



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 4, 2006

Dear Kaiser Families,

Here we are in December already! Thanksgiving week is gone, and the stores are all decorated for the holidays. Teachers have analyzed all the data, looked at student work, and prepared grades for the report cards. As I walk down the hall there is a buzz -- a buzz of work. It's a good kind of work, a satisfying kind of work, the kind of work where teachers and students are focused on learning together. Yes, there is an occasional child crying, or a teacher correcting their class, but there is a feeling in the air that everyone is involved in something that brings them contentment: our learning community. It is clear that the main work of the students and teachers at Kaiser School is learning, and that the learning is a source of joy.

Please keep this image in mind this week as you receive your child's report card. Your child is an important part of the learning community that we call Kaiser Elementary and is happy in the pursuit of the learning and growth. If the report card is not all you expect it to be please remember that it does not define your child's ability, but rather it gives you a framework within which to view your child's performance. If there are big, wonderful surprises, be sure to praise your child; conversely, if there are unpleasant surprises please try to discuss with your child how they can improve, rather than condemning them or punishing them. I have encouraged our teachers to keep you informed of your child's progress.

With that said, I know from experience that sometimes parents want to know why they weren't told of something before the report card. Let's remember that the **report card is a reporting tool**, it is the main way we report to you the progress of your child. I believe that most of our children are doing their very, very best, but of course, you know if your child is not. The bottom line is we need to remember to react in a way that will help our child learn the most!

December is also time for gift-giving. Although our children's natural tendency is to be very concerned about what kind of gifts they're going to receive, let's take this opportunity to help our children understand the importance of giving a gift. It takes more than a simple conversation. Children need help in choosing a recipient, thinking of a gift that the recipient would like rather than one that the child would like, buying or making the gift, and then giving the gift.

With this guidance and rehearsal children will find that gift-giving is indeed a joyful experience. They may find that it is indeed better to give than to receive!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

SET YOUR CLOCKS!

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFO NIGHT

Dec. 6th-Wed. 6:00pm PARENTS MEETING

There will be an information night for parents interested in learning about middle school options in the auditorium. Representatives from Edna Brewer, Bret Harte, Montera, and Claremont will be present to give a summary of their schools and answer any questions.

ARTS & PERFORMANCES

Dec. 6th-Wed. 9:00am ASSEMBLY

Stagebridge Storytellers,
"Multicultural Folktales and Lifestories"

Dec. 22-Fri. 1:00pm AFRICAN DANCE

The holiday performance for children involved in African dance will not be an evening show. Instead there will be a performance at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 22. If you are parents of one of the dancers, you may want to check your schedule to see if you can make it for this show.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Dec. 8th-Fri. 8:45am MAKEUP DAY

The make up day for school pictures will run only one hour -- from 8:45 to 9:45 in the morning.

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
Dec 6	Middle School Information Night
Dec. 8	School Pictures Makeup Day
Dec 11	Reflections Deadline for Submissions
Dec 20	SSC Meeting (Student Site Council)
Dec 19 & 21	Winter Performance
Dec 22	African Dance performance at 1pm
Dec 25 – Jan 5	Winter Recess: School Closed!

The Kaiser School Web Site

<http://www.kaiserelementary.org>

- Info about fundraising events
- After school programs
- **Teacher classrooms online**

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/

News You Can Use

Top Ten Ways to Help Children Develop Healthy Habits

1. Be a positive role model. If you're practicing healthy habits, it's a lot easier to convince children to do the same.
2. Get the whole family active. Plan times for everyone to get moving together. Take walks, ride bikes, go swimming, garden or just play hide-and-seek outside. Everyone will benefit from the exercise and the time together.
3. Limit TV, video game and computer time. These habits lead to a sedentary lifestyle and excessive snacking, which increase risks for obesity and cardiovascular disease.
4. Encourage physical activities that children really enjoy. Every child is unique. Let children experiment with different activities until each finds something that he or she really loves doing. They'll stick with it longer if they love it.
5. Be supportive. Focus on the positive instead of the negative. Everyone likes to be praised for a job well done. Celebrate successes and help children and teens develop a good self-image.
6. Set specific goals and limits, such as one hour of physical activity a day or two desserts per week other than fruit. When goals are too abstract or limits too restrictive, the chance for success decreases.
7. Don't reward children with food. Candy and snacks as a reward encourage bad habits. Find other ways to celebrate good behavior.
8. Make dinnertime a family time. When everyone sits down together to eat, there's less chance of children eating the wrong foods or snacking too much. Get the kids involved in cooking and planning meals. Everyone develops good eating habits together and the quality time with the family will be an added bonus.
9. Make a game of reading food labels. The whole family will learn what's good for their health and be more conscious of what they eat. It's a habit that helps change behavior for a lifetime.
10. Stay involved. Be an advocate for healthier children. Insist on good food choices at school. Make sure your children's healthcare providers are monitoring cardiovascular indicators like BMI, blood pressure and cholesterol. Contact public officials on matters of the heart. Make your voice heard.

Where should children go before and after school when it rains?

We do our best as teachers to open our classrooms to children 10 minutes before the beginning of the day, at 8:35 a.m., and to have our classrooms open 10 minutes after the end of school at 3:00 p.m.

Please Note: This is a contractual issue(article 10.2 .10 of the OEA contract), and the time before school is the teachers' preparation time.

Middle School Information Night

On Wednesday, December 6, there will be a Middle School information night at Kaiser Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. Edna Brewer will be joining three other schools at the auditorium.

Kaiser Alumna, Salina Wittmer, will be on hand to share her 6th grade experiences to date and answer questions, along with her mom, Trish Dolan. Edna Brewer Middle School will also host an open house for interested families on Wednesday, December 13, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

All 5th grade families and other interested families are encouraged to attend the info night at Kaiser on December 6 (or to learn more about Brewer Middle School, also go to the Edna Brewer Open House on December 13).

All families are strongly encouraged to take a tour of the school of their interest. Please contact Ms. Ho at stacey.ho@ousd.ca.k12.edu or by calling 879-2100 to schedule a tour.

The Gift of Giving

**If you have any gently worn coats
- kids or adult sizes -
that you would like to donate to a
worthy cause...**

Kaiser's Junior Girl Scout Troop #1877 has been collecting "gently worn" coats for the past four years in our annual **"One Warm Coat" drive.**

The coats are collected and donated to the East Oakland Recovery Center, which gives the coats to the families they serve.

Please stop by our collection box. Our coat drive has already begun, and coats may be left in the decorated wardrobe box that will be displayed in the school hallway outside the main office. The coats should be clean and in good condition.

We will be collecting coats through the month of December, taking them to the center on the December 23rd.

Thanks in advance for your contribution to this drive. In past years the Kaiser Community has been very generous, donating over 80 coats each year.

If you have any questions about our coat drive, please ask either **Melissa Kunesh** or **Lesley Clark**.

Are You Interested in Girl Scouting for Your Daughter?

Girl Scouting is a great way for girls to gain self-confidence, learn team-work, develop leadership skills, and define their place in their community through numerous service efforts. Girls do all this while having FUN and developing friendships through a large variety of program options that focus on the environment, the arts, science, friend and family relationships, the world around them and skill building. Girl Scouting offers so many different options that every girl can find something she likes within the program.

Currently at Kaiser Elementary School, we do not have either a Daisy Girl Scout Troop (grades K-1) or a Brownie Girl Scout Troop (grades 1-3). The current Junior Girl Scout Troop began as a Brownie Troop at Kaiser over four years ago and many of the members will be moving on to middle school next year.

Starting a Troop is not hard and there are several leadership models; Leaders and Assistant Leaders, Co-Leaders, and Co-op Troops. All offer the flexibility for busy families who have an interest in Girl Scouting, but who don't have the time to do it all themselves.

If you are a parent who has an interest in the Girl Scout experience for your daughter, please contact Lesley Clark, the Junior Leader, at lesleyrc@aol.com or (510) 531-0114. In addition, Lesley can discuss training opportunities and tell you more about what it is like to be a leader. She also serves as the Coordinator for the Oakland Association of Girl Scouts, which includes all Troops in Oakland, Emeryville, and Piedmont.

Kaiser Kiosk

Hi Kaiser Families!

I am making a **massive tamale order** for our church and was wondering if I would be able to offer tamales to the Kaiser families for the holidays ...

My daughter is in Ms. McGhee's class and I would like to **donate 25% of the profits** to her classroom.

I own a catering company and offer beef and pork tamales - 1/2 dozen \$7.50 or 1 dozen \$14.00, etc....

If you would like to place an order, my phone # is (510) 703-4983 or orders can be submitted to bellascatering@gmail.com **no later than December 20th.**

Regards-
Pam Castaneda
(510) 849-4463

The Rumors Are True...

The Spring Walkathon is coming!

To help get the event organized,

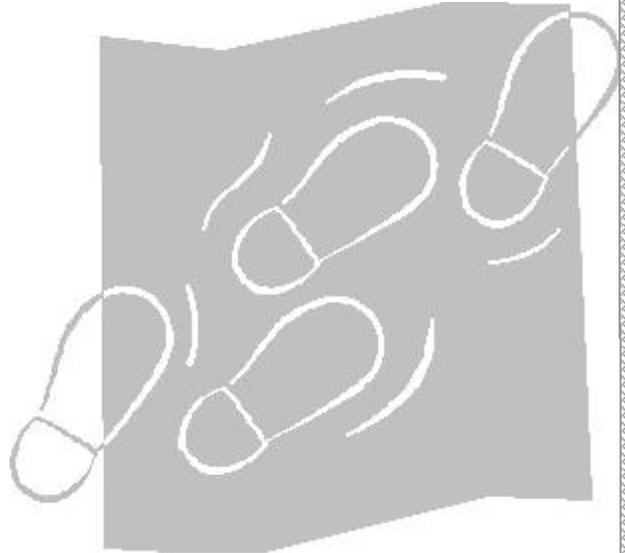
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

please contact: Lisa Cartolano at

510.213.1139

or

lisa.cartolano@drurealtv.com



Meanwhile, don't forget **ESCRIP!**
To sign up, go to www.escrip.com.

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

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