



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 30, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

The food was delicious, the company was delightful, and the entertainment was fantastic! What am I talking about? Why, the Asian New Year potluck and celebration! We had a large group here Friday evening and we ate and talked and laughed and enjoyed an evening with our kids. We oohed and aahed at the dancing lion and were mesmerized by the martial arts demonstration and the magician. I want to thank all the parents who organized the party, put up the decorations, arranged the tables and food, and did the clean up. So many people pitched in to help! Happy New Year to everyone! Gung Hay Fat Choy!

It was also an emotional or difficult week for many families as teachers met with them to talk about the possible need for their child to spend more time in a particular grade level. This is a touchy subject for many people as there are so many negative feelings around it. We use words like "fail, flunk, held back, or retained" to refer to the kids who need more time. The fact of the matter is that some children need more time for their own development in the primary years or in the later elementary years, before they move on to the next phase of their education. When I was trained in the Giselle Institute's testing methods to determine Kindergarten readiness, I learned that the Giselle Institute uses the phrase, "the gift of time" to refer to letting kids develop into being ready for the next part of their education. It is not a fault of the child if he/she needs more time. In fact, it is an institutional problem that we have children move lockstep through the curriculum, or we label them as failures. Our faculty has discussed this in the past and we will revisit it again; we need to change our school culture to make it ok for some children to take 7 years to go through the 6 years of elementary curriculum without the students and their families (and teachers) feeling shame and guilt. If your child's teacher has broached the topic with you, rest assured that it was not an easy decision, nor a flippant one. We are keenly aware of all the studies and possible outcomes. We have not brought it up because we don't like your child, or think they're stupid. We ask your help in planning out the best course of action for your child's education.

In other health-related matters we also need your help. Recent law changes tell us not to exclude children who have lice nits in their hair because the threat is more of a nuisance than life-threatening. In light of that change, please remind your children not to share hats or scarves, combs or brushes. And at the beginning of the week we had over 28 kids absent each day for the flu, or flu symptoms. Again, remind your children about keeping clean and washing their hands after using the restroom. Also for the next couple of weeks, please remind your kids not to share food, snacks, or drinks with their friends. I know that this is difficult because so much of lunchtime revolves around the beautiful sharing that goes on, but currently that's not a good idea because of the flu germs going around.

Let's stay healthy!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Fest Results!

What an honor it was to be invited to be a judge for the oratorical fest. As always, our children were magnificent and it was very difficult making the final determination when we can send only four entries to the district level.

Both second grade classes were outstanding in their presentations and will be representing our school at the district, along with two young ladies who wrote and delivered original speeches: Sophia Lee and Nydesha Foster. Special recognition also goes to Skyla Wincher and Kendall Murphy for their individual deliveries of "Harriet Tubman" and "The Road Not Taken."

Thanks, also, to the teachers and parents who worked with the classes and/or individuals to help with the presentations! In truth, everyone who participated was a winner.

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

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
Feb. 19	President's Day No School
Feb. 21	SSC Meeting
Feb. 22	PTA Board Meeting
Feb. 24	African American Potluck

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

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/