



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

School & Community Newsletter January 10, 2006

Message from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

What a weekend! Saturday was spent promoting Kaiser School and there is nothing I enjoy more. I cannot thank enough the small but mighty band of parents that helped me pull together a fabulous presentation for the Options Fair that was held last Saturday at the Kaiser Convention Center. Malcolm Ryder, with input from Katy deVecchi, Eva Caraher and Kim Carl, developed a very informational school flyer. Katy deVecchi produced two knock-out display boards which highlighted some of the activities that are offered at Kaiser. Renae Briggs updated the DVD and the power point presentation which played until the battery gave out on the laptop. In addition to Katy, Lisa Downes also helped at the information table, answering questions from a number of very interested parents.

What was particularly impressive was how many Kaiser families who were attending the fair also stopped by the table and shared their enthusiasm with other families. Almost everyone has heard about Kaiser from other Kaiser families and I thank all of you for your positive public relations skills!

Tuesday is "Principal for a Day" and we will be hosting Mike McDonald, who heads a construction firm. We never know who will be passing along the good word about Kaiser, but we definitely want as many people as possible to know about what is working here.

Also on Tuesday evening the fifth graders will be hearing from former students and their parents about some of the middle school options. We welcome any of our parents to join us on Tuesday at 7:00 in the auditorium. If you come at 6:30 you can see a fifth grade post-holiday play. Parents who have been visiting the middle schools will also be called upon to share their impressions.

Our fourth and fifth graders are all taking a musical instrument and we applaud the work of Renae Briggs and Claudia McCarthy who have helped make the program work, along with Bonnie Allen and our fourth and fifth grade teachers. Many other elementary schools are anxious to see or hear about this model in action. We are anxious to know how the parents of the 4th and 5th graders feel about the "wheel" as well, of course, to hear from the students. They certainly sounded wonderful at the winter assembly!

We are looking for volunteers to head the Asian Potluck and the African American Potluck. Please call the office if you would be willing to work on these. Our thanks to everyone for your ongoing support!

Katie

Getting In The Know

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!

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

Be sure to see the AfterSchool News Update Page in this week's Pink Panther!

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 another 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!



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
JANUARY 10 Tuesday	Jill's Holiday Play 6:30pm Informational Meeting at Kaiser: 5 th grade parents options for middle school 7pm
January 11 Wednesday	Indian Story Teller- Jeeva (friend of Diane Ferlatte) 10:45 (Assembly at 10:35) "It's A Family" training for Staff development 1:30 – 4:00 pm
January 16 Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. HOLIDAY – No School
January 17 Tuesday	Vision Screening K, 2 nd and 5 th Graders.
January 24 Tuesday (RESCHEDULED)	School Site Council 4 pm to 5pm
January 27 Friday	Family Night Lunar New Year's Celebration

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 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 Kids Support

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!



Back-up Transportation Needed

The grandparents of one of our first graders are anxious to find some back-up transportation from the area around Lake Merritt for their grandchild.

Please, if you would be willing to be on a back-up list in case the grandparents needed help getting DeJane to school one morning, we would very much like to hear from you and we will pass the word on to the Kidders. Thank you!!

Don't let the window of opportunity close ...



Did you know that...



Children are most receptive to learning foreign languages in elementary school??

Mandarin Chinese is rapidly becoming the foreign language of choice at schools across the US??

Chinese is spoken by one-fifth of the world's population and is seen as a strategic language to learn as globalization connects China to the rest of the world?

Kaiser now offers Beginning Mandarin Chinese after school on Mondays beginning January 23rd. A few spaces are still available but register soon. Class size is limited to 12 children.

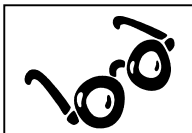
For additional information or registration forms, contact Kiki Bradley at kbradley@ix.netcom.com or 510-530-9396.

Vision screening Jan. 17th-

for all students in:

- Kindergarten,
- Second, and
- Fifth grades.

Other children may be referred for vision screening if you let Robin know before the 17th



HANNAH CALDWELL WINS "VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE MONTH" PRIZE

Congratulations to Hannah Caldwell, fourth grader, who won the "Volunteer Challenge" by logging in approximately 5-6 hours during the month of November. She is enrolled at Score and because she was the winner, she earned twelve books for our Kaiser Library. Part of her volunteer time was spent with the Junior Girl Scout troop's "One Warm Coat" project and the other part was helping her grandmother with a Kiwanis project which entailed going to the Dollar Store and collecting small items for underprivileged children.

Our thanks to the adults in Hannah's life who encouraged her to volunteer in the community. Our Girl Scout leaders Lesley Clark and Melissa Kunesh and to Maureen Caldwell and Joyce Muerer who encouraged Hannah to earn these points for our school.

January Arts

Events at Rockridge Library in JANUARY 2006!
(The library will be CLOSED on Monday, 1/16/06.)

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.

Erica Siskind, Children's Librarian, 510-597-5017 esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org
Rockridge Branch Library. 5366 College Ave, Oakland CA 94618



Kids Take the Stage presents *The Wizard of Oz*

The Alameda cast of Kids Take the Stage will be performing *The Wizard of Oz* this month at the Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Avenue in Alameda.

Ticket prices are: Adult (15+): \$20.00;
Youth/Senior (2-14 / 65+): \$10.00;
Children under 2 free.
Evening shows (7:30 – 9:30) on January 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and afternoon performances (2:00 – 4:00) on January 15 & 22.

Kids Take the Stage will be offering drama at Kaiser on Wednesday afternoons starting February 8. Kaiser students who sign up for the spring session of drama will be performing *Hansel & Gretel* in May.

To sign your child up for drama, or for tickets to *The Wizard of Oz*, visit www.kidstakethestage.com or call 864-7061.

THAT'S A FAMILY !

“That’s a Family!” is an entertaining documentary that breaks new ground in helping children in grades K-6 understand the different shapes families take today.

Children speak candidly about what it’s like to grow up in a family with parents of different races or religions, divorced parents, a single parent, gay or lesbian parents, adoptive parents or grandparents as guardians. This award-winning film stretches the minds and touches the heart of viewers of all ages.

The Kaiser staff is receiving training, which includes lesson plans to use with the video, suggestions for facilitating classroom discussion at different grade levels, and additional resources for teachers, families and children.

We will again show this film to interested parents in late January and we’ll begin implementing the program in February.

After School Program News Update

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.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact Katy DeVecchi at katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net or call 336-9679.

MONDAYS

CHINESE & MAD SCIENCE are both scheduled to start on January 23rd. There is still space in both classes. SIGN UP NOW!

JAZZ BAND is now on Mondays. They start this week (January 9). Call David Waugh at 325-3970 for details.

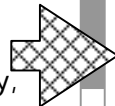
FRIDAYS

LEGO Engineering got off to a terrific start last week and there is still room for more students. Sign up now and the tuition will be prorated to account for the class you missed last week.

AFRICAN DANCE: If your child is enrolled in African Dance, **please read the following carefully**. To accommodate the large number of students who wish to participate in our most popular after-school program, the groupings have been changed. THIS WILL AFFECT FIRST & THIRD GRADERS who will be dancing at later times than were published on the flyer. The groups will be as follows:

GROUP 1 (Kindergarten): 3:00-3:40
GROUP 2 (1st & 2nd grade): 3:40-4:20
GROUP 3 (3rd, 4th, & 5th grade): 4:20-5:00

Supervision will be provided for groups 2 & 3 while they are waiting for class to start. First and second graders who are not enrolled in AT should go to the computer lab with Sonja Brooks; third, fourth and fifth graders who are not enrolled in AT should go to the upper field with Katy DeVecchi. **No supervision is provided for African dance students AFTER class**, however, so please pick up students promptly, even if they are waiting for an older sibling.



TUESDAYS

KAISER MIRACLE CHORUS is already underway, but it's not too late to join. Send your registration forms and payment to the OYC offices today!

TUESDAY SPANISH FOR GRADES 2-5 was CANCELLED due to lack of interest. If you have a child who will be in grades 2-5 next year and are interested in having them enroll in a Spanish program, please contact Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679 or katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net. If there is enough interest we can try again in the fall.

WEDNESDAYS

WEDNESDAY SPANISH FOR GRADES K-1 is fully enrolled with 8 students. The class meets in Ms. Gorham's room, Portable C. Apologies go out to those of you who were not able to secure a space in the class. Next fall I will try to add a second class for this age group.

CHESS: There were a lot more students in the chess classroom last week than there were on the roster. If you haven't yet sent in your registration form and payment to The Berkeley Chess School, please do so now!

DRAMA starts February 8. The spring performance will be Hansel & Gretel. Visit www.kidstakethstage.com or call 864-7061 to enroll.

Also, please note the new sign-out policy.

You must sign students out when picking them up from African Dance. The Adventure Time staff requests that parents do not enter the auditorium for this purpose, so someone will be in front of the multi-purpose room with the sign-out sheet. Thanks for your cooperation.