



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

## School & Community Newsletter March 7, 2006

### Message from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

Please put March 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendars for a Kaiser beautification and fix-it day from 9:30 to 1:30 in the afternoon. We have loads of small items- and a few larger ones- that need some attention and I am convinced that together we can “put Kaiser back in shape.” We now have a Boy Scout working with Janice and Jay Murphy (who procured an additional storage shed) to put shelving into the shed. We are grateful to Lucie Gaw’s dad for offering to weld the legs of the table in the multi-purpose room! We will print the list of items that need to be worked on in next week’s PINK and hope that you’ll bring your gardening gloves, tool boxes and collective energy for a few hours of Spring Cleaning! We want our school to sparkle!

Like every other business, when we call the district office to have someone come to fix something, we are now charged at the site level for the services. There are many benefits to being a small school (our children are not lost in the shuffle, we can focus on areas of strength and concern, we know each other) but, we are in a bind when it comes to meeting the costs of running a smaller school. As you remember, the funding we get comes from our children being present at school. If they are absent, no matter what the excuse, we do not get funding. I just spoke with one mother about the fact that her child has missed at least one day each week all year and, in addition to his not feeling a part of the academic program, over \$3,000 toward running the school has been lost. Please, unless your child is really ill, do not keep him or her home because your car is not working, you are not feeling well, etc. We will help you find others in your neighborhood who can pick up your child in times of personal emergency for you. I have been known to drive from Kaiser to Edes St. in East Oakland to make sure a child is at school.

The only funding that we have right now is for library books and we would like to have our parents either donate or recommend for purchase, books that have been helpful to them in raising their children. We used to have an informal check-out system in the main hallway, but most of those books were not returned. So, if you could scour through your bookshelves and send in some “tried and true” books, we would be most appreciative. We will put them in a parent section of the library. I just ordered the new **Babymouse: Queen of the World and Babymouse: Our Hero** which present girls with a “superhero” role model. Keep your eyes and ears open for books which will spark the interest of our young readers. Thank you!

We are looking forward to seeing all of you this Wednesday at our Family Literacy and Music Night. We really do need to know how many are coming so that we can have an adequate supply of pizza. If you lost the RSVP form, just call the school, anytime of the day or night, to let us know how many will be in your party. The kids are encouraged to wear pajamas and they will be entertained by a storyteller, the first graders will be presenting an “informance” (combination of informational performance) to show you how we are integrating our music with our reading and math. First grade parents, please bring your children on Wednesday!

Next week, March 13-17<sup>th</sup>, remember that there will be minimum days for the parent/teacher conferences. We encourage you to check in with your child’s teacher and reserve a time for reflection of the progress that your child is making. Thank you, also, for your support of their science projects which are due very soon. If you need a display board, we have ones available for you here at school!

- Katie

# Getting In The Know

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS UPDATE!

### MINIMUM DAY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 13 - 17

Please note that NEW sessions of African Dance & the Friday Lego Engineering class will start on MARCH 17th. Don't forget to re-enroll!

#### MONDAY 3/13

MAD SCIENCE will meet from 1:30-2:30  
JAZZ BAND will not meet today  
CHINESE will not meet today  
PIANO LESSONS check with your teacher

#### TUESDAY 3/14

CHORUS will not meet today (new session starts next week on 3/21!)  
PIANO LESSONS check with your teacher  
LEGO PRE-ENGINEERING for K-1st grade STARTS NEXT WEEK (3/21)

#### WEDNESDAY 3/15

CHESS will meet as usual at 1:30 (new session starts next week on 3/22!)  
DRAMA will meet as usual at 1:30  
SPANISH will not meet today  
PIANO LESSONS check with your teacher

#### THURSDAY 3/16

PIANO LESSONS check with your teacher

#### FRIDAY 3/17

AFRICAN DANCE will meet on the following schedule:  
\* Kindergarten 1:30-2:10  
\* Grades 1 & 2 2:10-2:50  
\* Grades 3, 4 & 5 2:50-3:30  
LEGO ENGINEERING (GRADES 2-5) will meet from 1:30-3:00

## 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>March 6 Monday</b>	PTA Board Meeting 7pm
<b>March 8 Wednesday 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.</b>	Family Music and Literacy Night
<b>March 13-17</b>	Science Fair at Kaiser
<b>March 13-17</b>	MINIMUM DAYS and Parent/ Teacher Conferencing
<b>March 28 6:30pm</b>	Grades K-3 Orff performance
<b>April 22</b>	Earth Day Gardening Day at Kaiser

## 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!!

# *Kaiser in National View*

## *Good Thinking about What Makes Kaiser Great - Part One*

### **Which is better: a small or large school?**

Welcome to My School Stats for Kaiser Elementary School. This month, we're looking at the pros and cons of small vs. large schools, and how the size of your child's school compares to other schools in the district, state and nation. Keep in mind that school size is just one factor to consider when evaluating your school's effectiveness, and determining if it is a good fit for your child.

Until next time,  
GreatSchools.net Staff School Building

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### **How does the size of your school compare to other schools?**

Elementary School Enrollment

Kaiser	241
District average	396
State average	580
National average	452

Note: Enrollment averages were calculated using 2004-2005 enrollment data from the state Department of Education. Check with your local school district to gain a fuller understanding of enrollment statistics for your school.

### **What the data shows:**

- \* Kaiser Elementary School is somewhat smaller compared to other elementary schools in the district.
- \* Kaiser Elementary School is a lot smaller compared to other elementary schools in the state.
- \* Kaiser Elementary School is somewhat smaller compared to other elementary schools across the country.

### **Factors in choosing a School:**

Is your school smaller than average? Consider:

- \* Does the school offer enough variety in the curriculum and extracurricular activities?
- \* Does the small size feel limiting?

Is your school larger than average? Consider:

- \* Are students getting enough attention from staff or are they getting lost in the shuffle?
- \* Is discipline a problem?

Is your school about average? Consider:

- \* Are there factors in the community causing a decrease or increase in enrollment?
- \* Are parents actively involved in the school community?

No matter what size your school is- Consider:

- \* Does the school size seem too small, too large or just right?
- \* Are the majority of students achieving at high levels?
- \* Does the size of the school feel like a good fit for your child?

**See more information:** Learn about what to consider when choosing a school

About student achievement at this school <[http://www.greatschools.net/modperl/browse\\_school/ca/221/](http://www.greatschools.net/modperl/browse_school/ca/221/)>

Choosing a School: Considering Your Child's Needs <<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/ca/308>>

Choosing a School: Considering Family Needs and Values <<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/ca/307>>

Imagining Your Ideal School: An Exercise in Setting Priorities<<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/ca/87>>

The Great Schools School Choosers Guide How Important is Class Size?<<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/ca/457>>

MORE: <<http://www.greatschools.net/content/schoolChoiceCenter.page?state=ca>>

***SEE PART TWO IN NEXT WEEK'S PINK PANTHER***

## *For the Kids*

### **Freedom, Privacy, and Child Safety**

Few things are as important as knowing that we can protect our children. Our freedom is precious, but it is only able to benefit us when there is safety built in to it. Because our system of laws means that we have enormous freedom of movement and freedom of information, our children have more exposure to the world than ever before – sometimes for the better, but sometimes for worse.

As parents, we want to be sure that we are highly aware of both the information and the people surrounding our children. To ensure that families can better handle the many forces reaching into our communities and even our homes, most socially-oriented organizations and services are now offering ways to use the internet to zero in on local areas, stay up to date, and manage our children's exposure to potential threats, ranging from inappropriate websites to registered sexual offenders.

The internet creates both special opportunities and challenges in the way families and communities experience exposure and meanwhile can help themselves. On the bright side, information managed well is empowering, and we can use the web to gain benefits from support groups and information centers as well. Good locally informative examples of this are:

State of California Department of Justice – discover protection and news for family safety both at home and away from home.

<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/protect.aspx?lang=ENGLISH>

Watchdog.net – gain control of children's access to web sites

<http://www.watchdog.net.nz/index23.html>

Family Watchdog – identify registered sex offenders residing in specific areas

<http://www.familywatchdog.us/ShowMapFromFriend.asp?SearchID=C05A0E4E-BABC-4DC5-9924-6E0104006206>

### **Kids Music News from the New York Times:**

"Kidz Bop 9," the CD which was released on Feb. 21, includes a shout-along version of Weezer's "Beverly Hills" and a performance of Green Day's "Wake Me Up When September Ends" that could be the work of a middle-school chorus under the baton of a choir teacher too hip for his own good.

Razor and Tie is the company responsible for "Kidz Bop," a series of albums consisting of rerecorded, stripped-down versions of hits sung, in an intentionally imperfect style, by children 8 to 12. "We saw that there was a gap between music for tiny kids — Barney and all that — and pop music that wasn't safe for 4-to-12-year-old kids," said Cliff Chenfeld, a founder of the company, who has three children himself. "We thought it made sense to bring pop music to those people."

One ingredient of the "Kidz Bop" albums is rerecording popular songs in less slick versions that make it easy for kids to sing along. "Every kid is a 'Kidz Bop' kid," Mr. Chenfeld said. The "Kidz Bop" series — so far, has nine numbered installments, two Christmas albums, a Halloween album and a DVD.

(copyrighted by the NY Times. <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/06/business/06music.html?8hoib> )

# Did you know that it's Beautiful Women Month ?

## Facts On Figures:

There are 3 billion women who don't look like super models and only eight who do.

Did you know Marilyn Monroe wore a size 14?

If Barbie was a real woman, she'd have to walk on all FOURS due to her proportions!

The average woman weighs 144 pounds, and wears between a size 12-14.

One out of every 4 college-aged women has an eating disorder.

The Models in the magazines are AIRBRUSHED!!! - NOT Perfect!!

A psychological study in 1995 found that 3 minutes spent looking at a Fashion Magazine caused 70% of women to feel depressed, guilty and SHAMEFUL!

Models 20 years ago weighed 8% less than the average Woman.  
Today they weigh 23% less.....

## ~~ Beauty of a Woman ~~



The beauty of a woman is not  
in the clothes she wears,  
The figure she carries, or the  
way she combs her hair.  
The beauty of a woman must  
be seen from her eyes,  
Because that is the doorway  
to her heart,  
The place where love resides.  
The beauty of a woman is not  
in a facial mole,  
But true beauty in a woman is  
reflected in her soul.  
It is the caring that she  
lovingly gives,  
The passion that she shows.  
The beauty of a woman  
With time, only grows...  
With time, only grows...

## Interesting...

An English professor wrote the words: "WOMAN WITHOUT HER MAN IS NOTHING" on the blackboard, and directed the students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote: "Woman, WITHOUT HER MAN, is nothing."

The women wrote: "WOMAN!! WITHOUT HER, man is nothing!"

## The Images of Mother

4 YEARS OF AGE : My Mommy can do anything!

8 YEARS OF AGE : My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!

12 YEARS OF AGE : My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.

14 YEARS OF AGE : Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either!

16 YEARS OF AGE : Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 YEARS OF AGE : That old woman? She's way out of date!

25 YEARS OF AGE : Well, she might know a little bit about it.

35 YEARS OF AGE : Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.

45 YEARS OF AGE : Wonder what Mom would have thought about it?

65 YEARS OF AGE : Wish I could talk it over with Mom. . .

# Kaiser Community - Everyone welcome!

## Family Music and Literacy Night- at Kaiser



**March 8- 6:00 to 8:00**

Please RSVP with a call or note to the office

We'll have a Story teller, pizza and crafts in addition to first graders performing demonstration of musical integration with their reading and math.

**Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas!**

## Community Gardeners

Here are the remaining gardening dates for the rest of the school year. Please mark these important dates on your calendar. We are trying to be consistent with the last Friday (or Thursday) of the month.

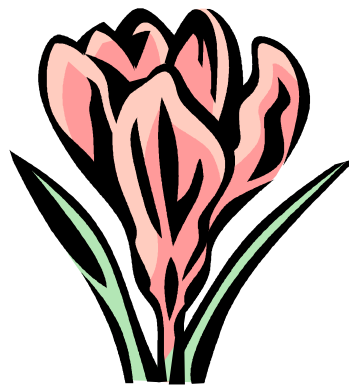
**Sat., March 18, 9AM-1PM-** This is the Saturday community day

**Thurs., March 30, 3PM-5PM-** This is a Thurs as the 31st is a holiday

**Sat., April 22** - our Earth Day gardening day with community volunteers.

**Fri., April 28, 3PM-5PM**

**Thurs., May 25, 3PM-5PM-** This is also a Thurs as the 26th is a holiday



Thank you,  
Tom & Janan