



# Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

## School and Community Newsletter October 25th

### Note from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

Lots of excitement at Kaiser right now! The children are watching the “mountain climbers” climb to the top of the PTA membership mountain, each one representing one of the classes. Mrs. Bailey’s class is in the lead right now! In addition, the Sally Foster fundraising envelopes are being returned and some of our families really went to town obtaining orders from their business colleagues. Thank you, thank you.

And with all this excitement comes the anticipation of the November 5<sup>th</sup> auction. Andrea Nobles is busy encouraging families to donate services or items to the auction. With just two weeks left, it is imperative that the donations be received and logged in so the auction booklet can be printed. This evening is bound to be a lot of fun with a silent and live auction as well as music for dancing. I can’t wait to put on my dancing shoes!!

This week is our biannual parent-teacher conference week. Report cards do not come out until the second week in December, but our staff will share with you the progress that each child is making and how we can work together to support each and every child in our school.

Last week a book and CD was sent to me entitled, Leadership on Purpose: Promising Practices for African American and Hispanic Students. Kaiser was one of eleven schools in this initial state-wide study made by WestEd in 1999. At the time our school was ranked sixth in the state among schools with over a 50% African American student population. Last year I was invited to speak at a conference celebrating the Brown vs Board of Education decision, which was sponsored by the NAACP. Four of us were asked to talk about the strategies that we practice to assure that our students of color continue to score so much higher than the state mean. At the time of the study, our scores were 714, and they have risen to 852, keeping us in the small group of schools which continue to be studied by WestEd and Fortune & Associates. Grass Valley Elementary in Oakland, with a considerably higher proportion of African American students, is also a focal point of the study of successful strategies.

Our key success is the open and on-going communication that we have with our families. We know we are part of an exciting partnership and we honor your commitment to making education such a high priority in your family’s life. Our children leave Kaiser with the confidence of knowing that they are capable of achieving their goals and that they can handle social and emotional challenges because of their strong sense of self.

Don’t forget- Picture Day is Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>! Students will have individual pictures and a group picture taken and parents should be sure to return the order forms with your children on Tuesday.

**Katie**

# Getting In The Know

## ALTERNATIVE CELEBRATION FOR OCT. 31<sup>ST</sup>

For those families wishing to have an alternative celebration to the traditional Halloween assembly/party/parade, Tracy Levy is willing to help coordinate the activity, but needs some additional "grown up" help. Parents will be encouraged to donate healthy snacks and should sign up in the office or by emailing Tracy at [leejoelevy@aol.com](mailto:leejoelevy@aol.com).

We are most appreciative to Tracy for providing this alternative to families!!

## An Evening in Tuscany

**Countdown: only 12 Days Left!**

Tickets: \$25 per person, childcare \$25 per child

Registration and Childcare forms: available from the Kaiser Elementary office or from the school web site at: <http://www.kaiserelementaryschool.com/getinvolved/auction2005.html>.

Donations: submit no later than Friday October 28th; Forms are on the Kaiser website. Also:

Information/donations: **Andrea Nobles**  
(510) 326-5078 or [aynobles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aynobles@sbcglobal.net).

## Your Sally Foster Orders – On the Way!

The Sally Foster fundraiser has ended; the last order forms were taken October 19. Thank you for all your support in making this a successful fundraiser. The orders will be ready to pick up the week of Nov. 29th.

## 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

**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](mailto:cara_eva@hotmail.com) and [kbradley@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kbradley@ix.netcom.com)

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Oct 24-28 Monday - Friday	MINIMUM DAYS - Parent/ Teacher conferences
Oct 25 Tuesday	PICTURE DAY - Individual and Group
Nov 5 SATURDAY	Kaiser Auction/Dance 
Nov 8 Tuesday	

## Kaiser Related Event Notes

DATE/TIME	NOTES:
Nov 5 Saturday 6pm - midnight	<b>Kaiser Auction / Dance</b> The Linen Life Gallery 1375 Park Ave. Emeryville, CA 94608
Nov 11-14	<b>Cody's Bookstore Benefit Daze!</b> 2454 Telegraph Ave., and 1730 Fourth St. in Berkeley, and 2 Stockton St. at Market in San Francisco. Their website is <a href="http://www.codysbooks.com">www.codysbooks.com</a>

## How to use the Kaiser School Website

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!!

# Minimum Days Week: Info

## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 24-28

**Parent-teacher conferences will take place during the week of Oct. 24-28.  
Please read this if your child is signed up for after-school activities at Kaiser!**

**EVERY DAY WILL BE A MINIMUM DAY, SCHOOL LETTING OUT AT 1:25PM.**

Here is an update of what will happen with the after school programs during that week.  
Please refer to this, as some of the information may be different than that which was printed on the initial flyers.

### **MONDAY**

- MAD SCIENCE will meet in the usual place (Kindergarten classroom) from 1:30-2:30. **(See Page Bottom!)**
- Piano lessons with Marilyn Marsh – no classes currently scheduled for Mondays.

### **TUESDAY**

- Miracle Chorus (OYC) will meet on the stage in the multi-purpose room. K-2 will meet from 1:30-2:30; grades 3-5 will meet from 2:30-3:30.
- Piano lessons with Laura Sherman will meet in the usual place (Kindergarten classroom); lesson times will be moved up to accommodate the earlier dismissal time. Please speak directly with Laura about your child's specific lesson time.

### **WEDNESDAY**

- **ALL WEDNESDAY CLASSES WILL MEET AT THEIR REGULAR TIMES & LOCATIONS.**

### **THURSDAY**

- Jazz band will be CANCELLED this week.
- Piano lessons with Marilyn Marsh will meet in the usual place (Kindergarten classroom); lesson times will be moved up to accommodate the earlier dismissal time. Please speak directly with Marilyn about your child's specific lesson time.

### **FRIDAY**

- African Dance will meet in the usual place (multi-purpose room). K-2 will meet from 1:30-2:15; grades 3-5 will meet from 2:15-3:00.

**As always, please pick your children up promptly at the end of class,  
or make other arrangements for their supervision.**

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679 or [katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net).**

#### **NEW SESSION OF MAD SCIENCE NOW ENROLLING!**

A new session of Mad Science will begin on November 7th and run through December 12th. Please see the attached flyer for more information and a registration form. Please do not turn in registration materials to the office here at Kaiser; registration must be sent directly to the Mad Science offices. Questions? Contact Katy DeVecchi 336-9679 or [katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net).

**COUNTDOWN!  
Only 12 days left!**



# Your Kaiser PTA - News and Reminders

## **PTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** aims to Climb to the top of the Mountain!

The class that signs up the highest percentage of PTA members gets a climbing trip to Ironworks climbing gym! So, strap on that harness and get climbing. Along with becoming a member you will also receive a membership card and a school directory.

Only parents and faculty can help the kids do this.

Single parent family \$ 7.00 Two parent family \$ 14.00

### **Forms are available in the office.**

Have your check ready made out to Kaiser PTA.  
Include your child's name and teacher.

- Kelly & Cindy

**Check out the climbers on the "Mountain" in the front lobby to see how your class is doing in the Membership Drive!**



## **A great website for parent information!**

<http://www.greatschools.net//modperl/go/ca?fceid=20051010pa>

In This Newsletter: here's an overview.

- \* Bright Ideas: Cell Phones
- \* Share Your Ideas: Fundraisers
- \* Ready for Kindergarten?
- \* October Parent Poll
- \* NetDay
- \* GreatSchools Grade-by-Grade
- \* Parent Reviews

### **Is your child in kindergarten through third grade?**

Keep your child on track in the classroom, with advice from experts and ideas for learning projects. Sign up for separate editions by grade level: My Kindergartner, My First-Grader, My Second-Grader and My Third-Grader.

Learn more here <<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/newsletters/ca?email=catherine.mclane@secmail.uo.sd.k12.ca.us&fceid=20051010pa>> .

***eScrip merchants have donated \$1,830.63 to Kaiser Elementary School PTA in the past year!***

## **When you shop with your Macy's Card, you can:**

- 1. Provide 2-6% FUNDING** for your school
- 2. Earn 10% Rewards** plus donate to charities in your community when you enroll in our Thanks For Sharing program.\*

\*Some exclusions apply. See in-store brochure or visit [macys.com](http://marketing.escrip.com/rd/9z1z414crhjdlkphqcolhtg05bumkqt4i5ue1rka8)  
<<http://marketing.escrip.com/rd/9z1z414crhjdlkphqcolhtg05bumkqt4i5ue1rka8>> for details.

Signing up online takes about 5 minutes.  
Just go to the Kaiser website and click on register with eScrip:  
<http://www.kaiserelementaryschool.com/getinvolved/escrip.html>

or click here: <http://www.escrip.com/>

The name of the group to support is:  
**Kaiser Elementary School PTA**  
Our zip code is **94618**

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

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

Room Parent: Katherine Fratti  
Site Safety/Environment: **Janice Murphy**  
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

**AUCTION  
COUNTDOWN!**  
*Only 12 days left!*



# Harvest Season !!

From City of Oakland Parks & Recreation News  
<http://www.oaklandnet.com/parks/news/122602a.asp>

Posted in the Oakland Tribune  
on Thursday, December 26, 2002  
Written by Jennifer Carnig, Oakland Tribune Staff Writer

## Tap Tap Tap Da Dum Dum

Oakland resident Pope Flyne's legs envelope a massive drum while his hands beat out a strong rhythm, his feet stomping in time. Dried seeds shake on one ankle and bells jingle on the other, as the music begins to tell a story thousands of years old from a land half-a-world away.

Flyne, 54, is originally from Ghana. When the master drummer relocated to Oakland 15 years ago, he brought with him the knowledge of that country's traditional celebration of the harvest.

They learn West African dance, sing nursery rhymes in various African languages and listen to history and cultural lessons from the African continent.

On this particular day, the students practice a harvest dance called "Le Le Lawole Tiakoua" to correspond with Kwanzaa's official start. Girls leap through the air with their arms pinwheeling and their eyes raised to the heavens.

"It's a harvest festival dance from the Nzemah, a Ghanian tribe," Flyne explains. It's a Nzemah tradition to see a tribal elder with your problems and allow him to help guide you. If you're having hardships in your marriage, for example, you'd see the elder for guidance. At the end of the meeting, he'd give you a pebble. You're supposed to keep the pebble close to you and "tell it all of your problems and worries," Flyne says.

**In September or October, when the harvest begins,** members of the tribe gather for seven days to celebrate the fruit of their labor. On the final day of the holiday, everyone marches with the elders in a huge procession toward the ocean.

"You speak your problems out loud and wave the pebble around your head in three circles," Flyne says. "Then you throw it in the sea. You now have a fresh start."

His students enact this age-old tradition in dance as Flyne plays the drum. They wave their hands over their heads and move their hips and bellies explosively to the music. As they dance, it's clear that their problems seem to melt away.



From Tuscanjourney.org  
<http://www.tuscanjourney.org/events-in-tuscany/september-the-month-of-the-vendemia/>

## September - the month of the Vendemia: Grape harvest in Tuscany

Hello valued readers,

The torrid temperatures of August are beginning to recede in front of the first cool days of early Autumn, which are some of the best for visiting Tuscany. Even though there might be very hot days in September, high temperatures rarely go above 30°C (86°F), while the lows are well within the comfort zone above 15°C (59°F).

This is month of vendemmia, and the centuries-old tradition of wine making in Tuscany, land of Chianti and Brunello, makes the harvest of grapes a very special time of the year in Tuscany, today just has it has been for centuries.

The Settembre Gaiolese is the first of celebrations dedicated to wine and wine-making, on 4 and 5 September in Gaiole in Chianti. This is followed by the IX Rassegna from 10 to 12 September in the center of Chianti - Greve in Chianti. On the same dates there is also a wine-tasting occasion in San Gusme'. Still in the Chianti area there is the Festa Vino al Vino in Panzano from 16 to 18 September, and the Festa dell'uva - del vino e prodotti enogastronomici in Rufino, in Valdarno near Florence from 23 to 26 of the month. Among these, not to be missed is the Festa dell'uva - or the Feast of grapes, which features an ancient competition among allegorical floats to select the most spectacular one. Each rione or city district competing, has open air dinners open to all (except maybe the competition) the evening before, characterized by local specialities and great quantities of Chianti wine.

Some of the younger readers in search of inspiration and life experience might find it interesting that it is possible to work as grape-picker in the fields. The official version is that you need an Italian work permit, but often there are au pair-like arrangements, where your work is traded for food and lodging. My personal experience is that of a very gratifying, albeit tiring, period. Long beautiful days in the open working the land, it was fascinating to find myself in the middle of a scene that I'd seen depicted on mediaeval miniatures and which has been repeated year after year since.

In western Tuscany in Lucca, closer to the sea, there is a festival not to be missed - the Settembre Lucchese, rich in musical, cultural and folk events, and yet more. It's certainly one of the most beautiful celebrations in the region in one of the region's most beautiful and historical cities.

- Damiano Andeini

# Kaiser Neighborhood Resources

## Enroll Now for Classes and Lessons at The Oakland Public Conservatory of Music!

This new non-profit community music center will open its doors on October 17<sup>th</sup> for Group and Private lessons for all: Children, Youth and Adults!

Enroll and pay online and receive a 10% discount Study with some of the Bay Area's finest music educators! (To learn more about our faculty please visit our website!)

Fall Group Classes Include:

- \*Afro-Cuban Rumba-----Yaya Iluminado Maldonado
- \*Afro-Caribbean Percussion-----Hector Lugo
- \*Youth Jazz Ensemble-----Angela Wellman
- \*Jazz Combo-----Mark Wright
- \*Jazz Studies-----Angela Wellman
- \*Jazz for Strings-----Sandi Poindexter
- \*360 Degrees of Jazz Drumming-----Babatunde Lea
- \*Blues Piano (Beginning and Intermediate Levels)------Bill Crossman
- \*Blues and R&B Guitar-----Chris Planas
- \*Zimbabwean Mbira-----Russ Landers
- \*Marimba of the Zimbabwean Tradition-----Russ Landers
- \*Music Styles of the World for Guitar-----Chris Planas
- \*Zimbabwean Dance-----Julia Chigamba
- \*Beginning Musicianship/Music Theory-----Allan Crossman
- \*Vocal Lab-----Angela Dean-Baham
- \*Doo-Wop Vocal Group-----David Glover
- \*Steel Pans-----Cannon Hernandez
- \*Low Strings Ensemble-----David Arend
- \*Improvisation for Strings-----India Cooke
- \*Beginning Violin-----India Cooke
- \*Turntableism-----Willie Adams

Private Lessons In:

Brass---trumpet, trombone or tuba  
Woodwind---flute, clarinet or saxophone  
Strings---violin, viola, cello or bass  
Piano Voice Percussion-styles and instruments from around the world!

To learn more about OPCMusic and how to enroll go to:  
[www.opcmusic.org](http://www.opcmusic.org)

## Events at Rockridge Library NOV / DEC

Hello Parents, Teachers, and Students, I hope to see you all in Rockridge Library sometime during November, as we have a special activity for Children's Book Week: We need critical minds to recommend books for our Rockridge Readers' Choice Awards! We've also got a special show coming up. Get the details below. And of course, we'd love to see you at our regular story times!

FOR CHILDREN:

### Toddler Story Times:

1st & 2nd Saturdays at 10:30am: 5 & 12 November, 3 & 10 December

### Pre-School Story Times:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30am: 2 & 16 November, 7 & 21 December

### Pajama Story Times:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm: 8 & 22 November, 13 December. (There will be no story time on December 27th.)

### Special Events for Kids and Families:

#### NOVEMBER

\* Active Arts performs "Two-Minute Tales" for Children's Book Week, 2005, on Saturday, November 12th, at 3:00pm. Well-known folk and fairy tales performed with much humor, especially for children ages 3 to 9. Free!

\* 2005 Children's Choice Book Awards at Rockridge  
From November 1st through 14th, kids can nominate books for awards in a variety of categories...and then during Children's Book Week, they can vote to choose the winners. Pick up a nomination form before November 14th, 2005, at the Rockridge Branch Library's Children's Desk, and return for a ballot between November 15th and 19th. The Awards Ceremony will take place during Pajama Story Time on November 22nd, at 7:00pm. All ages welcome! Ask Erica for more details. 597-5017.

#### IN THE GALLERY:

November: Edith Yu; Abstract Watercolors

December: Chris Jennings; Photography

#### IN THE DISPLAY CASE:

November: Harlan Conti; Archival Photography

December: Kwanzaa display

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)

