



# *The Pink Panther* **Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School**

25 South Hill Court, Oakland, California 94618 (510) 879-1710

## School and Community Newsletter August 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

Welcome from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

Welcome to all of our new families (over 50 of you!) and a warm welcome back to our returning families! Please take the time to introduce yourselves to people you don't know so that none of us will be strangers for long! We also want to welcome **two new staff members** who are experienced teachers and will be real assets to our existing staff. They are Amy Haruyama (first grade) and Trish Gorham (first/second grade). Trish most recently was at Washington School, which closed this June after celebrating 100 years of educating North Oakland's youth. Trish is also the vice president of the OEA and will be teaming with our Marcia Brooks when she has union business that takes her out of the classroom for part or all of a day. Amy is returning from a year's leave of absence (staying at home with her two-year old and volunteering in her older daughter's first grade classroom. Amy taught at Fruitvale Elementary for eleven years and both she and Trish bring expertise in working with younger children to our primary grades.

Here is an update on three recent staff members at Kaiser. **Ruben Aurelio** is the new principal of Maxwell Park Elementary School and he has moved his family into the Maxwell Park neighborhood. We wish him well and will look forward to doing some partnering with his school. Last year's second grade teacher, **Andrea Pletcher**, was not able to return to Kaiser because the district wanted to put some high energy teachers in large schools that were underachieving schools. This is when we need to look at the "big picture" and realize how lucky the children at Allendale are to have her for a teacher. If any of you or your children want to write to her, we can forward the mail through the district delivery system. **Ruby Blunt**, recently retired first grade teacher, will be seen around Kaiser because her grand-nephew, Emmett, will be in first grade this year! Ruby will be pursuing her Pre-Paid Legal career full time now.

Thanks to our PTA funding, Marcia Brooks will be returning to work in the library and with children needing extra support and Renae Briggs will be in the computer lab and helping with instrumental music instruction. In addition, a grant from Citibank will allow Sonya Brooks to help children after school two days a week and our Targeted Intensive Intervention Grant makes it possible for Sonya to be with us every day, helping children become stronger, more self-confident learners.

We had a wonderful time with our three in-service days on Wednesday-Friday and the local newspaper gave us some prominent coverage. Margaret Yang will be writing an article to update you on the Arts Integration which we are planning for this year. The article will appear in next week's *Pink Panther*.

Every staff member was back again on Saturday and most returned again on Sunday so that they would be really ready for your children. We'll be posting the names of all of our new families and Vince Morgante has agreed to again photograph all of the new children and display their pictures in the hall, so that we all get to know them quickly. Thanks, Vince!

Again, welcome back to our FABULOUS school! It is the teamwork of parents/guardians, staff and teachers that makes learning exciting for our children and allows them to expand their minds and discover the beauty in themselves!

Fondly, Katie McLane

# Getting In The Know

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNICATION,  
COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION!!

- ***Pink Panther***- weekly newsletter distributed on Tuesday with critical information that **all parents should read**. Any rules or policies which have been announced in the ***Pink Panther*** constitute full knowledge on the parents' part.
- Teacher's classroom newsletters- weekly or twice-monthly
- ***Parent's Magazine***- once a month- lots of valuable articles relating to children and parents
  
- **Magazine for Book orders**-monthly
- **Cafeteria menu**- monthly, attached to ***Pink Panther***
- **After-school programs**- attached to ***Pink Panther***
- **Items of interest for parents**- periodically distributed and attached to ***Pink Panther***
  
- **Kaiser's Website – always on!**

Thanks to Eva Caraher, Kiki Bradley and Malcolm Ryder, our ***Pink Panther*** will continue to be edited weekly and distributed on Tuesdays. They will be rotating responsibilities. We are so grateful for their dedication.

## How To Reach Kaiser

Our phone number is (510) 879-1710 (includes a 24 hour message service). Principal Katie McLane's email address is [Catherine.Mclane@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Catherine.Mclane@ousd.k12.ca.us)

## How to use the Pink Panther Website

To include your story or information in your school newsletter: first check with Katie McLane and then forward to both editors by 5:00 p.m. on Sundays, at [cara\\_eva@hotmail.com](mailto:cara_eva@hotmail.com) and [kbradley@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kbradley@ix.netcom.com)

## CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
<b>Aug 29 Monday</b>	First Day K-5 PTA sponsored coffee
<b>September 5 Monday</b>	Labor Day Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
<b>September 10 Saturday</b>	Beautification Day
<b>September 14 Wednesday</b>	Back To School Night

## Notes: Event Times and Locations

DATE/TIME

**Nov 5 2005**

More to come..

## How to use the Kaiser School

For our public information, be sure to visit and browse [www.kaiserelementaryschool.com](http://www.kaiserelementaryschool.com) and to participate in the school community group go to [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool\\_group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/) and join!!

# Welcome Back, Parents!

## News You Should Use

Wouldn't it be great if all the really important things in life came with a User Manual that actually helped?!! Here are a handful of things that will make your child's day-in-the-life at Kaiser the most manageable for you – from arriving to being picked up.

**TRAFFIC NEAR BUILDINGS = DANGER TO CHILDREN**  
To protect the children, there will be a chain across the faculty parking spaces and the gate to the portable area will be closed before school and at the end of the day. Last year we had an auto accident and two children nearly hit when a car went behind the auditorium and proceeded to the upper field to pick up a child for a mid-day dental appointment!!

**KAISER IS OPERATING IN A TIME ZONE ALL ITS OWN!!**  
Until the bells, clocks and central timing get coordinated, Kaiser's bells will be 4 minutes off. Therefore, **please set your watches four minutes ahead and operate on Kaiser Time** until the district corrects the problem. You could write a letter of concern to the school district asking when they might be able to rectify the situation. I've always found parental pressure to be prioritized at a higher level than the site administrator's.



## ATTENDANCE

Unless we see your child at school, he/she is absent! Absences are not excused, but they are coded as to the type. Always call the school to notify us if your child is going to be absent and let us know the reason. Try to schedule doctor or dental appointments at the end of the day or if necessary, at the beginning of the day; but try very hard to have your child here every day.

## PREPAID LUNCHESES

Many parents find it more convenient to pre-pay for lunches (\$25.00 for twenty days). The cafeteria server keeps track of the lunches eaten and notifies you with a note when your child only has a few more days of paid lunches.

Lunches are \$1.75 each day and children may purchase extra drinks, entrees, fruit, etc. Have your child ask Kim how much the various parts of the lunch are.

## BACK TO SCHOOL, PTA MEETING on SEPTEMBER 14TH

Put Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> on your calendars for Back to School Night and an important PTA meeting.

The parents of morning K, both firsts and both seconds will be meeting with their child's teachers from 6:30 to 7:00

The afternoon K, plus both thirds, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 4/5 and 5<sup>th</sup> will meet from 7:00 to 7:30

Both sets of meetings will be in the classrooms before coming to the multi-purpose room for a PTA meeting.

### - *Who are the PTA officers?* -

Here is the roster of parent volunteers who, as **chairpersons in the PTA Board**, are currently working for you and the children to assure that your involvement and support is the best for you that it can be:

Membership: Kelly Bartlett and Cyndy Hobbs  
Programs: Andrea Nobles and Katy DeVecchi

Room Parent: Katherine Fratti  
Site Safety/Environment: John Hanlon  
After-School Activity: Katy DeVecchi

Communications: Kiki Bradley, Kim Carl  
Secretary: Renette Warner

Fall Auction: Andrea Nobles  
Walk-A-Thon: Rosalind Nalls  
Potlucks: Andrea Nobles

Fundraising: Cynthia Thompson  
Treasurer: Gail Elliot  
Auditor: Tracy Lovely  
Financial Secretary: Shawn Walker-Smith

Board Presidents: Lisa Downes, Lesley Clark  
Board Vice-President: Liz Hall

### Special **Still-To-Do's** with the Board:

Book Faire: see Cynthia Thompson  
Assemblies: see Andrea Nobles or Katy DeVecchi  
Website: see Kim Carl

# Kids Arts... Art Kids...

## ROCKRIDGE LIBRARY BOOK CLUB!

Hello Parents and teachers at Chabot, Hillcrest, Kaiser, NOCCS and Peralta!

Welcome back to school! September is a quiet month at the library, we are all recovering from our busy summer here at Rockridge Library.

However, here's one special item: We are considering hosting a **Book Club for kids ages 9 to 12**, that would most likely meet monthly on either the third or fourth Monday of the month, in the evening. Participants will recommend titles to vote on, and we're thinking of adding a pizza dinner to the agenda. The first meeting would be on Monday, September 19th. Please call and talk to Erica to find out more.

See below for our regular events.  
- Erica and Gay. 597-5017



### FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler** Story Times:

1st & 2nd Saturdays at 10:30am: 3 Sept & 10 Sept, and 1 Oct & 8 Oct.

- **Pre-School** Story Times:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30am: 21 Sept and 5 Oct & 19 Oct.

NOTE: There is no Pre-School Story Time on the 1st week in September.

- **Pajama** Story Times:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm: 13 Sept & 27 Sept, and 11 Oct & 25 Oct.

NOTE: October 25th will have a Halloween theme.

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](mailto:esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org)

## School Outreach



Dear Friends,

**The good news!!!** We have successfully expanded the band and orchestra program at the school, where I am currently teaching.

The bad news.... We may not be able to provide instruments for all of the students who wish to participate. :-)

**So... I need your help please.**

**Any chance you guys and gals could look in your closets and attics... or... ask around and see if anyone has an unused instrument lying around?** And... if they do... would they perhaps consider donating it to the Kaiser Band program here in Oakland, California? Oakland is an area where the arts have been cut back for years... and we are slowly, but surely bringing them back. Economically, these families cannot afford to just go out and rent or purchase a band instrument. So, if the school does not provide one, the kids will not have an opportunity to learn.

I am a firm believer in the concept of abundance. Therefore, I'm also making an unreasonable request that you email at least 4 of your friends or family members to ask if they can help us find instruments for the kids. It's amazing how the power of networking can sometimes connect just the right people!

**If you (or they) don't have an extra instrument... a monetary donation would really help us** to buy the bell kits (which we need immediately) and some (grade 1) appropriate band music... (which we currently have... 1 band arrangement which was purchase for the spring concert last year)

Checks could be made out to the Kaiser PTA and mailed to the school address: Kaiser Elementary School, 25 South Hill Court, Oakland, CA 94618

Whatever people choose to contribute to this project... an instrument, funding, **or simply passing along the request** to someone else who might help... is greatly appreciated and will ultimately help the kids at Kaiser.

So.... **THANK YOU!!!**  
Renaee Briggs

(I made a posting on craigslist SF/Bay Area as well - F.Y.I., Contact [www.kaiserelementaryschool.com](http://www.kaiserelementaryschool.com) for a copy of the posting.)

# PTA Page

Dear Kaiser Families,

Welcome to all of our new families and welcome back to our existing community. What a great year this is going to be!!

In addition to a warm welcome to our new families, we would also like to welcome some new faculty and staff members. Ms. Amy Hurayama will be teaching first grade this year and Ms. Trish Gorham will be teaching second grade. Both teachers have taught at other schools in the District and we welcome them to Kaiser. We also welcome Mr. Reggie Goins, our new custodian to our campus. How wonderful it is to start the year completely staffed.

Please mark a few PTA dates on your calendars: Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> will be our first Beautification Day of the new school year. If you like to garden, contact Ms. Apaydin or Mr. Rust for details of the Saturday work days that make our campus look so wonderful! Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> will be our first PTA meeting of the year, combined with Back-to-School Night. It promises to be a great time for all. Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> will be our first School Site Council meeting. This is the group that advises both on how funds are spent as well as the strategic direction of our school.

Most importantly, we would like you all to hold Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for our annual Auction. This year you will need your dancing shoes on in order to have a great time at this event that is being planned by Andrea Nobles and her wonderful team. Get those babysitters booked now!

The Pledge Drive is one of our most important fundraisers of the year. Watch for your letter explaining more about the Pledge Drive and help us by giving what you can. Our parent group supports everything from art, music, and computer instruction, to P.E. and our fabulous library. Without these programs, our school would not have realized such wonderful successes this past year...and speaking of successes, check out the Montclairion's article about our school (without the great photo though) in last Friday's edition:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/local/states/california/counties/alameda\\_county/cities\\_neighborhoods/montclair/12482291.htm](http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/local/states/california/counties/alameda_county/cities_neighborhoods/montclair/12482291.htm). What great recognition for our school!

If you have questions about anything at Kaiser, please feel free to approach any PTA Board member. If they can't answer your question, they will find someone who can!

We are glad you are here and part of Kaiser's community,

Lisa Downes and Lesley Clark  
PTA Co-Presidents

# **WANT ADS** **WE NEED YOU!!**

We need you, our wonderful parents and guardians to help us fill some positions in our school. Check the ads below for a job that would fit your skills and abilities. Enthusiasm and a desire to help required. Resume not required!!

## **Share your talents with the Kaiser community!**

### **GRANTWRITER**

Do you have writing and marketing skills? Have the desire to help our school get grants that are out there waiting to be given away? Do you like to prepare presentations? Do you like to research all the wonderful people and organizations who are just waiting to give money to a wonderful school like our's? All these skills would be perfect for Kaiser's Grantwriter position. Apply to Lisa Downes, Lesley Clark, or Katie McLane if you have an interest in this positions. Phone calls gladly accepted!!

### **BOX TOP COORDINATOR**

Looking for a position that you can do in the evenings or on the weekends and is compatible with your day job? Do we have the job for you!! Kaiser School collects boxtops and submits them to the Boxtops for Schools Program twice a year. This job entails trimming, organizing and batching the boxtops for submission in October and March. Perfect to do while watching TV or drinking a glass of wine (or doing both!) after putting the kids to bed. Please contact Lesley Clark if you have an interest in this position.

### **GARDENERS WANTED**

Do you like to get your hands filthy and play in the dirt? Then come and join our group of gardeners that tend our Kaiser grounds. Must be available late afternoons the first Friday of each month. See Ms. Apaydin or Mr. Rust for details.

### **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Do you like to run meetings, quote rules, and generally keep everyone on track? Then this is the position for you!! Main requirement for this position is the ability to attend all Board and General PTA meetings (first Monday & second Wednesday —usually, of each month. Copy of Robert's Rules of Order provided by the PTA to the person who applies for this job!

### **ROOM PARENTS**

Our Room Parents are a very important group to our school. They assist the teacher in providing a communication link to the other parents in the classroom. Must have a good phone manner. This position is ideal for the person who can make phone calls at night to help solicit for class donations, field trip drivers, bake sale participants and party planners. Great Room Parents also develop phone trees, so that they do not need to do all the calling themselves. See Katherine Fratti if you are interested in being a Room Parent in your child's class.

### **ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR**

Do you have a love for research? An awareness of what's out there in terms of entertainment and educational opportunities for kids? Then this is the job for you. Help discover options for our school's many assemblies which enrich our student's lives. Contact Andrea Nobles or Katy De Vecchi for more information about this wonderful position.

### **BOOK FAIRE COORDINATOR**

Are you a retailer at heart? Do you love browsing through bookstores? Do you love great sales? Our Book Faire Coordinator gets to enjoy all of these wonderful roles. The Scholastic Book Faire comes to our school once a year, and is usually done in conjunction with the Walk-a-Thon in the Spring. Just imagine one week's worth of work to have your own store for a short period. Order the books, handle the logistics, hire the help and run the sale. This is a great job for someone who is available only for a short period of time. Contact Lesley Clark for more info on this job.

### **STAFF APPRECIATION CHAIR**

Another great position for someone who likes to put their heart and soul into one project for a short period of time. Staff Appreciation Week is in May and the job needs someone who is organized and can coordinate class donations for the lovely event. For five days, we show our appreciation for our faculty and staff by feeding plenty and often. In coordination with the Room Parents, organize the food for each day and ensure that faculty and staff make it to their own luncheon! Food preparation not required, but desired. Contact Lisa Downes about this job.

**JOIN THE WILD GROUP  
OF KAISER PARENTS  
THAT SUPPORT OUR  
SCHOOL!**

