



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 5, 2006

### Dear Kaiser Families,

We're halfway through! How are we doing? Last week formally ended the first semester and so we're officially into the second half. The routines are set, the expectations are clear, and so now is the time to continue the progress we've started with our children and monitor the work we're all doing.

It's also time to review our entire school program to look at major areas of needed change. Over the next couple of weeks **you'll be getting a survey called "Use Your Voice"** and I would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes out of your busy day to respond to it.

The survey will help form the basis for our upcoming 3 year plan that I will be writing over the next couple of months. I will be looking for parent, teacher, and student input as this plan should reflect our collective vision of what will guide Kaiser Elementary into being a more wonderful school than we already are! Please watch this newsletter for continuing information on the planning process and the ways you can participate.

At Kaiser School we monitor the students' progress to see how well they are progressing. We pay particular attention to their progress in Math and ELA (English/Language Arts). Over the past couple of weeks you may have heard some terms, or not, which relate to the monitoring of your children. I'd like to take a moment to review many of the ways we do that:

**Observation:** Teachers observe children daily in the context of the activities. They make mental or paper notes about how the students are performing.

**Class work/Homework Review:** Teachers review the documents that children give us to see if the children are performing the activities to reflect what is being taught, and to see if the concept development is up to **grade level standard**.

**Publishers' Tests:** Teachers use test that come with the textbooks to check students' understanding of the concept they are teaching.

**Teacher-Made tests:** Teachers sometimes make up their own quizzes and tests to check student understanding

**District Benchmark and Progress Tests:**

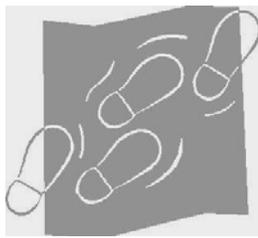
Teachers give students district tests to check students' growth for a limited number of concepts (benchmarks) or to check growth over a semester (progress). These tests are computerized and added to the district's data about how we all are doing.

**Standardized Tests:** These are the "big" tests given at the beginning of May that test the kids in many areas, and are used to develop student scores and school scores.

Sometimes it seems that there are too many tests, that we can know enough about the progress of your child without so many official tests. One of the other purposes of the testing is the monitoring of our program itself, so that we can see if we are weak in an area, or if we are treating all groups of kids equitably. We also want to keep up on the development of every child in every way!

*- Mel Stenger, Principal*

# Getting In The Know



Stay Tuned for  
The Walk-A-Thon!

## Join the School Site Council!

We are currently looking for a new member of the School Site Council.

The SSC is the overall governing body of the school, sort of a very local school board. We meet monthly to review how the school is implementing the current school plan, progress on equity issues, academic performance, partial budget review, and general school matters.

The SSC then makes recommendations to the staff on how to improve. There is very little work outside the meeting time besides occasionally reviewing a document.

The time commitment is a monthly meeting on the third Wednesday, from 4:00-5:30. (This would be a way for you to help the school if you don't feel particularly interested in working directly with children. That's ok!) Please call the office if you can help us in this way.

## 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](mailto:mryder@ix.netcom.com) and  
[kbradley@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kbradley@ix.netcom.com)

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb 19	Presidents Day (School Closed)
Feb 21	SSC Meeting
Feb 22	PTA Board Meeting
Feb 23	African American Pot Luck
Mar 2	Gardening Day
Mar 7	General PTA Meeting
Mar 12 through 16	Parent Teacher Conferences: Minimum Days all Week

## 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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/)



# Kaiser Kiosk

**DID YOU KNOW?** "Nearly two-thirds of highly-advertised children's food products with images or references to fruit on the package contained little or no fruit and were high in added sweeteners. The packages might lead a parent to believe they are a healthier option for their children, when many do not actually deliver any of the nutritional benefits of whole fruit. With the exception of a few products, **children are not benefiting** nutritionally from these highly-advertised products. Only two out of the six beverages in the study contained 100% fruit juice. The remaining four products were primarily water and added sweeteners..." - *That just in from the Prevention Institute. You might have seen the Page 1 article on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> in the SF Chronicle; if you missed it, go to [www.preventioninstitute.org](http://www.preventioninstitute.org) to see the full report of this eye-opening study. It will make you reconsider many top-selling products including Fruity Cheerios, Nesquik strawberry, Tang, and even Yoplait Go-Gurt!*

## KUDOS!!

**Feb. 1 --Savannah Whaley finished third last night in the district Spelling Bee. She now goes on to the next level.**

The Oakland Unified School District Spelling Bee, that is. At this event we celebrate talented student spellers in grades four through six and identify the eleven students who will compete in the Alameda County Spelling Bee in March. This spelling bee follows the rules of Alameda County and the State of California Spelling Bee. (It does not conform to the rules of the National Spelling Bee and is not an entry-level competition to that event.) Congratulations to our kids!

## 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](mailto:probossliz@pacbell.net)

## Look out for Lice!

Please be advised that there have been a few outbreaks of lice at our school recently. It is important to check your child's head regularly, especially if they are scratching more often than usual. As a regular precaution, teach your child not to share hats, brushes, clips, ponytails, ribbons, etc. and avoid head to head contact. If you do find lice or lice eggs (nits), treat your child's head with an over the counter lice treatment and remove all nits. Re-treat after 7 to 10 days. Wash all bedding and clothing in hot water and continue to check for nits on a daily basis for at least 2-3 weeks after treatment.

**Free to a good home:** three slate chalkboards (2 are about 4 feet by 18 inches and 1 board is about 2 feet by 2½ feet.) and one executive style desk in cherry. Please call the office if you're interested in any of these items. They're free!

## 2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:

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# Kids Take the Page

## America, A Nation Of Immigrants By Nicholas Maier

I am glad America is a nation of immigrants because these are my roots. Most of my ancestors came from Italy, Spain, England, Wales, Germany and other European countries. Once they arrived here they married with other cultures including the American Indians. If my relatives had stayed in their native lands and territories I would have never been created!!

My relatives came to America to find new and better places to live. They came to have jobs and provide for their families. My Italian ancestors had never gone to school in Italy because they were too poor and had no shoes to wear. Shoes *were* required to go to school. Also, the children as well as the adults had to spend every day, all year long, farming just to have enough food to feed the family. School was not a possibility for them.

My great, great grandfather came to America from Italy to start a new life. He left his wife and children in Italy for ten years while he worked here in San Francisco as a shoe shiner and saved his money. Then he sent for his family. They had still never gone to school.

They arrived at Ellis Island and my great grandmother and her brothers and sisters remembered the Statue of Liberty. When they got here the children were all teenagers and they went to work in factories. They learned English as fast as they could and became U.S. Citizens. The very next generation, my grandfather and his brothers, went to school and also to college. America for my family has been the land of education and opportunity.

My other ancestors had similar stories, but most of them had some form of education. Sometimes the families did not like it when the young people married out of their nationality. Some saw it as marrying someone below their own social class. It's a good thing they did though or there would be no me. I am a kid of many backgrounds.



## WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS By Sophia Lee

They came here on the untamed waves of the  
Unknown sea  
That is why immigration is important to me  
Their reasons: for work and a better chance for  
The future  
As they sailed they got nearer and nearer  
Families of all kind came for a long visit  
Is this America, is it?  
They came and found new laboring jobs  
They all came here by the mobs  
The immigrants brought with them some yummy  
Food  
And this became extremely good  
For we wouldn't have all the variety  
American food became so mighty!  
Without them most of us would not be here  
As I write this poem, it becomes more clear  
Why most people are living here  
Why I am glad America is a nation of immigrants

1/23/07



# *Kids Take More Pages!*

## **What Would Martin Luther King, Jr. be Doing if He Was Alive Today?**

**By Mr. Neat's 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class**

We think that if Martin Luther King, Jr. was alive right now he would be protesting against the war in Iraq. For example, he would go to the White House and he would say to make peace with Iraq. He would go around America making speeches to everyone about the war in Iraq. We think it might work because Martin Luther King, Jr. would convince a lot of people to be against the war in Iraq.

-by Mekhal Dixon-Ferrel and Elan Sherman

Martin Luther King, Jr. would stop vandalism by telling some people what else to do instead of vandalism. I bet he would protest the war in Iraq. He would definitely give lots of speeches. He would immediately protest about segregation in other countries. He would go there and make very big speeches. He would fight against slave labor by protesting with the people. We would all appreciate what he did with the world and the people.

-by Megan DeVecchi and Nora Potts

Martin Luther King, Jr. would fight for poor people to help them. All of the poor people would have enough money to buy a home, food, and a car. If Martin Luther King, Jr. was alive he would do more about poor people. If he was alive he would make a speech to stop global warming. He would say that we should stop using things that make exhaust like factories, cars, and other things.

-by Mercy Nwakudu and Lorice Dykes

If Martin Luther King, Jr. was still alive today he would do a lot of things to stop violence. One thing he would do would be to help stop the war in Iraq by giving speeches across the United States of America. He would also protest against the war. Another thing he would do would be to stop school violence by trying to encourage students not to fight. I really wish Martin Luther King, Jr. was still alive.

-by Julian Salkin

Martin Luther King, Jr. would stop the war in Iraq. He would stop all of the people that are in the war. He would try to talk to the president to figure something out. He would really try to stop that bad war that is killing everybody. The other thing he would stop is vandalism. Every time he would see someone tagging stuff he would sing, preach, and tell them that they need to stop what they are doing. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great leader. We all should appreciate the things he did. He fought for every one of us. It would be really cool to have him back.

-by Ariel Vason and Olivia Kelleher

If Martin Luther King, Jr. was still alive he would fight for the rights of prisoners. In some jails they mistreat prisoners. In one jail, the person in charge mistreated the female prisoners badly. He made them angry. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have told them to not use violence, but to use peace. He would say that there will be protests, sit-ins, and more so that you will be treated better and get your rights even though you are a prisoner. That's what Martin Luther King, Jr. would do.

-by Brittany Martin and Amina Tshimanga

If Martin Luther King, Jr. was still alive today he would probably fight gang violence, and fight for poor people around the world. He would fight for poor people by going from country to country, trying to get people to give more money to help them. He would stop gang violence by going to the 'hoods and reminding everyone of his words.

-by Shawn Elliot and Kenneth DeArman

We think that Martin Luther King, Jr. would try to stop the war in Iraq. The reason why is because he didn't like violence at all and he didn't let black people use violence when they were trying to end segregation. If he had, so many lives would have been in danger. He would try and stop the Iraq War without using violence.

-by Hannah Caldwell-Meurer and Jacqueline Christie