Standardized Testing and Reporting Next page: Look at Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Results Find prior year STAR Data and Additional Info and look under it until you find Slides, blueprints, released test questions and Click on that link. On Program Resources page find Supplemental info for the STAR test, click on link Released Sample Test Questions and Topics (2003 and 2004)

If you can follow those directions, you get a star and can go to the head of the class!

Katie McLane

MULTIPLICATION FACT MASTERS (Week of January 10th)

Five minutes: Alyssa Kunesh, Gracie Feferman-Perez

Three minutes: Julian Salkin, Hannah Ayasse

Two minutes: Marina Donaldson, Elan Sherman

One minute: Christina Bates, Maiyah Phelps, Benjamin Cash-Jauregui, Yelena Keller

(Note: for those who have learned the facts, but not the computer skills to record that knowledge, Mrs. McLane is testing kids individually when time permits!)

SKYLINE DANCE CONCERT

Dance Concert this weekend!

Don't miss "In the Spirit of Dance," our annual winter dance concert. This is one of our most popular performances of the school year, and this year has expanded to two weekends! Here are the details:

"In the Spirit of Dance"

January 21, 22 - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$8 at the door, children 11 and younger \$4 (Skyline students may purchase advance tickets at the school bank, \$6)

Rawley T. Farnsworth Theater at Skyline High

12250 Skyline Blvd., Oakland

This show is a lively, entertaining evening of student choreographed dances in a variety of styles. The performers are the dancers of Dance Production, Skyline's advanced dance troupe. Whether or not you have a student performing, you should come - it's a great demonstration of Skyline's dance and tech theater talent as well as being a fun community event. I suggest you come the first weekend because you just may want to come back and bring the neighbors! A special welcome to families new to Skyline and of course to our many alumni and other supporters whose contributions made these great shows so much easier to produce!

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S HOLIDAY

Last week in the computer lab, the fifth graders were listening to the speeches of Dr. King and responding to the question: What would it have been like for you to have lived during the late fifties and early sixties? The responses were poignant: "I

wouldn't be here because my parents couldn't have gotten married." "I wouldn't have been able to be elected the president of the student council." "I wouldn't have gotten to know kids from other backgrounds if our school was segregated."

<i>Upcoming</i>	<i>Calendar</i>
Wednesday, January 19	School Site Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 26th	OUSD Martin Luther King Oratorical at Kaiser Elementary
Friday, January 28	Family Night Chinese New Year's Celebration
Friday, January 28	Minimum Day- end of first semester

Events at Rockridge Library in January & February 2005

Hello parents, teachers, and kids,
Here is the listing of events for children and teens at Rockridge Branch Library for the next two months:

FOR CHILDREN:

Toddler Story Times:

1st & 2nd Saturdays at 10:30am: 01/08, 02/05
(NOTE: We are closed on the second Saturday of February, 02/12/05, see below.)

Pre-School Story Times:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30am: 01/19, 02/02 & 02/16

Pajama Story Times:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm 01/25, 02/08
See below for 02/22!

Special Events:

To celebrate African American History Month, we have invited Jamie Myrick to present a drama program about Ida B. Wells. All ages welcome, especially kids ages 4 to 10. Tuesday, February 22nd, at 7:00pm. Free.

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM:

Special Event -- "Reading Chain":

Please join us in celebrating Black History Month through Literature.

On Sunday, February, 6th 2005, 2-4pm. The Rockridge Branch Library will be a participant site for the Annual 16th National African American Read-In Chain which is nationally sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite book, story, or poem to read, as we take turns in a continuous reading "chain". All over the country, groups will gather on this designated time. Children will lead in reading first. Local editor, writer, and author, Daphne Muse will serve as host. This is a free event. If you have any questions, please call Linda, at 597-5017.

Library will be closed:

Saturday, 02/12 for Lincoln's Birthday.

Monday, 02/21 for President's Day/Washington's Birthday.

See you at the Library!

Erica Siskind
Children's Librarian
Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Ave
Oakland CA 94618
510-597-5017
esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org



Based on the recent testing, over 40% of our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders qualified as Gifted and Talented. There are plenty more, whose skills happen to be in the creative arts!

Katie

Please inform your teachers, colleagues, parents, members and friends that I will be happy to send them a complimentary copy of Gifted Education Press Quarterly (Winter 2005--see below) if they are not already subscribers. They will need to contact me at the following email address with their request to receive this wonderful issue:

mfisher345@comcast.net

Thank you for your cooperation. There are absolutely "no strings attached" to this offer. I am doing this as a service to the gifted education field.

Sincerely,

Maurice Fisher, Ph.D.

in Hayward. If you are planning to go and would like to carpool, please leave a message with the school.

***** RERUNS *****

**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.

You can register online by going to www.acoe.org or stopping by the office to pick up a registration form. **The FREE conference is on Friday, January 21st from 9:00 to noon** at the Alameda Co. Office of Education building on Winton

MLK, Jr. ORATORICAL FEST AT OUR SITE ON JANUARY 26TH

If you would like your child to participate in the Oratorical Fest, please contact your child's teacher to let him or her know of your interest. The fourth and fifth graders will all be expected to participate in solo or whole class activities.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE HAS BEGUN!

Our incredibly talented **David Waugh** has begun sessions with our fourth and fifth graders interested in learning the techniques of working in a jazz ensemble. We encourage all students to speak with their parents about being in this group. The group will be meeting on **Mondays from 3:15 to 4:15** and there will be one more exploratory session before beginning the paid sessions. Reports from those who attended today were glowing!

**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN
ORDERING AFRICAN AMERICAN 2005
CALENDARS OR CHECKBOOK
PLANNERS, STOP BY THE OFFICE.**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT TRANSFER WINDOW
PRIOD FOR THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR
IS TWO WEEKS ONLY!!
*January 10-January 22nd***

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS TAUGHT BY RENAE BRIGGS AFTER SCHOOL

If you are interested in having private instrumental lessons, please contact **Renae Briggs** at renaeb@california.com or leave a message for her at school, or stop by the computer lab.

TSUNAMI RELIEF

The Brownie troop will be collecting donations at the Asian Potluck on January 28th to aid the children who were victims.