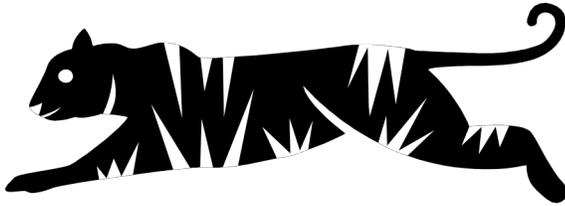


THE PINK PANTHER

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

MARCH 15TH, 2005



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all of you who remembered to make arrangements for your children to be picked up after school early this week. It allows us to meet with you and to plan for a successful third trimester of the year!!

You may have read in the papers that many teachers are receiving "pink slips" or letters which state that their services will no longer be needed by the Oakland Unified School District. These "layoff" letters were sent to four members of our teaching staff, as they were the most recently hired. What I am asking you to do, please, is to address a letter to me about the positive influence that any of these four teachers have (or have had) on your child, and I will make a copy of the letter for the teacher, one for his or her personnel file, and send a copy to the new head of the Human Resources department. In this way, our four teachers (Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Byers, Mr. Neat and Mrs. Pletcher) will get some well-deserved positive reinforcement, their files will be up to date with parent feedback, and others in our Human Resources department will have documentation to see why I will be fighting for the return of all four staff members.

The difficulty right now is that we have no idea what the staffing needs in the district will be. Because there are over twelve schools either closing or being reconstituted, the teachers in those schools will probably have rights of seniority to "bump" the newer hires around the district. I have heard that over 500 teachers received a letter, and I am still trying to get all the details. Sadly, our district did not notify the principals as to who would be receiving the notifications. I am encouraging you to help us out here by sending your letters to me or to the

teacher with a copy to me, so that I can be sure to place copies in their personnel files.

As you can well imagine, the possibility of losing one's job is devastating, no matter how many people say "Oh, it will probably work out just fine!" There is no way to feel good about a letter that says that your services are no longer necessary for the 2005-2006 school year. So, if everyone pulls together at Kaiser and lets our staff members know how valuable they are, it will be a big help. Thank you so much!!

Katie McLane

POSSIBILITY OF A PORTABLE ON THE LOWER FIELD?

Wonders never cease! Monday, a gentleman sent from the Buildings and Grounds department was measuring our lower yard to determine if four portables could be housed on the site and still allow for a 20 foot clearance between the main building and the nearest portable, as required by state law. We will keep you posted as to the continuing saga of replacing the old portable and obtaining a new one for the newly mandated full-day kindergarten which is coming soon to all of Oakland schools. I will notify our new kindergarten parents if this is happening sooner than the 2006-2007 school year.

Did Someone Say Party?

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 30th**. The PTA will be presenting a wonderful evening of wine and cheese, jazz (our own David Waugh), and a **live auction and raffle**. The event will take place at the Highlands Country Club overlooking a beautiful view of the bay. Childcare is available just down the hill in the school auditorium for those who need it.

We are currently looking for parents to donate items for the live auction and raffle. Following is a list of items you may consider:

A gift certificate to a favorite restaurant or store
Donation of a service (massage, exercise, construction, cooking, etc.)

3/15/2005

Tickets to a special event (sports, theatre, parks, movies)
 A weekend getaway
 Artwork or jewelry
 Electronics (mp3 player, DVD player, etc.)
 Do you know of a wine merchant who may be willing to donate some wine?

If you are able to make a donation, please contact Lisa Downes **as soon as possible**. She can be reached by phone 532-5913, or email limar2@aol.com.

For various reasons, the auction will be structured differently this year. We are going to be moving the auction back to its original fall slot next school year. In order to accommodate that transition we will be focusing this year's event on the **live auction**. And that means more of our ever so entertaining auctioneer Tom Rust! We will also be offering **many fabulous raffle prizes**.

Thank you in advance for all of your support. It's what makes Kaiser the special place it is!

New Additions to Mrs. McLane's Multiplication Club As of March 11th, 2005

5 Minutes

No new additions

4 Minutes

Kyle Debro

3 Minutes

Jasmine Hain

2 Minutes

Jade Belvin

Neijah Cox

Darius Muir-Hayes

Kristina Randolph

Erica Smith

Julian Voscott

1 Minute

Alexandre Intchovski

Olu Nalls-Agbeti

Truman Ports

Ariel Vason

Savannah Whaley

ORATORICAL WINNERS TO PRESENT THIS EVENING!!

Maiyah Phelps and Christina Bates have been invited to compete in the ML King, Jr. Oratorical finals at Calvin Simmons Theatre tonight, between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Congratulations!!

Upcoming



Calendar

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

House & Senate Bills Impacting Education (Session:
March 11, 2005) : **Budget Blueprints Fail To Protect
Students and Schools**

NEA believes the federal budget should reflect our nation's priorities of educating our children and providing them adequate health care, protecting the most vulnerable among us and investing in stronger communities. CALL 1-800-247-2971 ON MARCH 15 AND 16 to make sure your Members of Congress know we want a budget that gives priority to education, health care and the elderly.

The Senate budget resolution:

1. Cuts education and training programs by \$34 billion from 2006 to 2010.
2. Calls for \$15 billion in Medicaid cuts over the next five years, which will reduce state money available for education.
3. Offers positive changes in higher education.
 - Adding money for increasing the maximum Pell Grant.
 - Eliminating Pell Grant funding shortfalls to allow more eligible students to receive help.
 - Reserving money for improvements in the student loan program.

The House budget resolution:

1. Cuts \$2.1 billion next year and \$21.4 billion through 2010 in funding for mandatory education programs, which could include school lunch and student aid for higher education.
2. Will likely to lead to cuts totaling \$15.1 billion or more over the next five years for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, thereby reducing state money available for education.
3. Falls some \$9 billion short of the funding promised for No Child Left Behind.
4. Does not address the needs of tens of thousands students served by Title I and the Individual with Disabilities Education Act.

5. Does not address the critical need for increasing the Pell Grant maximum to a level that helps students meet rising tuition costs.

Action Needed

1. Call 1-800-247-2971 on March 15 and 16 to urge your Members of Congress to write a fair and responsible budget resolution!
2. Ask to be connected to your Senators and Representatives or call the U.S. Capitol switchboard directly at 202-224-3121.
3. Don't be discouraged if the lines are busy; try again later. You can also find your **Senators' direct line at www.senate.gov** or your **Representative's direct line at www.house.gov**.
4. Send an e-mail to your Members of Congress urging them to adopt a budget that protects children, the elderly, and vulnerable families.

**Senators Act Against Mandatory Social Security
Participation**

Eleven members of the U.S. Senate, led by Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and George Voinovich (R-OH), wrote a letter last week to the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, asking that Social Security reform not mandate that all public employees participate in the retirement program. Teachers and education support professionals in twelve states (AK, CA, CO, CT, IL, KY, LA, MA, ME, MO, NV, OH) as well as selected districts in three additional states (GA, RI, TX) do not pay into Social Security. Instead, these states maintain separate retirement systems for educators.

NEA opposes mandatory participation because it would be detrimental to teachers and other public employees, it would create financial burdens for states and city governments, and it would weaken existing state and local retirement plans that often offer benefits superior to Social Security.

A big thanks to Sens. Feinstein and Voinovich and their colleagues: Kit Bond (R-MO), Chris Dodd (D-CT), Mike DeWine (R-OH), Dick Durbin (D-IL), James Inhofe (R-OK),

Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Barack Obama (D-IL) and Ken Salazar (D-CO).

Reminders!

Letter Excerpts from H. J. Kaiser's former editor, Kara Gall

PIANO LESSONS AFTER SCHOOL AT KAISER

Hi Katie!

Perhaps you were wondering if we fell off the face of the earth! Or perhaps you are too darn busy keeping fabulous Kaiser school thriving.

It's Kara and Lydia Gall, writing to say "hi!" And to say how much we *miss* Kaiser.

We're living in Eustis, NE, my hometown. Population 460. Crazy, eh?

Things I love about this place: open space, big sky, quiet, room to mooooooooove, cheap So it's a mixed bag. I have a great job as the Info & Education Coordinator for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. I love the job. . . . Gender Politics. Lydia is encountering . . . Here the boys and girls don't co-mingle so much. . . . It makes me appreciate all the more the wonderful diversity of Kaiser, and what a blessing it was for Lydia to experience that at such a young age. . . Every now and then we toy with the idea of moving back to Oakland. At the top of the list of reasons why we would do that is Kaiser School! We'll see what happens.

Best, Kara & Lydia

Five new openings on Thursdays for piano lessons. The lessons are 20 minute lessons, once a week and are \$15.00 per lesson. **Call Marilyn Marsh at (510) 923-1620.**