



The Pink Panther **Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School**

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

School & Community Newsletter May 9, 2006

Message from Principal Katie McLane

Dear Families !!

What a beautiful weekend for the Walk-a-thon ! Many of our families joined us in supporting our children's efforts as they walked to earn money for Kaiser's library, computer lab and special projects such as the music, art and dance programs. Tracey Scott did a magnificent job of organizing the Book Faire and the "Camp Read a Lot" theme was highlighted with pup tents, simulated campfires and celebrity story tellers! We are delighted that our library and classrooms will be the beneficiaries of your generosity! Many of you bought books from the teacher's wish lists.

Cynthia Thompson , who accepted the challenge of chairing the Walk-a-thon always manages to bring panache to whatever job she undertakes and this year she had a contingent of fabulous barbecue chefs working with her! We are so appreciative of the way our parents responded to the "Can you help out?" I loved watching our dads flipping those burgers!

Quietly sitting in two of our offices were Lesley Clark, charting the pledges on a spread sheet and Ros Nalls, busily counting the money that came in for the pledges on Saturday, as well as for the T-shirts and raffle tickets. We hope that everyone will rise to the occasion and quickly collect the remaining pledges so that we know how our PTA can budget for next year. Any extra donations can also be sent in at this time, as we did not reach our hoped-for goal of \$20,000.

Lisa Downes, PTAPresident-elect, greeted the new families who have been accepted to Kaiser as they visited us on Saturday, and she was overheard lining them up for PTA committees! Many warm and welcoming parents served at the registration tables and the overall job of volunteer placement was graciously handled by Katherine Fratti, who also arranged for the printing of the shirts. There are still Walk-a-thon shirts available in all sizes for \$5.00 a piece- a remarkable bargain. The GAP graciously donated the shirts again this year and we will send them a picture of our kids sporting the well-designed shirts by Richard Katzoff, Ella Pearson, Truman and Olivia Ports, fourth graders in Mr. Neat's class.

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and the schedule of classes that send in food for the teachers is posted elsewhere in this paper. A really special gift that doesn't put on calories, is a letter of appreciation-with a copy to me, that can be sent to each teacher's personnel file in the district. If you or your child has an opportunity to jot a note of appreciation, be certain that I also get a copy. There is nothing more special than a heartfelt note from a child!

First, second and third graders will celebrate the end of testing and the study of the sea and its amazing creatures by visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium on Friday, May 12th. Thanks again to Amy Haruyama for applying for this grant that allows us to take so many children!

Coming up this next weekend is the traditional Mother's Day, and to all the loving caregivers, be they moms, grandmothers, aunts, uncles or dads, lets honor them all. May is Family Appreciation Month and I want you all to know how grateful we are for the support you give your children.

We should know this week who will be selected as the principal of Kaiser, and my plan is for the two of us to work on the hiring of new staff and the configuration of the classes together. This is the first time the district is allowing for the smooth transition from one to another. The PTA meeting to ratify the vote for the slate of officers and to welcome the new principal will be announced soon.

If you'd like to attend musical theater during the summer months at Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park, be sure to respond to the flyer attached to the PINK. Our PTA group rate allows you and your children to attend at Half price. It's a delightful way to spend a summer evening!

- Katie

Getting In The Know

AFRICAN DANCE THIS FRIDAY

Due to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade field trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium this Friday (May 12th), the African Dance schedule will be altered for this ONE DAY ONLY. Please note the following times and arrange for pick up or supervision of your children.

Kindergarten: 3:00 3:40 (as usual)

Grades 4 & 5: 3:40 4:20

Grades 1, 2 & 3 will have an opportunity to dance from 4:20 5:00, assuming the busses arrive back at school in time (they are due to arrive back around 4:00 4:30). If your child will be on this field trip and is enrolled in African Dance, please let them know to go straight to the multi-purpose room upon arrival back at school.

Questions? Call Katy @ 336-9679 or email katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

LEGO THIS FRIDAY

Although many students will not be at school at 3:00 on Friday due to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade field trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, LEGO Engineering will still go ahead as regularly scheduled. Unfortunately, it

will be impossible to schedule a make-up class, as this class runs through the last full week of school. Questions? Call Katy @ 336-9679 or email katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net.

Bret Harte's EXPO is Saturday, May 13. (Pg.4)

2006-2007 PTA NOMINATIONS

See form on page 7.

**Vote and submit your form
by Friday May 12 !!**

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
HEY! it's STAFF & TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK! May 8th through 12th.	
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)
May 13, 7:00pm	Oakland Youth Choir concert First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland
May 20, 2:00pm	Kids Take the Stage production of Hansel and Gretel (Kaiser Cast Veteran's Memorial Bldg. 2203 Central Ave., Alameda)
May 26-29	Memorial Day Holiday School Closed Friday
June 3, 12-5	Katie's retirement party
June 14	Last day of school!!

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

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!

AFRICAN DANCERS SELECTED TO PERFORM IN SAN FRANCISCO

Congratulations to the following African Dancers who have been selected by Pope Flyne to perform with him on May 28th at the First Annual Youth for Youth World Music & Arts Fest at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco:

Christina Bates

Sierra Baxter

Jade Belvin

Gabbriella Board

Nydesha Foster

Chardonay Hightower

Brittaney Martin

Maiyah Phelps

Ariel Vason

Dehjah Vaughn

If your child's name is on this list, you should have received a form to fill out and return to the office by this Friday. If you do not have this form, please see Robin in the office right away.

Kaiser Kiosk

Be a good neighbor and pass this along ...

This is pretty handy.

Just enter your zip code in the website below, and it tells you which gas stations have the cheapest prices (and the highest) on gas in your zip code area. It's updated every evening.

<http://autos.msn.com/everyday/gasstations.aspx?zip=&src=Netx>

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.

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 | <u>two</u> Kindergarten classes, |
| 1 | <u>two</u> 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.

ATTENTION FOURTH GRADE PARENTS

It's not too early to start thinking about middle school...

Bret Harte's EXPO is Saturday, May 13.
3700 Coolidge Ave. Oakland

Academic classes featured will include English, history, science, math6 math 7, algebra A, algebra I and geometry. Also included will be drama and visual arts classes, and languages including Japanese, Mandarin, French and Spanish.

Stop by between 10am and 2pm. 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.

Kids Take the Page

This time of the year is one of the most intensive periods, where our thoughts about the current year and about the next year start to connect in many ways. **Our student reporter Campbell** wanted to get a heftier interview, from someone who we know is constantly connecting Kaiser - teacher to student, history to today, and school to community. Well, we're saving Katie for last, but boy was this next choice a no brainer: **Six Questions in, well, more than six minutes, with Mel Stenger...**

Q. When you first started teaching at Kaiser, were subjects taught differently from the way they are taught now?

A. We used to scratch our answers in the dirt. (!) Seriously, most of the teaching remains the same. Teachers and students bring up questions and topics and then investigate knowledge around those concepts. There are a couple of differences, though. Now we have standards for each grade level of things the kids are supposed to learn. These standards guide the teachers in choosing what they are going to teach and how the students get graded. Another difference is the use of computers in learning. When I started there weren't any. Now we use computers for playing educational games, reviewing information, research, writing, and developing projects. But the core of teaching remains the same: students and teaching sharing their love of learning.

Q. What should every kindergarten parent know about first grade?

A. First grade is the grade where kids really need to learn how to read. Parents should be ready to support their kids in that process and be ready for the pace of school work to pick up. For a lot of kids first grade is significantly more difficult than Kindergarten.

Q. Have you taught at any school(s) other than Kaiser?

A. I started teaching in Ohio in 1978. I taught at St. Thomas More and St. Vincent Ferrer Elementary Schools. In 1984-85 I taught at St. Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda. In 1985 I came to Kaiser Elementary and taught a 4/5 combination class. The next year I moved to sixth grade. In 1992 after the Oakland fire, I moved into seventh grade and taught in our middle school grades until 1998 when I moved into Kindergarten. While teaching Kindergarten I continued to work with our 6-8 program in the afternoon, teaching math, English, and social studies. From 1998-2002 I taught at JFK University in Orinda, working with graduate students in their education program. During those same years I was acting principal of Oakland's GATE summer program. Now I am looking forward to another phase of my career as a principal.

Kids Take Another Page

[Six Questions with Mel Stenger... cont'd.]

Q. Do you think kids should have P.E. more than once a week?

A. Kids should have PE twice each week. We have one structured period with a teacher and then there is "free PE" time included with lunch recesses throughout the week.

Q. Based on this year, what would you like to add to, or improve about, Kaiser?

We'll be looking for three good teachers: 2 kindergarten and an upper grade. I hope at least two will be men because we are losing three men and we men are relatively rare in elementary schools! I think we have a great resource in our students; I would like to see more upper grade kids working and playing with lower grade kids. I would like to see more kids involved with Conflict Mediation and Second Step as a means of learning that they can be powerful problem solvers. Our PTA is a wonderful support group and I think they should have their pictures in the hall so everyone would know who they are. And I'm really excited about developing an after-school program for academic intervention as well as enrichment classes. I dream of having an annual alumni celebration (maybe in connection with the walkathon), a directory of parent occupations and school resources so we can be more supportive of each other, and my biggest dream is an addition to the multipurpose room because we need space for art classes.

Q. We know you're a great cook and a photographer. How can Kaiser folks get to hear your singing too?

A. I sing with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. We do a spring concert. This year's was at Davies Symphony Hall and several teachers came to see us. We also do a concert in June with other choruses to celebrate Gay Pride month. And then we always do a fall concert and a holiday program. Information about the chorus and our concerts is available at sfgmc.org or by calling the chorus office at (415) 856-3650. Thanks for the interest!

Thanks for asking me these questions, too. It gave me a chance to think about some things I haven't considered for a while.

*Mr. Mel Stenger
Interviewed by
cub reporter
Campbell Ryder.
Who's next?? !!*

You can tell from this and earlier interviews that our Kaiser teachers have a tremendous shared vision of what Kaiser is and what it should do. They're able to speak for each other with real ease and confidence. We want more kids to speak up too! Get your young reporters and their ideas in touch with Kiki Bradley and Eva Caraher, through the office or via email: cara_eva@hotmail.com and kbradley@ix.netcom.com

School Leadership

Nominations for 2006-2007 PTA Slate of Officers

PTA members are eligible to vote. Please be sure to include your name.

Place an X on the line beside the candidate you wish to vote for.

You are welcome to nominate a write-in candidate for each position as well.

_____ **President:** Lisa Downes

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **Executive Vice President:** Janice Murphy

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **Financial Secretary:** Shawn Walker-Smith

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **Treasurer:** Valerie Rogers

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **Secretary:** Renette Warner

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **VP of Fundraising:** Lisa Cartolano and Cynthia Thompson

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **Membership:** Kelly Bartlett

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **VP of Communications:** Kim Carl and Kiki Bradley

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **Room Parent Coordinator:** Liz Hall

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **After School Programs Coordinator:** Katy DeVecchi

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **VP of Programs/Assemblies:** Cyndy Hobbs

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **Health and Safety Coordinator:** Margie Potts

_____ Write in Candidate _____

_____ **Parliamentarian:** Nominate by write in _____

_____ **Historian:** Nominate by write in _____

Please return the form to your child's teacher or to the front office by Friday, May 12.

Kids Take Yet Another Page!

Kaiser Kids Walk Over 700 Miles to Raise Money for Their School

Saturday was a great day...the weather cooperated...not too hot and not too cold, and our walkers took to the route and walked 2, 802 laps (over 700 miles) around their school to earn \$16, 157 for Kaiser Elementary School in our 29th Annual Walk-A-Thon!

The statistics are:

Laps Walked: 2,802
Students Participating in the Walk-A-Thon: 122
Participation Rate: 51.05%
Total Number of Sponsors: 1,127
Total Amount of Pledges: \$16,157

To all the participants, THANKS for a truly wonderful day. You all did a fabulous job walking, earning money for your school, eating, earning prizes, and having a fun time!! This is what the Kaiser Elementary School community is all about! Our awards assembly for the Walk-A-Thon will be coming up soon...watch for announcements in the Pink.

The class winners are:

Highest Participation Rate: Ms. Bailey/McGhee's Class at 78.95%
 Highest Number of Sponsors: Mr. Rust's Class at 154
 Highest \$ Pledges Earned: Ms. Yang's Class at \$2,126.31
 Highest Number of Laps Walked: Ms. Bailey/McGhee's Class at 352

The individual winners are:

Highest Number of Laps Walked: Elan Sherman/80 Laps/Mr. Wade's Class
 David Suruki/76 Laps/Mr. Wade's Class
 Alexander McSpadden/70 Laps/Ms. Yang's Class

Highest Number of Sponsors: Lucie Gaw/33 Sponsors/Ms. Apaydin's Class
 Khayri Wellington/30 Sponsors/Mr. Rust's Class
 Zaria Igondjo/28 Sponsors/Mr. Stenger's Class

Highest \$\$ Amount in Pledges: Todd Blakely/\$638
 Lucie Gaw/\$633
 Alexander McSpadden/\$392



Kaiser Volunteers Get it Done!! -- Our students couldn't have done their Wak-A-Thon without the support of incredible parents, grandparents and adult friends. Thanks to all the Walk-A-Thon volunteers!! And to all those who weren't officially on the list, but jumped in and lent a helping hand, our gratitude thanks for making Walk-A-Thon 2006 such a great event! And that includes **the Barbeque Crew**: Sean Harmon, Leslie Easley, LaRon Wilson, Rob Sasada, Zac Wittmer and Co. If we missed YOU, let us know!! We'll catch up next week!

A ->	Thru ->	Z
Rosiland Nalls-Agbeti	Sara Deslierres	Sinh Lo
Kiki Bradley	Lisa Downes	Katie McLane
Sonya Brooks	Katie DeVecchi	Terry McGlynn
Renae Barr	Gail Elliott	Lolita Morelli
Kelly Bar	Katherine Fratti	Josh Mandel
Lisa Cartalano	Tina Floes	Julie Mills
Maureen Caldwell	Mark Elliott	Dennis Meurer
Lynn Clay	Liz Hall	Joyce Meurer
Chris Charla	Amy Haruyama	Margie Potts
Lesley Clark	Andrea Kiefer	Brad Paulus
Regina Davis	Cyndy Hobbs	Will Parks
Chris Debro	Maya Lopez	Robin Quamina
Ramona Dixon	Melissa Kunesh	Malcolm Ryder
Trish Dolan	Debra Kay	Rusty !!!
		Ian Stenger-Morgante
		Robin Sasada
		Laura Sherman
		Ann Smith
		Mel Stenger
		Shane Sasada
		Cynthia Thompson
		Michelle Thompson
		Norma Thaxton
		Zac Wittmer
		Amanda White
		Joyce Wessling
		Jean Whipple

What's So Great About... Kaiser!

Dear Reader,

We thought you'd like to know that **new parent reviews have recently been posted about Kaiser Elementary School.**

To see the reviews, start here

<http://www.greatschools.net/modperl/parents/ca/221?email=catherine.mclane@secmail.ousd.k12.ca.us&wf=1&cpn=pr05042006> .

Test scores, teacher-student ratios and other data only tell part of the story about a school. Its unique character comes from its intangible characteristics-- the influence of particular teachers or the strength of a community-- elements that cannot be reduced to numbers.

Parents are in an ideal position to help others understand a school "beyond the numbers." For this reason, GreatSchools provides a forum for parents to provide their views about the school their child attends. The parent reviews section on each school profile invites parents to rate schools in six areas and includes space for open-ended reviews.

Share your opinion with other parents by adding your own review about Kaiser Elementary School
<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/addcomments/ca/221?email=catherine.mclane@secmail.ousd.k12.ca.us&wf=1&cpn=pr05042006> .

Share your opinion about another school
<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/regSearch/ca?wf=1&cpn=pr05042006> .

Thanks for your help!

The GreatSchools.net Staff

About GreatSchools

GreatSchools is an independent, nonprofit organization that has been improving K-12 education since 1998 by inspiring parents like you to get involved.

More news from GreatSchools.net

Navigate the Year with FREE News, Tips and Advice!

Sign up for GreatSchools' free email newsletters:

My School Stats: Periodic performance updates for your child's school

Grade-by-grade newsletters: What to expect in the classroom and more

Middle School Matters and Countdown to College: Academics, behavior issues, college prep and more

Learn more here

<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/newsletters/ca/?email=catherine.mclane@secmail.ousd.k12.ca.us&cpn=pr05042006>

Technical Note:

Don't miss the next issue of My School Stats. Add GreatSchools.net to your address book to keep your email filter from blocking your newsletter.

GreatSchools.net
301 Howard St., Suite 1440
San Francisco, CA 94105

Check out this helpful resource I found on GreatSchools.net to support my child!

Click on this link to learn more:

<http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/CA/607/improve>

- **Katie**