

THE PINK PANTHER

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

FEBRUARY 8, 2005



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families-

Every year at this time we are looking at what has been accomplished and the plans for next year and beyond. Our teachers are being asked about their plans for returning, our fifth graders are looking for middle schools and new families have just received notice that they have been accepted in the lottery for Kaiser.

Within the next few weeks, I am going to send home a **response form** for our families to fill out so that our School Site Council and parent group can work with us to attempt to address your concerns and build on the areas you perceive to be successful. I also want to encourage you at any time to call us or leave either a suggestion or compliment. Suggestions will be addressed by the principal and those that concern general school policies, curriculum or programs can be discussed by the School Site Council. We hope to highlight solutions in our weekly newsletter. Compliments are not only nice to receive, they also let us know what we're doing well and what to continue. These will be posted for the staff and will also be shared with SSC and the PTA. Thanks for your input.

Have you tried a **"Turn Off TV" week**?

Many of our families are trying this and finding that they are able to spend a little more quality time with their kids during the week.

Reading with children is critical to their success. Sonya Brooks just reminded me that if we, as adults, read just fifteen minutes per day, that we will have

read eighteen novels in a year's time. If our children are read to from the time they are born until they are eight, their vocabulary will be immensely enhanced as compared to a children who are exposed to little or no reading outside of school.

Here are a few quick ideas for helping our children:

- 1) If your child seems disorganized, have the child repeat the directions, explanations and instructions back to you and encourage him/her to ask questions if he/she does not understand. Establish a routine at home that includes when homework is to be done, how to lay out clothes and make their lunch for the next day and reduce distracting stimuli.
- 2) If your child seems to have limited memory skills, check the child's hearing, practice giving three or more directions for the child to follow in order, play "concentration" games at home, have the child repeat instructions to him or herself so strengthen the memory.
- 3) If your child has difficulty recalling the sequence of stories read, try to get books on tape to listen to while following the words, help the child visualize what is being heard as if it were a movie, and then play it back mentally, give your child opportunities to engage in sequential activities which are purposeful (e.g. following recipes, morning routine -out of bed, get clothes on, eat breakfast, brush teeth, etc.), setting a table.

Hope these are helpful!!

FAMILIES NEEDING A COMPUTER FOR THEIR CHILDREN SHOULD NOTIFY Renae Briggs-

As computers become available, Renae Briggs will load the computers with "bundles" of reading and math activities that will help your child as he/she progresses through school. We are more likely to have Apple/Mac computers available.

A NOTE OF COMMON SENSE

When children come to school with "Princess with an Attitude" on their shirts or "SEXY" across the

back of their pants, they are inclined to live out what they are advertising. We do not expect that girls will come to school with eye glitter in first grade, either. Let's use common sense and not encourage our children to grow up too fast. There are enough influences in our culture that push them toward being teenagers at age six, so let's rein them in!! Also, girls' shoes should not have heels, and boots are difficult for them to play and exercise in.

We have beautiful children in our school and we want them to enjoy being children in a nurturing environment, free from the mania that the media encourages.

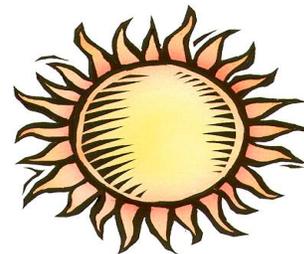
Katie McLane

custodian, Ingrid Thomas, to have "back up" to keep our school looking good.



THANKS, MARGIE POTTS, FOR THE POTTED PLANTS!!

Last Monday Margie Potts came up to school and repotted the ficus trees in the main hall and brought in two other plants which are on wheels and should flourish in our halls. We appreciate Margie's ongoing beautification projects and feel that we're very lucky to have parents looking after our site. Mi casa es su casa!



GARDENING HELPERS!!

Many thanks to Katherine Fratti (Jonathan and Benjamin Fratti's mom), Maureen Caldwell (Hannah's mom), Julie Mills (Alexander McSpadden's mom), Margie Potts (Nora's mom), Dennis Whaley (Savannah and Max's dad), Tom Rust, Paul Bailey and Steve Neat for working so diligently on the first Friday to make our gardens so beautiful. We are blessed to have parents and staff members take an active part in the ongoing upkeep of the school!



**MULTIPLICATION FACT MASTERY LIST-
postponed for a week**

Although a number of students qualified in their classrooms this week, we did not have time to compile the list and Renae Briggs, our computer technologist, was quite ill. We hope that she will be returning this week.





Upcoming Calendar

<p>Monday, February 7</p> <p>Wednesday, February 16</p> <p>Monday, February 21</p> <p>Friday, February 25</p> <p>Monday, March 7</p> <p>Wednesday, March 9</p> <p>Mon-Fri, March 14-18</p>	<p>PTA Board Meeting</p> <p>School Site Council</p> <p>Presidents' Day Holiday- School Closed</p> <p>Black History Celebration and Oratorical Fest</p> <p>PTA Board Meeting</p> <p>PTA General Meeting/ Science & Reading Night</p> <p>MINIMUM DAYS, Parent/Teacher Conferences</p>
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WELCOME TO OUR NEW NIGHT CUSTODIAN, WAI WAH TSANG !!

We have not had a night custodian all year and we are delighted to welcome Mr. Tsang to our school. His hours will be from 7:00 to 10:30 each evening, so Mrs. McLane will not have to stay for community meetings held here and then lock up each night. It will also be a big help to our day

LIBRARY BOOKS OVERDUE

Letters were sent home this past week to all families of children who have overdue books. **Remember that there is a charge of \$25 for hardbacks and \$15 for paperbacks if the borrowed book- or a replacement- is not returned.** Our thanks to Marcia Brooks and Polly Thy for doing such a terrific job of keeping track of books which are checked out and not returned. Remember that report cards are withheld until all fees are paid.

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

As in the past several years, Mrs. McLane and the Kaiser community will host a community leader from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30. This year most of the schools will be helping the **Marcus Foster Educational Institute** build a better understanding of the fine work going on in schools by hosting community leaders. If you're on the site and see Mrs. McLane walking around with a guest, be sure to stop and share your perceptions of Kaiser School.



JUST A REMINDER.....

No plastics in the microwave. No water bottles in the freezer.

No plastic wrap in the microwave. Johns Hopkins has recently sent this out in their newsletter worth noting... This information is being circulated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Dioxin Carcinogens cause cancer, especially breast cancer.

Don't freeze your plastic water bottles with water as this also releases dioxins in the plastic.

Dr. Edward Fujimoto from Castle hospital was on a TV program explaining this health hazard. (He is the manager of the Wellness Program at the hospital.) He was talking about dioxins and how bad they are for us.

He said that we should not be heating our food in the microwave using plastic containers. This applies to foods that contain fat. He said that the combination of fat, high heat and plastics releases dioxins into the food and ultimately into the cells of the body.

Dioxins are carcinogens and highly toxic to the cells of our bodies.

Instead, he recommends using glass, Corning Ware, or ceramic containers for heating food. You get the same results, without the dioxins.

So such things as TV dinners, instant ramen and soups, etc., should be removed from the container and heated in something else.

Paper isn't bad but you don't know what is in the paper. It's just safer to use tempered glass, Corning Ware, etc.

He said we might remember when some of the fast food restaurants moved away from the foam containers to paper. The dioxin problem is one of the reasons.

To add to this, Saran wrap placed over foods as they are nuked, with the high heat, actually drips poisonous toxins into the food; use paper towels.

Pass this on to your family & friends & those that are important in your life.



Subject: Save the Date - March 5! PARENT LEADERSHIP ACTION FORUM!

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



**TELL THE GOVERNOR:
DON'T CUT EDUCATION FUNDING!**

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.

Co-sponsored by the PLAN Leadership Council:
Berkeley PTA Council * CARECEN * Children's Network of Solano County * Chinese for Affirmative Action * Coalition for Fair and Caring Schools * Coleman Advocates/Parent Advocates for Youth * Kickin' Cultural Academics into Motion (KCAM) * LIFETIME * March 4 Education * Oakland Parents Together * Our Second Home * Parent Voices - SF

Once again, California's spending on schools - already ranked 48th out of the 50 states - is on the chopping block. Under Governor Schwarzenegger's budget proposals, \$2 billion cut from last year's budget will not be restored as had been promised, and schools would have to accept further cuts - including permanent negative changes to Proposition 98, which voters enacted to provide a minimum amount of funding for the public schools.

WE MUST TAKE ACTION! Governor Schwarzenegger needs to hear from as many of us as possible, as soon as possible, that cutting education funding further is simply unacceptable. Join with parents, teachers and concerned citizens around the state to tell the Governor - NO MORE CUTS! You can use the sample letter below, or - even better - write one in your own words. Don't forget to include your name and address. You can mail your letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814 or fax it to 916-445-4633; or call 916-445-2841 to talk to a staffer; or send an email by visiting

><http://www.govmail.ca.gov>

However you do it, do it today - and please pass the message on to all your friends. And encourage your kids to speak up too - there's a sample letter for kids as well as one for adults (although it's always best if you use your own words).

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>SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,
As you begin the 2005-06 budget process, I urge you to keep the promise you made last year to protect school funding. I call on you to oppose cuts to an education system that is already starving.

2/8/2005

Last year's budget agreement underfunded by \$2 billion the constitutional guarantee enacted by the voters in Proposition 98 of minimum funding for schools. You promised us and our children that no more cuts would be made this year and that, when the state's fiscal condition gets better, the \$2 billion would be repaid. Instead, you are now proposing even deeper cuts to education; you do not intend to restore the Proposition 98 debt; and you propose to make permanent changes to Proposition 98 that will damage future school funding. Your proposals will mean laying off teachers, cutting essential science, arts, and physical education classes, crowding more kids into classrooms, and closing the doors of many schools. California is now 48th of the 50 states in the amount spent per pupil on education. You have the chance to restore our schools, but your proposals would seal our place among the most underfunded school systems in the nation. Please keep your promise to our children. Give our schools adequate resources so they can attain the high educational standards that our children deserve.

Sincerely, (name and address)

KIDS CAN WRITE TOO!
Please ask your children to send a letter to the Governor.
It's important for their voices to be heard, and it's a great lesson in becoming involved in our democracy! Here is a sample letter that kids can send, although it's much better if your child can come up with a few sentences of his or her own, and kids' letters should be handwritten if at all possible.
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,
I go to Henry J. Kaiser Elementary School in Oakland, California. Henry J. Kaiser is a public school. Last year, our schools got two billion dollars less than they were supposed to. You promised that you would make sure that this would not happen again and that the money would be repaid. Now you are saying that you are

going to cut more money from the schools and the money is not going to be repaid. I want you to make sure our schools have enough money for everything they need. I want you to keep your promise. Please give our schools the money they need.
Sincerely,
(name and address)



Subject: Attorney's good advice
ATTORNEY'S ADVICE--NO CHARGE

Read this and make a copy for your files in case you need to refer to it someday. Maybe we should all take some of his advice! A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company.

1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards. Unfortunately, I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:
 - a. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
 - b. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where

your credit cards, etc. were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important of all : (I never even thought to do this.)

c. Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit by the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert.

Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend (someone turned it in).

It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks. Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, etc has been stolen:

- 1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
- 2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
- 3.) Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
- 4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

We pass along jokes on the Internet; we pass along just about everything. But if you are willing to pass this information along, it could really help someone!

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

again...

JAZZ ENSEMBLE TO MEET ON THURSDAYS

David Waugh will be meeting with all interested jazz ensemble members on Thursday afternoons (not Mondays) from 3:15 to 4:15 each Thursday. If interested, students should arrange to be there this Thursday.

TRACK TEAM

Does your child like to run? Track practice is starting now. Come and join the track team which meets Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Berkeley.

Coach Peterson is a great trainer. This program is open to children six years and older.

Look for flyers in the office or talk to Laura Sherman.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OFF CAMPUS

Some families had asked about guitar lessons and we are aware of a strong and versatile program offered by Harmony Road Music School, located at Piedmont Piano Company, 4382 Piedmont Ave. There are music classes and lessons for all ages and levels.

Call 510-652-1222 or go online to www.piedmontpiano.com Tell them that you are from Kaiser Elementary School.