



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 17, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

We're back! Spring break flew by and now we're back at school. Nine weeks to go and so much to do! I feel a bit like a race-runner who suddenly sees the finish line and feels that exhilaration and simultaneously feels the exhaustion from how far he's run. Sound familiar? Let's take a big breath and surge to the finish line!

Here are some gentle reminders about things I've noticed recently. If any of these apply to you, please do your best to improve.

- Please be on time for school. Arrival can be any time between 8:25 and 8:45. And please be on time to pick up kids after school. Dismissal is 3:00, but on Wednesdays it's 1:25. We're having kids regularly dropped off as early as 7:45 daily, and picked up as late as 4:30-5:00 daily. We have no adult supervision for children at those times, and I'm concerned that something may happen. Our teachers need preparation time before school and their contract day ends at 3:00.
- No electronics at school. Please leave games, headsets, pagers and phones at home. State law says children may possess phones, but District policy says that phones may not be visible at school or they will be taken and that parents can get them from the office. Phones are not needed at school because children may use office phones for needed calls, and we will deliver messages to students for you.
- I see lots of yawning. And it's not from boredom. Kids are physically tired. Maybe it's because the daylight is going later into the evenings but please make sure your children get sleep. Try 7:30/8:00 for the little ones and 8:30/9:00 for the older ones.
- Some kids are coming to school hungry and become grouchy and ravenous by snack time. Please encourage them to eat breakfast, even if it's only a cereal bar on the way to school.
- Please remind students in grades 4-5 to bring their music instruments every Monday and Thursday. Those are the days for music class.
- Please remind your children to leave all toys and games at home, with the exception of "sharing." Trading cards only on Card Day.

With the PTA's support we have declared April 22-28, Sunday through Saturday, "No Screen Week." We used to call it No TV Week, but now there are so many other types of screens that we needed to change the name. You'll find a challenge contract attached. We're asking that families turn off all electronic screens for TV, movies, computers, video games—any entertainment on a screen. Then guide your children into other activities, and do it with them! Be patient with yourselves, sometimes moving your family in this direction can be stressful. If it becomes too much, talk about what you've learned and then turn the screen back on. Give it your best effort!

Yes, we have a lot to yet accomplish. Testing, homework, Walkathon—the list goes on. Make time to take a walk or just sit in your back yard or a park—and breathe!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Teacher Appreciation Day this week.

If you have a child in the following classes, please bring in a lunch item/treat for the staff on Thursday: Bailey, Yang, Neat

Mark your calendars for these
May 1 - Ross, Reese
June 5 - Haruyama, Gorham, Rust

Thank you so much!

Summer School Applications in Office

Oakland Fine Arts Summer School applications are now available in the office. Summer school will take place again at Glenview Elementary School. Space is limited and the deadline to turn in applications is May 25, 2007 at Glenview.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
April 25	SSC Meeting, 4 p.m.
April 26	PTA Board Meeting
April 30 – May 11	STAR Testing
May 5	Walk-a-Thon, 9 a.m.
May 25-28	No School
June 13	Last Day of School



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/)

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

and

kcarl@berkeley.edu

KAISER HAPPENINGS

PINK PANTHER EDITOR NEEDED

We are still looking for someone to share the editor position with Carrie Shepherd. You would only have to put together and edit the Panther every other week. If you'd like to help out so that our families can stay informed, please contact Carrie at 532-6369, carriemail2001@yahoo.com or Lisa Downes at 532-5913 or 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!

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 if you have any questions or suggestions.

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 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. I look forward to meeting you!

Best,
Michael Fee



Michael Fee || Managing Director
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Email: mfee@langokids.com

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. 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 _____