



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 16, 2006

Teacher Parent Conference Week!
Please confirm your appointment with your child's
teacher! (Early dismissal at 1:25 all week)

Dear Kaiser Families,

Thank you so much for giving our staff the opportunity to work together for the entire day last Friday, October 13. I know it was inconvenient for many of you to find alternate placements for your children for the day, so I wanted to extend to you the staff's appreciation for making it possible.

We spent the day on improving our teaching practice. In the morning we worked with a graduate student from UC Berkeley, Soung Bae, and had a discussion about student motivation. After that, our fifth-grade teacher Jill Reese did a PowerPoint presentation about using a case study and analyzing student work in order to reflect on one's own practice. I wish you could have been there to hear the comments that the teachers were making, delighted and laughing as they identified the students in Jill's slideshow. As each slide came up teachers would identify a boy or girl, and then say something wonderful about them or their family. It was as if we were seeing our nieces and nephews or grandchildren. After lunch a district representative met with faculty in the computer lab to give us all training on how to use Edusoft, an educational data software program.

It was a very full and busy day for all. But something else especially wonderful happened last Friday. I watched and listened as Soung Bae led the discussion about student motivation. At the beginning of the discussion there were comments from every teacher about their reward systems that they use in their classroom. They talked about using marble-jars, stickers, words of praise, smiling faces, and even the proper tone of voice. Many teachers pointed out the detrimental effects of competition for grades, negative public criticism, and public social comparison. Teachers brought up the importance of clear expectations and clear and fair consequences in bringing parents into the equation.

After about 20 minutes however, the conversation took a turn, from the strategies that we all use to motivate students, to deeper issues. Many teachers pointed out how important it is to connect learning activities with the students' lives to give them a very real reason to participate in classwork. One teacher said that she had to build community first, before trying to do any significant teaching, because she saw her classroom as a community of learners and the word community came first. Another said that he was surprised to learn at the beginning of his career that for many children he is their parent for a time; during the school day children come to him for guidance and see him in the role of the father. Yet another said that he works to build a personal connection with each student, and he uses that relationship as a context within which to teach the students, to motivate them, or to correct them when necessary. He said that the relationship was absolutely necessary before any of the other things can happen. What became clear to me through listening to that conversation is that the teachers here at Kaiser do much more than teach your children; we love them.

Have a good week.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Needed Immediately

The PTA board is looking for someone to **prepare our taxes**. It will need to be completed by **November 15**. If you feel you are qualified and would be willing to help out, please contact Lisa Downes 532-5913, lisadownes@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!

Auction Tickets, Now!

If you are planning to attend this year's auction (how could you miss it?!), please send in your auction registration forms as soon as possible. The sooner you buy your tickets, the easier it is for the auction committee.

The deadline for purchasing advanced registration is Monday, October 30.

Sally Foster Success! Thank You...

A big thank you to those who participated in the Sally Foster fundraiser. Together we sold over \$13,000 worth of merchandise. The school keeps 50% of that.

Thank you for making the sale a huge success!

Your orders are scheduled to arrive on November 13.

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

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Oct. 16-20	Parent-Teacher Conferences: Minimum Days All Week 8:45am-1:25pm
Oct. 18 - 20	Book Fair!!
Oct. 26	PTA Board Meeting
Nov. 1	PTA General Meeting
Nov. 3	Gardening Day
Nov. 4	Kaiser AUCTION
Nov. 10	Veterans' Day: SCHOOL CLOSED

PICTURE DAY

Picture Day is Tuesday, October 17!! Attached is the order envelope, please be sure that you return it with your child tomorrow. If you have any questions, please call the office at 510-879-1710.

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/

This Week: Latino Potluck and Book Fair!

Please join us in celebrating Latino Heritage this Friday.

Food will be served at 6:30.

There will be folklorico dancers and fun for the whole family.

CELEBREMOS TU HERENCIA



The annual Kaiser Latino Heritage feast is almost here!

Your contribution is appreciated!

We would love lots of delicious vegetables, main dishes and fruit.

Families with last name starting letter shown can bring:

A-F **Vegetables**

G-M **Main Dishes**

N-T **Fruits**

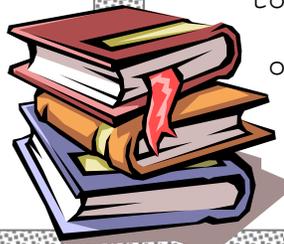
U-Z **Desserts**

Book Fair

October 18, 19 & 20
Wed. & Thu. 1-5p Fri. 1-8p
in the library

Here's a chance to donate books on the Teachers' wish lists. Stock up on Holiday & Birthday gifts.

The more we sell, the more books and teaching materials Kaiser gains for the Library and Teachers.



Book Fair Volunteers needed!
contact: Kelly Bartlett 851-3513
or
bartlettsmith@sbcglobal.net

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the book fair this week (this is a great opportunity for new parents!).

The hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 1-5, and Friday from 1-8.

If you don't find what you want at this week's Scholastic Book Fair... We will be participating in

the "Cody's Books Celebrate School Book Days" fundraiser November 17-20.

All you have to do is shop at Cody's during those days, submit your receipts to the office, and the school receives 15% of the net purchases.

PTA News

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of an emergency, the PTA has collected individual emergency bags from each family.

If you haven't returned your child's bag yet, please make this a priority!

Last year the Murphy family was able to get Kaiser Permanente to donate a storage container in which to store our emergency supplies. They were also able to secure a donation of medical and other emergency supplies. The container has been painted (thank you Jay Murphy), and a volunteer boy scout has installed shelving.

Margie Potts, the PTA Safety Chair, has been busy purchasing plastic storage bins to store the bags in the container, organized by classroom. It is extremely important that each child has a bag filled with the necessary items.

The November Elections are quickly approaching.

The California State PTA holds the following positions on ballot measures:

No on Proposition 88

Yes on Proposition 86

Yes on 1D

For more information, visit the table outside the office and look for the yellow fact sheets.

Last Chance to include Your Child's family contact info in the 2006-07 Kaiser Directory

If you haven't already filled out a form and would like to be in the directory, look for the green sheet on the table outside the office. Please fill out and return to Robin ASAP. Alternately, you can email kbradley@ix.netcom.com with address and telephone info.

The directory is yet another way for families to connect and add a sense of community to our school. Please consider submitting your information if you haven't already done so.

KAISER 2006-7 DIRECTORY INFORMATION - RETURN BY 09/08/06

If you wish to be included in the directory: (1) please complete all sections you would like to see printed in the directory. (2) Fill out information for each child separately. (3) To avoid repeating the same info over and over, just write "None".

	CHILD #3	PARENT/GUARDIAN #1	PARENT/GUARDIAN#2
Last Name			
First Name			
Teacher/Grade		(n/b)	(n/a)
Street Address (lives at)	(lives at)	(mail to:)	(mail to:)
City, State, Zip			
Home Phone	→		
Cell Phone	→		
E-MAIL	→		
	CHILD #4	PARENT/GUARDIAN#1	PARENT/GUARDIAN#2
Last Name			
First Name			
Teacher/Grade		(n/a)	(n/a)
Street Address (lives at)	(lives at)	(mail to:)	(mail to:)
City, State, Zip			
Home Phone	→		
Cell Phone	→		
E-MAIL	→		

See Other Side for Info. About Additional Children

2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:

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 Kiki Bradley
 Principal: Mel Stenger

Fiesta Mood

FIESTA!
Get your tickets in!

it helps us know how much food to make and get the bidder numbers together. Thanks.

Please consider donating ONE bottle of wine for us to sell—we'll be putting them in gift baskets or selling them by the case, so we need a lot. There's a box where you can place them in the little office to the left when entering the main office & a sign-up sheet if you'd like a receipt for tax



Questions? Contributions? Volunteering? Contact:

Liz Hall,
Auction Chairperson
probossliz@pacbell.net

Alison May,
Head of Solicitation
alisonemay@comcast.net

Sangria Recipes arriving...one more week to go

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

Our panel of experts will pick the top ones, add a complimentary food recipe, and publish them in the next two weeks.

Leave your recipe for the *Pink Panther* at the Kaiser office or email us here:

mryder@ix.netcom.com

This just in:

This comes from a good friend in Madrid. We tried it there and it's really good. Pretty basic too.

2 oranges
2 lemons
1 cup of red wine
sugar
over ice.

- Kim Lorenz

Featured last week:

Hi!
I have A Cote's great sangria recipe:

*1 shot of brandy (doesn't matter which brand)
juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1/2 a lime & 1/2 an orange
simple syrup (to taste)
red wine for color and flavor (preferably Borao Tempranillo)*

- Carrie Lee

Kids Take The Page

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTED

All of our students who participated in the Student Council elections were winners last Friday!

Each candidate had a classmate nominate him/her. The nominating speeches were terrific. Our third, fourth and fifth graders who participated in the voting had a difficult time choosing from among a terrific group of candidates.

The election of **President** was a tie between **Jade Belvin and Truman Ports**, who each received the same number of votes from the student body. Congratulations to these co-Presidents! This was after a close run-off with Alyssa Kunesh. The excellent candidate pool from which to choose included Marina Donaldson, Alyssa Kunesh, and Ariel Vason.

Kendall Murphy is the new **Vice President**. The close competition also included: Todd Blakely, Heather Davis, Amaya Desilleres, Nydesha Foster, and Julian Salkin.

Savannah Whaley was elected to be **Secretary** of the Student Council.

The **Treasurer** is **Ella Pearson**, who ran against Camille Hooks and Sophia Lee.

Each of these students had the courage to get up in front of the student body and give a speech. Hopefully, each of these students will continue to run for office and become the leaders of tomorrow. **GREAT JOB!**

Kaiser Kiosk

Great News on Seminar Pricing for Parenting and Teaching Your Gifted Child

On October 28 in Sacramento, the California Association for the Gifted (CAG) holds two **seminars** on raising and teaching gifted students – one for teachers, and one for parents – on supporting the social and emotional needs of the Gifted, including networking with other parents and receiving expert advice.

We've learned that Parents can register and attend the 1-day Parent Institute conference at a much lower price than advertised previously in the Pink Panther.

\$95 for Association non-members and \$75 for members.

Registrations are first-come-first-served. They must be done in advance of the seminar dates, and they have different prices. Also, there is no childcare available.

To register or get more seminar details, check:

- the CAG website at www.cagifted.org,
- or ask at the Kaiser office for registration forms

Kaiser Garden & Grounds Keepers

Caitlin Sorenson, from UC Berkeley 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.

Wanted:

Instructional Assistant Substitute

Beginning Monday, October 9, our aide for the resource program, Bart Byrne, will be out for several weeks.

It looks like the district will not be able to find a substitute for us.

The requirements for substitutes are an Associate Degree, or 48 college credits, or passing the paraprofessional exam. To be honest, the pay is not great. This would be more as a support to our learning community than making a big paycheck. If you're interested, please contact Mr. Stenger.

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 anymore.