



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

### School & Community Newsletter January 17, 2006

#### Message from Principal Katie McLane

#### Dear Families,

If you've come into the main building recently, you've seen the banners honoring Asian Heritage and we invite all of our families to participate in the Potluck on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We also had a school-wide assembly featuring a story-teller from India (a part of Asia that we sometimes forget when discussing Asian cultures) visiting us last Wednesday. She is studying with Diane Ferlatte, one of our favorite storytellers who lives in Oakland, and they are exchanging ideas about their art of transmitting cultural tales and values from generation to generation.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday celebration will be extended into February when we honor him with our oratorical fest. You will receive information about the types of entries and we encourage individuals or groups to participate. The site fest will be in early February and then we will feature some of the entries at our African American potluck on February 24<sup>th</sup>, so that all of you can share in the celebration.

Last week we also had speakers from the middle schools come to visit with the fifth grade students and parents and never have parents had so many good choices! There are now 27 middle school choices for families- not including the charters that have popped up. They are competing with each other to attract students- a good thing! I want to urge all of you, whether you have fifth graders or not, to begin looking at the options out there. I have to admit that I worked in a school fifteen years ago (Edna Brewer) that had great kids, but the facilities were old and dirty. It wouldn't have been a place that I would have wanted my own kids to attend. That school has undergone a real transformation inside and out, thanks to modernization money and the hard work of parents, a staff led by a dynamic principal and the students have had a lot of input. It made me realize how vital it is to judge a school for yourself, not just by the reputation that someone who was there ten years ago might have relayed to you.

On my desk right now is a pile of haiku poems (5-7-5 syllables per line) which show how our kids can combine learning about current events, tie in the art of poetry and create with words a visual picture that is powerful.

|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Tsunami<br/>Water rising high<br/>Coming down on people low<br/>Left dead toe to toe<br/>-James Choyce</p>                                   | <p>Katrina<br/>Water took over<br/>The people lost everything<br/>No one came for help<br/>-Mikaela Briggs</p>                  | <p>Haiku<br/>Water rushing in<br/>People standing on rooftops<br/>Lives devastated<br/>-Christian Morgan</p>               |
| <p>Katrina<br/>Shot like an arrow<br/>Destroyed hopes, lives,<br/>homes and dreams<br/>And soon the storm left<br/>-Oluwasegun Nalls Agbeti</p> | <p>9-1-1<br/>Here a big loud sound<br/>Screaming, crying and in<br/>pain<br/>"Help, Help..someone help!"<br/>-Maiyah Phelps</p> | <p>Haiku<br/>The great water wall<br/>Comes crashing down<br/>on our town<br/>There is nothing left<br/>-Naomi Kushins</p> |

**Remember- There is a minimum day on Friday**, the end of the semester for secondary schools and the day that we analyze the progress of each child. It is the half-way mark!

**Katie**

# Getting In The Know

## MINIMUM DAY THIS FRIDAY, SO...

Check the **AfterSchool Programs** details

Due to the minimum day schedule this Friday (Jan. 20), the after-school programs will meet at the following times:

### AFRICAN DANCE

GROUP 1 (Kindergarten): 1:30 – 2:10

GROUP 2 (1st & 2nd grade): 2:10 – 2:50

GROUP 3 (3rd, 4th & 5th grade): 2:50 – 3:30

LEGO ENGINEERING: We are waiting to see if an instructor will be available to teach the class at this earlier time. Enrolled students will be notified via email about the plans for this Friday.

**Kaiser Kids to leave their panther prints in the Pink!** Be on the look out for the new KIDS PAGE in this and future issues of the Pink Panther!!



**Vision screening TODAY!**  
Kindergarten, 2nd, & 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Questions: contact Robin!

## 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.

Evening shows (7:30 – 9:30) on January 19, 20, 21 and an afternoon performance (2:00 – 4:00) on January 22.

Ticket prices are:

Adult (15+): \$20.00;

Youth/Senior (2-14 / 65+): \$10.00;

Children under 2 free.

## 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                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>January 23<br/>Monday</b>                    | GATE Meeting 6:30pm                                                            |
| <b>January 24<br/>Tuesday<br/>(RESCHEDULED)</b> | <b>School Site Council<br/>4 pm to 5pm</b>                                     |
| <b>January 27<br/>Friday</b>                    | Asian Heritage Potluck!<br>Family Night<br><br>Lunar New Year's<br>Celebration |

**1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982,  
1994, 2006**

### **What's it mean to be a Dog?**

from [Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco](#)

People born in the **Year of the Dog** possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets.

But Dog People are somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn, and eccentric. They care little for wealth; yet somehow they always seem to have money.

They can be cold emotionally and sometimes distant at parties. They can find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues.

Dog people make good leaders. They are compatible with those born in the Years of the Horse, Tiger, and Rabbit.

## 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 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!!

# More for Kaiser Kids

## GATE Program News

Are you interested in learning more about the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program at Kaiser? Would you like to learn more about how you can support your gifted child?

If so, please attend this meeting, **Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm**, which will cover the process for identifying GATE students, describe programs to support student achievement, and include a presentation by Deidre Heitman, Bay Area regional representative of the California Association for the Gifted.

If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like more information about Kaiser's GATE program, please contact 5th grade teacher Jill Reese.



## Why study Chinese at Kaiser?



Kaiser now offers

### Beginning Mandarin Chinese after school

on Mondays beginning January 23<sup>rd</sup>. A few spaces are still available but register soon. Class size is limited to 12 children.

After decades of being relegated to the nation's linguistic backwaters, owing to a Eurocentric bias and vestigial racism, Chinese is experiencing a minivogue among global-minded parents. Around the Bay, among some forward-thinking professionals, **Mandarin** is edging out ballet and French lessons as a preferred extracurricular for children.

*Susan Kostal, San Francisco Magazine (February 2005 issue) notes:*

#### Parents cite several reasons for their interest in Mandarin.

- It's spoken by more people than any other language and is the Chinese business world's dialect.
- Studies show a correlation between learning the language and development of the brain's math and music centers.
- But it's China's growing economic power that prompts many to sign up for classes.
- To top it off, the College Board recently added Chinese to the list of AP exams for 2007, which will only spark more interest.

For additional information or registration forms, contact Kiki Bradley at [kbradley@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kbradley@ix.netcom.com) or 510-530-9396.

## 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](http://www.kidstakethestage.com) or call 864-7061.

## NEW! Pink Panther Kids' Page! Starts TODAY!

The Pink Panther preps it presses for the pupils! We're looking for parents & teachers to help the kids periodically publish their perceptions, pictures, points and pride about their school. This issue: a student reporter interviews one of our teachers. To contribute ideas and material for upcoming issues, contact Kiki Bradley at [kbradley@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kbradley@ix.netcom.com) or 510-530-9396.

**WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS!** At this time of year, we may have lost a couple of families who have chosen to move out of Oakland, but we also gained a few students. We count on our wonderful children and families to make them feel comfortable and welcome!



# Current Arts & Culture

Events at Rockridge Library in JANUARY 2006

Toddler Story Times: 1st & 2nd Saturdays at 10:30am:  
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](mailto:esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org)  
Rockridge Branch Library. 5366 College Ave, Oakland CA 94618



**MORE!**

## 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.

This award-winning film stretches the minds and touches the heart of viewers of all ages. 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.

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

**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.

## February at the Dimond Branch Library

Thursday, Feb 2, 2006 at 10:30; Carl Winters Kalimba King playing the African thumb piano chanting, singing, and dancing. For all ages.

Friday, Feb. 3, 2006 at 4:00; Dimond Book Club reading "Crispin: the Cross of Lead" by Avi for ages 9 - 13.

Friday, Feb. 10, 2006 at 3:30; Crafts with Robin Goodfellow - Castles. for ages 6 and older.

Every Tuesday at 7:00PM- Family Storytime

Every Wednesday at 10:30AM - Preschool Storytime

Mary Schrader  
Librarian II  
Dimond Branch Library  
3565 Fruitvale Ave., 482-7844

# Kids "Take The Page"

**EXTRA EXTRA! This week: 7 minutes, 7 questions -- with Steve Neat!**



**Q. Mr. Neat, why isn't preschool called 1st grade? It's the first grade we do!**

**A.** MAYBE [I don't know for sure] because "1st grade" like we know it today was invented first, before preschool and kindergarten became like it is now... It used to be that preschool and kindergarten didn't have a lot of academic stuff... it was more about just how to get along with other kids and so on.

**Q. What's the best thing about 4th graders?**

**A.** Well, they already have a lot of knowledge they learned from K though 3rd. So you can do projects with them, and they can write well, and other interesting things that are more complex.

**Q. OK, how big a difference should 4<sup>th</sup> graders' behavior be from ... 2nd graders?**

**A.** Mainly, it's in how they treat other people. Both know how to be quiet in class and work hard to get the work done. But 4th graders should be a lot more sophisticated in how they relate to other students; they'll be more aware. For example, when you're older you should be better able to tell when is it a good time to talk to somebody or not, such as if they're angry and not ready to be joked around with. In those kinds of things, 4th graders make fewer social mistakes...



**Q. What should all 8th graders be sure to remember about 4<sup>th</sup> grade?**

**A.** How to write in paragraphs, and in detail, and to write about feelings... and they should try to remember California History.

**Q. How does getting real good at 4th grade stuff make us any good at 5th grade stuff?**

**A.** Everything that we do in 4th grade is a foundation for 5th grade. Like, California history gets you ready for US history... Like, fractions and multiples in 4th grade get you ready for multiplying and dividing fractions in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade...

**Q. For you, what about the difference between teaching 2nd grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade?**

**A.** In 2nd grade, it's important; we cover really basic stuff. We're just getting the students to be readers, and math skills are not there yet to work with. By 4th grade, there's a lot more for the teacher to work with. Teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade is more complicated. But, I like it more.



**Q. What do you like the best about teaching?**

**A.** I like the idea that I help the potential of all my students to be successful. I like to think that all the students in my class are going to go on and have successful lives, be productive members of society, and be happy. My hope is that everyone in my classes goes to university. I hope to meet them later when they're grown, and find that they have a job they love, and that they help other people.

-- interview by roving student reporter Campbell R.

**Who's next? Volunteers please!**