



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2, 2006

Greetings from the Principal

Kaiser School Achieves 98% Attendance! (91% on-time arrivals)

Dear Kaiser Families,

On this past Tuesday, Robin Sasada reported to me that we have achieved 98% attendance for the first reporting period — a new school record! Our funding relates directly to attendance; that is, we get 98% of our allocated money based on our attendance. But, I'm sorry to say that our record of tardiness is not as stellar. We have about 22 kids arriving late each day; 2-3 interruptions in each class just as the classes are beginning. And while we don't lose money based on tardy children, they lose instructional time. I've been to classroom many times since the school year began, and all teachers do begin their programs at 8:45. So try to get the kids here by 8:40. Thanks for your support in both ways!

And while we're on the subject of numbers that matter, let's look at Numeracy and Literacy. We all know about literacy — it's the ability to read and write and use language to accomplish goals. Numeracy is similar — it's the ability to use numbers and math to accomplish goals. I've been in social situations where people will laugh at their own lack of numeracy skills, "Oh, I couldn't begin to balance my check book!" Ha-ha, chuckle... or "I'm not good in math. I just let my spouse do all that." Would we ever joke about our own lack of literacy skills? Why is being poor in math okay in our society? Let's start to change that attitude now! By getting involved in your child's math education, you'll get a refresher course yourself!

Mark your calendars! Our Benefit Auction is only one month away! I've seen the invitation and it looks like a lot of fun. Liz Hall, our coordinator, tells me there are many great donations just waiting for your bids. And for you new families, don't hesitate to come to the Auction. It's a great way to meet other members of the Kaiser family who don't usually make it to the school site. The dinner price is very reasonable, the auction is fun, and it's all for the best cause on earth — our kids!

We care about our kids. That's evident to me in the way you support your kids in homework and support our school in so many ways. Sometimes though, the caring can get a little carried away. We had a parent confront a child over a jacket confusion problem, and another parent-child confrontation over a student council election sign. Talk about over shoot! Please do not confront children personally. Adult-child confrontation can cause problems and can end up scaring the child. Instead, please take issues to the teacher.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

PTA Membership Drive Update

Have you joined the PTA yet?

How's your child's class doing? Check out the mountain in the main hall. It looks like Mr. Neat's class is taking the lead with Ms. Bailey and Ms. Reese following close behind.

The first class who reaches 100% wins a class trip to the Ironworks climbing gym!

Parent-Teacher Conferences October 16–20

Teachers will be sending home **forms to reserve a time.**

Every parent should plan now to have a conference with their child's teacher to talk about the child's progress.

Also please note that the **short school hours for the entire week** are 8:45-1:25 — our minimum day schedule.

Calling All Auction Donors

Donate items for the auction coming November 4.

Contact **Liz Hall** at 531-2422 or probossliz@pacbell.net

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Oct 6	Gardening Day
Oct 13 Friday	In Service Day for Teachers — NO SCHOOL!
Oct 16-20	Parent-Teacher Conferences: Minimum Days All Week
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 and
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/

PTA Updates

Math Numeracy

One of our district's goals is to make sure that every child is "algebra-ready" by eighth grade. That puts a tremendous responsibility on us elementary educators and parents. Mr. Rust has been instructing the staff about math teaching during our Wednesday meetings. One of the topics he covered was basic components of math numeracy — the things you need to really understand to be "fluent" in math.

In the primary grades children should *master*:

- Odd and even numbers
- Adding and subtracting up to 3 digits
- Multiplying and dividing up to 3 digits
- Expanded notation and place value
- Inverse relationships (adding and subtracting are opposites, as are multiplying and dividing.)

In the upper elementary grades children should *master*:

- Prime and composite numbers
- Fractions/Decimals/Percents and their relationship to each other
- Negative numbers
- Parentheses and the Order of Operations
- Inverse relationships (fractions to wholes, ratios and proportions)

Although these may seem like a lot, keep in mind that the kids learn a little bit every day. And it is important that they do get that little bit every day!

If you want to know any more about this feel free to stop and ask Mr. Rust or Principal Stenger.

Reminders

If you can help with any of these items please contact Lisa Downes 532-5913, lisadownes@sbcglobal.net

Volunteers Needed Immediately in the Following Positions!

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

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 which takes place on May 5

School Site Council Membership Opening

The SSC serves as a local school board, overlooking all the major functions of the school and advising the staff on needed direction and program changes.

We need an alternate member who may serve as a substitute and ideally will eventually join the SSC.

The Council meets monthly on the third Wednesday, from 4:00–5:30 p.m.

FOR INFO: CONTACT LISA DOWNES

Auction Plans Gel

Shaping Up for November 4!



Kids Entertainment and Child Care:

We've secured the Cafetorium at West Lake Jr. High, which conveniently shares a parking lot with the auction site. After check out, just a hop, skip, and jump will get you to your kids. Stay tuned...

Meanwhile, if you're *thinking of being a wine donor*, look for a case in the small room to the left in the office where people can place the bottles. You'll also see a clipboard provided so that you can write down what you donate, if you want.

Questions? Contributions? Volunteering? Contact:

Liz Hall,
Auction Chairperson
probossliz@pacbell.net

Alison May,
Head of Solicitation
alisonemay@comcast.net



CELEBREMOS TU HERENCIA

At the annual Kaiser feast.
It's almost here already!

Who Wants to Run a Contest? We Do!

Let's get some classics in the picture.

Send in your **favorite original recipe for Sangria** to the *Pink Panther*.

We'll get a panel of experts together, pick the top ones, add a complementary food recipe, and publish them in the next two weeks.

Feel like an expert?

Send us your name and get us going... Leave a message for the *Pink Panther* at the Kaiser office or email us here: mryder@ix.netcom.com

The Origin of Sangría

There is no official history regarding sangría but most Mediterranean wines from the classical period were sweetened in some form, and it is probable that during this period sangria (wine and fruit juices) became accepted thanks to its refreshing mixture.

The name "sangria" refers to the color of the wine used: traditional strong red wines with purplish highlights, often found in coastal areas and similar to the color of blood ("sangre" in Spanish means blood). The basic ingredients for sangria were not commonly found in all the Mediterranean countries except for Spain, where they grow in abundance. This is how the tradition survived and how sangria became associated with its Spanish origins.

(Source: www.mexgrocer.com)

Kids Take the Page!

*Economy of expression...
it's a beautiful thing!*

Cat
soft, cuddly
climb, run, claw
hunting mice
Feline

- Nick Maier

Animals
big, small
play, fight, tackle
Killing people
Monsters

- Benjamin Cash

Dog
cute, cuddly
Play, tug, chew
Hyper exhausting
puppy

- Sophia Lee

Toys
fun, interactive
run, smile, play
Playing joyfully
Football

- Malcolm Alcut

Sports
fun, exciting
run, kick, throw
Sports are active
exercise

- Marina Donaldson

Students
learn, study
work, try, succeed
Is very hard working
Learners

- Chardonay Hightower

Bears
scary, hairy
run, eat, sleep
Don't make a peep
Cubs

- Richard Katzoff

Christpuffreffer
nice, cute
swim, eat, sleep
it is 1 inch tall
oval

- Savannah Whaley

Rainforest
beautiful, scary
eat, buzz, slither
An amazing sight
Jungle

- Nolan Rogers

Seven sweet sounding swallowtails
Sat singing on stiff sturdy rocks
Secret, sneaky, small swallowtails
Wearing silver slippery socks
Snoring, snoozing, sleepy swallowtails
They sit silently on the docks

- Meaghan Paulus

Desert
sandy, hot
Heats, fries, boils
A heater in the day and an AC at night
Plains

- Tommy Gonda

Television
interesting, cool
show, stand, rest
showing people, colorful pictures
Technology

- Gabriel Meldman

Artists: 5th Graders, Jill Reese Class

Fall 2006

Kaiser Kiosk

Parenting and Teaching your Gifted Child

Parent & Teacher partnering for kids' success gets a big boost on October 28 in Sacramento when the California Association for the Gifted (CAG) holds **two seminars** on raising and teaching gifted students.

Teachers can register and attend the 2-day Teacher Institutes' meeting on new curriculum and instructional strategies.

Parents can register and attend the 1-day Parent Institute conference on supporting the social and emotional needs of the Gifted, including networking with other parents and receiving expert advice.

Registrations are first-come-first-served. They must be done in advance of the seminar dates, and they have different prices for Association non-members (\$350) and members (\$275). And, there is no childcare available.

But **to register or get more seminar details**, check:

- the CAG website at www.cagifted.org,
- flyers sent with the *Pink Panther*,
- or ask at the Kaiser office for registration forms

Be Kind to the Environment! And make some \$ for our school

We are all signed up for the **printer recycling program** via Office Depot. A box to place the cartridges is being mailed to the school and will be available shortly.

Kaiser Garden & Grounds Keepers

Saturday saw a spirited group of teachers, students and parents busily scurrying around Kaiser School making the grounds beautiful. Windows were washed, weeds pulled, new horizons developed behind the new portable. friends made, games played and bellies filled.

Many thanks to those families who joined in and especially those kids who brought their parents. Among them were Cheryl Ting, Regina Davis, Linda Meldman, Mal May, Carrie Moulton, Mel Peppas, Andrea Kiefer, Kathleen Ferris, Karen Orsulak, Julie Mills, Jeff White and special mention to Katrinca Ford and Wynnie, Dean, Nolan and Valerie and last but not least, Miles, Colin and Samantha.

Special recognition must go to our dedicated teachers (who come to work on a day off no less!): Tom Rust, Janan Apaydin, Steve Neat, Mary McGhee and Trish Gorham.

We had a special visit from Caitlin Sorenson, from UC Berkeley, who is organizing a special volunteer day on November 11. She has plans to have 20 UC Berkeley students join us on that day to replace our aging raised planter beds! You will hear more about this soon.

This Friday after school is our next gardening day. Please feel free to join us as we continue to beautify our childrens' daily environment.

Delicious Fundraising

The Dinner Source is a prep kitchen located in Emeryville designed for people with busy lives. The company has made a donation to the Fiesta Auction. In addition, they are offering our school a fundraising opportunity.

The Dinner Source is a place to go, spend about an hour or two and come home with several meals totally prepared and ready to cook. They do all of the shopping, chopping, organizing and menu making. All you do is go in and put your meals together to take home and freeze to cook later. The meals are delicious & affordable. (I know, I go there myself!)

The offer is this: anyone from Kaiser who orders meals during October will get **10% of their total purchase donated to the school.**

To do this, go to <http://www.thedinnerSource.com> and place an order. At the online checkout, simply type **KAISERELEM** in the coupon/gift certificate section and the donation will be credited to Kaiser.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions, Alison May, 530-6264, alisonemay@comcast.net

Each meal costs between \$15-23 and feeds a family of four. There is a four-meal minimum when placing an order.

Having a hard time at home? Kids driving you over the edge?

Try calling the
Parental Stress Hotline
at **893-5444.**

They are a 24/7 service to lend an ear to listen when you think you can't take it any more.

How the Arts Teach

Over the years, Kaiser Elementary has been identified both formally and informally as an “Arts Magnet” or “Arts Anchor” school in our region.

With the state requirements for reading, math and science being so rigorous for all schools, you’d think that alone would make the plate pretty full for any teaching day. And now comes this week’s news that California students in upper grades (and even college) have terrible history competency. More pressure to keep other things out and use the time for “better basics.”

But we not only fit the arts into the mix: we do it innovatively and with public distinction, thanks to the creativity and commitment of our teaching staff and PTA.

Meanwhile, Principal Stenger and Principal McLane before him can point to over 125 points increase in our school’s API (performance index) over the last five years.

So it seems to work! But how does it work? The state doesn’t measure our “art scores”... What is it that art is doing, as part of the educational mix?

1. For starters, the blending of teaching topics is always best when the overall teaching can use one topic to help make another topic more meaningful and easier to master. By analogy, it’s not just an a la carte menu that counts but the *combination* of the choices on your plate that makes the meal. Art helps make the other topics better.
2. Another key aspect is that works of art demonstrate how an idea can be carried and transmitted in a variety of ways. In turn, this means that the student has more than one approach to finding the “way into” a topic, and more than one way to later show what it means to herself or himself.
3. Third, but not last and certainly not least, the process of making art is one of the most direct personal discoveries of a hugely critical success factor in cultivating productivity and problem-solving, both academically and in life. Namely, in art-making we discover that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. Knowing that to be true, we bring inventiveness and broad-mindedness to working with the resources we may have at the time. Resources like facts, materials, ideas and people!

If you’re one of the *very* many persons in our Kaiser community who are artistic for the love of it or even also professionally, you probably go back and forth from sensitivity to how hard a particular kind of artwork can be in itself, and how art will readily “make you think about other things”... This is a wonderful example of how art mentally trains us to handle both depth and breadth in our thinking. Children engaged in art are heading down that same path. And it’s no coincidence that great works in fields like math, construction, and even strategy, are so often called “artful”, “works of art”, or “state of the art”...

So — kudos to Kaiser and the arts! A great case of “more is more”...not more is less.

(by Kaiser parent M. Ryder, whose art degree somehow morphed into work in management strategy in computing.)