



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

### Greetings from Principal Mel Stenger

Dear Kaiser Families,

As we get “into the groove” of the school year we are all probably beginning to see patterns developing. (It’s interesting to me that recognizing patterns is a Kindergarten learning objective, and we use it all our lives!) I am witnessing some wonderful patterns beginning!

- I walked down the hall twice this week just after the bell rang and *every* class was already engaged in meaningful work. That’s how school should be!
- There have been several playground scuffles, which is normal among kids, but in *every* instance the kids had apologized and begun to work things out before I got to them. I credit the teachers for teaching explicit problem solving strategies using Second Step or other curriculum; I credit you for teaching peaceful strategies at home; and I credit the kids for taking those lessons to heart. Wow! That’s how kids should behave!
- Three mornings this week Sonya Brooks has come in from the morning circle and said how nice it’s been—*that’s* a new pattern! Again, credit goes to you all for being patient and cooperative to help traffic flow.
- Our hallway has become a peaceful place at dismissal time! In years past there was much running, shoving, shouting and jostling, mostly because it was over-crowded. Thank you all for respecting my request to meet your kids outside and going to classrooms after dismissal time. It has really made the hallway a different place!
- Volunteering has begun to build steam. Regular classroom volunteers are beginning and I’ve seen some “Give Us a Day” forms showing up, too! Again thanks to you!

These and other wonderful things are happening at your school. I’m proud of everyone and how you all make contributions in various ways!

Please take the time to read through our newsletter; it’s our main method of communication. Take a few minutes to mark your family calendar of upcoming events. For the safety of children at lunch please do not send any glass containers. Regretfully, we are not equipped to microwave children’s lunches. Also, Kindergarten parents, please practice with your children how to open lunch containers because a lot of time is lost helping everyone with that task. Oh, and practice your smiles because Picture Day is October 17!

When I review that list of reminders some of them seem trivial. I guess that means we have the big items covered!

**Mel Stenger, Principal**

# Getting In The Know

## EARTHQUAKE/EMERGENCY PACKETS DUE BACK BY NOW!

The emergency packets were sent home the first day of school. Please fill the packets with the listed items and return them to your child's teacher.

Thanks, Margie Potts

## Become a PTA member! We're looking for 100% membership.

The class who gets there first wins a class trip to the **Ironworks climbing gym!**

Complete and return the **green directory form** sent home with the back to school envelopes. PTA members will receive a directory after they are printed. Non-members may purchase them for \$5.00.

## New Student Parents Key Contact Numbers

Welcome again to the Kaiser Community!  
If you still feel like you have unanswered questions, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to set up meeting time or phone time with:

Principal Mel Stenger:  
510-879-1710 (from 2:00–4:00 daily)

PTA President Lisa Downes:  
532-5913 or [lisadownes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisadownes@sbcglobal.net)

Administrative Assistant Robin Sasada:  
510-879-1710

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Sept 11–29	Sally Foster Sale
Sept 20	SSC Meeting
Sept 28	PTA Board Meeting
Sept 30	Beautification Day
Oct 6	Gardening Day
Oct 17	Picture Day
Nov 4	Kaiser AUCTION!

**KEEP UP TO DATE ALL WEEK THRU**

**The Kaiser School Web Site**  
<http://www.kaiserelementary.org>

- *Pink Panther* copies
- Info about fundraising events
- After school programs
- Teacher classrooms online
- Parent participation

## How to be in the *Pink Panther*

To include your story or information  
in your school newsletter:

forward your news, questions or article to  
the editors by 5:00 p.m. on Sundays via:

[mryder@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mryder@ix.netcom.com) and  
[kbradley@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kbradley@ix.netcom.com)

## How to Reach Kaiser School

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

To participate in the school community group,  
go to (and join) this website:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/  
kaiserelementaryschool\\_group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/)

## Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.

**her·i·tage** (hĕr ˈɪ-tɪj) **NOUN:** Something that is passed down from preceding generations; such as a tradition, or customs.

The wonderful thing about tradition and customs is how they show the huge variety and richness in how we can communicate with each other. The word “tradition” itself is easy to decode: “tra-“ as in (transport) “across”, and “dit” meaning “said.” So one great example of maintaining heritage is oral histories, or stories. Another, of course, is through clothing, and even if you’re *just an hombre*, the idea of “fashion” is also not too hard to recognize as what it really is... namely, art — or the business of making something mean something. When you get dressed in a certain way, you’re really saying something!

But how about “customs?” The great thing about customs is that they are the door to making traditions alive and meaningful today instead of just in reflection. It’s no accident that the words “custom” and “costume” are so similar. (Look them up!) In California and Texas, there is especially high energy in using customs to strengthen the culture with traditions. Did you know that in the U.S., according to U.S. Census Bureau’s 2005 data, 49% of the Hispanic-origin population lives in California or Texas? In 2004, California was home to 12.4 million Hispanics, and Texas was home to 7.8 million. And 1 of every 2 people added to the nation’s population between July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2004 were Hispanic.

### HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO CELEBRATE WITH YOUR KIDS THIS WEEK:

**Wed., Sept. 20, 3:30 pm and 8:30 pm:** KQED Kids (9, Comcast 192) | “Postcards From Buster: Treasure Island” (San Juan, Puerto Rico) In Puerto Rico, Buster discovers the beauty of Old San Juan, secret beaches and the rain forest, while putting his Spanish to use.

**Wed., Sept. 20, 7 pm:** La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley SF International Latino Film Festival's *Palermo Hollywood: A Tale from Buenos Aires* (\$6). See [www.lapena.org](http://www.lapena.org) for details.

**Sat., Sept. 23, 4pm:** KQED World | “My Americas: Cuzco, Peru”  
Witnesses the incredible march of saints' statues at the feast of Corpus Christi and finds an original Inca dwelling that still houses a Quechua family.

**Sat., Sept. 23, 4:30pm:** KQED World (9, Comcast 190) | “My Americas: Tikal, Guatemala”  
Columbus Day, or Dia de la Raza, as it is called in much of Latin America, is charged with conflicting meanings for the native people of Guatemala.

**Sat., Sept. 23, 5pm:** KQED World (9, Comcast 190) | “My Americas: Mexico City, Mexico”  
On the feast day of the patroness of Mexico, My Americas: journeys to one of the most visited shrines in the world, the basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and explores ancient Aztec culture.

**Sat., Sept. 23, 5:30pm:** KQED World (9, Comcast 190) | “My Americas: Havana, Cuba”

Joins in the celebration of Saint Lazarus in El Rincón and examines the connection between Catholic saints and African spirituality.

## Going Once... Going Twice...

# HERE COMES THE FALL FIESTA!

The annual PTA auction is our biggest fund raiser. Proceeds cover the library staff, music, art instruction and more. Like last year it can also help cover computer lessons and P.E. as well.

Last year this event was an elegant gala at an art gallery. This year is very laid back, dress casual, dress up or dress for the fiesta. Ladies could wear braids with colorful ribbons, a colorful flowing skirt and a peasant shirt. Gentlemen could wear a flannel shirt, Wrangler or Levi's jeans, cowboy boots and cowboy hat. And we're working on getting some mexican music — perhaps a Mariachi band. In between rounds, feast on wonderful Mexican cuisine.

We are having it at the First Congregational Church of Oakland on Harrison St. In 2001, First Church began to work with many arts organizations and individual artists in our community — representing every age group from kids to seniors, and involved in dance, theatre, music, visual art, and the spoken word. This coming together of artists and arts organizers has given birth to the collaborative, non-denominational organization called Arts First Oakland.



### Convenient!

- The church shares the parking lot. **Katie McLane** is working on getting that space for us.
- Child care next door at Westlake Junior High School's auditorium is looking probable. We should know before the week is out.

### Donations we've already received:

- How about this one — a one hour salsa lesson for 15 couples!
- Also, Hanger One Vodka donated a tasting for 6.
- We will have Symphony, Ballet and The Berkeley Repertory Theatre Tickets. We're hoping to get even more tickets to art related venues.

### Donation ideas:

- We don't have any art yet!
- If any parents would like to donate services, such as cooking dinner for 8 at the recipients home, or a baby sitting for a few couples, etc. that would do well
- Could our community offer some services that we could auction off for the live portion?

### How to Donate:

Donate an auctionable item by submitting a **Solicitation Request Letter**... this can be emailed to you, picked up at the Kaiser Office, or sent home in your child's backpack this week.

**Questions or special requests? Call Liz Hall at 325-7803**

# Kaiser Kiosk

## Pack A Snack!

**By now, unless you avoid TV altogether, you know that** the top avoidable threats to kids' health is sugar and fat! Yes, later they are replaced by gossip and bad cosmetics, but let's not get ahead of ourselves. Right away, go with the proven idea that *an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*, and focus on healthy lunches and snacks.

That will mean you'll want to omit candy, gum, gummy bears, soda, high-fat and over-processed foods.

No less important is to keep a good measure of physical safety with food items, too, which means no sunflower seeds (spitting shells is a problem), glass bottles, or jars.

Thanks for your vigilance!

## News You Can Use

Please review your **after-school programs** information that was sent home with our newsletter a couple of weeks ago. Many parents have come with questions that were answered in the packet. More importantly, several programs **need more participants** or they may close.

Now, I know the packet is on your kitchen counter, or in the pile on the dining room table, or in someone's backpack, or....

— Mel Stenger

## KAISER ELEMENTARY Scholastic Book Fair October 18-20

How convenient...Parent-Teacher  
conferences are Oct 16-20

**Help teachers fill their wish list early  
Raise \$\$\$\$ for Kaiser Elementary  
Great Holiday Gifts**

**To volunteer call:  
Kelly (510) 851-3513  
or email:  
bartlettsmith@sbcglobal.net**

## Sally Foster is Here!

Sally Foster envelopes went home with your child on last Monday. Orders can be made both through the catalog and online. 50% of all purchases benefit the school.

**Orders are due September 29, with delivery  
scheduled for November 13.**

## PTA Reminders

If you can help with any of these items  
please contact **Lisa Downes**  
532-5913 or [lisadownes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisadownes@sbcglobal.net)

### Sign up to be a Volunteer

*A description of the various volunteer positions  
can be found on the sign up sheets outside  
the auditorium.*

*Please keep track of your volunteer hours  
and record them in the **volunteer sign-in**  
binder in the office.*

### Volunteers Needed Immediately in the Following Positions!

**Auditor:** to perform an audit on the PTA books twice  
yearly (due September and February)

**Tax Preparer:** to prepare a tax return  
(due November 15)

**Auction Donors:** to donate items for upcoming  
auction November 4. Contact Liz Hall 531-2422,  
[probossliz@pacbell.net](mailto:probossliz@pacbell.net)

**Grant Writers:** to seek out and write grants

**Computer Support:** to help maintain computers  
and fix problems that may arise.

**Walk-a-thon Chair:** to organize and oversee a  
committee for the Walk-a-thon taking place on May 5

**Kiln operator:** to operate kiln and help with class  
ceramic projects.

# More for the Kids

## Events at Rockridge Library Oct–Nov 2006

Hello again from the Children's Librarians at Rockridge Library! As your family settles in to the pace of the school year, we hope you will make time in your busy month to continue your visits to the library.

We'll help you find fun stuff to read for school reading assignments, and show you where to look for research information. Did you say you need some pictures of pirates for your Halloween costume? Right this way... Stop by anytime — No appointment necessary! Bring the whole family, no extra charge for siblings, friends, or relatives.

Erica and Gay Ducey  
Children's Librarians  
Rockridge Branch Library  
5366 College Ave, Oakland CA 94618  
510-597-5017  
[esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org)

### For Children:

#### Toddler Story Times:

1st & 2nd Saturdays at 10:30am: 7 & 14 October, 4 November.  
(We're closed Saturday 11/11 for Veterans' Day.)

#### Pre-School Story Times:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30am: 4 & 18 October,  
1 & 15 November.

#### Pajama Story Times:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm: 10 & 24 October, 28 November.  
(No Pajama Story Time on 11/14, because we're having a special guest. See details below.)

### Special Events for Kids and Families:

In October, the Rockridge Library will be having Halloween-themed stories on Tuesday, October 24th. Then, on Tuesday, October 31st, any Trick-or-Treaters that stop by before 8:00 will receive a treat. See you then in costume!

In November, we are happy to be hosting a bilingual musical performance by Colibri -- with a sing-along in English and Spanish. All ages are welcome!

**Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 pm.**

### Closed Dates:

The Oakland Public Libraries will be closed on the following dates:

**Saturday, November 11**  
**Thursday, November 23**  
**Friday, November 24**

## Room For More Parents for More Rooms!

Want to totally make your teacher's day? Become a **Room Parent**, a huge helping hand that lets our teachers find the opportunity to bring more of what's special about Kaiser to each of our kids.

A sign-up sheet went out, but more sheets are in supply in the Kaiser office. Fill out and turn it in to your child's teacher, to Robin Sasada, or email or give it to me.

Many thanks

Liz Hall  
[probossliz@pacbell.net](mailto:probossliz@pacbell.net)

## Want to donate to the Auction?

A helpful parent made a great suggestion — donate ONE bottle of wine for the auction. As enough bottles come in from our families, we can bring them up together for auction, in cases, in a basket, or as individuals for any really good bottles.

If you have or hear other good ideas for donations, pass them on to our Auction by using the donor forms or contacting Coordinator Liz Hall at 531-2422 or [probossliz@pacbell.net](mailto:probossliz@pacbell.net)