



Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

School and Community Newsletter September 6th 2005

Note from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

What a week of ups and downs! On the Gulf Coast, Hurricane Katrina was ravaging the towns, and levees were breaking and flooding the neighborhoods. Our children were asking what they could do to help. As a community, we will be raising money for hurricane relief and our children will need to research which agency they feel we should be supporting. Donations of cash can be sent directly to the office, but if you prefer to make out a check, we'll get that info to you this week.

On a happier note-what a wonderful beginning to another eventful year! With Kaiser featured as one of the "10 hidden gems" of East Bay schools in the **Bay Parent** magazine and with a report that our API scores jumped from 825 last year to 852 this year, we are confident that we are on a roll. The important thing is that our children seem excited to be back at school and learning!

Our fabulous staff is busy at work, planning together to make this year's academic program more integrated with the arts than ever and thanks to the PTA funding, we are able to make this a reality.

We've written an article about the "bake sales" and the need to eliminate soda pop and candy bars and to try to aim for healthier items to sell at the Thursday events. We're hoping that everyone can help us out with this effort. Another way our families can help their children get a great start on the day is to serve oatmeal with milk for breakfast, rather than cold cereal. Apparently, according to an article in the August journal **Physiology and Behavior**, boys and girls ages 9 to 11 showed enhanced spatial memory, a skill that helps with drawing and doing puzzles, as well as technical skills used in math and science. Younger children 6-8 listened better and also scored higher on spatial memory.

The researchers suggest that the mixture of protein, fiber and complex carbohydrates may account for the slower and more sustained energy source and consequently result in cognitive enhancement compared to low-fiber, high-glycemic, ready-to-eat cereal. Needless to say, it is important that children eat breakfast before coming to school, and other healthy choices could be cheese, whole-grain crackers and fruit and smoothies made with nonfat yogurt and fruit. Or try slathering peanut butter on a slice of whole-grain bread, top with banana slices and drink a glass of skim milk or low-fat soy milk for a nutritionally complete breakfast.

Here's to a healthy, happy school year!

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**. Kaiser regularly assumes that all parents have full knowledge of any rules or policies that have been announced in the Pink Panther.

The Pink Panther also will include:

- **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*

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

Kaiser's Website – always on!

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

How to use the Pink Panther

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

CALENDAR through November 1st

| DATE / DAY | EVENT |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sept 10 Saturday | Beautification Day |
| Sept 12 Monday | PTA Board meeting (limited childcare) |
| Sept 14 Wed. | Back To School Night |
| Sept 21 Wed. | School Site Council Meeting - all are welcome |
| Oct 3 Monday | PTA Board Meeting |
| Oct 8 Saturday | Beautification Day |
| Oct 13 Thursday | Latino Heritage Potluck |
| Oct 24-28 Monday - Friday | MINIMUM DAYS - Parent/ Teacher conferences |
| Oct 25 Tuesday | Individual and Group Picture Day |
| Nov 1 Tuesday | VOTE! |

Notes: Event Times and Locations

| DATE/TIME | NOTES: |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Nov 5 @ 6pm | Kaiser Auction @ (TBD) |



How to use the Kaiser School Website

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

Kaiser School Messages

THE ARTS ARE ALIVE AT KAISER!

Kaiser teachers have fun dancing, singing, acting, and making art. Three days before school the Kaiser staff began training in the four strands of the California Arts Standards: visual arts, music, dance and theater, with the goal of integrating the arts into all the curricular areas.

Kaiser is one of eleven schools in the district to receive grant money and also become an Arts Anchor Demonstration School. The grant money will pay for monthly training throughout the year.



As you walk into the school, take a look at the paper hand quilt made by the teachers (each of the teachers has a square). I developed this paper hand quilt project when I was a mentor for the district in 1995. We had a lovely completed art piece in less than one hour. Also, this lesson can be integrated into social studies, literature and math.

We began our school year making art with the intent of bringing more art into the classrooms in order to address all learning styles. Bonnie Allen (aka Ms. Leonardo) gave a lesson on portraiture and showed the teachers how easy it can be to draw. She also emphasized the strong link between art, science and math.

Virginia Buckner, a theater specialist with the Bay Area Arts Project and a former Oakland teacher, presented us with an active fun-filled morning in theater training and Marjie Van Guten, a dance and music specialist, also from the Bay Area Arts Project provided joyful music-making, aligned to literature.

Laura Sherman and Claudia McCarthy, Kaiser's music specialist, also gave lessons on integrating dance and music into science and math.

Renaie Briggs, our band and computer teacher, has been working to make a flow of the arts with the fourth and fifth graders. The students will get to experience training with a musical instrument, science, P.E. and Art as part of a "wheel" of instruction and will not have to be pulled out of math, social science or language arts/reading to learn to play an instrument.



We look forward to an art infused year allowing everyone the opportunity for creative expression.

By Margaret Yang, third grade teacher

Gardening for this year!

Dear Gardening Volunteers,

This year we will be gardening after school (3:15-5:00) on the second and last Fridays of the month. We've moved to twice a month to allow more people the pleasure of volunteering- not to get twice the work from our regulars!

So, the first Friday gardening will be on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.

Also, the PTA has scheduled 3 Saturdays for school beautification. They are: Sept. 10, March 18, and April 22 (Earth Day).

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Janan and Tom



Calling all 10 and 11 year old Girls!

The Oakland Soccer Club "Cheetahs!" is looking for 5-8 girls who are interested in playing soccer this fall. The mission of our team is to fine tune our skills, learn good sportsmanship, enjoy the sport in a less competitive environment, and above all we play to have fun!

Our first practice is Thursday, Sept. 1 and games begin later this month. For more information, please contact Trish Dolan Wittmer (Salina's mom) at 510-222-3220 or trisha_wittmer@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Kaiser PTA Page

BACK TO SCHOOL, PTA MEETING on SEPTEMBER 14TH

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

Anyone ready to assist?

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

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

- 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

Editorial Section

Why Hurricane Katrina is important to Kaiser

Everyone except Hollywood knows that you can't stop a hurricane; and for that matter, there's not much better luck with tornadoes and earthquakes either. Natural catastrophes involve forces far beyond anything that we ourselves have ever invented or used safely.

The flip side of the coin is that whether preparing for or recovering from a natural disaster such as Katrina, we basically have to rely on using a man-made force that is just as possibly overwhelming except when used with extreme care.

That force is the result of very powerful "chemistry" or blending – of beliefs, tolerance, and knowledge that add up to caring. Call it *politics*, *ethics* or *faith* – but in every flavor it is the reason behind why the right things get done at the right time for people, *or do not get done*, as we have seen so horrifyingly in the last few days.

The Kaiser community of caregivers, educators and children exists to both teach and support all of its members in the task of blending beliefs, tolerance and knowledge into caring -- to make better futures. But much of our life learning comes from outside of our own community, and very much of it comes by way of example.

As we go through witnessing the vast problems and solutions of the recovery from Katrina, many example lessons will appear, but one major lesson will be painfully evident – the ultimate value of what we believe, tolerate and know is in what we decide to do with it for the quality of each other's lives.

Malcolm Ryder

Power in Numbers...

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX (API) for Kaiser = 852

The Academic Performance Index (API) summarizes a school's test scores into a single number.

The base API is calculated using each school's test results from the California Achievement Test (grade 3) and from the California Standards Test administered to second through fifth graders.

The API calculation gives schools more credit for increasing the scores of low-scoring students than for raising the scores of students who are already at or above grade level. The goal of the API is to raise the performance of **all students** to grade level or above on the tests (Proficient or Advanced).

The state creates the API ranks, which range between 1 and 10 (10 is the highest) by comparing each school's test scores with other schools in the state at the same grade level. The Similar Schools Rank compares only schools whose students have similar demographics.

While it is great that Kaiser made significant improvement again this year, this test compares *grade by grade*, rather than measuring the growth of each student. We do focus our intervention efforts on the students who are struggling, but in no way do we want **ONLY** to bring up the scores of the kids below the basic level.

We want to make learning fun and intriguing, so that all students will be engaged in the educational process and continue to broaden their knowledge and challenge themselves to greater levels of exploration, most of which isn't even measured by test scores.

Math Facts and Multiplication Practice

As the new school year gets underway, it might be time to brush up on math facts and multiplication practice.

Last year, every 3rd grader made it into the One Minute Club as did most of the 4th and 5th graders.



When Ms. McLane's Multiplication Club starts up again (later this fall) we'll be expanding all the way to 12X12. Please sit down with your student to try out these sites:

Learning Multiplication Step-by-Step
<http://www.multiplication.com/teach.htm>

Math Facts
http://mathforum.org/library/drmath/sets/elem_addition.html