



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 12, 2007

This Week is Conference Week

- Early dismissal all week at 1:25
- *No supervision after 1:30—teachers are in conferences!*
- No afternoon programs this week
- Report cards will be given at conferences

Dear Kaiser Families,

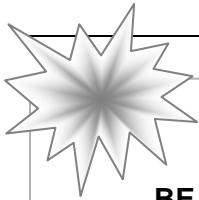
Yes, it's conference week. Last week I gave you a few focus areas, reviewing grades, looking at challenges for your child, and thinking of specific objectives to be accomplished by the end of the year. Considering that this is the last formal conference before the end of the school year, this is also the time to ask your child's teacher any specific suggestions they might have for what to do with your child over the summer, regarding their academic progress. Although Oakland Public Schools does not offer summer school, there are many programs available in our community that can help boost your child's academic performance. And if you missed the information fair for summer programs for children at the Scottish Rite Center, you can still look them up at www.aauw-op.com/ to help you develop your plans for the summer months.

This week we had the Teacher Appreciation Day organized by Julie Mills. Our lunch was brought by parents from Ms. McGhee's class, Ms. Pessin's class, and Ms. Apaydin's class. The food was delicious, the room was filled with oohs and aaahs, and afterwards everyone ended up feeling more appreciative of our parents than ever! Thank you Julie, and thank you parents! Another way to show your appreciation for your teacher is to nominate them for a MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education Award. If you can do such a nomination, it has to be submitted by March 14. Please look for the information flyer that I have attached to this newsletter.

Tax time is approaching, and I would like to take the opportunity to point out a couple of things. Our PTA is doing a pledge drive to support its work here in our school; the three biggest areas are PE, library, and music instruction. They are hoping to reach a goal of \$15,000. Any pledge that you can make would be much appreciated and is tax deductible. The total cost for educating your child here is just over \$5,300. That's much less expensive than a private school for a program that is very comparable. In addition to the school program we all benefit from belonging to the diverse community of learners known as Kaiser Elementary School.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know



EXTRA EXTRA!

BE THE PINK PANTHER'S NEXT CO-EDITOR

The Pink Panther Staff is changing into the new season

If you're ready to drive Kaiser's primary weekly newsletter from the front seat, **we need you now!**

Contact Malcolm Ryder (outgoing editor), Kim Karl (VP Communications) or Lisa Downes (PTA President).

mryder@ix.netcom.com

kcarl@berkeley.edu

lisadownes@yahoo.com

Teacher Parent Conference week is this week.

If you have not received a conference reservation form from your child's teacher, please call immediately to make an appointment.

Good communication between teachers and the parents/guardians help children perform.

Tardies affect everyone!

When children come in late it can be disruptive for the class, and disorienting for the late student. We understand the occasional late arrival and we encourage you to examine your own morning routine, and if you are habitually late, please redouble your efforts to be here on time.

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:

lisadownes@sbcglobal.net

and

kcarl@berkeley.edu

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Mar 12 through 16	Parent Teacher Conferences: Minimum Days all Week
Mar 21	SCC Meeting
Mar 29	PTA Board Meeting
Mar 30	No School Cesar Chavez Day
April 9 through 13	No School Spring Break

NEW SESSION OF CHESS STARTS NEXT WEEK!

A new session of after-school chess starts on Wednesday, March 21. Registration should be mailed directly to the Berkeley Chess School. A registration form is attached to this week's Pink Panther. Questions about after-school programs? Contact Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679 or katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net

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 (use full address shown here):

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/

Kaiser Kiosk

Please Support the PTA Pledge Drive!!

Help us reach our pledge goal of \$15,000. If every family pledged \$61.22 per student, our goal will be achieved. That's only \$6.12 a month for the school year. All contributions are tax deductible.

What does \$15,000 provide?

The PTA pays \$16,400 for library instruction and supplies, \$11,000 for P.E. instruction, and \$15,000 for music instruction. Imagine Kaiser without those programs!

No After-School Programs during Conferencing Week

There will no be after-school programs during this week so that teachers and parents can meet about student progress. **Please be sure to pick your child up at 1:25 p.m. if they don't go to Adventure Time. There will be no after-school supervision for kids.**

Kaiser Permanente will be doing a series of presentations to our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. It will culminate with a dinner and presentation to parents and students on **Tuesday, March 27.**

Pearls of Wisdom about taxes from Ms. Pearl:

- You can get a telephone tax refund from \$30-\$60. Look online 71 of form 1040.
- Even get up to \$500 back if you made energy improvements to your home. Use form 5695.
- If you are 50 or older in 2006 you can increase your deductible contribution to your IRA to \$5,000.
- If you ask for your refund by direct deposit you will get it a week faster than by mail. If you file online you will get your refund within two weeks. And you can have your refund split into as many as three bank accounts by filling out form 8888.
- For free help go to www.AARP.org/tax aide

So now we've discovered a whole new area that Ms. Pearl is smart about!

Easter Baskets for Sale

If you'd like to purchase an Easter basket for a little one this year, come to the office and see what we have. A Kaiser parent is selling Easter baskets for \$13 each and will be donating a part of the proceeds to the school.

2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:

Copy Editors: Wendy Harcarik
Carrie Shepherd
Pink Panther Editor: Malcolm Ryder (thanks, & good bye!)

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:

PTA President: Lisa Downes
VPs Communication: Kim Carl
Kiki Bradley