



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

School & Community Newsletter March 21, 2006

Message from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

What a glorious weekend! A hearty band of gardeners showed up on Saturday to help get our front circle weeded, trimmed and mulched. Thanks to Janan Apaydin and families from her class, lots of work was accomplished. We hope you enjoy the "sidewalk appeal" that Kaiser offers to you each time you drop off your child. A few of our "inside" projects also got underway, such as replacing soap containers in the bathrooms, moving furniture back to the shed on the upper field to be used in the near future (big thanks to Dante Ruiz!!) as we add a portable and revamp the current K room of Mr. Byers. If anyone has a drill with a bit that can drill through tile, please call us so that we can install a soap dispenser in the girls' bathroom. Also, if you have a half hour or so, we have the exterior paint that needs some spotting where the paint from the butterfly life cycles has dribbled onto the walls. We also have a few K chairs that need to be screwed tighter and made more steady. They are on the stage.

I am really anxious to have everything in ship-shape condition for my successor and there are a few projects that we still have before us such as moving the elevated flower beds to another area of the grounds until the new portable is moved in.

Many thanks to Maya's mom, Michelle Thompson-Lopez, for creating the beautifully decorated silk hangings that are now in the main entry hall. Those combined with the silk pieces that were donated by Bonnie Pearson, truly elicit the joy of Spring! This weekend, Vince Morgante came in to put up two bulletin boards with photos that Mel Stenger took at the Asian Potluck and the African American Potluck. It's always a treat to see photos of our families at these events.

The Science projects were a lot of fun to look at and admire. Lots of learning took place and it seems to me that more "kid energy" was expended this time around. It's a real balancing act to know how much "leading" a parent should do, but the whole point is the learning that occurs for your children, as well!

This past week the San Francisco Girls Chorus performed for our students and there is an East Bay branch of the chorus. If you are interested in learning more about the SFGC, stop by the office and pick up a flyer.

My heartfelt thanks to Katy DeVecchi who has taken on the ominous task of coordinating the after-school programs. Her organizational skills are tremendous and she has said that she'd be willing to do this again next year. I'm hoping that some of our newer parents would be willing to offer some time to help work on a PTA project or committee next year. We try to have someone who will mentor you, so that everyone enjoys the experience.

The Walkathon is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, and your children will be receiving the packet with pledge sheets within the next few weeks. Don't forget to order your Kaiser tee-shirts or sweatshirts that are being sold by the Student Council. Our thanks to Sam McGlynn-Mandel and his mom, Terry McGlynn, for helping Mrs. Reese with this project. All orders are due by March 31st.

Thanks for making the time to meet with your child's teacher and for your ongoing support of Kaiser Elementary School.

- Katie

Getting In The Know

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS UPDATE!

LEGO CLASS FOR GRADES K-1

The sign-up period for **LEGO Pre-Engineering for Kindergarteners and first graders** has been extended! The new dates for the session are: March 28 - June 6.

The session is ten 90-minute classes which meet in the library on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30.

Students will build a city or a star base with houses, buildings, pyramids, bridges, tunnels, towers and more. They will build motorized cars, trains, buses and trucks and then race them, crash them and repair them. Students will be taught useful construction techniques while having fun!

If you are interested in registering for this class, there are two ways to do it.

You may download a printable registration form on the Kaiser website. Go to www.kaiserelementaryschool.com, click on the "After-School Programs" link, then scroll down the page and click on the LEGO link. Print out the form and send it directly to Play-Well TEKnologies.

Or you may contact Katy DeVecchi to request a form or with any questions at 336-9679 or katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net.

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

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
March 28 4:00 p.m	School Site Council in the library
March 28 6:30pm	K, 1, 2, and 3- Orff Music Night
March 31 Friday	School Holiday to honor Cesar Chavez
April 3 1- 2:30 p.m	Music Festival at Kaiser (includes Chabot and Glenview also). In Multi-Purpose Room
April 10 - 14	SPRING RECESS
April 22	Earth Day Gardening Day at Kaiser
May 1- 11	STAR testing for grades 2, 3, 4 and 5
May 6 th	Walkathon
May 12 th	Trip to Monterey Bay Aquarium for all 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd graders (arranged by Amy Haruyama with buses provided through science grants)

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!!

Welcome to our new Kaiser Students for 2006-2007

Here are our children coming in for next year! The names are all for Grade K unless otherwise coded (in parentheses). Siblings of current students are marked with an (*). Please welcome any of the families of these wonderful new students whom you might know.

*Sophie Admokom
Charlotte Anthony

Suniya Barnes
Micaiah Bell
Sulaimar Braithwaite

*Paul Carney
Maxim Culbeaux

*Aliyah Davis
Ikeria Davis

Raymond Edwards
Stephen Eifert
*Javier Esquivel

Oliver Farbod
Elizabeth Firestone
Joseph Firestone
*Danielle Fitzpatrick-Flores

Cameron Gill (2)

Jacob Hackett
Jemaya Harris
Josh Henderson
Brendan Hogg

Isabella Irving

Kaia Johnson
Aja Jones
Bailey Jones

Folly Kokodoko

Zachary Ledesma
Sydney Lee
Arman Littlefield (5)

Haley Madison
Isaac May
Jakob McRae
*Dylan Moredock-Ting

Briana Ornelas

Clayton Peppas (4)

Mahini Ramtin

Samuel Sanchez
Camille Simmons
Kaiya Smith
William Sutton

Sophie Talamantes

Alena Verhalen (5)

Olivia Walsh (4)
*Mei Wessling
Frazier White

Parents & Teachers Choice

CANDIDATES FORUMS

Hello Everybody,

In 11 weeks most of this will be over. But this election is **VERY** important! When you vote, remember what has happened to our education system in Oakland. Please do not vote by name recognition only and unfortunately I know I am singing to the choir. But tell everyone you know – with kids – without kids – private school – public schools. This is our future! I am providing you with several ways to come out and listen to the different candidates –

This coming **Tuesday, March 21st from 7-9** at my PTSA meeting in the Skyline Library at Skyline High School, all three candidates, Ronnie Gail Caplane, Sandre Swanson & John Russo, or State Assembly will be there to answer your questions. Wilma Chan is termed out so we need to get a good person in the position. Come listen and ask questions, so you can make a sound vote.

Monday, April 17, 2006 – 7-9 in the Rawley T Farnsworth Theater at Skyline High School, I, as the PTSA President will have all three candidates, Ron Dellums, Ignacio Del La Fuente & Nancy Nadel, for Mayor. This is a very very important venue to come out for. If you haven't heard them somewhere else, come up to Skyline in our beautiful Theater and listen and ask questions to make a sound vote.

Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at my PTSA meeting in the Skyline High School Library, both candidates for the County Superintendent position have been invited. John Bernard, Newark Superintendent has confirmed. After three attempts so far, I have yet to hear from Sheila Jordan, but I will continue to try. This is also very important. Think of the help we got from the County Superintendent's office to get us to the Takeover.

Friday, April 28, 2006 – 7-11:30 – is Skyline's first ever International Dinner Dance/Silent Auction. So everyone come out for this and have fun! It will be up at Skyline High School and only \$10.00 a ticket. I want it to be a community builder first and a fundraiser second. We are getting a lot of neat items for the Auction, good food donated and a great band!!! I will invite all candidates to attend and schmooze with everyone. So plan on it! Make me proud, as always. For \$10.00 you get good food, great music, fun people and a fun auction! Wow!

Monday, May 8, 2006 – 7-9 – Location is in question. Rocky Delgado, LA's City Attorney who is running for Attorney General is coming up to Oakland to speak with our community. Unfortunately the school district's policy has suddenly changed so even though it is being put on by me the PTSA President at Skyline, I may not be able to do it at our beautiful school. But Mr. Delgado is scheduled to come up from LA, somewhere in Oakland, to speak with us and I sent Jerry Brown an email inviting him (there wasn't a phone number on his campaign website). I haven't notified Mr. Poochigian, from Ventura, who is also running for the State Attorney General's office. I will Monday, but it would be so much easier if I had a definite location.

So that is what I have set up for you, my education community and beyond. Since I have done all of this, please take the time to come out and ask questions and listen. These will be completely neutral venues. My job, as PTSA President, is to make sure all candidates are invited, which they have been or will be soon and keep these meetings neutral of my opinion, and they will be.

I hope the newspapers will print these in the paper, but you can also pass them around thru emails.

Thank you,

June YG Ko-Dial
Skyline PTSA President
482-0168

Options Choices for our Fifth Graders Going into Middle School

This year our parents took a great deal of time checking out the middle school options and the schools most requested were:

Ascend - Edna Brewer – Montera - Bret Harte - Oakland School for the Arts

Because some of the schools are small, there were not spaces for everyone to get their first choices, so it was critical that families were okay with their second choices. We haven't heard back from everyone yet, but we thought you'd be interested in hearing what others were thinking this year.

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, 532-5913), Lesley Clark (lesleyrc@aol.com, 531-0114), or the office. Thanks!

- Kaiser's Current PTA officers -

Board Presidents: Lisa Downes, Lesley Clark
Board Vice-President: Liz Hall
Secretary: Renette Warner

After-School Activity: Katy DeVecchi
Programs: Andrea Nobles and Katy DeVecchi
Room Parent: Katherine Fratti
Site Safety/Environment: Janice Murphy

Communications: Kiki Bradley, Kim Carl

Fall Auction: Andrea Nobles
Walk-A-Thon: Rosalind Nalls
Potlucks: Andrea Nobles

Fundraising: Cynthia Thompson
Treasurer: Gail Elliot
Auditor: Tracy Lovely
Financial Secretary: Shawn Walker-Smith
Membership: Kelly Bartlett and Cyndy Hobbs

*Sitting on pins and needles!
We are all praying that
the negotiations which are
currently underway with **the
teachers' union** and the
district will result in a **fair
offer** that will not require the
teachers to take a strike vote.
Keep thinking good thoughts!*

Good Bye, Winter!



Don't get any big crazy ideas about the coincidence of Women's Month and the Vernal Equinox; although the Equinox *is* the cosmic sign to start *Spring Cleaning*, you men out there should get hip and stay hip to picking up after *yourself!* P.S., straightening out the garage does not count, since no one uses the garage but you, anyway, except of course for the parking thing and the ping-pong tournaments. What *is* that project you're still working on in there? You know, back when real men spent their days on important stuff, for example inventing timeless words like "equinox", there was less to clean up. Then again, we can always trust the ancients and the pagans to also "one-up" whatever weirdness we think makes us cool and messy at the same time. It could be something they were eating, but those guys just generally come up with some strange stuff. They *never* left well enough alone:

As the newly reborn sun races across the sky, the days become longer, the air warmer and, once again, life begins to return to the land. Twice a year, day and night become equal in length. To the elders, these times, equinoxes, were markers in which seeds would be planted and then harvested. The first of these, the Spring or Vernal Equinox occurs on or about March 21st.

The ancient goddess, Eostre, a Saxon deity who marked not only the passage of time but also symbolized new life and fertility, was the key symbol of this celebration which was also known as Ostara. Legend has it that the goddess was saved by a bird whose wings had become frozen by the cold of winter. This process turned the bird into a hare. Yet this was no ordinary cottontail; this long-eared rabbit could also lay eggs...

What!! ?? Hmmm...

Anyway, since you're now looking for a way to avoid spring cleaning, get off the hook with a job that will max out your schedule: learn to stirringly re-enact that story about where the Easter Bunny came from, for your K-thru-5vers. Do all the parts yourself! Expect to field follow-up questions about where the whole Groundhog thing came from, too. You can cheat: start by memorizing Equinox and Solstice Dot Com (http://www.equinox-and-solstice.com/html/vernal_equinox.html) and Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groundhog_Day). Convince them that the groundhog thing has roots in the pagan festival of Imbolc and the Celtic festival of Brigid celebrating the fertility which follows the growing light of Spring. (Oh yeah, I knew that!). Put some feeling into it, and maybe some spooky sound effects.

Around the fifth century, the European Celts believed that animals had certain "supernatural" powers on special days that were half-way between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. Folklore from Germany and France indicated that when groundhogs and bears came out of their winter dens too early, they were frightened by their shadow and retreated back inside for four to six weeks.

You know, I just don't think they would have been dealing this stuff if cable TV had been around.

Kaiser Kiosk

Kaiser Alumnae- updated addresses

If you are aware of Kaiser families who have moved since they left Kaiser, we would like you to give us their updated addresses so that the "guest list" being developed for the June 3rd party can be updated.

TAHOE!! -- We purchased a week at the Caldwell house in north Lake Tahoe at the Kaiser auction last fall. We are planning to go there over spring break, **April 8-15**. The house sleeps 20 and so far we have only 6 adults and 5 children. **If you would like to spend that week** with us, or part of it, please **call Henry at 325-8680**.

The price is \$2000 for the week, divided by the number of adults going, so the more who can come, the less it will cost. I hear the snow is excellent.

Henry, Gloria, and Slater Hitz

Research on Pope Flyne's multiple talents needed!

Pope Flyne, our African dance instructor, is applying for a permanent visa through the immigration department under the "Extraordinary Ability Aliens" section where he has to demonstrate evidence of his extraordinary ability.

I am writing a letter on his behalf, but would love to have **someone who is a true musicologist help me** research his distinguished reputation. Give me a call at school if you have time to interview him, research the media coverage, etc. I want this letter to be as strong as possible! We know he is a gem and a true talent, and I want to be able to document his various musical ventures. - **Katie**

If you have copies of the recent Kaiser **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'll happily pay for the duplication fees. Thank you!

How's Your Music Stash? !!

Kaiser Folks!

Hope all is well with you and that things are going well at Kaiser. I am cleaning out my garage and realizing that I still have several boxes of vinyl records that a parent has donated to Kaiser's music program when I was still there. At the time, I was thinking about recording them on CDs, but I never got as far as finding a record player to play them on. Do you want them? Is there anyone there who could use them? It's mostly Jazz, and some Classical and a variety of Ethnic stuff from Mediterranean Countries. Otherwise, it's off to the thrift store.

Blessings, Carmit Bat-Shalom

if we don't hear from anyone, on to the thrift store they go! - Katie

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.

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

Library Corner

At the Rockridge Branch Library

Hello Parents, Teachers and Students,
Gay Ducey and I were at Kaiser School last week, at a Family Reading Night event, and we were happy to meet a bunch of families! Thanks to everyone who welcomed us there last Wednesday evening.

All week we've been gathering Biographies and Autobiographies for Hillcrest readers, as well as more books for How-To projects at a variety of schools. Ask at the Children's Reference Desk, we'd be happy to help you find books on those or any other topics!
- Erica

FOR CHILDREN:

Toddler Story Times:

1st & 2nd Saturdays at 10:30am:

1 & 8 April, 6 & 13 May.

Pre-School Story Times:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30am:

5 & 19 April, 3 & 17 May.

Pajama Story Times: -- we pick books we hope will be enjoyed by kids ages 3 to 9 or so, and people are welcome to come in jammies or regular clothes.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm:

11 & 25 April, 9 & 23 May.

Special Events for Kids and Families:

APRIL:

National Library Week is April 2 - 8, and we'll be hosting a Royal Rumpus on Tuesday, April 4th, at 7:00pm. Join us for stories and crafts by Pam Brown, all about Kings and Queens. Come celebrate your library, and see stories jump off the pages. Best for children ages 3 to 10, but all ages are welcome. Free!

MAY:

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and we are celebrating with a guest: Clara Yen, storyteller. Join us upstairs in the Community Meeting Room at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 23rd. Free. All ages welcome.

See you at the Library!

Erica Siskind Children's Librarian
Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Avenue, Oakland CA 94618
510-597-5017

At the Dimond Branch Library

Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave, 482-7844 will have the following children's programs for April:

FOR CHILDREN:

Family Storytime:

Every Tuesday evening at 7:00 –

Preschool Storytime:

Every Wednesday morning at 10:30 –

Special Events for Kids and Families:

APRIL

Thursday, April 6 at 1:00 - Author and Illustrator Thacher Hurd will show how he creates illustrations and will read from his stories.

Friday, April 7 at 4:00 - Dimond Book Club for ages 9 - 13 will read and discuss *Eva* by Peter Dickinson. Refreshments provided.

Friday, April 14 from 3:30 - 5:00 - Crafts with Robin Goodfellow for ages 6 and older. "Pop into Spring with Pop-Ups".

that's it folks!

Mary Schrader Dimond Branch Library
3565 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland, CA
510-482-7844
mschrader@oaklandlibrary.org



This is a great time to donate books to Kaiser Library! See last week's Pink Panther on upcoming book sale opportunities, and check with our teachers about items they'd like to see as well...