



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 6, 2006

### The Benefit Auction -- a real "Fun-Raiser!"

**Dear Kaiser Families,**

I'm still coming down from the tremendous feelings generated by attending the Benefit Auction Saturday evening. With over 125 people in attendance the hall was filled with sounds of laughter and friends greeting one another. There were people meeting new friends, and many others getting to catch up with old acquaintances. "Oohs and aahs" echoed throughout the crowd as people decided what items they wanted to bid on, and how much their bid would be. And of course there was some friendly competition to see who would get the favored prizes.

Later on Mr. Tom Rust, one of our second grade teachers, let us through a raucous succession of live bidding. There were many big-ticket items that together raised several thousands of dollars for our school. I want to thank all the donors for those items, and a special thank you goes out to Ms. Katie McLane our former principal, for once again donating a Mexican dinner party at her house. You can tell that are group is full of "party animals" because we were all at one party bidding on going to another!

I want to thank Liz Hall, the organizer of this event, for endless hours of work and her constant smile and positive attitude. Because of her efforts many people came together in a joyful way. I also want to thank Allison May and her crew of people who solicited donations for our auction; the wonderful array of prizes sparked a lot of discussion and a lot of dreaming. And of course Lisa Downes, our PTA president, lent her gracious presence and sparkling smile throughout the preparations and throughout the evening; she makes "constantly working" look like a dance. And that's where I will stop with names, for fear of missing someone who is put in many hours of hard work. At the auction itself I asked different groups to stand and be recognized, and we thank you with applause. Let this be my official public show of gratitude. The Kaiser Benefit Auction could never happen without the many open hearts and busy hands so characteristic of the Kaiser school parent community.

If you didn't make it Saturday night, we missed you. At 10 o'clock as they were leaving many people told me how much fun they had, so I hope you'll consider joining us next time if you missed it this year. Last week I called the benefit auction the social event of the season. Although that comment was a little bit tongue in cheek, I think many people will be hard-pressed to find such a delightful group of people having such a good time for such a good reason.

Thanks for coming together for such a delightful time!

*-- Mel Stenger, Principal*

# Getting In The Know



Thanks to ALL for a really great Auction Night!  
And kudos to Tom Rust for yet another safe trip through the bidding wars...

## Upcoming Assemblies to the students presented by the PTA

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

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

## 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)

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/)

# *The Business of Helping Kaiser*

## **Sign up for Escrip!!**

It is an easy way to help raise funds for the school. All you need to do is register your grocery cards and credit cards and shop!

For information on Escrip and to sign up, go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).

Contact Lisa Cartolano at 510.213.1139 if you need assistance getting set up.

**Looking for Help!! The Walkathon** is a great event in the Spring and is wildly popular with the kids.

We need volunteers to help get the event organized.

Contact Lisa Cartolano at 510.213.1139 or at [lisa.cartolano@prurealty.com](mailto:lisa.cartolano@prurealty.com) if you can help. Thanks!

## **2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:**

Copy Editors: Wendy Harcarik  
Carrie Shepherd  
Design Consultant: Tom Henke  
Pink Panther Editor: Malcolm Ryder

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

Shop at Cody's during those days, submit your receipts to the office, and the school receives 15% of the net purchases.

## **More Ways To Help**

When you re-finance your home through **Wells Fargo Bank** they will donate \$300 to Kaiser! Please contact Maisha Williams for more information.

*Maisha A. Williams*  
*Home Mortgage Associate*  
*Wells Fargo Home Mortgage*  
*1021 Blossom Hill Rd Ste A*  
*San Jose, CA 95123*  
*408-723-6604 office*  
*408-723-6655 fax*

**P.S.** - We're looking for all the info we can get about our Kaiser community's businesses and employers who we can all collaborate with through their programs for charitable giving to schools and by using each others' business services. If you will share the information about your company, please send it to the Pink Panther where we can post it on future Kaiser Businesses pages.

## **Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:**

PTA President: Lisa Downes  
VPs Communication: Kim Carl  
Kiki Bradley  
Principal: Mel Stenger

# Talking Turkey

## Thanks A Lot!

The Pilgrims, after a four-month journey that began in Holland, landed at Plymouth on December 11, 1620. Confronted with severe weather, and a plague that killed hundreds of local Indians, they had by the fall of 1621 lost forty-six of their own members, mainly to scurvy and pneumonia. The survivors, though, had something to be thankful for. A new and bountiful crop had been harvested. Food was abundant. And **they were alive, in large part thanks to the assistance of one person: an English-speaking Pawtuxet Indian named Squanto**, who was to stay by their side until his death two years later.

**As a boy, Squanto had been captured by explorers to America and sold into slavery in Spain. He escaped to England, spent several years working for a wealthy merchant, and, considerably Anglicized, returned to his native Indian village just six months before the Pilgrims landed.** He had helped them build houses and to plant and cultivate crops of corn and barley. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims elected a new governor, William Bradford, and proclaimed a day of thanksgiving in their small town, which had seven private homes and four communal buildings.

The Pilgrims invited the chief of the Wampanoag tribe, Massasoit, and ninety of his braves, and **the work of preparing the feast for ninety-one Indians and fifty-six settlers-fell to only four Pilgrim women and two teenage girls.** (Thirteen women had died the previous winter.)

(<http://www.ideafinder.com/guest/calendar/thanksgiving.htm>)

The harvest celebration held in Plymouth Colony in 1621 by the Separatists has **been mistakenly referred to as the "First Thanksgiving"** since the 1800s. (The first Thanksgiving Day as the Separatists understood it occurred in 1623!) The only historic description of the event comes from Mourt's Relation, a 1622 source. The event, which appears to have been a secular English harvest celebration, was only first described as the "First Thanksgiving" by Alexander Young in his Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers (1841) in a footnote on page 231. **The Pilgrim's 1621 "First Thanksgiving" was thus invented in Victorian times...**

As far as can be ascertained, **there was no true popcorn or podcorn in the eastern New England region in 1621 or at the "First Thanksgiving"**. It hasn't been found archaeologically, and there isn't any New England reference to the popcorn we know today in the 17th century.

(<http://www.plimoth.org/learn/history/myth/myth.asp>)

**Jiveturkey?** Slang term for an individual who is prone to exaggerating the truth greatly or an outright liar. Used predominately in the 1970's, when it was much easier to also look the part!

## Talking Turkey: "The Story of How the Unofficial Bird of the United States Got Named After a Middle Eastern Country"

by Giancarlo Casale  
PhD in History & MES

Dissertation topic: Ottoman-Portuguese Relations and the Sixteenth Century Origins of Globalization  
Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies  
Giancarlo Casale is one of the editors of the "Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review"

How did the turkey get its name? This seemingly harmless question popped into my head one morning as I realized that the holidays were once again upon us. After all, I thought, there's nothing more American than a turkey. Their meat saved the pilgrims from starvation during their first winter in New England. Out of gratitude, if you can call it that, we eat them for Thanksgiving dinner, and again at Christmas, and gobble them up in sandwiches all year long. Every fourth grade! r can tell you that Benjamin Franklin was particularly fond of the wild turkey, and even campaigned to make it, and not the bald eagle, the national symbol. So how did such a creature end up taking its name from a medium sized country in the Middle East? Was it just a coincidence? I wondered.

The next day I mentioned my musings to my landlord, whose wife is from Brazil. "That's funny," he said, "In Portuguese the word for turkey is `peru.' Same bird, different country." Hmm. With my curiosity piqued, I decided to go straight to the source. That very afternoon I found myself a Turk and asked him how to say turkey in Turkish. "Turkey?" he said. "Well, we call turkeys `hindi,' which means, you know, from India." India? This was getting weird. I spent the next few days finding out the word for turkey in as many languages as I could think of, and the more I found out, the weirder things got. In Arabic, for instance, the word for turkey is "Ethiopian bird," while in Greek it is "gallapoula" or "French girl." The Persians, meanwhile, call them "buchalamun" which means, appropriately enough, "chameleon." In Italian, on the other hand, the word for turkey is "tacchino" which, my Italian relatives assured means nothing but the bird.

"But," they added, "it reminds us of something else. In Italy we call corn, which as everybody knows comes from America, `grano turco,' or `Turkish grain.'" So here we were back to Turkey again! And as if things weren't already confusing enough, a further consultation with my Turkish informant revealed that the Turks call corn "misir" which is also their word for Egypt! [continued...]

More: <http://listserv.linguistlist.org/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind0509a&L=lexicography&D=1&F=&S=&P=2305>