



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 23, 2006

Dear Kaiser Parents,

In my letter last week, I wrote that Fall is a time to reflect and take stock of one's accomplishments for the year. Here at Kaiser School it is a time to reflect on the first six weeks of school. Our parent-teacher conferences provide the opportunity for you to hear from your child's teacher about the progress made so far this year. For you, it's an important chance to bring up concerns that you might have about the child's progress or the teacher's program. I know that sometimes these conversations can be difficult, but please keep in mind that it's about improving, developing and growing. To help us here at Kaiser School improve our program to help serve your children better, I am asking that you complete the attached evaluation tool. Please put the name of your child's teacher at the top of the paper. But please do not put your own name on the evaluation tool unless you specifically want to. Then for each of the statements you see, rate your child's teacher from one up to a highest of five. After that you rate me, the principal, in the same way, according to the series of statements, from one to five. Then, feel free to add your comments on the back. In the office, we'll work to compile the results and report to the teachers. I will also review the results, and as soon as possible, I'll report back to you. It is my hope that by opening up the communication with the parent community (not that anyone has ever been afraid to speak his or her mind around here!) we can pinpoint specific improvements in our service.

Normally, a lot of information that comes from the Central District is pretty much official stuff that we won't bother to mention to you. However this year our district has given us four overarching goals to consider in the educating of our children. The first is accelerated achievement – that is, making sure that the children who are falling behind are catching up and even going ahead. A second goal is college readiness. We want to make sure, by taking steps all along the way, that students are ready for college, by raising their awareness that college can be a primary choice for them, and building their skills so that the choice is a real one. Cultural responsiveness and security is another goal. We must work together to make sure that children of every culture not only feel safe and nurtured but also are represented in our curriculum. Finally an overarching goal is a clean and safe learning environment. This past Wednesday our School Site Council did a walk around inspection of the physical plant here at Kaiser School. Although the committee noted several improvements that should take place, I am pleased to report that we don't have any pressing or urgent needs for repair, thanks to the vigilance of the prior administration.

Looking back at these two long paragraphs, it may at first seem they don't go together. But I urge you to consider the information that you received about your child during the parent teacher conference, and review it in light of the four district goals. Is your child achieving well? Are you preparing your child for college? Do you and your child feel like Kaiser School respects your home culture? And is Kaiser School a clean and safe place for your child? I hope we can work together to bring about positive responses to all those questions.

Have a good week!

-- Mel Stenger

Getting In The Know

Auction Tickets, Now!

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

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.

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!

Dear Parents,

This is a conference well worth attending in Santa Clara. I have been going for 33 years and I get many ideas from this conference. It is for teachers and parents.

California Association for the Gifted's 45th Annual Conference March 2-4, 2007

Santa Clara, California

<http://www.cagifted.org/>

Warmly, Jill Reese

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. 26	PTA Board Meeting
Nov. 1	PTA General Meeting
Nov. 3	Gardening Day
Nov. 4	Kaiser AUCTION
Nov. 10	Veterans' Day: SCHOOL CLOSED
Nov. 13	Sally Foster Deliveries
Nov. 15	School Site Council Meeting
Nov. 20-24	Thanksgiving Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED

KEEP UP-TO-DATE ALL WEEK

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 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/

School Matters

Problems at School?

Because our school relies so strongly on community, we try hard to solve problems in a way that helps both you and the community. Here are three important guidelines for getting help when you need it

1. If your child has a difficulty with a classroom matter, please see the teacher first.
2. If your child has a difficulty with another child(ren), please contact the teacher and work with him/her to resolve the problem. Please do not confront the other child directly, or call the other parent directly. Very often your child will not bring you the entire story. In addition that kind of direct confrontation can make the situation worse. It's best to bring these matters to the teacher's attention, first.
3. If you are having a problem with the principal, contact me before going to my supervisor, the superintendent. As a rule, my supervisor will not address these matters before first referring the matter back to me.

Mel Stenger
Principal, Kaiser Elementary
879-1710, 393-9548
"Every day we invent our school."

PARENTS...

Please take these steps for your Child's Safety!

1. **Avoid drop-off on Hiller if possible.** Please drop off students on the traffic circle.
2. **Please do not pull a U-turn on Hiller Drive itself.** Use the intersection.
3. **Please be respectful of the traffic monitors** before and after school. Follow their directions. They are there for the safety of all.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REMINDER

Did you read about the nearby earthquakes this past week?

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

Margie Potts, the PTA Safety Chair, has been busy purchasing plastic storage bins to store the bags for each classroom. It is extremely important that each child has a bag filled with the necessary items. If you haven't returned your child's bag yet, please make this a priority!

LOST -n- FOUND -- REWARD!

Maureen Caldwell's daughter, Hannah, lost a **gold earring** on picture day, October 17. **If anyone finds it there is a \$25 reward.** Please contact the office; no questions asked.



Fiesta Time!

The Auction committee has been working hard for the past 5 months gathering auction items, preparing a menu, and pulling all the pieces together for what is going to be a wonderful and festive evening.

Your children have been working on one-of-a-kind class projects. Teachers and parents have come forth with exciting donations, and merchants from all over the community have generously offered gift certificates and items that will be sure to entice you. Here's a taste of just some of the offerings:

- A gourmet dinner for 8 prepared by our very own Mel Stenger. Those who have been lucky enough to win this item in the past have been reported to say it's the best meal they've ever had!
- An unparalleled night of fun at Ladies' Bunko Night. Twelve lucky participants will be wined, dined, and prized while they play this fast paced, "no skills required" game.
- Time share/Vacation Rentals offered in New Orleans, Truckee, and Cabo.
- Jason Richardson NBA signed basketball.
- 2 Disneyland tickets.
- -Dinner certificates, including one for \$100 at Dona Tomas.
- San Francisco Symphony and ballet tickets.
- 4 hours of computer support (who couldn't use that!)
- Katie's back! A Mexican dinner and night of fun at Katie McLane's house.

.....And so much more! **Please be sure to send in your registration forms today to reserve your space.**

Questions? Contributions? Volunteering?

Contact:

Liz Hall,
Auction Chairperson
probossliz@pacbell.net

Alison May,
Head of Solicitation
alisonemay@comcast.net

CELEBREMOS TU HERENCIA

Thank you to Susan Ruiz and her crew of volunteers who made **the Latino Heritage Potluck** such an enjoyable celebration!

AND MANY THANKS to the Kaiser Book Fair Volunteers!

Another great success!

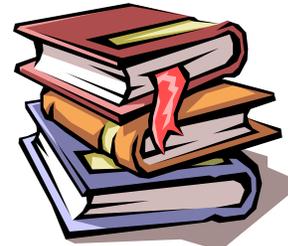
A big thank you to volunteer parent Kelly Bartlett Smith who ran the book fair last week. She gave three days of her time, even taking a day off work to make sure everything ran smoothly. Be sure to thank her if you see her in the hall.

Thank you also to Marcia Brooks who assisted Kelly, to all the other volunteers, and to those who purchased books.

Meanwhile, there's More!

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.



2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:

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Art News for Parents and Teachers



(Our thanks to
Joyce Wessling
for this news.
- P.P.

Tune in to KQED TV 9 this November

The San Francisco Symphony presents three new programs premiering November 2, 9 and 16, hosted by SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas. Tune in to find out how a few inflammatory notes from the minds of Beethoven, Stravinsky and Copland changed music forever.

For more information and to view a trailer for each episode, visit our website at www.keeping_score.org

AIRDATES on KQED TV 9:

Beethoven's Eroica: November 2, 2006, 10 pm
Eroica in concert: November 5, 1 pm

Stravinsky's Rite of Spring: November 9, 2006, 10 pm
Copland and Stravinsky in concert: November 12, 1 pm

Copland and the American Sound: November 16, 2006, 10 pm

AIRDATES on KQED HD:

Beethoven Eroica in concert:
November 2, 8 pm and 11 pm;
November 5, 9 pm

Copland and Stravinsky in concert:
November 9, 8 pm and 11 pm
November 12, 6 pm and 9 pm

EPISODE ONE: BEETHOVEN'S *EROICA* Not every revolution overthrows a government; some overturn artistic convention. Beethoven's third Symphony, *Eroica*, defied accepted notions of music as decorative background for aristocratic amusement, and it forced the listener to confront the unconscious. In visits to refined Viennese drawing rooms and rustic Austro-Hungarian villages, Michael Tilson Thomas explores how Beethoven channeled his sorrow over the loss of his hearing, and his disappointment with Napoleon's imperial politics, to change the very definition of what a symphony could be.

EPISODE TWO: STRAVINSKY'S *RITE OF SPRING* In this program, Michael Tilson Thomas and the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony take you from the salons of St. Petersburg to the villages where Stravinsky found inspiration in the earthy power of Russian folk music and dance. Thomas then retraces Stravinsky's journey to the cultural crossroads of pre-war Paris where, in 1913, Stravinsky developed the shocking, sensual, and violent evocation of pagan Russia that became *The Rite of Spring*.

EPISODE THREE: COPLAND AND THE AMERICAN SOUND Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn in 1900. His artistic development spanned enormous transformation in the American experience--the fears of World War I and the Great Depression, the energy of the Jazz Age, the advent of modernism. And as the nation emerged as a world power, Copland wrote music that gave Americans a sense of their own identity and created a truly American sound.

Keeping Track of Keeping Score: *Keeping Score* is more than just a television series. **Explore** the Music Visit the program's website at www.keeping_score.org, with entertaining and engaging interactive features. Dig into the score. Listen as musicians share their insights. Learn about the lives of the composers, music theory, and keys. **Learn** how to Teach through Music -- The *Keeping Score* education program shows K-12 teachers how music can become part of their core-subject lessons. **Watch** *Keeping Score* on PBS -- In addition to the three documentaries, complete performances of the *Eroica* Symphony, *The Firebird*, *The Rite of Spring*, and Appalachian Spring are telecast in stunning high-definition on PBS. Programs begin airing on PBS Thursdays, November 2nd, 9th, and 16th. Check your local listings

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evelyn & walter HAAS, JR. fund

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Kaiser Kiosk

The PTA Presents...

The PTA is proud to bring the **upcoming assemblies to the students** of Kaiser School as part of our dedication to the enrichment of our arts and science curriculums. Thank-you for your continued support of our community, which is what makes programs like these possible.

Oct.25th-Wed.9:00: The National Children's Theater's Production, "A Boat Load of Trouble"

Nov. 1st-Wed.10:45: S.F. Opera Guild,"Interactive Student Performance"

Nov.13th-Mon.9:30: Mobile Dairy Classroom, A cow comes to campus!!!

Dec.6th-Wed.9:00: Stagebridge Storytellers, "Multicultural Folktales and Lifestories"

Thank-you also to Jill Reese for inviting the Oakland Eastbay Symphony on Oct.4th.

Keep an eye and an ear out for more upcoming assemblies...we thought you'd like to know.

- Cindy Hobbs

Sangria Recipes are now all in...

Our panel of experts will pick the top ones, add a complementary food recipe, and publish them ASAP!

This just in:

*Hi there,
Another Sangria recipe:*

1 bottle of red wine (the cheaper the better such as Charles Shaw Merlot or Cab.)

1 bottle Trader Joe's Sparkling cranberry juice

Juice from 2 oranges

Juice from 1 lemon

1 apple or pear

1 1/2 cups sugar

Mix together wine, soda, orange juice, lemon juice and sugar. Cut up apple or pear into small 1/4 inch pieces and add to the mixture

Sinh Lo

Two weeks ago:

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 Bora Tempranillo)

- Carrie Lee

Featured last week:

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