



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

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

School and Community Newsletter January 3, 2006

Note from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

What a wonderful holiday! No, I didn't get my thank you cards written yet, but I did help make a R2D2 birthday cake and a "pin the head on C3PO" for my grandchild's fifth birthday party. It was clear to me that the dads (average age 35) were totally into reliving their youthful encounters with the action figures from Star Wars. My youngest son went into my basement and rescued all the characters that he and his big brother had spent years collecting. Is there something about a cycle of thirty years for reintroducing a new generation to action figures and super heroes? It seemed like déjà vu as I watched not only the Star Wars, but the return of the Super Heroes (all Marvel comic book inspirations) and dear old Snoopy come back to life for another generation.

I know that a lot of you read about the possibility of a teachers' strike in the Tribune and Chronicle over the holidays. We all hope that it won't be necessary and that some fair agreement can be reached. Here is some information which may help you understand the process of negotiations:

The report of the fact-finder is due sometime this month and is an advisory opinion discussing the key unresolved issues. Once the report is presented to both sides, the district and the teachers' union must make one last ditch effort to reach an agreement within a ten-day period. The report remains confidential during that time period. If a new tentative agreement is reached during this period, it is presented to the OEA membership for vote. If no agreement is reached, the advisory report is made public. The fact-finding process concludes when the report is made public.

If no agreement is reached after the report, several things can happen: the district upon a resolution approved by the State Administrator could unilaterally implement its last best and final offer (in this case, the Tentative Agreement). The union leadership can call for a strike and, if a strike is authorized by the OEA membership, a strike can occur. The district and union can also reach agreement even after the report is public. Or, both sides could agree with the fact-finding report's recommendations.

The key unresolved issues were health benefits, elementary preparations, salary increases (or restoring the 4% taken away) and transfer-consolidation language and new schools creation flexibility language.

All of us realize that a strike can be disruptive to the educational process and it is my sincerest hope that it will not be necessary. We will continue to keep schools open in the event of a strike. Think positive thoughts and let the leadership of the district know that you are hopeful that the offer will be fair.

Katie

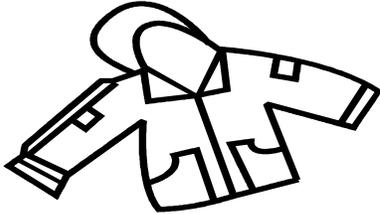
Getting In The Know

Thanks for All Those Coats!!

Thanks to the Kaiser community for the great donations to Girl Scouts Troop #1877 on behalf of our One Warm Coat annual drive.

We collected over 90 coats and sweaters which were donated to the East Oakland Recovery Center. The center, which takes care of Oakland's homeless had just discovered a new encampment and was grateful for the donations for the new families.

Thanks again for making our annual drive a success!!



KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
January 3 Tuesday	School Reopens – Welcome Back!
January 9 Monday	PTA Meeting 7-9pm
JANUARY 10 Tuesday	Informational Meeting at Kaiser: 5 th grade parents options for middle school
January 11 Wednesday	School Site Council 3:30 pm
January 16 Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. HOLIDAY – No School
January 27 Friday	Family Night Lunar New Year's Celebration

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS WINTER SESSION – SIGN UP NOW!!!

If your child wishes to continue with a class or join something new when school resumes in January, be sure to get those registration forms in as soon as possible! Winter session for most classes will start in January, but check the schedule for individual start and end dates, as they vary from class to class. The current session for all of our after-school classes will end before the winter holidays, so Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact Katy DeVecchi at katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net or call 336-9679.

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

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!!

Planning News for Kaiser Families

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS!

At this time of year, we often lose a couple of families who have chosen to move out of Oakland, and we also gain a few students. We count on our wonderful children and families to make them feel comfortable and welcome!

OPTIONS DAY ON JANUARY 7TH AT THE KAISER CENTER

All Oakland schools have been invited to participate in a school options fair from 9:00 to 3:00 on Saturday, the 7th of January. If there are families that plan to attend and would like to help staff our table, please let me know. I'll be there all day! Malcolm Ryder has agreed to develop an informational flyer and we'll have pencils to give away and we would love you to bring in some pictures that "speak" to what you think is special at Kaiser. Post them on the front bulletin board this week, if possible, and then we'll transfer them to a "traveling" PR show the first week after the break.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Did you send \$7.00 for food supplies and water?? Jay and Janice Murphy have done an incredible job of getting another container donated to us (from Kaiser Permanente) as well as many emergency supplies.

The PTA plans to shop for three days of food and water for your children, but needs to have a check made out to the PTA (tax deductible) by each family for each child.

Please help out as soon as you can!

ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN?!

We have been assured that all Oakland schools will have full-day kindergarten next year.

This will mean that we will be getting a portable at Kaiser -- BUT it will also mean that ***we will again have to move our "raised bed garden."*** We will need to pull together this Spring to make everything happen!

Kaiser School Contacts

Events at Rockridge Library in JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2006!

Hello Parents, Teachers and Students,

We wanted to make sure you know that the library is open during your winter break, with the exception of the dates listed at the end of this message. Stop by and pick up something to read or listen to at home or as you travel. Make a snowflake with us, while you're here!

Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year,
- Erica and Gay.

FOR CHILDREN:

Toddler Story Times:

1st & 2nd Saturdays at 10:30am: 7 & 14 January, 4 & 11 February.

Pre-School Story Times: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30am: 4 & 18 January, 1 & 15 February.

Pajama Story Times: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm: 10 & 24 January, 14 February.
(No story time on 28 February, see below.)

Special Events for Kids and Families:

JANUARY:

Come in and make snowflakes for our windows and your own!

We've got scissors, paper, folding guides, and scotch tape. You bring patience with yourself and an open mind. Free, drop-in, for all ages. Ask at the Children's Reference Desk.

FEBRUARY:

Come join us in celebrating African-American History Month, with Kalimba music by Carl Winters, the Kalimba King. The kalimba is an African instrument, played with thumbs, on which Carl Winters performs both African and American music. Free, for all ages. 7:00pm Tuesday, February 28th.

The library will be CLOSED on the following holidays:

Monday, 1/16/06

Monday, 2/13/06

Monday, 2/20/06

See you at the Library!

Erica Siskind
Children's Librarian
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