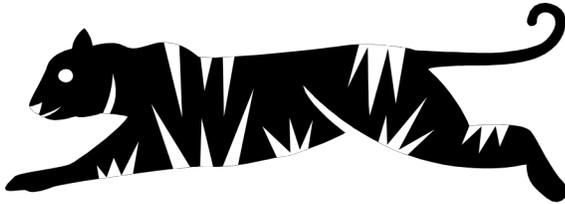


# THE PINK PANTHER

H. J. KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER  
WWW.KAISERELEMENTARYSCHOOL.COM

FEBRUARY 1, 2005



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What a lively week we had! Our annual oratorical contest included over forty entries and the judges were delighted to have to many well-prepared students. The four representatives from our school will be: Miss Blunt's class (choral "I Heard the Call"), Mrs. Pletcher's class (choral "The Me I Am"), Christina Bates ("Freedom") and Maiyah Phelps ("Freedom Free"). They will next be competing on February 15 in the morning at the Kaiser Center. Put this date on your calendar if you'd like to see what helps make an education in Oakland an amazing experience! Our children will compete with classes and individuals from all over our school district and it is a great experience to be on stage with spotlights!

Thanks to all of you for supporting our Asian Potluck on Friday night. We had fabulous food to share and enjoyed the camaraderie of so many wonderful children and their families. Thanks to Margaret Yang for organizing the crafts in her room, and to Bernice Huang, Hua Voscott and Bonnie Pearson for coordinating the decorations and bringing the lion dancers back to our school again. We so appreciate the efforts of Laura Sherman who worked with the children in K, 1 and 2 to play the Chinese Moon song. Kudos also to Renae Briggs who put together a clever slide show with wonderful music. Those of us who got here early enjoyed the 4th/5th graders' civil rights play. Our children do feel so comfortable on stage, don't they?

A few updates from the district, just to keep you in the loop! The seven schools which are proposed to be closed are: Golden Gate, Washington, King Estates, Fremont in Transition, School of Social Justice, Rudsdale and Village Academy. We have NEVER been on any proposed list, in case you are worrying. As long as our school remains full, the attendance remains near the 98% mark and your children are thriving academically, then there is no reason to think we would be on anyone's "list".

Other news: Custodians will be placed under the direct supervision of site administrators, summer school will be very limited again this year, we have lost 9500 students in less than four years and that means a loss of 50 million dollars in state general purpose funds and another 20 million per year in restricted state and federal funds that have been lost as a result of declining enrollment.

Thanks to those of you who read the Pink Panther , we have been able to help out several of our families and fill a key position of PTA treasurer. Thanks, Gail Elliott, for coming to our aid, yet again!! Please know how vital each and every one of you are to the ongoing strength of Kaiser School.

Katie McLane

**MULTIPLICATION FACT MASTERS** (Week of 24th-28th)

### 5 Minutes

Chyanne Brumfield  
Neijah Cox  
Richard Katzoff  
Kyle Lamberson  
Brittaney Martin  
Meaghan Paulus  
Donzahniya Pitre  
Campbell Ryder  
Ariel Vason

### 4 Minutes

Hannah Caldwell

Karen Scott-Yetunde

**3 Minutes**

Caleb Davis  
Jonathan Fratti  
Sydney Imus-Hanlon  
Sophia Lee  
James Madison  
Christian Morgan  
Olivia Ports  
Saskia Van Buren  
Savannah Whaley

**2 Minutes**

David Flores  
Slater Hitz  
Noah Kendrix  
Alyssa Kunesh  
Aliyah Jones  
Kindness Nwakudu  
Ella Pearson  
Sarah Percy  
Lana Taki  
Marquis Taylor  
Ashlyn Triggs  
Yasmine Wilson

**1 Minute**

Vivian Allen  
Marina Donaldson  
Aaron Elliot  
Lesdi Goussen  
Chardonnay Hightower  
Brittaney Martin  
Maureen Murphy  
Donzahniya Pitre  
Elan Sherman  
David Suruki  
Dehjah Vaughn

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**SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 5  
PARENT LEADERSHIP ACTION FORUM**

The Governor's Budget Will Hurt California's  
Children & Families

Bay Area Parents Are Fighting Back!  
Join Us For  
A Call To Action for Parent Leaders

Saturday, March 5, 2005

9:00 am-12:30 pm

First Unitarian Church of Oakland  
685 14th Street 3 blocks from City Center BART

Find out:

- How the Governor's budget affects you and your family learn about cuts to public schools, child care, and other programs for low-income families and communities .
- Who makes the budget decisions and how you can make a difference?
- What Bay Area parent groups are doing to fight the cuts and how you can be part of it!
- How YOU can get involved Get the Facts, Learn Skills, Take Action!

**FREE!**

On site child care, continental breakfast & refreshments \* simultaneous translation in Spanish

For more information, call: 510-531-7526

Watch for registration flyers (Spanish and English) in the mail and on this listserv soon!

Sponsored by the Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network (**PLAN**) in partnership with the Northern California Citizenship Project. **PLAN** is a network of parent groups in the Bay Area dedicated to helping parents fight for better schools, child care, and authentic parent representation.

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**HAVE BASKET/ NEED BACKBOARD**

Our backboard for the younger children was installed seven years ago and the water finally warped the backboard and one too many children tried to "slam dunk" the ball and the hoop finally pulled away from the wood. If there is a clever person who would love to help out by reinstalling a new backboard, we will give you the money to pay for the wood. See Robin or Katie

**Oakland, California Organizations Invited to Apply for  
Clorox Arts Mini-Grants**

Deadline: February 1, 2005

The Clorox Company Foundation offers Arts Mini-Grants for programs serving Oakland, California. Twenty-five, \$1,000, grants are available each year.

Grants will be awarded for cultural enrichment and enhancement activities. No sponsoring or fundraising events will be funded.

To be eligible, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Organization, located in Oakland, California. Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received a mini-grant.

Applicants are encouraged to apply online. See the Clorox Web site for program guidelines, an online eligibility quiz, and application forms.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/424/rfp>

For additional RFPs in Arts and Culture, visit:

[http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_arts.jhtml](http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_arts.jhtml)

**SCHEDULES CHANGE FOR MUSIC & HEALTH AND  
FITNESS INSTRUCTION**

The Monday afternoon music classes will be on Monday mornings for the second semester and that means that your fourth and fifth graders will be missing a 30 minute session of either reading or math. It is crucial that they check in with their teacher or a classmate to find out what they missed and make up the work. The Thursday and Friday schedules remain the same.

The Monday health classes taught by David Waugh will now be offered on Tuesdays. The Thursday schedule remains the same.



**Upcoming**

**Calendar**

<b>Wednesday, February 2</b>	Diane Ferlatte, master storyteller, comes to Kaiser- 11am
<b>Monday, February 7</b>	PTA Board Meeting
<b>Wednesday, February 16</b>	School Site Council
<b>Monday, February 21</b>	Presidents' Day Holiday- School Closed
<b>Friday, February 25</b>	Black History Celebration & Oratorical Fest
<b>Monday, March 7</b>	PTA Board Meeting
<b>Wednesday, March 9</b>	PTA General Meeting/Science & Reading Night
<b>Mon-Fri, March 14-18</b>	MINIMUM DAYS, Parent/Teacher Conferences
<b>Wednesday, March 16</b>	School Site Council
<b>Saturday, March 19</b>	Beautification Day
<b>Monday, March 28</b>	Cesar Chavez Day Holiday- School Closed

**FAMOUS STORY-TELLER COMING TO  
KAISER THIS WEDNESDAY**

If you can, arrange to take an early lunch and come by Kaiser on Wednesday, February 2nd, at 11:00 a.m. to hear Diane Ferlatte transport us to another world where she spins tales of amazing critters and fascinating people and helps us to look at our world in new and beautiful ways.

**HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION**

Vivian Allen is still needing a ride to and from school as her mother is without a car and recovering from surgery. You can call Kira at 536-6547. They live near Redwood Day School, not Mills, as I previously reported.

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**MISS PEARL WILL BE OUT FOR A WEEK- CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

If you would love to help us fill in for Miss Pearl while she is out of town helping her cousin handle the final details in dealing with the death of her aunt (Pearl is 79, so her aunt was in her late nineties!) you can call Robin and offer your support. If you enjoy answering the phones while Robin does the copying, or taking care of the kindergarten children during snack period or recesses and lunch, or would be willing to help various teachers with special projects from Thursday, February 3rd through at least Friday, February 11, just call 879-1710!

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**JAZZ ENSEMBLE WITH DAVID WAUGH**

Jazz Ensemble on Thursdays will begin "officially" this Thursday at \$6.00/session. Checks for \$66.00 can be made out to the PTA. for an eleven-week session, ending on April 8th, just prior to our Spring Break. This group will have a chance to perform at one of our daytime or evening performances.

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**MISSING: MS. REESE'S COPY OF "MIRACLE OF LIFE" VIDEO**

Jill reports that she loaned her copy of the "Miracle of Life" video to a parent this fall and she needs it back. We are hoping that either you, or your child, will remember having borrowed it and will return it soon, as Jill needs it for the fifth grade sex education program.

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**SPANISH CLASSES TO RESUME THIS WEDNESDAY**

The Meso-American Institute is sending a new Spanish instructor, Marguerita, to us beginning this Wednesday, February 2nd. They apologize

for the confusion last week and will extend the sessions to accommodate the incorrect start-up day. There is still time to sign up. The classes are offered each Wednesday afternoon for an hour and are \$100 for ten sessions. The classes will be held through April 6th.

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**HONORABLE MENTIONS FOR M.L. KING, JR. ORATORICAL CONTEST**

All of the children need to be commended for their wonderful spirit and willingness to perform in the oratorical contest. Those receiving honorable mentions included Meghan DeVecchi, Salina Wittmer, Alexandra Kashefi and Mr. Wade's class. (See Principal's message for the representatives from Kaiser to the next level competitions.)

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**AFRICAN DANCE FEBRUARY 11TH SESSION CANCELLED**

Due to a conflict in Pope Flynn's performance schedule, we must cancel the Friday, Feb. 11th session of African dance. The sessions will resume on February 18th

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**PRESIDENTS' DAY CELEBRATED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST**

The school will be closed on Monday, February 21 to honor Presidents' Day. Remember when Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Washington (Feb. 22) both were honored?? We used to love the month of February because there were two three-day holidays.

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**CESAR CHAVEZ DAY WILL BE CELEBRATED IN MARCH ON MONDAY, MARCH 28TH**

Schools will be closed on Monday, March 28th to honor Cesar Chavez. This day follows the celebration of Easter this year.

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## STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENTER BERKELEY CHESS CLUB'S TOURNAMENT THIS SPRING

All of our third, fourth and fifth graders will be receiving chess instruction in their classrooms this winter/spring and we encourage you to check out their website at [berkeleychess.org](http://berkeleychess.org) to enter the tournament. It is always fun because all students have the chance to participate throughout the tournament and they also compete against students at their level. There will be flyers distributed as well.

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## APPLICATIONS FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCHES= BONUS FOR KAISER!

Currently, 87 of our families have filled out applications and qualify for free or reduced meals. Why is it important that all families who qualify actually fill out the paperwork? With 30% of our students on free or reduced meals, we can rent buses for local parks for \$100. (We qualify for this now.) With 35% receiving free or reduced meals, many arts agencies will perform for us at a reduced rate because their funding grants include a guideline for providing free or reduced costs for performances. With 40% of our students qualifying, we would receive Title I funding, and that would mean more MONEY for our school, reduced or forgiven student loan fees for our teachers and EXTRA PAY for our National Board certified teachers (Steve Wade and Elizabeth Whittaker). So, if your financial circumstances have taken a downward turn recently, let us know that you'd like to fill out one of the applications. You'd be surprised how much it can help all of us for you to fill out the form.

We actually have a number of National Board qualified teachers at our site, but they are not planning to go through the expensive and time-consuming application process unless there is more than a smile and a hand shake for acknowledgement!

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## FINE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR BLOCKING TRASH CONTAINER

I just received a picture of the white station wagon/van that was parked in front of our trash container at 9:45 on January 18th. When we have to call for another service pickup, we have to pay extra for it.

Please do not park adjacent to, or behind the auditorium, except for night performances. Every slot and even spaces along the fences are assigned to staff members or auxiliary staff persons (speech/language/psychologist/aides). We really can't afford to pay extra for these services. Thank you in advance!

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## PARENT LIBRARY WILL BEGIN AGAIN

Several years ago we had a parent lending library which had books that were wonderful resources for our parents. Because it was in the entry hall, over the years more books were borrowed than were returned. We want to start up this valuable resource again. If there is a parent education book that you no longer are needing, but feel someone else could enjoy, we would love to have you donate it! If, however, there are books that you have heard about that you would like to read (or refer to), send those names to us so that we may include the titles in a grant that we are writing. Our staff had a wonderful session last week with A.J. Robinson (speech therapist) and Kate Kosmos (psychologist) on Asperger's Syndrome- one of the many variations of autism which is fairly recently diagnosed. They provided us with a list of many good titles to add to our parent info library. Please join us in building this resource!

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## Events at Rockridge Library in 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: 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: 02/02 & 02/16

#### Pajama Story Times:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm 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