



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

School and Community Newsletter November 1st

Note from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

Today, as I drove over the Bay Bridge on my way to see “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” I became really frustrated by the many signs that used incorrect grammar or punctuation. Now, my staff will tell you that I can become a crazy person when I see the print world reflecting so many errors. How will our children know what is correct when they are bombarded with misspellings and grammatical errors?

For instance: “Construction Zone/Drive Safe”... The correct adverb is Safely! “Thank’s for giving us your business!” (I sent a letter to the corporate headquarters asking that they reprogram the message on the gas meter.) “Just \$200 move’s you in!” is on a new apartment development along the freeway. I used to think our society had a bad case of “apostrophe-itis” when it came to plurals, but it looks like any word that ends in an “s” automatically calls for an apostrophe these days. Sad!

Some of you have asked for some websites that can be used to reinforce grade level work and I’ll start with www.eduplace.com/kids and the “Grammar Blast” game at all grade levels. Math can be found at www.harcourtbrace.com and reading at www.sraonline.com

Thanks to all of you who have been so busy selling paper goods, getting a membership in the PTA, coming in for your parent-teacher conference, donating auction items, driving on field trips, etc. You are the most incredible group of involved parents.

A couple of other things you could do to help: 1) If your child is having a birthday party, please either include the whole class, or mail the invitations to individual students. There is always drama surrounding those that didn’t get included; 2) RETURN the clothes that we send your child home in when there has been an accident; and 3) send in some used or outgrown pants, underpants and socks to help us with these emergencies.

We have a holiday on Veteran’s Day, November 11th, and some of us will be at school working on our California Distinguished School nomination form. We would welcome input from any of our parents who might like to review the work in progress.

We are attaching a checklist for you to have at home to prepare your families for emergencies such as earthquakes. The Red Cross published this one, but there are probably many others. It’s a good idea to do a practice run with your entire family as to where each member would go in your home. We will send home info about school evacuation plans next week.

Be careful tonight as you and the children “Trick or Treat.” Be sure to brush teeth thoroughly after eating the candy!

Katie

**AUCTION
COUNTDOWN!**
Only 4 days left!



Getting In The Know

An Evening in Tuscany

Countdown: only 4 Days Left!

Tickets: \$25 per person,

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

Donations: deadline was Friday October 28th...
Childcare registrations: closed. (All slots taken)
Information/Questions: **Andrea Nobles**
(510) 326-5078 or aynobles@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. Cost is \$62 for a 5-week session. Flyers went home with last week's Pink Panther; you may also download flyers and registration forms from our website (www.kaiserelementaryschool.com). Questions? Contact Katy DeVecchi 336-9679 or katvhunterd@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

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

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY

EVENT

Nov 5
SATURDAY



Kaiser Auction/Dance

Nov 8 Tuesday



Kaiser Related Event Notes

EVENT

NOTES:

Kaiser's 31st Auction/Dance

**Nov 5 Saturday
6pm - midnight**

Childcare registration is now filled.
Auction will be held at:
The Linen Life Gallery
1375 Park Ave.
Emeryville, CA 94608

BEFORE YOU VOTE: 

Nov 8 Tuesday

Ask the tough questions about Props 74, 75 and 76! Support our teachers' ability to support themselves and our kids...

Cody's Bookstore Benefit Daze

Nov 11-14

Store locations:
2454 Telegraph Ave., and 1730 Fourth St. in Berkeley, and 2 Stockton St. at Market in San Francisco. Their website is www.codysbooks.com

How to use the Kaiser School Website

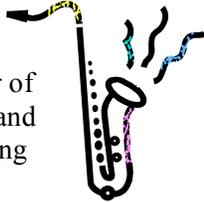
For our public information, be sure to visit and browse www.kaiserelementaryschool.com and to participate in the school community group go to, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/ and join!!

Celebrations This Week

Countdown: *only 4 days* left before we put on our dancing shoes and dance, dance, dance, dance.

The **"Evening in Tuscany"** will be filled with magic as we *dine on Italian cuisine, delectable salads, and delicious desserts.*

We will enjoy **live entertainment** by Herbert Mims, Jr., instructor and director of the College of Alameda small ensemble and jazz improvisation group. And the evening will catch us all swaying to the music as **the DJ** spins one of our favorite songs.



There will be **an array of auction items to bid on**, from a one-of-a-kind hand blown paper weight, to kids classes, get away retreats, soothing massages, designer wear, and "Rare Moments" taken in Africa.



Registration	5:30 - 7:30
Silent Auction	6:00 - 8:00
Appetizers served	5:45 - 6:45
Dinner served	7:00 - 7:30
Dessert served	7:30 - 8:00
Live Auction	8:00 - 9:00
Check Auction	9:00 - 10:00

Head Over Heels: registrations are closed. The kids will be creating magic and memories of their own as they jump, run, twirl, and swing. Your child is allowed to bring a sleeping bag for comfort as they transition into movie time (optional). Note: if you did not fill out the waiver, you must complete it upon arrival or your child will not be able to participate.

- 5:30 - 6:30Arrival
 - 6:30 - 7:00.....Dinner
 - 7:00 - 9:00.....group classes, circuit training, lots of fun
 - 9:00 - 9:30prepare for movie and snack
 - 9:30 - 12:00.....movie time
- (All children must be picked up by midnight)

Designated Driver:

The Emeryville Police are aware of and comfortable about our event. Please drink responsibly and have a date that will take the lead and drive.

Champagne Anyone?

Please note that there will be no exchange of monies at the bar. You must show your bidder number to obtain a beverage of choice. A donation of \$3 will be applied to your bidder number per beverage. A donation of \$5 will be applied for the premium Rosenblum Chateau La Paws red wine varietal.



AUCTION Volunteers!

Calling on all volunteers.

Please contact

Katherine Fratti @ (510) 555-1111

There are various areas where we could use your assistance.

COUNTDOWN!
Only 4 days left!



Oakland Museum of California presents

CaliVera: Days of the Dead Altars Remixed

The 12th annual celebration of Dias de los Muertos (Days of the Dead).

In this year's presentation-CaliVera: Days of the Dead Altars Remixed-guest curator Jaime Cortez and the artists explore how this ancient Mexican and Central American spiritual tradition honoring the dead has inspired artistic expressions unique to California's spirit.

Through December 4, 2005.

First Fridays After Five - November

Friday, November 4, 5p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Dias de los Muertos exhibition gallery talks

Artists will give talks about their altars at 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7 p.m. in Art Special Gallery.

Oakland Museum of California is located at

10th and Oak Streets, one block from the Lake Merritt BART station.

All of the museum's programs are included with admission, but seating is limited.

General admission:

\$8 adults;
\$5 seniors and students with i.d.;
free under 6 and OMCA members.

For more information please visit

www.museumca.org <<http://www.museumca.org/>>

Comings... and Goings...



WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE NEW CHILDREN

Our community continues to grow and our latest arrivals have come from Sudan, via Australia. The two girls were welcomed by their new classmates and they seem to be acclimating very well!

DROPPING THE KIDS OFF IN MORNING AND AFTERNOON

Our thanks to Sharon Pitre, grandmother of Kemonni and Donzinaya Pitre, for helping our ever-efficient staff every morning in the circle. They are requesting that all parents pull up to the front of the auditorium to let the children off, so that there aren't as many children running out of cars near the flower gardens.

This works much better for the flow of traffic. Robin Sasada, our incredible administrative assistant, asks that the same procedures be followed in the afternoon for pick-up. Thank you!

97% ATTENDANCE RATE FOR OCTOBER

Unfortunately, the flu bug hit our campus and we had more absences this past month. Only two children missed a number of days due to family issues that kept them out of school.

Sometimes, it's the car that gets sick, not the student...Please let us know ahead of time and we can try to find a ride from another parent if your car breaks down.

And Speaking of Rides... →→→



AMY HARUYAMA SCORES A DOUBLE COUP!

Just after Amy was hired this summer, she applied for a lottery that would allow our first, second and third graders to go to the Monterey Bay Aquarium for the day in May 12th. We were selected and that meant that there would be no admission charges or tour charges for the trip. The next challenge was getting funding for the buses! Lo and behold, through a friend of hers, she found out about a science foundation that supports programs such as this, and she wrote the funding requests, had the grade level teachers sign, and on Friday, we received word that \$500 per bus was awarded. (The cost of the buses is usually prohibitive- \$673, so we only need to raise the difference.)

Thanks, Amy, for your hard work!!

Your Kaiser PTA - News and Reminders

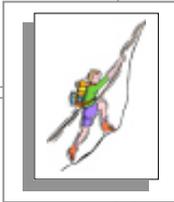
School Site Council Will Elect Alternate Position

Linda Pulido Esquivel, mother of 5th grader Iris and parent of an incoming kindergartner, as well as former PTA president and Girl Scout leader, has offered to be the alternate member of the School Site Council for the 2005-2006 school year.

Linda brings history with her to the council and would be able to offer continuity when both Renato Almanzor and Karl Debro's terms finish up at the end of the year.

Other parents serving on the SSC are Yvonne White and Valorie Hutson (both of whom have young children as well as older siblings at Kaiser).

The next meeting of the SSC will be on Tuesday, November 15th, when we will hold the election for the alternate position and review the preliminary documents for the California Distinguished Elementary School nomination. The School Site Council is now meeting on third Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:15 in the Library. Everyone is welcome!



THE P.T.A. 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's name.

- Kelly & Cindy

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

- Who are the PTA officers? -

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

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

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.*

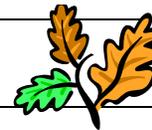
*Some exclusions apply. See in-store brochure or visit [macys.com](http://marketing.escrip.com) <<http://marketing.escrip.com/rd/9z1z414crhjdlkphqtqcolhtg05bumkqt4i5ue1rka8>> for details.

Signing up online for eScrip takes about 5 minutes.

Go to the Kaiser website; 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**



Holidays + TV + Kids = What?

There's a question that has a different "right" answer for different families. But in all cases, it's worth making sure that the parents answer the question in advance. The holiday season kicks off right about... NOW. As of only a few years ago, we knew that meant that TV broadcasters would be going into overdrive, because advertising would be going into overdrive. But with cable now being every bit as pervasive as the old networks, overdrive is the gear usually in use year-round...

This is one reason why researchers are often now more focused not on what kids watch but on how kids watch. Just as kids don't learn to read simply from being handed books, viewing chosen shows critically is something that has to be learned.

At holidays, if we're even more occupied than usual with things other than our kids, controlling their use of TV can be even tougher. And as Josh Meyrowitz, professor of communications at University of New Hampshire, described it:

"Parents used to be the channel through which children learned about the outside world... but TV presents the same information directly to children of all ages, without going through adult filters. TV takes our kids across the globe before parents give them permission to cross the street... Children don't necessarily understand everything that they see on television, but they are exposed to many aspects of the adult world that parents might not have decided to tell them about. "

http://www.medialit.org/reading_room/article59.html

Of course, one of the things this suggests to us parents is to be more decisive about what to let kids watch. But this can be a skill that kids can pick up too. Got a camera or crayons? The fastest way to introduce children to critical viewing is actually to have them make movies or picture books about "something they can relate to." This teaches them that using images to move from one idea in a story to the next idea requires making a lot of choices and might offer more than one result. As an example, storyboards string together the images that tell a story, but even more importantly they reveal that each of a story's key moments has been thought about and has a reason.

When parents ask kids to pick out their key moments from a show or movie, and ask how the images described the moments, kids can quickly become discriminating in a self-aware way. When kids discover that images have the job to represent the meaning of the story's moment, they start viewing critically instead of passively. The big payoff for parents comes with kids finding out that child-appropriate subject matter handled interestingly is more compelling than inappropriate subject matter handled sensationally.

Among other things, this means that we can use illustrated books to help kids develop better viewing habits. For our elementary school generation, visual savvy and media literacy will be not just a nice-to-have but a must-have for giving them the power to manage their way in our culture, as they grow older.

(Submitted by a parent. Your thoughts? Write us – Editors)

ON THIS DATE --- Pope Gregory III dedicated a chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter's to "All the Saints." All Saints Day is celebrated by Roman Catholics, the Orthodox, Anglicans, and Lutherans. However, because of their differing understandings of the identity and function of the saints, what these churches do on the Feast of All Saints differs widely. For Roman Catholics, the Orthodox, and to some extent, Anglicans, All Saints is a day to remember, thank God for, but also to venerate and pray to the saints in heaven for various helps. For Lutherans the day is observed by remembering and thanking God for all saints, both dead and living.

<http://users.rcn.com/tlclcms/saintori.htm>

Originally, Christians observed All Saints' Day on May 13. But in the eighth century, Pope Gregory III moved it to November 1.

Officially, the Church chose this new date to mark the papal dedication of a church honoring the saints. But many historians believe the Church really moved the observance to correspond with Samhain and other pagan fall festivals. The Catholic Church had a long-standing policy of incorporating non-Christian traditions into its holidays in order to bring people into the Catholic faith. This included moving the dates of Christian holidays to those of established non-Christian occasions. Many historians believe, for example, that the church set [Christmas](#) on December 25 so that it would correspond with pagan winter solstice festivals. <http://people.howstuffworks.com/halloween3.htm>

Events at Rockridge Library

Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Ave, Oakland CA 94618
510-597-5017 esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org

• 2005 Children's Choice Book Awards

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.