



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 11, 2006

Dear Kaiser Families,

Last weekend I was driving to Modesto with my friend Yann to sing in a Christmas concert. He and his partner are intending to adopt and he wanted to pick my mind about my experience with navigating the county system and also about raising children. Of course we talked about schools and how parents get involved and stay connected to their child's education. Then the conversation turned more personal. He asked me how I taught my sons values. Yann wanted to know how I make sure that my kids know what I consider really important in life, and how I pass on those values to my children. I felt a bit of a sense of panic. Was I sure of my own values? Did I see any of those developing in my sons? More specifically Yann asked, "How do you teach courage?"

Then I thought of Kaiser School. Here we have a faculty who work with parents to teach much more than reading and math. We teach children how to be human beings, which includes teaching them our core values. I was able to share the strategies I have seen teachers use here at Kaiser. First, the teachers model the value; here the value was courage so teachers will bring it up when teaching literature, talk about times when they have been courageous or taken risks or overcame fears. Then they explicitly teach the value; teachers invite kids to talk about what courage means to clarify the concept and deepen the students' understanding. They rehearse the required behavior; during Second Step lessons teachers discuss situations that are opportunities for kids to exhibit courage. Next, the teachers guide the kids to practice the values behavior; again in Second Step lessons the kids sometimes perform very short skits to rehearse behavior that reflects courage. Finally, they reinforce the values behavior; the teacher reminds students by pointing out courage when they see kids showing it and making sure the kids see it again. As an extension, some teachers will have students write about the value, either in an essay, narrative, or story.

Teaching values doesn't just happen. Kids don't become nice and respectful by us merely hoping they will. Like everything we want our kids to learn, we need to teach it explicitly if we want them to internalize it and have it be part of their very being.

In December we face a difficult time for parents in terms of values. I shared with Yann a common disappointment among many parents: this is the season kids sometimes turn into gift-grubbing fiends, telling everyone what they want for Christmas and making those demands known, sometimes to the point of acting really obnoxious. Sometimes they nag or negotiate or even threaten in order to get what they want. I'm sure you've all seen and heard it if you haven't experienced it in your own family. The ideas that "gifts are for giving" or "it's better to give than receive" are totally lost on them when our kids get like this.

Let's take this opportunity to teach our children our value of generosity and giving. Model the behavior and tell your kids why you are giving gifts, so your child sees you practicing this value. Teach your child how to give a gift by together choosing a recipient and discussing what *they* would want (not what the child wants). Help your child choose, buy (they should pay for all or part of the gift), wrap the gift and write a card. While you do these steps, make sure you talk about the recipient, why the child wants to give the gift, imagine together how the person will enjoy the gift, and rehearse how to deliver the gift. After your child gives the gift, discuss how the act made them feel, how they were received, and who else they might want to give a gift.

This is the season of giving, and we have the opportunity to give our children the gift of giving.

Happy Giving!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Kindergarten Information Night

Do you have a friend, relative, or neighbor interested in sending their kindergartner to our school?

Let them know that the principal and the kindergarten teachers will be hosting a Kindergarten information night **in the school library on Thursday, January 11, at 6:00 pm.**

There will be a presentation about the school program and time for questions. They should RSVP to the school, 879-1710.

Middle School Information Night

Don't forget: Edna Brewer Middle School will host an open house for interested families on Wednesday, December 13, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

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.

ARTS & PERFORMANCES

Dec. 21-Thu. 6:30pm ORFF MUSIC Concert
See details for Parents & Children on **page 4.**

Dec. 22-Fri. 1:00pm AFRICAN DANCE
The holiday performance for children involved in African dance will be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 22. If you are parents of one of the dancers, check your schedule to see if you can make it for this show.

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 11	Reflections Deadline for Submissions
Dec 19	Winter Performance Instrumental Music
Dec 20	SSC Meeting (Student Site Council)
Dec 21	Winter Performance Orff Music Concert at 6:30pm
Dec 22	African Dance performance at 1pm
Dec 25 – Jan 5	Winter Recess: School Closed!
Jan 11	Kindergarten Information Night 6PM

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/

Notes on the Season

Holidays: What's Mine is Yours

When you look at people tending a garden together, you're seeing an analogy of how we've decided to live together.

The soil is the culture, the plants are societies that sprout from the soil, and the garden is the community of those societies.

With that analogy in mind, it's the time of year again that's dominated by holidays. Holidays are a way that a society especially celebrates the culture that the society grows in. This comes across through the very strong symbols of the culture that the society uses during the season.

Even so, a single culture can support different societies. This might happen over time, or, perhaps less obviously, it might happen simultaneously. Both in our analogy and in our real life experience, we know that this is true.

But how about when one society celebrates more than one culture? This is where we rely on community, too. How so?

Culture is most often about why we do our living the way we do. Society is about how we do the living. Community is about doing that living not only together, but especially in the sense of doing that living for each other.

When a healthy community can trace its ways of living back to several different cultures, it means it can take the values it draws from one source or background and "tend" them into something socially meaningful and beneficial to its community members who are from a different background, too. Think, for example, of our many blends of food & clothing, art, and knowledge...

Perhaps no place more than the Bay Area is steeped in a multi-cultural, poly-cultural and integrated cultural landscape. Over the next month, while we are all engaged in focusing on our respective background beliefs, we'll also have holiday diversity that runs the gamut, from a kaleidoscope to a fusion, showing roots and blossoms at the same time.

This is one reason why the holiday season here is especially interesting. As the season highlights our community's many cultures in deeply attentive ways, it shows our community's enduring sources of social wealth.

- M. Ryder

Parents & Kids -- Don't Forget: Bicycle Helmet Use Laws

As of January 2003 California law requires all persons under 18 years of age to wear a properly-fitted and fastened bicycle helmet while operating a bicycle or riding upon a bicycle as a passenger, operating a non-motorized scooter or skateboard, wearing in-line or roller skates, or while riding upon a non-motorized scooter or skateboard as a passenger.

The CODES study on motorcycle accidents found that brain injury cases were more than twice as costly as non-brain injury cases for the one-year period studied. Among the un-helmeted motorcycle inpatients, charges for those suffering brain injuries were 2.75 times higher than for those without brain injuries. Long-term costs are not included.

Key Facts

- More than 46,000 bicyclists have died in traffic crashes in the United States since 1932-the first year that bicycle fatality estimates were recorded.
- Each year almost 400,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in emergency rooms for bicycle-related injuries.
- In 1999, 750 bicyclists were killed, and approximately 51,000 were injured in traffic-related crashes. Children ages 14 and under accounted for 193 (26%) of the fatalities, making this one of the most frequent causes of injury-related death for young children.
- Universal bicycle helmet use by children ages 4 to 15 would prevent 39,000 to 45,000 head injuries, and 18,000 to 55,000 scalp and face injuries annually.
- Bicycle helmets are 85-88 percent effective in mitigating head and brain injuries, making the use of helmets the single most effective way to reduce head injuries and fatalities resulting from bicycle crashes.
- Despite the fact that 70 to 80 percent of all fatal bicycle crashes involve head injuries, only about 20-25 percent of all bicyclists wear bicycle helmets.
- Nationally, bicyclists ages 14 and under are at five times greater risk for injury than older cyclists.

Greeting the Season

GET YOUR K-3rd Grade PERFORMER ALL SET FOR THE CONCERT

The Orff /music concert for K- 3rd grade will be Thursday December 21st at 6:30 PM. Please arrive at 6:15 PM and have your child report to their classroom teacher.

Our theme for the winter concert this year is "Scenes from Nature". Each class has worked on a piece in the Orff tradition for 6- 8 weeks to prepare for the concert performance.

The pieces include rhymes, body percussion, xylophone instrumentation from keeping the beat, playing the melody, various bordun accompaniments to improvisation. Many classes also use percussion instruments.

We will have dancing, singing and some short skits that the children created themselves.

It is expected that all students will attend. Everyone is needed as each person is a valuable part of the whole group.

Thank you,

Laura Sherman
Orff Teacher

African Dance Assembly

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2006 @ 1:00PM

The African Dance students will be performing in an in-school assembly on Friday, December 22nd at 1:00PM. This will be in lieu of an evening performance. Families are welcome to attend. Please send your child to school that day with the appropriate attire for the performance. The performance will begin at 1PM and will run about half an hour to 45-minutes. African Dance class will be held after school as usual that day. It will be the last class of the session. Sign up forms for the next session of African Dance, starting in January, will be sent home next week. Please try to get these in to the office before the break. Questions? Call Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679 or email katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net.

WINTER SESSION AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Is your child interested in continuing with an after-school activity, or signing up for something new? A registration/information packet is going home with students TODAY with the Pink Panther. Please sign students up for classes sooner rather than later. Waiting for the last minute can cause the instructor to cancel the class due to low enrollment. To ensure that the class your child is interested in runs as scheduled, please sign up NOW!! Please direct questions about the after-school programs to Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679 or katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!

Kaiser Kiosk

! FOR SALE !

Large gently used **executive style desk** in cherry laminate finish. Measurements: 72" wide by 36" deep by 29" high. Recently used in an elementary school office. \$100 or best offer. Contact the office if interested.

Large **slate chalkboard**, about 30" by 36", framed in maple. Perfect for the kitchen, den, or family room. \$35 or best offer. Contact the office if interested.

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. We will be taking coats to the East Oakland Recovery Center on December 23rd. Please stop by our collection box displayed in the school hallway outside the main office. Questions? Contact either Melissa Kunesh or Lesley Clark.

Hi Kaiser Families!

I own a catering company and am still taking orders from Kaiser families for **holiday tamales**. beef and pork tamales - 1/2 dozen \$7.50 or 1 dozen \$14.00, etc....

My daughter and I would like to **donate 25% of the profits** to Ms. McGee's class.

Orders can be submitted to Pam Castaneda by phone # at (510) 703-4983 or to bellascatering@gmail.com **no later than December 20th.**

STEP ON UP TO...

The Spring Walkathon

IF YOU WILL VOLUNTEER,
please contact:

Lisa Cartolano at

510.213.1139

or

lisa.cartolano@prurealty.com

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!

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.

2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:

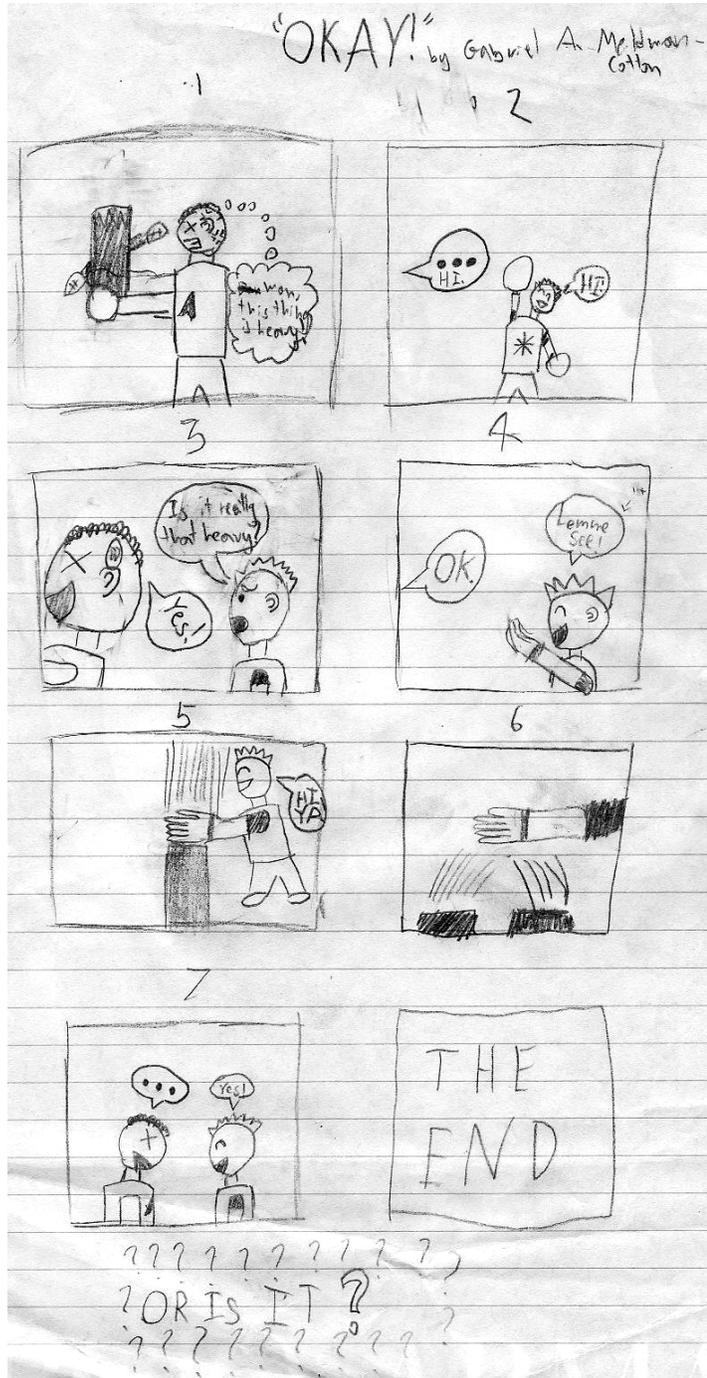
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Kids Take The Page

Lighten Up, Would Ya!



G. Meldman - 5th Gr.

CROWNS of SEVEN

*A world of sweet sweet colors
In a beautiful pattern*

*In a beautiful pattern
That follows through the whole world*

*That follows through the whole world
And creates a better place*

*A world of sweet sweet colors
- Chardonnay Hightower*

*My vegetable garden plot
Carrots, corn, strawberries, squash
Carrots, corn, strawberries, squash
Watered, weeded, picked, eaten
Watered, weeded, picked, eaten
Delicious and nutritious
My vegetable garden plot
- Nick Maier*

*Turtles the amazing ones.
Silky shells upon their backs.*

*Silky shells upon their backs.
With un-harmful hearts in them.*

*With un-harmful hearts in them.
They live in the deep blue sea.*

*Turtles the amazing ones.
- Meaghan Paulus*

*I don't have a real good heart
I chew yours just for the fun
I chew yours just for the fun
I want one but need true love
I want one but need true love
For I will soon find a heart
I don't have a real good heart
- Jamar Williams*