



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

School & Community Newsletter May 2, 2006

Message from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families,

Here we go! It's May and the Walkathon is coming up this weekend, our children in grades 2 to 5 will be testing for an hour or so a day for the next two weeks, and life is beautiful because the sun is out!!

We are hoping that all of our families will join us at the Walkathon and Book Faire this Saturday. If your children are participating in some other sports event that day, just let us know when you bring them up to Kaiser at some point on Saturday between 9:00 and 3:00 p.m. and they will receive credit for their activities as part of the Walkathon.

Tracy Scott is planning a wonderful Book Faire with a coffee area and story-telling as part of the theme, Camp Read-a-Lot! See attached flyer that is being distributed today to all of your children. We will open the Book Faire on Friday afternoon from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. for you to shop ahead of time in the entry hall of the school. Then it will move to the auditorium on Saturday for relaxing and browsing through the many gifts. Our teachers will also be shopping on Friday and developing a "Wish List" from which you might want to donate a book or two.

Meetings with staff, parents and students with Denise Saddler have taken place the past two weeks to seek input on the principal selection. If you have any input, please contact Denise at Denise.Saddler@ousd.k12.ca.us or fill out one of the forms in the main hallway and fax it to her. Dr. Ward is hopeful that the matches will be made by May 8, 2006, so that the school communities can be notified and the retiring principals can work closely with the newly appointed principals for almost two months. This would be a very helpful plan for all concerned! In addition to more time with grandchildren and some traveling, I plan to be working with new principals as a coach next year.

Last week was Administrative Assistant/Secretary week and I forgot to acknowledge Robin Sasada publically! Some of the children have suggested that she be the new principal and most of us know that she could handle the job quite efficiently!! She will stay for the transition and there is no better person to help a new principal feel welcomed and supported. Sunday, as Robin was ordering the last of the supplies for next year, her wonderful, handy husband, Robert, was installing soap containers, upstopping toilets, and showing me how our bathrooms can be far cleaner. We have had an unusual number of children misusing the restrooms and we are very disappointed. Any help you can give us by talking with your children about manners in a public bathroom will be most appreciated. We've asked the children to let us know when they see someone tossing things in the toilets.

Our children in grades 2-5 will be having standardized testing for the next two weeks, about an hour a day. Please help them to feel confident, rested and definitely be sure that they have a good breakfast each day. This, of course, is what all of our children should have each and every day, whether or not there is any testing occurring!

We just received word that teams from Jill Reese's 5th grade placed 1st, 4th, 10th, and 14th, in the Stock Market Game sponsored by the S.F. Chronicle. Congratulations to all of the students who learned how to track stocks, decide when to buy, when to sell short. Congratulations to Jill for continuing to include this in her curriculum!

See you Saturday at the Walkathon!!

Getting In The Know

UPDATES...

The Book Fair is 3-6 pm on May 5th, and continues at 9am on May 6th.

BUT, the Scary Stories event for May 5th has been **CANCELLED**

ATTENTION FOURTH GRADE PARENTS

It's not too early to start thinking about middle school... **Bret Harte's EXPO is Saturday, May 13.** Stop by between 10 and 2. It's a great chance to meet staff and current families and visit classrooms to see the amazing kinds of work produced by Bret Harte students. There will be performances, food, and fun. For more information contact Lesley Johnson-Gelb (Bret Harte PTA President) at lesleyjohnsongelb@yahoo.com or 510-834-0646.

STUDENT INFO UPDATE FORM TIME!
See Page 5 for more details.

ASSISTANCE WITH ADDRESSING INVITATIONS??

If you have a few minutes to stop by the office and address invitations to the new **Families Ice Cream Social on Sunday, May 21**, or for **Katie's retirement party on June 3rd**, please let us know. We would also like to have someone contact the newly accepted families and invite them to the Walkathon this coming Saturday. If you have a little time to share with us, we would be delighted to hear from you!

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 and kbradley@ix.netcom.com

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
May 1- 11	STAR testing for grades 2, 3, 4 and 5
May 2 4pm	SSC Meeting in the Library
May 5 3pm – 6pm	BOOK FAIRE!
May 6 th	Book Faire & 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)

HEY! Beginning next Monday, it's **STAFF & TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!**
May 8th through 12th.

How to Reach Kaiser

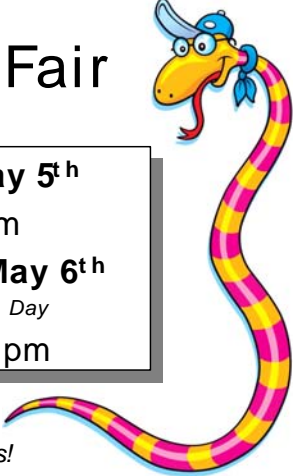

Our phone number is (510) 879-1710 (includes a 24 hour message service).

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!!

Parents & Teachers



Do n'T Miss t he
Kaiser
Scholastic Book Fair

Free S'mores with
any purchase

Storytellers
Contests
Kaiser Café
(coffee/ treats for parents)

Friday, May 5th
3 – 6 pm
Saturday, May 6th
Walk-A-Thon Day
9 am – 5 pm

Bring your family, friends and neighbors!

STAFF AND TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!!! MAY 8 THROUGH MAY 12

Now is the time we can show our love for our wonderful Kaiser teachers and staff. Beginning next Monday May 8 through Friday May 12, the PTA asks families with children in the following classes to provide an item for lunch for the teachers and staff as follows:

MONDAY - Mr. Stenger, Mr. Byers and Ms. Apaydin
TUESDAY - Ms. Haruyama and Ms. Gorham
WEDNESDAY - Mr. Rust and Ms. Bailey/Ms. McGee
THURSDAY - Ms. Yang and Mr. Neat
FRIDAY - Mr. Wade and Ms. Reese

This event is also special for the children. They are encouraged to bring a flower to their teachers and other support staff who impact their lives such as Sonya Brooks (educational intervention consultant) Marcia Brooks (librarian and intervention help), Renae Briggs (computer and instrumental music), Miss Pearl (Teacher's aide), Robin Sasada (Administrative assistant), Miss Polly (library clerk/nonn supervisor), AJ Robinson (Speech Therapist), Mr. Byrne and Mrs. Whittaker (resource program), Mrs. Eastman (Writing) and Mrs. Webb (Prep Teacher).

Food and beverages should be dropped off before school and placed in the staff lounge. Please clearly mark food containers with your name. Empty containers will be placed on a table near the office for pick-up after school.

Volunteers are needed to help clean up after lunch each day. Please contact Terry McGlynn at 534-2322 with questions and to volunteer. Great big hugs to everyone who contributes to this special event!

School Leadership

In Search of a New Principal.....A Meeting with Denise Saddler

Last Tuesday a group of parents met with Denise Saddler, Kaiser's Network Executive Officer, and two of her colleagues to discuss the process of hiring a new principal and to express to her the qualities we were looking for in a new leader.

Leaving the meeting **I felt very confident that not only did she understand the culture of Kaiser, but that the hiring process they are following will lead us to a successful conclusion.** Before meeting with the parents, she met with the staff, and will also be meeting with the student council.

Applicants are being looked at from both within Oakland and from other areas. They are hiring solely based on qualification and looking specifically to find the best fit for our school.

It is clear Denise understands the diversity of the community and the need for a new principal to embrace and be supportive of that. She also views Kaiser as a model school where there exists an expectation of success for each and every student. She is very familiar with Katie and knows the loss we will be experiencing. She is putting a lot of thought and effort into finding the right replacement for the irreplaceable.

I have expressed to her the desire for a principal who:

- is accepting and supportive of the diversity that exists at Kaiser
- will continue to support the arts as an integrated part of the curriculum
- will nurture a safe and respectful learning environment and build upon the moral character of our students
- work towards further academic success
- be supportive and encouraging of his or her staff and their development
- commit themselves to the community and fight hard for our interests

I encourage you to voice your opinions to her before May 8th. It is up to us, both parents and students alike, to carry on the vision Katie McLane has set for our school and continue moving successfully forward with a new leader.

Lisa Downes

*It is the goal of the district to make a decision by the week of May 8.
Denise left yellow Parent Comment Forms for anyone to fill out with suggestions and input.
They can be found on the table outside the office. You can also email her directly at
denise.saddler@ousd.k12.ca.us.*

Looking Ahead

Keep a lookout for the latest issue of "From a Teacher's Perspective".

The article on Manzanita School and the final installment of "Who Are They?" show that this fight for Oakland Public Schools is not over, whether a new tentative agreement is approved or not.

*Thanks,
Steve Neat*

STUDENT INFO UPDATE FORM

Attached to the PINK is a student and parent/guardian update form. Among other things, families are asked to respond to the highest level of parent education attained.

This info is used to determine comparable school data, when comparing schools on the Academic Yearly Progress and the API scores.

This is not a time to exaggerate your accomplishments! Just be totally honest.

Thanks, Katie McLane

NOT RETURNING TO KAISER NEXT YEAR?

It really would be helpful to hear from you if you are moving or otherwise not planning to return to Kaiser next fall.

As of now, given our current numbers and the new students who are joining us, we will probably be having classes set up as follows:

- K** two Kindergarten classes,
- 1** two first grades,
- 1-2** a one/two combination,
- 2** a second grade,
- 2-3** a two/three combination,
- 3** a third grade,
- 3-4** a three/four combination,
- 4-5** a four/five combination and...
- 5** a fifth grade.

When we put combination classes together, we seek to have students who can focus and work independently.

No teachers have been assigned to these classes yet as we need to complete the hiring and then make the appropriate assignments.

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:

*Treasurer
Parliamentarian
Historian*

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.

Mind and Body

California State PTA Supports Proposition 81 for Public Library Construction

On March 4, 2006, the California State PTA Board of Managers voted to Support Proposition 81, the California Reading and literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond, which will appear on the June 2006 statewide primary election ballot. This initiative would authorize the issuance of bonds up to \$600 million for the purpose of financing public library construction and renovation. The California State PTA acknowledges the important role of community libraries in supplementing school libraries and providing expanded opportunities for all children and adults to develop skills for lifelong learning. PTAs are encouraged to support funding so that every community has a comprehensive library service to meet the needs of its population.

Despite predictions that libraries would become redundant with the widespread advent of the internet, libraries have become more relevant than ever. Libraries across the state are experiencing tremendous growth, both in circulation and in patron visits. Libraries provide a resource for people needing assistance, instruction or free access to computers. They serve as community centers, providing homework help and a safe place for children to go after school. They provide seniors and others with special needs, valuable services including books on tape/CD, large print books and more.

The passage of this proposition does not result in increased taxes. In fact, the annual interest and principal payment will be less than \$2 per California resident- a small price to pay for building and renovating dozens of libraries statewide, bringing thousands of local jobs, boosting local economies, fostering partnerships between libraries and schools, fighting illiteracy and supporting education. Libraries are a critical piece of the state's education infrastructure. Educating our children and reducing illiteracy depends on maintaining a top-quality public education system and adequate public libraries.

NEWS YOU CAN USE -- IMPORTANT ANTI-CANCER NEWS FROM JOHNS HOPKINS

Johns Hopkins has recently sent this out in its newsletters at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

- 1. No water bottles in freezer.**
- 2. No plastic containers in micro.**
- 3. No plastic wrap in microwave.**

Recently, Dr. Edward Fujimoto, Wellness Program Manager at Castle Hospital, talked about dioxins and how bad they are for us. Dioxin chemicals causes cancer, especially breast cancer. Dioxins are highly poisonous to the cells of our bodies. Top advice:

Don't freeze your plastic bottles with water in them as this releases dioxins from the plastic.

He said that we should not be heating our food in the microwave using plastic containers. This applies to foods that contain fat. He said that the combination of fat, high heat, and plastics releases dioxin into the food and ultimately into the cells of the body.. Instead, he recommends using glass, Corning Ware or ceramic containers for heating food. You get the same results, only without the dioxin. So such things as TV dinners, instant ramen and soups, etc., should be removed from the container and heated in something else. Paper isn't bad but you don't know what is in the paper. It's just safer to use tempered glass, Corning Ware, etc.

Also, he pointed out that Saran wrap is just as dangerous when placed over foods to be cooked in the microwave. As the food is nuked, the high heat causes poisonous toxins to actually melt out of the plastic wrap and drip into the food. Cover food with a paper towel instead.

Dimond Library Events

**Hello Parents, Teachers and Students,
Dimond Branch will have these programs for
May and June, at the
Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.**

MAY

Tuesday, May 2
Storyteller Clara Yen
Celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month with
storyteller Clara Yen for an evening program of
Chinese family, folk and fairy tale told with an
American flair.
All Ages welcome
7:00

Friday, May 5
Dimond Book Club
Reading "Walk Two Moons" by Sharon Creech.
Refreshments provided.
Ages 9-13
4:00 - 5:00

Every Tuesday in May, except May 2
Family Storytime
ages 0-6 and adults
7:00 - 7:30

Every Wednesday in May
Preschool Storytime
ages 3 - 5
10:30 - 11:00

**Dimond is located at 3565 Fruitvale Ave.
phone: 482-7844**

JUNE

Saturday, June 10:
Summer Reading Program begins - Paws, Claws,
Scales and Tales.
Sign up at any Oakland Public Library, read 8
hours and win fabulous prizes.
For ages 0-13.

Tuesday, June 6
Family Storytime
for preschool - age 7
7:00 PM

Tuesday, June 13:
Magic Mike presents magic, comedy, and music
for all ages.
7:00 PM

Tuesday, June 20:
Juggler Marcus Raymond presents a HIGH
ENERGY juggling show that will make the
children laugh themselves silly.
for all ages
7:00 PM

Tuesday, June 27:
Opera Piccola performs "Hansel and Gretel"
for all ages
7:00 PM

Wednesday, June 21:
Early Literacy Program - Enjoy a preschool
storytime and learn some pre-reading tips.
for Preschoolers and their adult caregivers or
parents.
10:00 - 11:00 AM

Every Wednesday (except June 21)
Preschool Storytime
for children ages 2 - 5
10:30

**Dimond is located at 3565 Fruitvale Ave.
phone: 482-7844**

Parents & Teachers In Action

PRESS RELEASE

**May 1, 2006
Oakland, CA
Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School
25 South Hill Court, Oakland 94618**

The first place winners in the “Stock Market Game” sponsored by the Foundation for Investor Education and the Securities Industry Association were a team from Jill Reese’s fifth grade class at Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School in Oakland.

Competing with school teams from around the Bay Area, Kaiser’s students “invested” \$100,000 in January and by the end of April, the value of their stocks had risen to \$110,976.89. The winning team was composed of Alexis Carney, Maya Lopez, Mikaela Briggs and Mahal Caraher. Kaiser also had teams that placed 4th, tenth and fourteenth.

This opportunity is unique for fifth graders and Mrs. Reese has included the “Stock Market Game” in her class for the past nineteen years as a part of the social studies and math curriculum. The children, as well as their families, are exposed to the intricacies of following the stock market.

Each year Mrs. Reese invites former students of hers who are now stockbrokers, to visit her class and share their expertise. Children can be found every morning tracking the progress of their stocks in the *Tribune* or the *Chronicle*, and they also go online to monitor their stocks.

Kaiser Elementary is a magnet school which draws from all over Oakland and provides a diverse student body, both ethnically and socio-economically. It was a California Distinguished School nominee this year and listed by Bay Parents as a “hidden gem school” in the East Bay.

FLAT SCREEN TV’S ARE PRIZES FOR THE RAFFLE

Tickets will be coming home with the kids this week to give you a chance to win a flat-screen TV. This is a great chance to donate to the school, help raise the money we need to meet our PTA goal and to “update” the entertainment center in your home.

TILE MURAL

Margaret Yang came up with the idea to create a mural of tiles to honor Katie McLane. If you or your child has a design for a tile, please contact Ms. Margaret in Room 6 or stop by the office to get a template to design the tile. All the tiles will be decorated on June 3rd, the day of the retirement party for Katie.

LIGHTS ON THE UPPER FIELD!!

Thanks to our PTA, money was allocated to provide subtle lighting in the auditorium for the evening and there is now a light mounted on the shed which tremendously helps light a large section of the upper field and one set of stairs. Thanks to the hard work of Gail and Mark Elliott and to Brian Donaldson for completing the installation!