



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 19, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

Conference week has come and gone and we've all had a major check-in. In the last few newsletters I suggested topics for reflection and for discussion in the actual conference. I hope the time spent with your child's teacher was helpful. This was the time to ask final questions about your child's progress and recommendations for the summer months. If you didn't get a chance to ask something, or forgot, please don't hesitate to set another conference time. We want to work with you to support your goals for your child's education. In particular, we all look forward to continued success in the next three months.

Every parent should have an educational plan for their children. Right now, the biggest part of the plan is attendance at Kaiser School. But school attendance is not the complete plan. You may have other educational and experience goals for your child, such as learning to play an instrument, specific vacation destinations, work experiences, growth in participating in the managing of your home, or religious instruction. The plan should include short-term goals and specific strategies to achieve them; for example you might want to help your child improve their math performance and in your situation that may mean thoroughly checking math homework nightly. The plan should also include long-term goals; for example you might want to inspire your child to want to go to college by arranging conversations with your child and an adult they admire who graduated from college.

As with every plan, keep in mind that the plan changes. It grows and evolves. We find out new information which makes us revisit the education plan. Maybe our child is not as successful or doesn't express interest in an area that we had planned for them. So as parents we need to learn to guide and support, but not have strict control. In most situations things will turn out fine, or even very good, but maybe not exactly the way we had wanted. Let's remember that our children are not younger versions of ourselves.

The tricky thing about parenting (and running a school) is that we're always trying to evaluate our decisions. We didn't get the teacher we wanted. He/she doesn't give the right type of homework. The school isn't everything we'd hoped. There are too many of *those* kids in our class. The principal isn't standing on the circle greeting everybody like at that other school we almost went to. Take a deep breath. Look at the children. Are they happy? Are they engaged and learning most of the time? What do the assessments say? If all those things are happening, we're probably going to be just fine.

Spring arrives this week. What new life can you celebrate with your child?

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Congratulations Kaiser Families!

Thank you to the families who have sent in pledge donations over the past three weeks. In that short time we have received almost \$1,000, bringing our total pledge dollars collected to \$7,500! This number includes individual donations as well as matching contributions from Wells Fargo, Clorox, and Gap. Make sure you check with your company to see if it would be willing to make a matching contribution. Our goal is \$15,000, so keep those pledge dollars rolling in! Remember, if each family pledges \$61.22 per student, we will reach our goal. Keep your eye on the pledge thermometer in the circle, and watch it rise!

Sally Foster Online Spring Sale

Sally Foster is offering a spring online sale that will run until March 30. Fifty percent of all sales go to Kaiser. All orders must be placed online, and the product is delivered directly to your home. There is free shipping if you spend \$60 or more. Think about ordering with a friend if you want to spend less and still save on shipping. For more information see the attached flyer or contact Lisa Downes (532-5913).

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
March 21	SCC Meeting
March 27	Kaiser Permanente presents "The Best Me" to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families. Dinner will be served with a presentation following.
March 29	PTA Board Meeting
March 30	No School Cesar Chavez Day
April 4	General PTA meeting: Kaiser Permanente's "Thriving Families" Science Fair awards, PTA board elections. Dinner will be provided by Kaiser Permanente
April 5	District Music Festival at Kaiser
April 9 through 13	No School Spring Break

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:

lisadownes@sbcglobal.net
and
kcarl@berkeley.edu

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/

KAISER HAPPENINGS

From the Resource Corner

In the Resource Room we have been talking about using math vocabulary to describe things we do and see. A primary math group is proud of their work and would like to share their thoughts about it.

Miles offered, "We did a good job." Dean chimed in, "Beautiful!" and Terrance wanted you to know he likes to "think about numbers while we look at flowers." These responses came while creating a bulletin board based on talking about a wildflower poster from the Oakland Museum. Students compared colors, shapes, and sizes of flowers using greater than, less than and equal to. They talked about how many more red flowers there were compared to the purple flowers in the poster. They talked about odd and even numbers of blossoms and created fact families to make comparisons and point out differences between the flowers. Addition, subtraction, and multiplication number sentences created a visual for the math discussion.

Next time you are with your daughter or son, look about you and start a conversation about what you see in math terms. This helps students see the relevance of math to everyday life and to things that are beautiful. Also, when you get a chance, Dean, Miles, and Terrance invite you to stick your head into the resource room to see the bulletin board they made from our discussion of wildflowers. They are very proud of their work!

Elizabeth Whittaker
Resource Specialist

SAVE THE DATE!! THE WALK-A-THON IS COMING

The Annual Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 9 AM. This year's Walk-A-Thon theme is "Going the Distance." This event is an exciting fundraiser for the PTA, which supports and enhances our school in many, many ways.

How it Works: Our Kaiser students ask sponsors to pledge money for the Walk-A-Thon. The kids walk laps around the school to earn money from their sponsors. There are fun prizes for the children, and the class that brings in the most pledge money will receive a pizza party to celebrate.

The Walk-A-Thon is a great way to earn up to one-third of the PTA's operating budget. There is a wonderful sense of school pride and community as kids walk, parents volunteer, and everyone eats! Also, the Annual Book Fair will take place during the Walk-A-Thon, so there will be plenty for everyone to do.

So, students: start filling out your pledge sheets as soon as you receive them this week after the assembly on Wednesday! Ask your friends, family, and neighbors to sponsor you and think about how many laps you think you can do this year. Remember to ask out-of-town family and friends you visit with over spring break to sponsor your walk.

Also, we will be having a contest for the best T-shirt design for the Walk-A-Thon. Submit your design to Robin Sasada no later than Friday, April 10. The winner of the T-shirt design contest will receive a super cool prize and see classmates and Kaiser friends wearing their design at the event.

So save the date, start getting pledges, and create your best T-shirt design! Please contact Lisa Cartolano at lisa.cartolano@prurealty.com if you have any questions or suggestions.

Kaiser Kiosk

Kaiser to Host District Music Festival

All Kaiser instrumental students will be performing at the annual district Music Festival on Thursday, April 5 from 1-2:30 p.m. Kaiser Elementary School will host this year's music festival. Parents are invited to attend, but will also have a chance to hear the same program at our school in May (TBA).

All students should be well prepared (practice, music, instrument) and dressed in dark bottoms and white tops for this event.

Thank you,
Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Briggs
(Music Instructors)

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!

EXTRA EXTRA!

BE THE PINK PANTHER'S NEXT CO-EDITOR

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).

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Happy Spring!!!



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