

THE PINK PANTHER

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

MAY 3RD, 2005



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

Yet again, this tremendous community of families pulled together and, with the leadership of Lisa Downes and all the volunteers listed in the accompanying article, it was pulled off with grace! As many have said, watching Tom Rust do the live auction is worth the price of admission alone!!

I want to remind all of us that Mother's Day is coming this Sunday. Let's not forget that there are many people in our community filling that important role: grandmothers, aunts, foster parents, and some of our dads. As a single mom for most of my children's lives, my sons always gave me both Mother's Day and Father's Day cards and gifts because they told me I was doing a good job of being both a mother and a father to them.

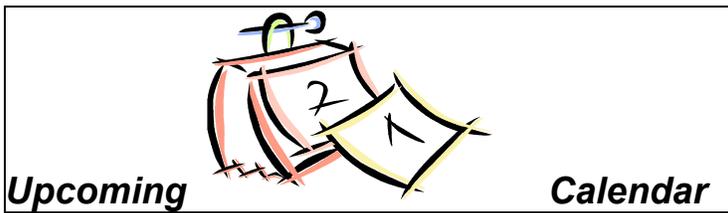
Our staff is really enjoying the delicious food that our parents are sending for Teacher's Appreciation Week. You are a fabulous group of families and we want you to know that we appreciate you greatly!! Thank you.

Our testing is now underway in all of our second through fifth grade classes and the children are well prepared. Please be certain to send them to school with a well-balanced breakfast and a happy heart. Just tell them you know that they'll do well. There is no need to cause any child to be anxious about testing. We just expect everyone to do his or her best!!

We are going to ask that we not honk in the circle any more, even though the honks were mostly in support of our teachers. We had a complaint from a neighbor, but more importantly, at least one parent decided to honk at another parent when she thought she was taking too much time unloading her grandchildren. We really don't want to encourage that kind of behavior!!

Happy Cinco de Mayo on Thursday!
Celebrate!

Katie McLane



April 25-May 6 Standardized Testing (2nd-5th)

Mon-Friday, May 9-13

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
 Wed, May 11 PTA Meeting, Elections '05-'06
 Wednesday, May 18 School Site Council
 Fri & Mon, May 27 & 30 Memorial Day holidays

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 Monday, June 6 Old and New PTA Board Meeting-
 Preliminary budgeting

Pledge Drive Fund; The Business of Education

The pledge drive will officially end on May 30th. We will gladly accept any donation after that point, but goal of having a cut off date is to give our treasurer, Gail Elliott, enough time to crunch numbers with Katie and give the PTA Board one last chance to try to keep our contract employees.

I would like to thank all of the families who have made your pledge donation towards the Pledge Drive. At this time we have collected \$5,200.00 parents and \$2,000.00 from Citibank our new corporate sponsor, the total of which is \$7,200.00. Our stated goal is \$20,000.

Many of you have been so generous and given more than the requested amount and we really appreciate your kindness. We have also received checks that have been slightly less than the requested amount and we equally appreciate those donations as well. We need to have a clear idea of which contract

employees can offered a contract for the school year 2005/2006.

As the VP of Fund Raising it has been my responsibility to develop relationships with CEO's and Corporate Business who may want to contribute to a special school like Kaiser. I personally think that's what we have at Kaiser however; these Foundations are motivated to donate to schools that have a high level of family participation and involvement in their school. I am encouraging you to review your family financial situation and make a donation to Kaiser on behalf of your child's education. With your financial support we will be able to continue to provide the type of education you were looking for when you chose to come to Kaiser and be apart of this special place for your child to thrive and grow. Attached to these weeks Pink Panther we will find the copy of the Pledge Letter mailed to you at the beginning of the school year. If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to contact me. I am always open to discuss the business of education with any parent.

Cynthia Thompson

cynthomson@mac.com

(510) 268-1478 home

(510) 703-3658 cell

Celebrate the Month of May with great Mexican music:

May 13 Los Cenzontles at the Freight and Salvage, Berkeley- Friday, 8 PM

http://www.freightandsalvage.org/2005/may/info_13.html
<http://www.freightandsalvage.org/2005/may/info_13.html>

May 19 Mono Blanco, Son Jarocho, direct from Veracruz -Thursday, 7:30

Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center

13108 San Pablo Ave

San Pablo, CA 94805

(510) 233-8015 for more information

www.loscenzontles.com

<<http://www.loscenzontles.com/>>



The Auction was a great success!!!

Thanks to the generosity and outpouring of support we received from the Kaiser community. A very special thank you to our incredible auctioneer **Tom Rust** who had to work way too hard, but kept us entertained and more importantly kept us spending money! A heartfelt thanks to **Katie McLane and**

her staff, who are remarkably generous with their time and efforts. Thank you David Waugh for the great music! This event could not have happened without everyone's enthusiastic support.

Special thanks to the following, who worked so hard to help carry out this event:

Cynthia Thompson and her hard working food crew for providing us with fabulous hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

Cyndy Speers for her organization and guidance
Erin Collum for designing and putting together the catalog (with all those last minute changes!)

Bonnie Pearson for working her magic with the beautiful floral arrangements

Dennis Whaley for running the bar

Katy DeVecchi for rounding up and coordinating all the volunteers

Thank you all!

Lisa Downes

HEAD LICE HAVE APPEARED AGAIN !!!

A case of head lice has appeared at the school again. We ask that if you suspect that your child has head lice, that you either contact your doctor or ask us at school to check. This is contagious, but the family has taken every precaution to curtail spreading. The best solution if your child does have head lice, is to cover their head with mayonnaise, let it sit for thirty minutes, rinse out and then comb with the very fine comb that is available at pharmacies.

RERUNS

T.V. REPAIR NEEDED

The television in Ms. Margaret Yang's class has no volume. If there is someone who knows about television repair, we would appreciate your help. If the volume cannot be repaired, we have another television which could be mounted, with assistance from a parent or two. Please let us know. She and

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her class have patiently waited much of the year for this repair.

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ADDRESS INVITATIONS FOR MISS BLUNT'S RETIREMENT TEA

If you would like to help us address invitations to all of Miss Blunt's former students, please let Robin or Katie know. We want to get the invitations for the June 4th event out to the community next week. Please put the date on your calendars, as well, and we would love to have your offer of help in preparing food for her tea, which will be from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



THURSDAY SNACK SALE SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR

5/5- Neat
5/12- Pletcher
5/19- Apaydin
5/26- Student Council
6/2- Yang
6/9- Byers
6/16- Wade



!! Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week !!
May 2 through May 6

Now is the time we can show our love for our wonderful Kaiser teachers and staff. Beginning next Monday, May 2 through Friday, May 5, the PTA asks families with children in the following classes to provide an item for lunch for the teachers and staff as follows:

Monday: Mr. Stenger, Mr. Byers, Miss Blunt

Tuesday: Ms Apaydin and Mr. Wade

Wednesday: Mrs. Reese and Mrs. Pletcher

Thursday: Mr. Neat and Mrs. Bailey

Friday: Ms. Yang and Mr. Rust

This event is also special for the children. They are encouraged to bring a flower to their teachers and other support staff who impact their lives such as Sonya Brooks (educational intervention consultant), Marcia Brooks (librarian and intervention help), Renaë Briggs (computer and instrumental music), Miss Pearl (teachers' aide), Robin Sasada (administrative assistant), Miss Polly (library clerk/noon supervisor), AJ Robinson (Speech therapist), Mr. Byrne and Mrs. Whittaker (resource program), Mrs. Eastman (writing).

Food and beverages should be dropped off before school and placed in the staff lounge refrigerator. Please clearly mark food containers with your name. Empty containers will be placed on a table near the office for pick-up after school. Volunteers are needed to help clean up after lunch each day. Please contact **Terry McGlynn at 534-2322** (before 10 p.m.) with questions and to volunteer. Great big hugs to everyone who contributes to this special event.

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For All My Favorite Mothers

This is for the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers in their arms, wiping up barf laced with Oscar Mayer wieners and cherry Kool-Aid saying, "It's okay honey, Mommy's here."

Who have sat in rocking chairs for hours on end soothing crying babies who can't be comforted.

This is for all the mothers who show up at work with spit-up in their hair and milk stains on their blouses and diapers in their purse.

For all the mothers who run carpools and make cookies and sew Halloween costumes. And all the mothers who DON'T.

This is for the mothers who gave birth to babies they'll never see.
And the mothers who took those babies and gave them homes.

This is for the mothers whose priceless art collections are hanging on their refrigerator doors.

And for all the mothers who froze their buns on metal bleachers at football or soccer games instead of watching from the warmth of their cars, so that when their kids asked, "Did you see me, Mom?" they could say, "Of course, I wouldn't have missed it for the world," and mean it.

This is for all the mothers who yell at their kids in the grocery store and swat them in despair when they stomp their feet and scream for ice cream before dinner. And for all the mothers who count to ten instead, but realize how child abuse happens.

This is for all the mothers who sat down with their children and explained all about making babies. And for all the (grand)mothers who wanted to, but just couldn't find the words.

This is for all the mothers who go hungry, so their children can eat.
For all the mothers who read "Goodnight, Moon" twice a night for a year. And then read it again. "Just one more time."

This is for all the mothers who taught their children to tie their shoelaces before they started school. And for all the mothers who opted for Velcro instead.

This is for all the mothers who teach their sons to cook and their daughters to sink a jump shot.

This is for every mother whose head turns automatically when a little voice calls "Mom?" in a crowd, even though they know their own offspring are at home -- or even away at college.

This is for all the mothers who sent their kids to school with stomach aches assuring them they'd be just FINE once they got there, only to get calls from the school nurse an hour later asking them to please pick them up. Right away.

This is for mothers whose children have gone astray, who can't find the words to reach them.

This is for all the step-mothers who raised another woman's child or children, and gave their time, attention, and love... sometimes totally unappreciated!

For all the mothers who bite their lips until they bleed when their 14 year olds dye their hair green.

For all the mothers of the victims of recent school shootings, and the mothers of those who did the shooting.

For the mothers of the survivors, and the mothers who sat in front of their TVs in horror, hugging their child who just came home from school, safely.

This is for all the mothers who taught their children to be peaceful, and now pray they come home safely from a war.

What makes a good Mother anyway?

Is it patience?
Compassion?
Broad hips?

The ability to nurse a baby, cook dinner, and sew a button on a shirt,
all at the same time?
Or is it in her heart?
Is it the ache you feel when you watch your son or daughter disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time?
The jolt that takes you from sleep to dread, from bed to crib at 2 A.M. to put your hand on the back of a sleeping baby?

The panic, years later, that comes again at 2 A.M. when you just want to hear their key in the door and know they are safe again in your home?

Or the need to flee from wherever you are and hug your child when you hear news of a fire, a car accident, a child dying?

The emotions of motherhood are universal and so our thoughts are for young mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation...

And mature mothers learning to let go.

For working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.

Single mothers and married mothers.

Mothers with money, mothers without.

This is for you all.

For all of us.

Hang in there.

In the end we can only do the best we can.

Tell them every day that we love them.