



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 9, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

Well the two weeks vacation are gone and we're all back in school. I don't know about you but I was putting away the Christmas decorations this past weekend shaking my head at how quickly it all flew by!

I hope you had some time to enjoy your best gift of all—your children. Sometimes they may not seem like precious gifts, but they are; what would life be without them? And thanks to all of you who gave me gifts for the season; they left me feeling supported and appreciated!

And so on to our New Year's Resolutions. Whether it was to read daily with your kids, to play as a family, to incorporate physical activity into your family routine or to lose a few pounds, we educators have known how to make it happen for quite a while. (I spent some time researching the internet looking for secrets on how to make progress on such resolutions, and found none!)

It's pretty simple:

- Set a clear achievable goal that can be objective observed and measured. (We will play a game as a family twice each week until March 1, rather than we'll have more family fun.)
- Make a plan that everybody can agree on
- Monitor and chart the progress, talk about successes and failures, and take steps to modify the plan instead of giving up on it.
- Reward yourself when you've achieved your goal!

See, isn't that easy! Now, remember that it's much easier said than done, and just because we know how to do something doesn't guarantee that we'll carry through!

I'd like to suggest a resolution: Put away cell phones and talk to your children when commuting to and from school. These 10 minutes each way are important moments to spend with your child, sharing expectations and plans for the day, concerns about work and relationships with others, and reviewing the events of the day each afternoon. There are too many children looking lost and talking to no one, tagging along behind parents, waiting for a crumb of attention, a shred of interaction with someone they love. I think you'll find that driving time spent talking with your children about their school lives will greatly improve everyone's investment, and will become a very special part of the day.

Coming up: This Wednesday is PTA Meeting (please see the attached flyer) and Thursday evening at 6:00 we'll have an information night for any parents interested in sending their children to Kaiser next year. Also watch this newsletter for information for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Fest. This event is a school and district speech contest celebrating the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King, Jr. Please encourage your kids to participate!

Finally, January is the month when we need to start thinking seriously about planning for those children who need to spend more time in their present grade level. If your child's teacher thinks this is a needed step for your child, you will be hearing from them. Please refrain from using words such as "failing" or "flunking." Some children simply need more time to master the skills needed before they move on. My family went through it and while it's not a pleasant process, it needn't be ugly. If you'd like to talk with me about your child's situation, please contact the office.

Welcome to the New Year! Happy 2007!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

TB tests are required for all regular volunteers at Kaiser School. We have arranged for a school nurse to come and give tests to all volunteers on Wednesday, January 24 at a cost of \$10 per person. Please RSVP to Robin in the office.

Help! Lost Key!

A Kaiser parent lost their new car key at one of the holiday performances. It has a single key with a black remote door opener attached. If you find it please return it to the office ASAP. Thanks.

Walk A Thon Kick Off Meeting!

Come meet to discuss how you can help make the Walk A Thon a huge success! Meet at Crogan's in Montclair at 7pm on Wednesday January 31st
Please let me know if you can make it, and if you need directions.

Lisa Cartolano 510.213.1139 or
lisa.cartolano@prurealty.com

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.

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
Jan 10	PTA General Meeting
Jan 11	Kindergarten Information Night 6PM
Jan 12	Grant Writing Meeting, Noon - Library
Jan 15	MLK, Jr. Day, No School
Jan 17	SSC Meeting, 4 PM
Jan 20	Beautification Day, 9AM
Jan 26	Asian New Year Potluck
Jan 26	Semester End Retention Agreements
Jan 31	Walk-A-Thon Meeting @ Crogans

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/

Parents & Teachers

PTA Meeting Wednesday, January 10, 6:30pm

Join us for a “Healthy Living” presentation by OUSD Health and Wellness Coordinator Nora Cody.

- Gather ideas for healthy snack and meal choices for you and your family.
- Learn what you should look for in a nutrition label.
- Look at fitness guidelines and ways to incorporate exercise into your busy schedule.

Also on the agenda.....

- See how our fundraisers have done and take a look at what’s ahead.
- Receive updates and reviews from various PTA board members.
- Hear what the PTA has planned for the next few months and how you can be a part of it.



Walk and Link Hands around Lake Merritt with
Mayor Ronald V. Dellums
in a City-Wide Celebration
Saturday, January 13th, 2007

Please Wear a White T-Shirt and Bright Colored Gloves

8:00 AM – Registration (at entrance to Fairyland on Grand Avenue)

9:00AM – Walk begins promptly

10:30 Link Hands Around the Lake

CLOWNS, PUPPETS, MARCHING BANDS & MUCH MORE

New Heading

**Here are the children's programs for February
at Dimond Branch Library 3565 Fruitvale Ave.:**

Friday, Feb. 2
Dimond Children's Book Club
Reading *The Whipping Boy* by Sid
Fleischman. Refreshments provided.
ages 9 - 12
4:00 - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 6,
James Henry, drummer
Celebrate African American History Month
with this interactive family program.
all ages
7:00 pm

Friday, Feb. 16
Dimond Teen Book Club
Reading *Money Hungry* by Sharon Flake.
Refreshments provided.
4:00 - 5:00 pm

Friday, Feb. 23
Snowflakes in February
Crafts with Robin Goodfellow
ages 6 and older
3:30 - 5:00

Every Tuesday, except Feb. 6
Family Storytime
Join us for stories, songs, and fingerplays
ages 0 - 6 and family
7:00 pm

Every Wednesday
Toddler Time
Join us for stories, songs, and fingerplays
ages 0-2
10:15 am

Every Wednesday
Preschool Storytime
Join us for stories, songs, and fingerplays
ages 3- 5

Alison Bowman, Community Relations
Oakland Public Library
510/ 238-3271
abowman@oaklandlibrary.org