



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2, 2007

### Dear Kaiser Families,

This coming Friday I have to turn in to my supervisor the first draft of our three-year plan. Along with what I'm going to do to provide staff development and what our school will do for the intervention of students who are low performing, I need to turn in a document called, "Home-School Compact And Parent Involvement Policy." Our district requires that we do two things to engage in involve our parent community: conduct family learning about grade-level standards; and communicate, monitor, and provide frequent feedback to parents about individual student achievement. Kaiser Elementary does so much more, and I'm very proud of what I get to describe. Because we are a non-geographical community, the staff and parents put in extra effort to build our community of learners.

The principal and most of the teachers write regular newsletters to keep the parent community informed of what's happening in the classroom and the school as a whole.

Parents and the public visit our website, [www.Kaiserelementaryschool.org](http://www.Kaiserelementaryschool.org), which is maintained by the PTA. The website provides a window to our school and provides the public with general information about who we are as community of learners.

The teachers hold regular conferences in the spring and fall, and extras if needed, to inform parents of the progress of their children. These are important opportunities for each party to share information about how to support the progress of the student. This is the time for teachers to share information about what the student should be learning at a particular grade level, and for parents to give feedback from their point of view.

Our SST (Student Study Team) meetings provide an opportunity for parents of struggling students to meet with a larger group of professionals to take a deeper look at their situation. The Student Study Team consists of upper and lower grade teachers, the resource specialist, the school psychologist, the principal, and the student's parents.

The staff and parents attend Back-To-School Night where teachers describe their classroom programs and the principal gives his State of the School presentation.

Parents attend PTA general meetings to keep abreast of school functions, to learn about particular topics, or to share their concerns.

Parents organize three different ethnic evening potlucks: Hispanic Cultural Night in October, Asian New Year in January, and Black History Night in February.

Staff prepares for, and parents attend performance nights in the winter and late spring. Children perform in music, dance, or drama. Parents love it, beam with pride, and take many videos.

The PTA sponsors monthly teacher appreciation luncheons. Yum!

The PTA sponsors fundraisers (the Benefit Auction, the Walkathon, and Thursday snack sales) which not only raise money for PTA support for the school program, but also perform an important function of providing a time and place and theme for socializing.

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# Getting In The Know

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Parents are welcome on the school site. They often hang out near the picnic tables out front chatting about school issues. Parents visit the school staff in the office and often help there with odd jobs. It's obvious that Kaiser School is a second home to many people.

Parents volunteer for positions on PTA committees, SSC, and the gardening committee. These committees do important work to organize and support the general functions of the support network.

Parents volunteer in the classrooms or regularly help teachers. We couldn't do it without you!

Parents drive on field trips. It's always surprising to hear what parents learn about the other students in their child's class and how wonderful the other parents are.

PTA sponsors new family orientation, welcoming new families and inviting them to join our learning community.

Spring break is coming, and with it Easter, the Christian celebration of new life and resurrection; belief in this event is what defines belonging to the Christian community. Easter itself is based on the older, pagan celebrations of the coming of spring and the renewal of life, our awareness of what connects us to each other as human beings on the deepest levels. Also this week Jewish people around the world celebrate Passover. At the Seder dinner, the youngest member gets to ask the question, "Why is this night different than every other night?" The rest of the Seder dinner and the rest of the questions go on to explain what makes the Jewish people a nation and a community.

When I look at the lists of activities above that help us to connect, engage, and become a community of learners, they answer the question, "Why is our school different than every other school?"

Have a wonderful spring break!

***Mel Stenger, Principal***

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
<b>April 4</b>	General PTA meeting: Kaiser Permanente's "Thriving Families" Science Fair awards, PTA board elections. Dinner will be provided by Kaiser Permanente
<b>April 5</b>	District Music Festival at Kaiser, 1-2:30 p.m.
<b>April 9 through 13</b>	<b>No School Spring Break</b>
<b>May 5</b>	Walk-a-Thon, 9 a.m.
<b>May 25-28</b>	<b>No School</b>

## 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 p.m. on Sundays via:

[lisadownes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisadownes@sbcglobal.net)

and

[kcarl@berkeley.edu](mailto: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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/)

# KAISER HAPPENINGS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS!

Kindergarten: Atticus Peppas

Second Grade: Emma Talamantes

Third Grade: Taki Henry Taki

Fourth Grade: Kendall Murphy

Fifth Grade: Nolan Rogers

(There were no first grade entries)

And thank you to our judges Sonya Brooks (kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4th grades), Julie Mills (3rd grade), Katie McLane (4th grade), Marcia Brooks (4th grade), and Jay Murphy (5th grade).

These first place winners' projects will be taken to the Chabot Space and Science Center on Tuesday to compete in the Oakland Unified School District science fair competition.



## 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 today! 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](mailto:lisa.cartolano@prurealty.com) if you have any questions or suggestions.

# Kaiser Kiosk

## PINK PANTHER EDITOR NEEDED

Carrie Shepherd has taken over as Pink Panther editor and is currently sharing the position with Robin. We need someone to take over Robin's half of the position so she doesn't feel overworked and scare us with the threat of departure again!

Here are some job facts:

- -a Pink Panther format is already in place.
- -articles are sent to you by a Sunday 5 p.m. deadline. They then need to be laid out in the template and ready to print by Monday or Tuesday.
- -editors alternate weeks, so you would only have to do it every second week.
- -it can all be done in the comfort of your own home and sent to Robin electronically for printing.

If you would like to learn more about the time commitment or specific computer skills needed please contact Carrie Shepherd at 532-6369, [carriemail2001@yahoo.com](mailto:carriemail2001@yahoo.com)

## 2007-08 PTA Board- Officers Needed

Please review the attached nomination sheet for next year's PTA board. If you are interested in any of the vacant positions, or would like to heat up the race and run against one of the nominated candidates, please contact Lisa Downes 532-5913, [lisadownes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisadownes@sbcglobal.net)

## 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!

## Check Out the Target Book Club

Proud PTA National Sponsor Target has a super fun parent/child book club online that is available free of charge to teachers and parents to celebrate reading.

Once you sign up, you receive a backpack with all kinds of fun activities to encourage parents and children to read together.

Check it out at [http://sites.target.com/site/en/ready\\_sitread/home.jsp](http://sites.target.com/site/en/ready_sitread/home.jsp)!

## LAST CALL!! 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. Orders will be accepted up to April 4, 2007. Please see Robin in the office.

## 2006-2007 Pink Panther Staff:

Copy Editor: Wendy Harcarik  
Pink Panther Co-Editor: Carrie Shepherd

## Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:

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

# Healthy Lifestyles ... Healthy Children

## April is the Month to Start Walking!



If you have a hard time getting to the gym as much as you'd like, you might try fitting basic exercise such as doing more walking into your daily routine. Health experts recommend that adults walk at least 10,000 steps a day (we take about 2,000 steps per mile). Wearing a pedometer can help you track just how many steps you currently are taking.

Several events happen in April that encourage you to get out and walk more:

April 23 through the 29th is Turnoff TV Week. Now that it stays lighter later, this is a great time to turn off not only your TV but also your computer or any other screen and take a nice walk after dinner with your family around your neighborhood. It's a chance to reconnect with your family and get some exercise.

April 25 is "Start! Walking at Work Day" sponsored by the American Heart Association. According to the AHA, you could gain two hours of life expectancy for each hour of regular, vigorous exercise. This is a good day to try taking the stairs at work instead of the elevator or, if you can, spend half of your lunch hour exploring the neighborhood around where you work.

April 12 is D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) day. If you're going to drop everything on this day (including walking) you can spend it by reading about how walking can become your favorite form of exercise. For example, Mark Fenton's book *Pedometer Walking: Stepping Your Way to Health, Weight Loss, and Fitness* is loaded with tips on how you can burn more calories by walking without ever setting foot in the gym.

The last two weeks in April (before our Walk-a-thon on May 5), Kaiser School's PTA will be sponsoring a walking competition for all Kaiser students. Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco has generously donated pedometers for each of our students so that they can track how many steps they are taking each day. The student in each class who walks the most will win a great prize. We will be providing more information on this competition soon. This will be a great chance for you to get out and walk more with your kids too.

If you still are having a hard time motivating yourself to walk more, here's a simple first step for all Kaiser families to try: For just one week in April when you come to pick up your kids at school, try parking as far away as possible (even better, park up Hiller Drive) and then walk from your car. By adding just 10 to 20 percent more steps each week, you'll quickly feel stronger and more fit in no time at all.



# AFTER-SCHOOL NEWS

## NEW SPANISH CLASS AT KAISER!

**SPANISH LANGUAGE LESSONS WILL BE OFFERED EVERY MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL STARTING ON APRIL 16TH.**

Please read the following information about our new after-school offering. This class is highly recommended for children in grades 1 – 3, though it is open to all Kaiser students. For specific questions about Lango's program, contact Michael Fee (contact information below). For general questions about Kaiser's after-school programs, contact Katy DeVecchi at [katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net) or 336-9679.

Dear Kaiser families,

In advance of our teaching a new Spanish class at Kaiser, I wanted to introduce our program, Lango, which currently teaches Spanish all over Oakland and Berkeley. I understand that there has been some frustration with past Spanish classes, so I thought I'd try to address your concerns.

Lango is a new program, but we're starting it from within Intrax, a larger company that has operated international education and exchange programs for nearly thirty years. Some other Intrax parents and I realized that we were in a great position to address the problem that so few American children learn other languages, something we notice when we travel overseas. We have grand visions of multiple languages in multiple locations; for now, we're running well-received Spanish classes in the East Bay, including the programs at Joaquin Miller and Crocker Highlands elementary schools.

I hope you'll come check out our first class (all families can try out our classes for free). I believe you'll find our teachers to be dynamic and our approach to be thorough and engaging. All of our teachers are native or bilingual Spanish speakers with experience teaching kids, and – addressing a specific concern I've heard – we train them on classroom management, even though our classes are small (11 or fewer). I believe we'll be able to assuage any concerns that you have, based on your experience with past programs.

To reserve a spot in our first class – the first Monday after spring break – please contact me at 1-888-44-LANGO, or at [mfee@langokids.com](mailto:mfee@langokids.com). I look forward to meeting you!

Best,  
Michael Fee



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**Nominations for 2007-2008 PTA Slate of Officers**

The following is a list of nominees for next year's PTA Board. If you are interested in entering the race, please fill in your name and hand in to the office or contact Lisa Downes at 532-5913 or [lisadownes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisadownes@sbcglobal.net). We'd love to see more dad's in the room!

**The following positions are elected by the general membership:**

- President:** Janice Murphy  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- Executive Vice President:** Kimberlee White  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- Financial Secretary:**  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- Treasurer:** Valerie Rogers  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- Secretary:** Robin Dustan  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- VP of Fundraising:** Lisa Cartolano and Cindy Hobbs  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- VP of Membership:** Julie Mills  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- VP of Communications:** Lisa Downes  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- VP of Programs:** Renette Warner and Stephanie Griffin  
Write in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

**The following positions are appointed by the board:**

- Volunteer coordinator:** Molly Talamantes \_\_\_\_\_
- After school coordinator:** Katy DeVecchi \_\_\_\_\_
- Room parent coordinator:** Nicol Payton \_\_\_\_\_
- Site safety chair:** Peter Normandin \_\_\_\_\_
- Newsletter editor:** Carrie Shepherd (needs a partner) \_\_\_\_\_
- Website manager:** Kim Carl \_\_\_\_\_
- Directory manager:** Kiki Bradley \_\_\_\_\_
- Historian:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Parliamentarian:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Reflections chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The following positions work under the fundraising committee:**

- Auction chair:** Alison May and Anicia Peppas \_\_\_\_\_
- Walk-a-thon Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Sally Foster Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Book Fair Chair:** Kelly Bartlett and Kim Carl \_\_\_\_\_
- Box Tops:** Diana Davis \_\_\_\_\_