



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

## School & Community Newsletter March 14, 2006

### Message from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

This week we are hoping to receive the names of the families who have selected Kaiser Elementary School in the Options lottery. We have a second chance to attract other upper grade children if we know of present families who are probably/definitely leaving Kaiser next year. Please send back the attached form if you are pretty certain that your child will not be attending Kaiser next year, so that we can fill that spot and plan now for the class configuration that we will need next year to accommodate all of our children.

I am convinced that Kaiser families are among the most supportive of all the public schools I've worked in or known. Thanks to you, our teachers continue to do their jobs in an environment at Kaiser that acknowledges their efforts. So often, if one just listens to the media, it seems their efforts are belittled. I've included some quotes that I've recently read and wanted to share with our families:

"Who are the heroes of today? Too many people are looking for heroes in all the wrong places. Movie stars and rock musicians, athletes and models aren't heroes; they're celebrities. Heroes abound in public schools, a fact that doesn't make the news. There is no precedent for the level of violence, drugs, broken homes, child abuse and crime in today's America. Education didn't create these problems, but deals with them every day,

What is it our kids really need? What do they really want? Math, science, history and social studies are important, but children need love, confidence, encouragement, someone to talk to, someone to listen, standards to live by. Teachers provide upright examples, the faith and assurance of responsible people.

You want heroes? Then go down to your local school and see our real live heroes, the ones changing lives for the better each and every day!" (forwarded by David Turner, Skyline counselor, and good friend)

"If something comes to life in others because of you, then you have made an approach to immortality."

Norman Cousins (1915-1990)

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

"What you give of yourself is priceless." Oprah Winfrey (1954- )

This month is "Arts is Education!" month and Kaiser is hosting two programs. The first was last week's Family Literacy and Music night where over 200 children and parents enjoyed storytelling by Ms. Tureeda, a music/math/reading demonstration by the first graders, led by Claudia McCarthy in collaboration with Ms. Apaydin and Ms. Haruyama. Pizza, vegetables, cookies and drinks as well as lovely new books were provided by the Oakland Parents' Literacy Project, and gently used books were distributed by Ms. Marcia Brooks, our school librarian. We look forward to continuing this partnership with the Oakland Parents' Literacy Project next Spring, and we want to continue with our staff-sponsored Family Math Night every fall. The second program is on Tuesday, March 28, with all K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders performing from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The theme is "Umoja" or Unity and Laura Sherman is working with our classes to put together another wonderful evening for our parents and children. We have some pins in the office that read "I'm an Arts Active Parent" and we encourage you to wear one whenever you're planning to be in a crowd of Alameda County parents.

- Katie

# Getting In The Know

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS UPDATE!

### MINIMUM DAY SCHEDULE - MARCH 13 – 17

Please note that NEW sessions of African Dance & the Friday Lego Engineering class will start this week on MARCH 17th. Don't forget to re-enroll! Also note that drama this week will meet in the library, not in Ms. Haruyama's room.

#### 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 at 1:30 **IN THE LIBRARY**  
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 as follows:  
• 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
March 13-17	Science Fair at Kaiser
March 13-17	MINIMUM DAYS and Parent/ Teacher Conferencing
March 28 6:30pm	Grades K-3 Orff performance
April 10 - 14	<b>SPRING RECESS</b>
April 22	Earth Day Gardening Day at Kaiser

*See additional announcements about events and projects at Kaiser on the Kaiser Kiosk Page near the back!*

## 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!!

# PTA Notices

## Looking for PTA Board Members for 2006-2007!

We are currently looking for people interested in serving on the PTA board next year. It is a great way to become more involved in our wonderful Kaiser community. We are specifically looking to fill the following positions:

**Assembly Coordinator  
Treasurer  
Parliamentarian  
Site/Safety/Environment Chair  
Walk-a-thon Chair  
Auction Chair  
Staff Appreciation Chair**

If you think you might be interested in these, or any other position, please contact Lisa Downes ([lisadownes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisadownes@sbcglobal.net), 532-5913), Lesley Clark ([lesleyrc@aol.com](mailto:lesleyrc@aol.com), 531-0114), or the office. Thanks!



## Book Sales



Last week Katie McLane asked for *book donations and recommendations for our library.*

Two events are approaching that will give you an opportunity to *purchase books and raise money for our school at the same time.*

**One is our annual Walk-a-thon and Book Faire,  
which will take place on May 6.**

The other is  
**Cody's Celebrate Summer Reading Days,  
which runs from May 5-8.**

Both events contribute a portion of sales to our PTA.  
Mark your calendars and spread the word!

# *Kids Take the Page*

## **Children's Writing about Families**

### **"My Mom" by Zaire Hurth**

My mom loves cooking shrimp, red rice, spaghetti, fried chicken, white rice and corn. I help my mom make fries and chicken. I put the chicken in the flour before she fries it. She makes crab for holidays.

My mom likes the colors pink and yellow. Sometimes I buy her pink roses for her birthday.

My mom calls me by my full name if I don't do my chores. She will call out, "Zaire Aquil Edward Hurth!" It is a warning when she does this. My chores are: clean my room, wash the dishes, vacuum my room and the living room and take out the garbage before Wednesday.

My mom likes to tickle me when we are watching T.V. We play tennis at the apartment grounds.

### **"My Baby Sister" by Tori Thomas**

My baby sister, Lanaya, cries a lot when she wants someone to hold her. She gets sensitive about people she doesn't know. Her laugh is very cute because it sounds like a gargling sound. She is about to turn one year old in two months.

My sister is happy to see me all the time. Everything she sees she will try to eat, because she is teething. She always loves to take a bath and she is now crawling. I get jealous of her sometimes, but that is my sister.

### **"What My Family Means to Me" by Amari Harmon**

What my family means to me is understanding. They mean I will never be forgotten. My family means I will be safe, loved and cared for. My family makes me feel like I can count on them to help me with things.

My family means people who I know will never leave me. My family means they will always be proud of me, even if I make mistakes. My family means they forgive me when I do the wrong things. My family means a lot to me. Without my family I would be very lonely, sad and scared. I'm thankful for a great family.

### **"Katherine" by Ben Fratti**

When my mom was a kid she had a big white pine tree in her back yard. The tree had branches like spokes. My mom made a platform like a tree house. She read books like Tarzan and Indian stories in the tree house she made.

My mom's neighbors played Indians and cowboys with my mom. My mom was always the Indian because she liked Indians. Her neighbors were the cowboys. They always had a lot of fun.

## **Hey! 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?8hbib> )

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

## The Beauties of Achievement

In the Nature versus Nurture debate, ideas about achievement often take center stage. But what do we know about how personality, learning styles, leadership styles, and value judgments affect each other? And does the formula for success differ for females and males?

One of the most famous of women's achievements in literature is their saving Greece from ruin by stopping the war in Aristophanes' play "Lysistrata". It might be said that the real achievement here is getting bull-headed men to stop taking things for granted!

([http://www.theatredatabase.com/ancient/aristophanes\\_005.html](http://www.theatredatabase.com/ancient/aristophanes_005.html))



In World War II, Rosie the Riveter was the symbol of female heroism without which American defense of democracy abroad could not have occurred. And if not for Rosa Parks, American defense of democracy at home might have really begun to fail. It's clear that accomplishments come from ability and courage that readily crosses gender lines.

But heroism is just one path to achievement. Achievement is not just about what already made us better, but also about *what makes it possible for us to be better.*

Another path is "genius". It's a strong word, but one thing we now know about geniuses is that *most* of them go unrecognized or un-tolerated in their time. Yet, because of the creativity that genius drives, we should think of it as *the muse of the Future.* That helps us see that the creativity of our little girls is already precious, and that we need lots of ways to recognize achievement.

Here are some descriptions of genius, from a much longer list by an unidentified author in a fascinating letter we found on the web.

(<http://www.cs.wustl.edu/~louie/genius>)

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex... It takes a touch of genius --- and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction. --Albert Einstein

The principal mark of genius is not perfection but originality, the opening of new frontiers. -- Arthur Koestler

Genius is essentially creative; it bears the stamp of the individual who possesses it. -- Anne Louise Germaine de Stael (1766-1817)  
French-Swiss woman of letters, novelist

The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of childhood into maturity  
--Thomas Henry Huxley

Genius is another word for magic, and the whole point of magic is that it is inexplicable. -- Margot Fonteyn (1919-\_\_\_\_)  
English dancer

## In the Library Corner...

Kaiser School is one of only a handful of elementary schools in Oakland fortunate enough to have a staffed, working library in place for our students, thanks to the generosity of our great P.T.A. So, what do your children do in the short time they spend with Polly and me each week?

Everyone checks out books, of course, but other activities vary by class. We discuss fiction genres, hone library skills, do research, listen to stories, share insights, and practice oral book reports. In addition, the teachers let me know what they are studying in literature, social studies and science, and I often plan a lesson based on this information.



For example: Mr. Rust's second grade is starting a dinosaur unit, and we will be reading about four different-sized dinos, making a chart comparing their sizes and finding something in our own environment that is the same size.



Ms. Haruyama's Open Court unit is about perseverance, and so **this week in the library** we are discussing the books "Brave as a Mountain Lion" and "The Little Engine That Could."

By the way - did someone say "perseverance" ?!!



With the older classes we often have intense discussions stemming from their book shares; last week one fifth-grade class read aloud their original poetry inspired by a visit to the de Young Museum, and we talked about beauty, emotions, and spirituality! The fourth-graders have enjoyed doing "quick picks," when they pick out an unfamiliar books from the shelves, spend 5 minutes browsing through it, then report what they learned to the class.

There is an ever-changing display of books that coordinate with each month's "theme," such as African-American history, women's history, and Art Education celebration. We are proud to feature a permanent display of books on families and diversity that students can read in association with our "Respect For All" curriculum. And sometimes school-wide incidents can become the focus of a library activity, such as recent discussions about fire safety and tattling-vs-telling.



Please continue to encourage your children to explore NEW interests, to grab a book on something they didn't know they were interested in...yet, and to read it and come back to school ready to share the juicy heart of their book adventure with all of us.

- Marcia Brooks

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. 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. - Katie McLane

# Movers & Shakers: Making Our School

## TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS: BACK TO THE TABLE!

If it's Monday or Wednesday, the school District team and the Teachers Union should be in bargaining talks once again. According to *the Montclarion*, Roy Combs, the District's lead negotiator, referred to "the latest budget numbers" as something that would allow the District to take a stance of "resolving" the current contract dispute.

At the same time, a much-less-than-silver lining in that cloud was Combs saying to *the San Francisco Chronicle* that "bargaining requires both side to move some..." – which is an idea that many teachers may do a double-take on since the latest Teachers Union offer had already given up very significant ground from what were already legal entitlements of earlier contracts.

**But looking closer at the issue,** almost every account of the ongoing dispute revolves around the difference between what the District wants to define as "responsible" versus what the Union presents as "fair". This reminds us of the issue described in counseling such as on the BBC Relationships website ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)) in the section "**Ways To Make Peace**" where it is noted, "Good communication is vital to making peace. Often arguments go on and on, just because one or both parties feel they haven't been heard."

What will have to happen for a breakthrough to occur is that the negotiations get a constructive connection established between responsibility and fairness.

**For the teachers, and likely for our kids at Kaiser,** the big problem is not about deciding a fair way to be responsible, but instead about finding a responsible way to be fair.

**Thank you for adding your voice and saying that you believe that every child deserves arts learning in Alameda county.**

We need the arts in our classrooms and communities to provide every child with a high quality education that develops well-rounded individuals prepared for the future. We will be sure to keep you informed about our progress in the weeks and months ahead. You can also:

- **Tell your friends** to support the arts.  
<[http://www.democracyinaction.org/ArtIsEd/tellafriend.jsp?tell\\_a\\_friend\\_KEY=677](http://www.democracyinaction.org/ArtIsEd/tellafriend.jsp?tell_a_friend_KEY=677)> Ask them to sign our petition!
- Check out all the events happening during Art IS Education month <[http://www.artiseducation.org/prg/city\\_all.asp](http://www.artiseducation.org/prg/city_all.asp)> -- over 100 to choose from across the county.
- Get involved in Art IS Education month. Read our toolkit <<http://www.artiseducation.org/artised/present.html>> and plan a presentation of student artwork for families and the community.
- Join the Alameda County Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership <<http://www.artiseducation.org/aall/aall.htm>> .
- Find out when our next meeting is and become part of this county-wide network of school district and arts organization professionals.
- Sign up and get on our mailing list <<http://www.democracyinaction.org/ArtIsEd/signUp.jsp?key=1096>> .
- Visit our Web site at [www.ArtISEducation.org](http://www.ArtISEducation.org) <<http://www.ArtISEducation.org>> to learn more about what you can do to advance the reach of high quality arts learning for all.

Please feel free to contact us at [artised@acoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:artised@acoe.k12.ca.us) if you have any questions. (If the links above do not appear live, please paste the URL into your browser.)

Thank you,  
Stephanie Juno,  
The Art IS Education Team      <http://www.artiseducation.org>

# Kaiser Kiosk

## “Umoja” or Unity Night on March 28, 2006

Kaiser K-3 graders will be performing for their friends and families on Tuesday evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The children will be demonstrating highlights of the Orff music training that they’ve been receiving thanks to a grant from the Barrios Foundation and from our PTA. Please put this date on your calendars right away!

LOST JACKETS AND SWEATERS will be on display this week in the main hallway. Please, when you come to meet with your child’s teacher, take a moment to look through the lost and found on display in the main hall.



If you have copies of the **Black History event**, including the African dancers, please make a copy of your tape and/or disc and bring to the office. Tracy Levy and Pope are both anxious to have as complete a copy as possible. We will happily pay for the duplication fees. Thank you!

## AFRICAN DANCE NEW SESSION STARTS THIS WEEK!



If you have not registered for the new session of African Dance, please do so before Friday!

Please be advised that there may not be enough space for every child who wishes to participate, and previous participation does not guarantee your child a spot in the class. It is strictly on a first come, first served basis.

So, please, **SIGN UP NOW!!** Questions? Call Katy @ 336-9679 or email [katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net).

**Urgently Needed- Good/used PC compatible printer!** Kaiser’s Resource program was recently given a computer by a wonderful parent, and now we need a printer.

Until then, assessment reports cannot be printed out and our ability to comply with Special Education laws is severely hampered. If you have a printer you no longer need, please let us know by calling our main office 879-1710. Thank you so much!

Elizabeth Whittaker

## Beautification and “Honey Do” Day

We could use a pick-up truck or van on **Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**, to move and dispose of pieces of unusable furniture. Please bring tool kits to help repair some sad equipment and maybe we’ll have a chance to start the lighting project for the auditorium. Has anyone seen the lights in a plastic cording on sale anywhere recently? We are anxious to locate more to string around the perimeter of the auditorium. There are lots of weeds to be pulled, mulch to be scattered and sprinkler systems to be repaired. If you happen to have an extra wheelbarrow, we could use it as well. We have some beautiful silk banners to decorate the main hall and a fairly sturdy ladder! There will be a group of **community volunteers** who will be here to join us on Saturday, so bring **your families** and we’ll be working on projects from **about 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

# Our School - Does Size Matter?

## Good Thinking about What Makes Kaiser Great - Part Two

### The pros and cons of small vs. large schools

#### Which is better: a small or large school? We analyzed the results of the My School survey

Some studies have shown that small schools demonstrate higher achievement levels among students. But the right size school for your child will depend on his or her needs for **attention**, **curricular** offerings and **activities**.

\* Large schools may provide more diversity and may make it easier for different types of students and families to find their niche. But large schools may lack a sense of community. In small schools it's easier to develop more meaningful connections among staff, students and parents. There is generally more parent involvement and a feeling of belonging. It's easier to spot strangers at small schools; security and discipline are easier to maintain.

\* Small schools aren't able to offer as wide a range of activities and a broad curriculum. Students are more likely to master curriculum in a smaller learning environment. However, *no real evidence of correlation has been demonstrated between school size and curriculum quality.*

\* Large schools have the capacity to offer more specialized programs for disadvantaged students and students with special needs. A wide variety of classes and activities make it possible for students to find their niche. But in small schools, students are less likely to "fall through the cracks" or feel cut off from the school culture. They are more likely to form strong bonds with fellow students and teachers. There are fewer discipline problems.

#### What about Kaiser Elementary School? The "My School Stats" found that Kaiser Elementary School is:

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

- Kaiser 241
- District average 396
- State average 580
- National average 452

---

### Learn more about what to consider when choosing a school, with *The Great Schools School Choosers Guide*

This month, the staff at GreatSchools.net is 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.  
(SPONSOR Sylvan Learning)

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

How Important is Class Size? <<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/ca/457>>