



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

## School & Community Newsletter April 25, 2006

### Message from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

What a week! Last week we were all waiting to see if the district and the OEA could arrive at an agreement that would seem fair. We appreciate your flexibility as you adjusted to the on-again off-again messages that you heard from the media sources directing you to send your kids and then not to send your kids to school on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a vote by the teachers' union to approve or disapprove the latest contract offer in the very near future.

Last week we had an earthquake drill followed by a fire drill last Tuesday that actually went very well. Our children "dropped and covered" and then vacated the building in less than five minutes.

Our network executive officer, Denise Saddler, visited with the staff on Monday to find out what qualities were important to them in the search for a new principal and she will be meeting with parents on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium and later this week with our Student Council members. She is anxious to hear from all of you because this decision will be weighted by the input that she receives. It is the hope of the district that following the week of interviews (this week) that the State Administrator will meet with the Network Executive Directors and find good matches between the schools with openings and the persons who were selected to be in the principal "pool." When the decision is made, the new principals will have a little over a month to work with the current principals to make for a smoother transition. This process is encouraging.

On Wednesday, the Far West Middle School students came to Kaiser to perform for us before leaving for New York City. They certainly looked self-confident as they performed. This was yet another reason why we all feel that the introduction of the arts in the lives of our children provide them with such pride of accomplishment.

We were all so glad to be back together again on Friday that the teachers commented on the calmness of the day. Our students are beginning to understand that there will be changes in staffing next year, but we assure them that we will look hard to find replacements.

Friday afternoon I participated in the Arts Anchor meeting where we learned that the work we do is part of a major study in revitalizing classrooms through arts learning. We actually believe that we can impact the culture of teaching by demonstrating the impact of the arts on all aspects of a child's learning.

- We know that the arts engage the whole child and help them develop the knowledge and tools they will need for future successes.
- Children, teachers, schools and communities all benefit when the arts are a part of the learning experience.
- The arts help bridge the divides of language and culture and promote community understanding,
- Teachers can use the arts to address individual learning needs so that every child can learn and thrive.
- The arts are central to creating equity in classrooms, successful schools and healthy communities.
- Arts experiences enrich learning and enhance the quality of education for all students.

Kaiser's Earth Day celebration saw many wonderful volunteers transplanting the flowers and vegetables and moving the gardening beds out of the way of the new portable which will arrive on June 15<sup>th</sup> (or so we've been told). There is still dirt to be moved, but a lot was accomplished. Thanks to Janan and Tom for organizing and to "Hands Across the Bay" for their volunteer team.

Topping off the week was a call from my younger son who asked me to drop everything and come to their home because they were on their way to the hospital and I was needed to keep an eye on their feisty two year old. Sunday, Aidan Robert Harp joined our family at 11:30 a.m. weighing 6 lbs. 13.oz and is 20 inches long. He surprised us by arriving three weeks ahead of schedule. I had to leave our 12 Kaiser auction guests and fabulous "kitchen crew" to entertain themselves.

**Katie**

# Getting In The Know

**Teacher Strike avoided!**  
**Kids back in school!**  
**Teachers Rule!**  
**Good luck on the contract voting, teachers!**

## DIFFERENT SCHEDULE FOR AFRICAN DANCE THIS WEEK

Please note that this Friday, April 28, African Dance will be on a different schedule. This is for THIS WEEK ONLY.

- Groups 1 & 2 (K, 1st & 2nd grade) will dance together from 3:00-3:45
- Group 3 (3rd, 4th & 5th grade) will dance from 3:45-4:30

Please arrange for pick up for your children at these earlier times this week. We will be back to the normal schedule next week. Thank you for your cooperation. Questions? Call Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679 or email [katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net).

**NEW TIME!**  
**for Katie's retirement party on Saturday, June 3, @ Kaiser School. 12-5 p.m.**

Please see Robin to make donations.

## 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.  
[cara\\_eva@hotmail.com](mailto:cara_eva@hotmail.com) and [kbradley@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kbradley@ix.netcom.com)

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
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April 28 7 pm	Input for Principal choice with Denise Saddler
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May 1- 11	STAR testing for grades 2, 3, 4 and 5
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May 5 th 6 pm	Spooky Campfire Stories
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May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Walkathon and Book Fair
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May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Trip to Monterey Bay Aquarium for all 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders (arranged by Amy Haruyama with buses provided through science grants)
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## 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!!

# Parents & Teachers

## Where Do Your PTA Dollars Go?

Each year the PTA sits down to form a budget. The budget is based on money we feel will be generated from various fundraisers and grant money. We have three major fundraisers at Kaiser; the Walkathon/Bookfaire (coming up on May 6), the Auction, and the Pledge drive. We also have several passive fundraisers such as the Sally Foster gift wrap sale, Cody's Benefit Days, and programs such as Escrip and box tops. We are currently operating on a budget of approximately \$100000. That's a lot of fundraising! But without it, we wouldn't be able to offer the programs and staffing that make Kaiser such a success.

Take a look at where some of our PTA dollars go:

- Miss Pearl: teacher's aide
- Laura Sherman: Orff music instruction
- Renaie Briggs: computer instruction
- David Waugh: health and fitness instruction
- Marcia Brooks: library assistant
- Bonnie Allen: art instruction
- Classroom funds: at the beginning of the school year we give each classroom \$25 per child for classroom supplies.
- Funds for potlucks and family nights
- Daytime assemblies and enrichment
- School beautification and emergency preparedness
- Supplies for resource and speech therapy instruction

Some years the PTA will take on more ambitious fundraising in order to make a major purchase such as the play structure on the upper field.

What is true every year is that we need to continue as a community to support our efforts to sustain and improve upon our successes. It's amazing what can be accomplished when we work together.

## Looking for Kaiser 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 positions for:

**Assembly Coordinator**  
**Walk-a-thon Chair**  
**Auction Chair**

**Treasurer**  
**Parliamentarian**

**Site/Safety/Environment 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.

## **Kaiser Alumnae- updated addresses needed!**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> party for Katie McLane** can be updated.