



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

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

## School and Community Newsletter November 8th

### Note from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

If you were not among the 176 family members and friends who attended the **Kaiser Auction** on Saturday, you have probably already heard about what an exciting event it was! Tremendous thanks to Andrea Nobles and her dedicated team of volunteers for throwing a fabulous party which will long be remembered!

We were greeted at the door by the welcoming committee who handed us our bidding numbers, handsome auction brochures (thanks to Nicole Blakely's dad) and a beverage tab. Walking into the main room of the Linen Life Gallery, we were met with the incredible music of Herbert Mims, Jr. and the College of Alameda Small Jazz Ensemble Improvisation who entertained throughout the evening until the live auction began.

A room filled with enticing silent auction items beckoned us. Our community worked diligently to provide a unique assortment of items ranging from Ipods to massages to special classroom projects. Katy deVecchi and Lisa Downes had fun on the count-down for the closing of each of the tables.

We then returned to the main room and sat at small tables, covered in linens with beautiful floral arrangements, courtesy of Bonnie Pearson, and reviewed our programs to see what we might be able to bid on for the live auction, led by the incredibly talented and charismatic Tom Rust.

Before the bidding began, we were treated to an array of delicious food prepared by Cynthia Thompson and her crew. Among the generous donors were Betsy and Tim Ports (seafood) and Michael Campbell (produce). No one would ever have known that there was no real kitchen in which to prepare food for 250 persons. Dennis Whaley knows how to run a bar!

After the live auction, an excellent DJ kept the music flowing and the dance floor was filled with Kaiser staff, parents and friends dancing and truly enjoying themselves.

Working extremely hard in the check-out area were Lynn Clay, Shawn Walker-Smith and Gail Elliot (who, along with her husband, prepared and served food in addition to attending to the financial aspects of the auction). Lesley Clark, Katharine Fratti, Andrea Nobles, and other volunteers were finding the purchased items and sending everyone home with a smile.

On another note, we are going to have an **emergency SSC meeting on Tuesday** afternoon at 4:00 to address the issues of equity that are included in our vision and values at Kaiser School. Equity has been a long-standing goal at Kaiser and we will discuss a recent challenge to our whole community and how we plan to address it.

**The Distinguished School** nomination form (26 pages) is being revised and we want you to respond to us in writing regarding the Vision and Values as well as the synopsis sheet that describes our school. Your input is critical to us!

**Katie**

# Getting In The Know

## KAISER SCHOOL HOSTING PARENT EDUCATION NETWORK (PEN)

A panel of Learning (Resource) Specialists will be gathered at Kaiser on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to discuss the following topics:

- Understanding your child's needs
- Assembling the support team
- Managing school-home-outside professionals
- Coordinating and monitoring success
- Creating a "fit" between child and school
- Investigating new schools in times of transition

The Program will be moderated by Jack Davis, Ph.D. who is a Neuroeducational Psychologist and Learning Specialist.



## 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
Nov 8 Tuesday	
November 9 Wednesday	Math Night 6 pm – pizza and drinks provided – a family event!
November 11 Friday	HOLIDAY – Veteran's Day
November 16 Wednesday	Harvest Festival
November 21-25 Monday – Friday	Thanksgiving Holidays – No School
December 2 Friday	Minimum Day

### *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 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!!

# Thank You for A Successful Fundraiser!

## *"An Evening in Tuscany" -*

Our community has done it once again! I am ecstatic to report that our records indicate that we exceeded our goal and raised over \$25,000 - Wow! The evening was magical, music phenomenal, food outstanding, and the dancing memorable. A heartfelt "Thank You" goes out to a magnificent auction committee that went beyond the call of duty, for their dedication, commitment, and time:

Auction Administrator.....Lyn Clay  
Bar.....Dennis Whaley  
Behind the Scenes.....Chris Debro  
Catering.....Cynthia Thompson  
Communications.....Eva Caraher & Kiki Bradley  
Catalog Cover & Posters.....Malcolm Ryder & Andrea Nobles  
Decorations.....Bonnie Pearson  
Dessert.....Gail Elliott & Eva Caraher  
Master of Ceremonies.....Tom Rust  
Volunteer Coordinator.....Katherine Fratti

and special gratitude for the host of volunteers and community supporters that made the evening possible:

Linen Life Park Avenue Gallery  
Herbert Mims Jr., & College of Alameda Small Jazz Ensemble Improvisation  
Head Over Heels  
Diversified Food Co.  
Semifreddis  
Pacific Brewing Co.  
Wells Fargo  
Alton Management Group  
Tim & Betsy Ports  
Sheri Vason & Family  
Nicol Blakely & Family  
Linda Pulido-Esquivel  
Katy Devecchi  
Lisa Downes  
Janice Murphy  
Amanda Wentworth (alumni)  
Monique Hooks (alumni)  
Kaiser Community at Large



Many hands working together can accomplish great things!! A common goal and defined purpose brought us all together for a great affair. It was an honor to serve as the 2005 Auction Chairperson. You all were fantastic! A "SPECIAL THANK YOU" goes to Katherine Fratti and Katie Devecchi for their tremendous assistance and organizational skills, your volunteerism is second to none.

*Ms. Andrea Y. Gibson-Nobles, Auction Chairperson*

# Kaiser Student Politics



## STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS- AND THE WINNERS ARE::

All of our students who participated in the elections were winners last Friday! Each candidate had a classmate nominate them and the speeches were terrific. Our third, fourth and fifth graders who participated in the voting had a difficult time choosing from among a terrific group of candidates.

Elected to President was Kindness Nwakudu from an excellent candidate pool which included Alistair Eeckman, Maiyah Phelps, Trevor Wilson, and David Suruki.

There is a run-off for Vice President. Alexis Carney and Alyssa Kunesh each moved ahead of the competition which included these competent young persons: Ella Pearson, Olivia Ports, Naomi Kushins, Slater Hitz and Maureen Murphy.

Marina Donaldson was elected to be Secretary of the Student Council and her talented competitors were Christina Bates and Maya Lopez.

The elected Treasurer is Nikki Tauch who ran against Aaron Elliot and Sophia Lee.

Some of the quotes from the speeches included the following:

“I love organizing...organizing things, supplies, activities and even people.” (Marina)

“Olivia will never lie or be mean to you. She likes to make jokes and be funny, but she makes sure she doesn’t accidentally hurt your feelings. If you don’t vote for her, at least tell her that she would have been good as a vice president.” (Campbell)

“I believe that having more student activities will create healthier student relationships. Sharing ideas and information will make our Kaiser community stronger. It is also my priority to make sure than our school community loves, feels safe and has fun.” (Maiyah)

I have many fun ideas for our school, for example we could have a dance and give a donation for admission and then use the money we raised for our school, or a charity such as one for the recent hurricane victims. Also, a T-shirt/sweatshirt sale, a movie night, pancake breakfast, and aluminum can collections...” (Alyssa)

“I am very honest and do not like when people talk about other people behind their backs. I have been a conflict mediator for several years now and I will try to stop fights and arguments. I will tell students to always pick up their trash and I would support our school to continue being the kind of school where parents like their children to come to as Ms. McLane works hard for that purpose too. Our principal and all of our teachers deserve applause because they do a lot for us.” (Kindness)

A number of speeches made references to the school lunches and there is a strong concern about them being warmer and healthier. We have passed our student concerns along to the Student Lunch program and indicated our willingness to try a salad bar.

# Your Kaiser PTA - News and Reminders

## School Site Council Will Elect Alternate Position

*Linda Pulido Esquivel*, mother of 5<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>**, when we will hold the election for the alternate position and review the preliminary documents for the California Distinguished Elementary School nomination.

## 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's name.

- Kelly & Cindy



We are going to have an **emergency SSC meeting on Tuesday November 8th afternoon at 4:00** to address the issues of equity that are included in our vision and values at Kaiser School. Equity has been a long-standing goal at Kaiser and we will discuss a recent challenge to our whole community and how we plan to address it.

All are invited to attend!

# For your input...

## *Draft Copy for your input !*

### SYNOPSIS OF HENRY J. KAISER, JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. School strives to provide a complete academic program in a stimulating and creative learning environment where all can feel respected, valued and safe. We seek to impart the necessary skills for student excellence and to produce well-rounded, reflective, socially-aware individuals. We value those qualities that cultures and races share, as well as those that make them unique.

Our school is an open enrollment school enriched with visual and performing arts. We attract students from all over Oakland. We are unique in the district in the way we bring together children and families from so many diverse backgrounds. We celebrate children from a broad range of economic classes, cultural and family backgrounds. What some see as special challenges we view as opportunities to build community. Our children learn by seeing our efforts to do this.

Our parents understand that their efforts to be inclusive and connected with each other provide youngsters with a valuable example. Parents volunteer regularly in the classrooms, chaperone on field trips, support classroom cultural events and “healthy snack” sales, help in the office and maintain a high visibility throughout the school. Their presence allows them to provide emotional and academic support for students and staff alike.

Our school size allows all staff to know all students. The responsibility for our 241 students is truly shared by all the faculty, staff and parent community. Our facilities are very crowded, but well maintained. There is rarely a moment when our eight classrooms, three portables, converted storage room, and a half-sized computer lab are unoccupied. The multi-purpose room is used continuously throughout the day for enrichment classes and Adventure Time (a private childcare company). Our lower yard has classroom garden beds and the upper yard is a play field. Our physical structure ensures that there is no anonymity at our school. We believe that being a known member of a community of learners is vital for emotional security and academic success.

At Kaiser, we believe that learning is developmental and children need a sustained, support system of parents, teachers and administration at critical junctures in their emotional, intellectual and physical development. We pride ourselves in keeping open lines of communication among these partners.

Our Arts and Humanities focus emphasizes branches of learning that include literature, history, mathematics, dance, music and fine arts as well as integration of these disciplines. In addition to Open Court (literacy) and Harcourt Brace (math), the children engage in thematic projects in the humanities that are open-ended and provide opportunities for “values” education. The key dynamics in a Kaiser education include hands-on involvement in academic and social problem-solving, critical and creative thinking. The diverse makeup of Kaiser promotes cross-cultural familiarity and friendships, as well as positive social attitudes. In the end, the environment at Kaiser helps solidify these attitudes and contributes to a community of well-adjusted citizens who are able to interact positively and productively with people of all backgrounds.

# For your input...

## *Draft copy- for your input!*

### HENRY J. KAISER, JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Vision and Values

#### Vision

Kaiser School provides an arts-enriched academic program where all students, families and staff feel respected, valued and safe. Our students achieve academic excellence and become well-rounded, reflective, socially-aware individuals.

#### Values

- **The best environment** for children is one which is emotionally warm, physically accessible, and respectful of the broader natural world.
- We celebrate children from all of Oakland's neighborhoods, socio-economic levels, diverse family structures and cultural backgrounds.
- Affirming diversity leads to academic excellence for all.
  
- As a **public school of choice** we thrive on a high level of parent commitment.
- Our family spirit encourages all adults to actively care for all children.
- Staff and families work closely to provide an exciting learning environment.
  
- **A complete education** goes beyond minimum core curriculum to include developing the whole child with experiences in social growth, the arts and self awareness.
- An infusion of the visual and performing arts in the core curriculum helps students to reach academic success and to become caring and productive human beings.
  
- **Good teaching** builds on children's life experiences, and then extends them into realms of new wonder.
- Our staff of life-long learners engages in inquiry and dialogue to continually improve instruction.

# For Your Information...

## The Importance of Vision and Mission

There's a famous saying that, paraphrased, goes "If you don't know where you're going, it doesn't matter how you get there."

Our economy is so driven by shareholders. Every day we see in all different news media that business is the barometer for whether we think the near future will be easier or harder on ourselves and our loved ones. And we watch how decisions of profound social impact are made around shareholder's interests.

But all the more reason to pay special attention to the ways that we invest in organizations other than businesses! Sure, business success might help the standard of living. But the more we think about the *Quality of Life*, the more we realize that we want it to be high no matter what the economy brings. Seeking and committing to our opportunities for greater quality of life is where our community institutions come in –cultivating the many ways that we socially enrich each other.

Whether an organization is "for profit" or "not-for-profit", everyone who makes the organization run or who counts on it for benefits is a **stakeholder**. The hallmark of successful organizations is that the people who keep it alive know what difference it makes that the organization is alive and well in their lives. How do they know?

That's where Vision and Mission come in. For most of us, we work with it mainly through the leaders that we choose and follow. Yet we realize that all levels of leadership naturally and increasingly struggle -- with ways to be sure that our stake in the organization amounts every day to the benefits we hope to grow and share amongst ourselves. And this is the very idea of a "common wealth" -- which we find is never just given to us but is made by us.

So what is the recipe for a greater commonwealth? How do we know what it is and how to pursue it?

We see our commonwealth growing when our children get higher test scores through our teachers' diligence; when our auction/dance cultivates more contributions than expected; when the walls of the halls are plastered top-to-bottom with signs announcing our kids' motivation to lead, nestled amongst images and items from the many different corners of our imagination, our city, and our attention to the world.

In the midst of that, and throughout it, our school's Vision says what it is that we want to be. And the Values describe the paths that we know we want to take and depend on, to get there. In the Values, we directly see what difference our collective effort needs to make in our lives, and in the Vision we see how we are all stakeholders in the same way. That is where our "wholeness" becomes greater than the sum of our parts, and how as the Kaiser Community we distinguish our school as a special part of our life.