



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 18, 2006

Dear Kaiser Families,

Here we are the week before the holidays already! So much has happened in the life of our school and our students. Parents have been generous to the needs of our school and students.

You are a gift to us and we appreciate you! Our teachers and staff have given so much out of their own hearts. And of course, the students have given their time and effort to do what we have asked, hoping to learn and grow. All this giving and the holiday hasn't yet arrived!

I'd like to offer a few thoughts about looking at our children as gifts.

- A gift is not something you need but rather what someone else thinks you would like. Maybe we can expect our kids to fulfill our need to have them do what we say and want, and to enjoy them for who they are and what they bring to our lives. Like a surprise gift.
 - Gifts inspire pride. The recipient is proud of what he or she is received; they are happy to have it. Their pride and happiness show in the responsibility toward the gift. When a gift is cherished the new owner takes responsibility for the gift effortlessly, devoting time and energy into taking care of it. If we look upon our children as gifts we can look upon taking care of them as our response.
 - When we know we're getting a gift, the giver often asks us what we want. There's a joyful surprise in knowing that we might get something that we ask for, but that whatever it is, we know that the giver has thought of us. Similarly, when we ask our children to grow or to try, we need to trust their best efforts, and accept what they give us as their best gift.
- We have to wait for a gift. We have to wait for a gift. We have to wait for a gift. Sometimes the waiting can be frustrating, but often the waiting and the anticipation adds to the excitement of getting the actual gift. We have to wait for our children to grow and remember not to be impatient with their growth, but to enjoy the anticipation of who our children will become.
 - When we receive a surprise gift we will either be delighted, or we will act like we are as our parents have taught us. I would encourage you to do the same with your children: when they change or grow in ways which are unexpected and maybe not the ways you want, choose to be delighted or fake it. Our children need to know that we are delighted in them.
 - Gratitude and appreciation our normal responses to receiving a gift. When is the last time that you thanked your child, or told them how much you appreciate them? These comments of gratitude and appreciation mean much more when they include details.
 - Isn't it fun to take off the wrapping and see what's inside a gift? In very much the same way, I hope you have the time over the holidays to get into some conversations with your children, to dig deep into who they are, and to see who is inside this child-gift. Open your eyes to see the gift that's been right in front of you all along.
 - Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus! If we believe our children are gifts to us, that belief can transform our relationships with them.

May you all have a wonderful holiday time!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

After School Program Signups WINTER SESSION

Is your child interested in continuing with an after-school activity, or signing up for something new? To ensure that the class your child is interested in runs as scheduled, please sign up NOW!! A registration/information packet went home with students last week 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.

Please direct questions about the after-school programs to Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679 or katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!

Kindergarten Information Night
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.

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 19	Winter Performance 4 th /5 th Grade Band Concert; 5 th Grade Play
Dec 20	No SSC Meeting Next Meeting 1/17/07
Dec 21	Winter Performance Orff Music Concert at 6:30pm; OYC Chorus
Dec 22	African Dance performance at 1pm
Dec 23 – Jan 7	Winter Recess: School Closed!
Jan 11	Kindergarten Information Night 6PM

If you have any siblings intending to come to school here at Kaiser in the fall:
Please let us know in the office. You may have someone who's interested in our school, and they just might be a sibling ;) Talk to Mel Stenger if you're unsure who qualifies as a sibling.

The Kaiser School Web Site

<http://www.kaiserelementary.org>

- nfo about fundraising events
- After school programs

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/)

Kaiser in the Spirit!

Reminder for ALL 4th and 5th grade families!

The winter band and string concert is tomorrow night,
Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

We'd like to request that your child wear a white top and dark bottom for the performance. Please provide a dinner meal for your child and return him/her to school by 6 p.m. The groups will meet in the following rooms:

- **Strings** - Room 3 (Reese)
- **Beginning Band** - Library (Ross)
- **Intermediate Band** - Room 1 (Neat)

We could also use a couple of musical (or simply brave!) parents to assist us while we tune and then move the kids to the stage area from each of the warm up rooms.

It is expected that ALL 4th and 5th grade students will participate in this performance.

The groups have been working hard since the beginning of school to prepare for the concert and everyone is needed. The best part of music happens when each individual contributes their special talents to the group. Thank you for supporting your student in getting to the concert on time with their instrument and music, well fed and in the proper concert attire.

Mrs. Reese's class will also be performing their play after the concert.

We look forward to seeing you tomorrow night!

Thank you,
Claudia McCarthy &
Renaë Briggs
Music Teachers

And By The Way...

During the Winter Performances on Tuesday and Thursday, items from our Lost and Found will be spread through the hall.

No, they're not for kicking around, and no, we didn't forget to pick them up. The clothes will be spread out for you all to look for those long-lost things that belong to your children.

After the holidays, we will donate the pile to a charity.

Keep The Kids Tuned Up through the Break

Buy your children books for Christmas, or have Santa Claus bring them. Reading competency and confidence are vital to the success of every child. Read to your child! Read *with* your child! Have your child read to you! Inspire them to love to read and give them that gift for Christmas.

Now you can **see what books are in Kaiser School's library online!** Go to <http://library.ousd.k12.ca.us> then go to "Kaiser", then go to the catalog tab to search for books in our library. Wow!

Another great on-line resource available to you is Net Trek. Go to <http://school.nettrekker.com/frontdoor/> user name: ousdtrek Password: ousdtrek This is a site that our school district has subscribed to in order to provide resources for teachers to plan their classes, and for parents to get information for their children. I showed this to Ms. Bailey and she was amazed!

Kaiser Kiosk

! HOT OFF THE PRESS !

This week in the office we have **calendars for 2007** on sale. They include pictures of the San Francisco Bay Area with photography done by Corbin Pagter, a friend of Kaiser School parent Kim Lorenz. The calendars are \$15, with \$5 going to our school. They make a great gift!

! HOT TAMALES !

Hi Kaiser Families!

My catering company is 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 will **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.**

Project Night Night GIVING GUIDELINES

We cannot accept large stuffed animals (those over 12 inches) as they need to be able to fit in our tote bags

We serve children ages 0-10 years old.

Blankets should be new and "crib size" or smaller.

"Like New" (books and stuffed animals) means anything that would appear new to a homeless child, but it need not have the tags attached. It should be free from soil, obvious blemishes, and other defects.

Student Council Clothes Drive

Help the homeless have a happy holiday season
by bringing clothes in!

PROJECT NIGHT NIGHT

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

Student Council is doing a community service this season. Through December 22nd, there will be boxes in the halls where you can bring in clothes and blankets in good condition to donate to a homeless shelter. (See guidelines on this page, above.)

Be a homeless person's Santa this Christmas!!!!!!!!!!!!

2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:

Copy Editors: Wendy Harcarik
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Pink Panther Editor: Malcolm Ryder

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:

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