

THE PINK PANTHER

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

MARCH 1ST, 2005



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Kaiser Community,

Yet again, our incredible families joined together to have a fantastic evening at the African American Potluck and Program which honored Miss Ruby Blunt and the oratorical winners and African dance troupe led by Pope Flyne. Looking over the supportive crowd, Mel Stenger mentioned to me how beautiful it was to see that the "Kaiser family" embraces a truly diverse group of individuals whose goal it is to support our children and honor everyone's special qualities.

Special thanks are due to Andrea Nobles and her competent volunteers for putting together the program and setting up the tables and chairs, displaying and serving the food (including washing our serving dishes) and coordinating the smooth flow of the program via walkie-talkies and competent grown-ups who knew how to move things along! Back stage help, walking children to the stage, and a make-up artist for "Miss Blunt" aka Sonya Brooks and "Mrs. Gerhardt" aka Katie McLane. Someone in the audience who did not have a program thought for a moment that Angela Davis and Barbara Bush were on the stage! For all of you who helped with the program, my thanks to you. It is the pulling together of talents that makes everything work.

Andrea Nobles managed to keep it a surprise from Miss Blunt that she was going to be honored on Friday night, which, in and of itself, was a tremendous feat. Thank you, Andrea, for the hard work and diligent organizing of fabulous volunteers!

On another note, we are in the process of putting together next year's budget for the school. There are so

many factors that are included in managing a site and the "unknown factors" such as how much actual revenue we will get (which is based on the percentage of actual attendance) and our ability to keep classes in K-3 at a 20:1 ratio. The state mandates a 20:1 ratio in grades 1 and 2 and rewards each school with \$875 per pupil (or \$17,500 for each class that remains at the 20:1 ratio). This coming year, we already know that our kindergarten classes will be over that ratio, due to the fact that so few of our siblings were drawn in the lottery and that we already have more neighborhood children than we anticipated enrolling in kindergarten. By law, a kindergarten class can have a maximum of 27 children, but we try to keep it under that level. With the directive to have full-day kindergartens within two years, it is absolutely necessary for us to have another classroom. One of our parents who is an architect heard the call and will help us sketch out a plan for creating a space adjacent to the auditorium. The trick will be in convincing the district that an investment in Kaiser will be worthwhile, considering that we already get a subsidy to help pay for our site's costs due to the fact that we are under the 320 number which generally allows a school to pay for itself. We will also be assuming the costs of all utilities, which last year ran approximately \$18,000.

Because so many schools are closing, the district is also proposing to send layoff notices to people hired within the past three years, so that more experienced teachers (per union contract) could conceivably bump them. You can bet that I am going to do my darnedest to keep my newest staff members, but again, it is another battle to be fought. Be patient, think positively, and know that I will do everything in my power to keep Kaiser moving forward.

What is saving us now from the proverbial axe, is that our children are making strides on the Academic Performance Index. Read further, in another article in this issue of the PINK, to see how you can support this aspect of our continuing growth.

Katie McLane

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOP ATTENDEES !

The following students have perfect attendance from the beginning of the year to the present and no more than three tardies:

Kindergarten- Emmett Blunt, IV, Maya Kelleher, Emmanuel Levy, Amahd Mabry
 Grace Nwakudu, Sage Smith
First grade- Joshua Castille, R.J. Sasada, Taki Taki, Brianna White
Second grade- Zoe Hill, Antoine Rocha
Third grade- Meaghan Paulus, Campbell Ryder, Tommy Gonda, Sophia Lee
Fourth grade- Alexis Carney, Alexander Intchovski
Fifth grade- Andrew Lo, Germane Rivers, Paul Stenger-Morgante, Maddy Gelb, Lana Taki, Julien Tell

support with making the evening great! I would like to send a special appreciation to the following individuals who supported behind the scenes keeping it all together: Katie DeVecchi, Ni'col Payton, Cynthia Thomspson and support, Chris Debro, Sheri Vason and Carmen Companion.

For editing and program layout: Nicol Blakely and Warren Wilson. My wonderful set up crew: Kyle Debro, Lorice Dykes, Carl Morris, Michael Campbell, Olu Nalls-Agbeti, Eric Nobles II, and Christian Morgan. Floral design: Bonnie Pearson. You all represent the best of the best, giving of you time and energy with love and positive support. It would not of happened without any of you.

Deepest gratitude,

*Andrea Gibson-Nobles,
 Chairperson*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ANDREA GIBSON-NOBLES FOR PLANNING SUCH AN AWESOME TRIBUTE TO ME FRIDAY NIGHT. THANKS TO KATIE AND SONYA FOR REENACTING A SPECIAL MOMENT IN TIME WHICH CHANGED MY LIFE. I HAVE HAD TWENTY-SIX WONDERFUL YEARS AT KAISER SCHOOL, ROOM 3. A HEARTFELT APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO ASSISTED IN MANY WAYS FRIDAY NIGHT TO MAKE THE BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM/POTLUCK A SUCCESS.

SINCERELY,
 RUBY

KAISER ACADEMY AWARDS

Black History Month Appreciations:

For a "Date with Destiny" the awards for Best Leading Actress - Sonya Brooks as "Ms. Blunt"

Best Supporting Actress - Katie McLane as "Ms. Gerhardt"

I can not thank you two enough for making the evening magical for Ms. Blunt. It would not of happened without you. A special appreciation to the Kaiser community for their wonderful potluck dishes and

Upcoming



Calendar

- Tuesday, March 1 North Oakland Town Hall Mtg
- Monday, March 7 PTA Board Meeting
- Wednesday, March 9 PTA General Meeting and Science & Reading Night
- Mon-Fri, March 14-18 MINIMUM DAYS - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Wednesday, March 16 School Site Council
- Saturday, March 19 Beautification Day
- Monday, March 28 Cesar Chavez Day
- Holiday - School Closed
-
- Monday, April 4 PTA Board Meeting
- Mon-Fri, April 11-15 Spring Break- School Closed

!! Important !! Autism Support Website

As television and the recent issue of Newsweek attest, there is a growing epidemic of autism, which now claims one in 166 children, a learning disability that far outdistances, by sheer numbers, any other debilitating disease. We have children at Kaiser, and will be receiving more students who are affected by autism. Because it also dramatically impacts a family, we suggest that you become familiar with the problem and if you have friends or family members who suffer from autism, there is an urgent need to have them become part of the Autism Speaks support database, so that a more careful monitoring of the patients can be made. There are so many mysteries surrounding autism, that if we all help, science may be able to pinpoint the cause and hopefully, find a cure.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6844737/>

No Child Left Behind - The Basketball Version

1. All teams must advance to the Sweet 16, and all will win the championship. If a team does not win the championship, they will be on probation, until they are the champions, and coaches will be held accountable.

2. All kids will be expected to have the same basketball skills at the same time and in the same conditions. No exceptions will be made for interest in basketball, a desire to perform athletically, or genetic abilities or disabilities. ALL KIDS WILL PLAY BASKETBALL AT A PROFICIENT LEVEL.

3. Talented players will be asked to practice on their own, without instruction. This is because the coaches

will be using all their instructional time with the athletes who aren't interested in basketball, have limited athletic ability or whose parents don't like basketball.

4. Games will be played year round, but statistics will only be kept in the 4th, 8th and 11th games.

5. This will create a New Age of sports where every school is expected to have the same level of talent and all teams will reach the same minimal goals. If no child gets ahead, then no child will be left behind.

(Forwarded to me by the former principal of Kaiser School who is now retired and glad that she doesn't have to deal with the nonsensical "No Child Left Behind" legislation!!)

WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD DECIPHER NON-FICTION WRITING

About 50% of the reading assessments that are given on the standardized tests are related to reading charts, maps, graphs, recipes, scientific writing and newspaper articles. Most of the practice reading that we encourage at home has been the reading of decodable books, then short stories with lots of rhyming words and eventually, chapter books. We rarely encourage you to take out a map and read the names of streets and cities or look at a recipe and follow the directions to make something. Those skills are also critical to being a skilled reader and we are trying to teach them at school, but could use additional support at home.

Escrip truly helps our school

Please take a moment and go to escrip.com to register your Safeway card to earn money for Kaiser School. Our **group number** is **140707403**. You can also register other credit cards to earn money for Kaiser as you shop. Go to the website to see what is available.

First Friday Gardening Coming up!

Dear Community Volunteers,

The first Friday of the month is here again. We are hoping for good weather so that we can work from 3:15-5:15 on Friday, March 4th.

We have completed so many projects this year! This month we hoping to continue spring cleaning of many of the existing beds and to address the issue of a fence/border around the front circle area.

See you on Friday!

Janan and Tom

Once a person has learned to read, look at what they can do using context and syntax!!

Don't delete this because it looks weird. Believe it or not you can read it.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mind. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer inwaht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? yaeh and I awlyas thought slpeling was ipmorantt!

Margaret Yang

SUMMER CAMPS LISTED IN THIS MONTH'S PARENTS' PRESS

Don't throw out this month's edition of Parents' Press because there is a very large pull-out section about summer camps for children and families. It is an invaluable tool! The Parents' Press is sent to you as an adjunct to the communication, which we try to impart, in the weekly Pink Panther.

MS. MARGARET'S CLASS PRODUCTION OF 'WHY DOG HATES CAT' A DELIGHT !

With clever ears designed by Gail and Mark Elliott, the class put together a three act play for the student body on Friday and for parents and friends at 6:00 p.m. preceding the African American Potluck. The play was based on a poem by Zora Neale Hurston and the children participated in rewriting it. Laura Sherman collaborated with the class to help with the percussion and choreography. Lots of fun!!

reminders!

OPEN ENROLLMENT LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT

If you have an incoming kindergarten sibling and you did not receive a letter through Open Enrollment accepting your child, please contact Robin Sasada IMMEDIATELY. We are going to be very full in kindergarten next year and may not be able to accommodate all of our siblings. Please let us know whether or not you applied to Open Enrollment as you were directed to do.

**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: 5 March & 12 March,
2 April & 9 April

Pre-School Story Times:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30am: 2 March &
16 March, 6 April & 20 April

Pajama Story Times:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm: 8 March & 22 March,
12 April & 26 April

Two Special Events for Kids:

(1)

BOOK SWAP!

Saturday, April 9th, 2:30pm, Community Meeting Room
In preparation for National Library Week (April 10 to
16) and T.V. Turn

Off Week (April 25 to May 1), the Rockridge Library
will host a public Book Swap. Kids are invited to bring
used books they no longer want, to trade (1 for 1) with
others. Bring as many books as you wish to part with,
and a blanket or other mat. Parents may also bring books
to trade with other parents.

Come to set up at 2:30, trading will begin at 2:45 and
continue until 3:45. Light snacks will be served. Tell
your friends – The more the merrier! All ages welcome.



(2)

CRITTER TALES.

Wednesday, April 13th, 11:00

Guest readers from the Oakland Zoo will be at
Rockridge Library to tell stories about animals and to
talk about what's new at the Zoo. Especially

geared toward pre-school age children, but all are
welcome.

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

Kerry Hamill Town Hall Meeting

**NORTH OAKLAND DISTRICT 1
TOWN HALL MEETING**

Tuesday March 1, 2005 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4314 Piedmont Avenue - Oakland, CA

*MULTI-YEAR FISCAL RECOVERY PLAN

*CENTRAL OFFICE REDESIGN

Call 879-8653 with questions; leave a message for Kerry
Hamill

Special Guests:

* Dr. Randolph Ward, State Administrator
* Katrina Scott-George, Special Assistant

- Question & Answer Period

- Potluck & Childcare will be provided.

**The Oakland Public Library and
the Oakland Museum**

... are proud to present **an evening with Paul
Rusesabagina**, the courageous hotel manager whose
actions during the Rwandan tragedy became the basis
for the movie, "**Hotel Rwanda**."

Monday, February 28, 2005
Private Reception at 6:00 p.m.
Oakland Museum Cafe
1000 Oak Street

Lecture at 7:30 p.m.
James Moore Theater
Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak Street

A donation of \$100 to \$1,000 will guarantee the first 100 people attendance at a private reception to meet Mr. Ruseabagina. Your donation will help to underwrite the Library's lecture series.

For more information, call Leslie Rodd, Oakland Public Library, at 510-238-6932.



.....Hi Everybody!

It's that time again! There's music in the air!
And...Yes!!!! Renae is inviting you to yet ANOTHER
**band concert at The Dean Leshner Regional Arts
Center (Hoffmann Theatre)**
http://dlrca.org/video/hofmanntheater_web.mov
in beautiful downtown Walnut Creek, California!!!
And THIS time... I actually have some great parts...
and even a couple of little trumpet solos!! (WOO-
HOO!!)

I know that MANY of you are out of the area... and
may not be able to attend. But, sometimes people
travel... or... sometimes they know people who ARE in
the area. So, I figured... "What the heck! Invite
everybody!"

Since our last two concerts were so well attended, I
thought you might appreciate advance notice that we
are **commemorating Mark Twain next month**. This
could be a great time to get your tickets and reserve
good seats. Some people prefer the balcony... so
that you can see more of the musicians.

Here is a seating chart of the theatre:
(I sit "stage right"... in case you care! LOL)
ground floor (orchestra level):

<http://dlrca.org/hof.orch.seats.html>

terrace (balcony level):

<http://dlrca.org/hof.terr.seats.html>

On March 20th, this Contra Costa Wind Symphony
concert will include commentary by Dr. Robert Hirst,
Curator of the Mark Twain Project at U.C. Berkeley.
Also, the program includes talented Bay Area
entertainer Tim Hockenberry performing a medley of
Twain-era tunes.

To learn more and order tickets on line, please visit
our web site

<http://www.ccwindsymphony.org/Spring05.htm>

Or you can call the Regional Center Box Office for
reservations. 925-943-7469.

Hope you can join us.

Lots O' Love,

Renae

PS. here is a link to Driving and BART Directions:

<http://dlrca.org/ncaparking.html>

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE AT OAKLAND LIBRARY

The Oakland Public Library offers an annual
free tax assistance program in conjunction with the
American Association of Retired Persons, starting
Tuesday, February 12 through Friday, April 15th. Call
either the Oakland Main Library (238-3134), the
Dimond Branch (482-7844) or the Melrose Branch
(535-5623) to get further information.