



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 22, 2006

Dear Kaiser Families,

It's no secret to you that Kaiser Elementary is a commuter school. We come from all over Oakland. As such we do not have a local neighborhood that we can call our own; no community centers or churches that serve the purpose of building our relationships; nor even a local park or playground. Since we don't live in the same neighborhoods, how do we form our community? How do we help families get to know each other without these extra supports?

Last week I wrote a little about my experiences representing our school at the enrollment Options Fair on January 11. As I talked with prospective parents that day, and later that evening at the Kindergarten information night, I had the satisfaction of describing our school as a learning community, and that our school success is largely dependent upon parent participation and support. How do we include the parents?

We represent most of Oakland's neighborhoods and population groups; but the one thing we do have in common is that we have chosen to be here. That choice is not a one-time event, but rather the beginning of a series of choices that we need to make in order to build a community of learners. As representatives let us work together to continue to build a wonderful school community.

There is a place for you here. Being present in the school helps you to get to know teachers, school practices, and build relationships that benefit us all. At Kaiser School we have many ways for you to participate in our learning community. Please consider one of these opportunities as a way for you to connect.

For our children, the benefits of your school involvement are many and myriad. Children learn better and learn more in an emotionally nurturing environment, and when they know parents are working with teachers to promote their progress. Your child will see you and be delighted that you're here.

And there are benefits for you as well. Getting to know our school from the inside helps relieve anxiety and soften reactions to occasional difficult situations that arise. Building friendships with other parents gives you the opportunity to share ideas and resources and at times to comfort each other.



Sign Up today for
The Walk-A-Thon!

- Volunteer in the classroom. You can come on a regular basis, on an occasional basis, or work with the teacher to come once for a special visit. Teachers can always use extra help, and if you don't feel like working with children directly there's always a lot of paperwork and preparation to be done.
- Volunteer elsewhere in the school. We can always use an extra yard supervisor, lunchroom supervisor, office helper, library helper, or computer lab helper. That way you get to know all the children.
- Join the PTA, and serve on a committee. You can connect with other adults and support the school in that way.
- Join the SSC (School Site Council) the oversight committee which acts as the governing board for the whole school. (We currently need a new member!) The SSC will be involved in writing our new three-year plan for our school; this is an opportunity to learn a lot about our school as we conduct our needs assessment and develop improvement plans.
- Drive on a field trip and help chaperone a group.
- Come to a school event. Back-to-school night, winter performances, and spring performances are all events where you learn about the school and the children's talents.
- Come to a social event. Hispanic Cultures night in October, Asian New Year in late January, and our Black History Celebration in February. Help with welcoming kindergartners and the children in other new families with their social events in August. Our annual fundraisers, the Benefit Auction in November and the Walkathon in May, are times when parents come together in a joyful way to show the unified support for the education of our children.

I've said it all week: "it's the best school in the world!"

- *Mel Stenger, Principal*

Getting In The Know

TB TESTING THIS WEEK -- JAN 24th!

TB tests are required for all regular volunteers. at Kaiser School. To have your test done, bring \$10 and visit our school nurse. For questions, or to be put on the list, contact Robin in the office.

Thursday, January 25: the parent GATE Meeting

Harper Building on Tenth Street, in Met West meeting room. The meeting is from 5 to 6:30 P.M. Parents need to be PRO-ACTIVE about GATE! It is not happening yet, and it needs to. Teachers need to be trained and certified in GATE teaching, differentiating, and understanding. Please attend and add your input!

This Friday, January 26 is our potluck in honor of the Asian New Year.

At Kaiser Elementary, the potluck is not only for Asian families but is an opportunity for all of us to come together to celebrate one another's culture. Get a great start on the weekend!

This is the final week for parents to **visit schools** where they might be interested in sending their children next year.

If you have any siblings intending to come to school here at Kaiser in the fall: call the office at **879-1710.**

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 to:

mryder@ix.netcom.com and
kbradley@ix.netcom.com

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Jan 24	TB Tests – required for Kaiser Volunteers
Jan 26	Semester End Retention Agreements Minimum Day: dismissal at 1:25 PM
Jan 26	Asian New Year Potluck
Jan 31	Walk-A-Thon Meeting @ Crogan's, 7 PM
Feb 2	Gardening Day

Walk A Thon Kick Off Meeting! RSVP...

Meet at Crogan's in Montclair at 7pm on Wednesday January 31st. Need directions? Lisa Cartolano 510.213.1139 or lisa.cartolano@prurealty.com

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/

Get Out That Calendar!



ASIAN NEW YEAR POTLUCK

Friday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m.

**Kaiser Elementary Celebrates Asian Culture and
the Lunar New Year!**

Potluck Menu Planning

Family Last Name:

A - H: Bring Appetizer, Soup, Salad or Side Dish

I - R: Bring Entrée/Main Dish

S - Z: Bring Dessert, Fruit or other Healthy Treat

Need Recipe Ideas?

*Asian cookbooks are available for your reference at the front desk counter in the Main Office.
Please do not remove except to copy.*

*Bring any noisemakers, hand drums, tambourines etc. you may have at home
to ring in the Lunar New Year!*

Questions, Want to Help? Contact: Karen Orsulak, 729-6141

Chuc Mung Nam Moi!

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Healthy Lifestyles... Healthy Children

TOP TEN TIPS FOR DEALING WITH PICKY EATERS

1. **Get them excited about healthy food:** Let them smell, touch taste and ask questions and try fruits, veggies, low-sugar yogurts and other healthy foods in the kitchen. Ask them what they think of the foods and let them know their opinions count.
2. **Get them involved in the kitchen:** Let them help you with small, kid-safe jobs in the kitchen such as mixing ingredients. Kids will be more inclined to eat (or at least try) foods that they helped make. Be sure to thank them for their help.
3. **Give them a say in what they eat:** Help your kids make the right food and drink choices from an early age. If they have a say in decisions they will be more excited about what they eat. It's a great way to get them to take charge of their health.
4. **Take them grocery shopping with you:** Get your kids involved in shopping decisions. It may take a little more time in the supermarket but it is likely to lead to fewer tantrums at meals.
5. **Keep the junk food out of the house:** Your kids can't eat unhealthy snacks if you don't buy them. Kids will moan at first but soon they will get hungry and reach for the apple instead of the chips.
6. **Add healthy food when you can:** Find ways to add healthy food into foods your child already likes. You can put blueberries in pancakes, chopped fruit on cereal, or small pieces of broccoli in macaroni and cheese.
7. **Help them learn:** Encourage your kids to draw or doodle pictures of healthy foods or write a poem. Post on the fridge and make sure they know you are proud.
8. **Sit down together:** Try to set aside your meals as family time. Turn off the TV and enjoy eating together.
9. **Keep healthy snacks on hand:** Bring healthy snacks when you pick your kids up from school, after sporting practice, and at other times when you know their stomachs will be grumbling.
10. **Make healthy food and meals fun:** Try cutting up food into fun shapes or making faces out of fruit and vegetables. Putting healthy snacks such as oatmeal cookies or dried fruit into a fun bag can turn healthy foods into a cool snack for your child.

Source: Alliance for a Healthier Generation; www.HealthierGeneration.org

Kaiser Kiosk

LAST WEEK LEFT! Enrollment Options

I'd like to remind all of you who have fifth graders that this is the time for you to be choosing a middle school. We had a meeting back in early December with representatives from several the middle schools to try to give you information to help your choices.

Now is the time to visit the two or three schools that you are really interested in. After making your decision, please bring your completed application to our office and we will send it downtown. There is no advantage in turning your form in early; they will not be processed until after January 29.

Please take some time to involve your fifth-grader in your decision-making process. I am not suggesting that you let your fifth-grader make the decision, but to involve them in the process will increase the likelihood that they will eventually go along with the choice you make for middle school.

Oakland Public Schools offers several good choices for middle schools; they are all slightly different and so it takes time to find the one that will fit your family the best.

REMINDER: Middle School Options Forms are due Monday, January 29 and are to be turned in at Kaiser School.

- Mel Stenger

EXTRA! This is the time that we are offering visits for prospective kindergarten families. We are welcoming visitors through the end of January.

If you know of any family who has a four-year-old who will be ready for kindergarten next fall, please let them know about Kaiser school. They should call the office to make an appointment for a visit if they are interested in attending Kaiser elementary in the fall. Even if they think they don't need to visit, they should; seeing the school in action is very different than reading our paperwork or hearing about us by word of mouth.

Auction Donation Receipts Are Ready...

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For those of you needing auction donation receipts for tax purposes.

I have printed out all the receipts! They are in the form of a letter.

Some I'll mail, others I will have in a folder in the office labeled and in alphabetical order.

Where the receipt belongs to someone not listed in the Kaiser Directory: many address I don't have to mail or I don't know who they are -- neighbor, friend?

Email me if you have questions or addresses to confirm. Thanks – Liz Hall

probossliz@pacbell.net

ORGANIC ORANGES FOR SALE

My oranges have *Finally* sweetened up enough to pick. I sold the first ones this morning. I'm keeping the price the same as it was last year: \$7 for 10# and \$15 for 25#. When enough orders have come in, we'll see that a truckload comes down to Kaiser School. If you have any questions or want to make an order, either email me (or call 530-865-5653) or talk to Robin at school, 510-879-1710.

Thank you so much,
Joyce Staples

PARENT DRIVERS – CAUTION PLEASE!!! when dropping children off *PLEASE* use the circle and not pull into the school yard by the portable classrooms nor into the faculty parking lot. There are always children running around the portable classrooms, and pulling into the faculty parking lot and then backing out is unsafe.

2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:

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Kids Take the Page

Breaking The Frame...

One of the most important developments in our modern experience of art is the acceptance of having the artist or narrator show up and remind us that we are enjoying something that has been invented.

In this new piece by cartoonist Gabe Meldman, an even more complex trick is used, where even the characters get to recognize that their situation has been invented, by the author. Interestingly, this is not a new trick at all in field sports, where everyone knows about being "out of bounds" or not. That offers a clue as to how artists like this one can work, blending a gamesmanship with the storytelling to heighten our sensitivity to what has been going on.



The effect often drives humor. Samuel Beckett in "Waiting For Godot" comes to mind as a famous modern artist doing this. But the careful reader will even find William Shakespeare doing it too. Contemporary photographers and filmmakers have made it something typical; musicians like PDQ Bach also count. But cartoonists may do it best.