



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 23, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

One of the most impressive things about Earth Day last weekend at Kaiser elementary was the fact that three former students showed up to help. Miles, Liam, and Aaron were here to help the other parents and families in showing their care for the environment here at school. The presence of these three former students and the many other people who came to help shows the deep connection that they all feel towards the physical and natural environment here, and is representative of the deep connection they feel toward the community of learners that we are.

In reflecting on the day with Janan Apaydin, one of our first grade teachers, two environmental themes emerged. One is the theme of **appreciation of the environment**. On Saturday the group experienced appreciation to the wonderful art project conducted by Ms. Margaret Yang; she led a group of people doing leaf prints. There were also a vegetable barbecue and salad made from vegetables many of which were grown right here on campus. Those are just two examples of leading the children to appreciate and enjoy the environment. The other theme is the theme of **stewardship**. If we are to become a nation which truly cares for the environment we had to begin with teaching children the hard lesson that we must take time and energy to care for the environment because our human activities are so often invasive and destructive. So on Saturday we saw teachers, parents and children weeding and planting, and in that way showing their care for the natural environment here at Kaiser.

So I ask Ms. Apaydin for some suggestions of what people can do to "go green":

- Use the green bin and the compost bin provided by the waste management company. This simple change in personal habit can greatly reduce the amount of land fill the each family does over the course of time.
- Use cloth grocery bags or reuse paper ones. I noticed this is something that is being pushed by Trader Joe's.
- Use fluorescent lights instead of incandescent. This morning I heard that will save the United States billions of dollars yearly.
- Drives less/walk more!

Finally there are two large projects that we would like to work on a Kaiser elementary to help our school "go green." One is the restoration of the hillside into a California native plant habitat. This will be part of that the United Nations Billion Tree campaign. If you'd like to help with that project please contact Ms. Apaydin at the school. The other project is to begin sending newsletters by e-mail; we need a volunteer to answer the e-mail addresses so this can be done on a weekly basis. If you could do that please contact me at the office.

Major changes not only accomplished by heroic one-time efforts. More often it happens through small, daily, quiet changes that over time transform problems into opportunities, failures and to success, and garbage into our good, green earth.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know



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

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/

A few gentle reminders:

- School begins at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m..
- No electronics at 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."
- If you forgot about "Screen Free Week" you can begin today!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
April 22-28	Screen-Free Week Challenge
April 25	SSC Meeting, 4 p.m.
April 26	PTA Board Meeting
April 30-May 11	STAR Testing
May 1	Teacher Appreciation Day (Please bring a lunch item/treat if your child is in Mr. Ross's or Ms. Reese's class)
May 5	Walk-a-Thon, 9 a.m.
May 17	Orff Spring Concert, 6:30 p.m. (grades K-3)
May 25	No School
May 28	No School (Memorial Day holiday)
June 5	Teacher Appreciation Day (Please bring a lunch item/treat if your child is in Ms. Haruyama, Ms. Gorham or Mr. Rust's class)
June 13	Last Day of School

KAISER HAPPENINGS

SPANISH AT KAISER

Last Monday we started a new after-school Spanish class at Kaiser. This class is provided by Lango, and from all reports I hear it is fantastic. The class is held every Monday from 3-4 in portable D (Mrs. Bailey's room). All ages are welcome, but this class is most appropriate for students in grades 1 - 3. There is still room in the class, so if you'd like to sign up your child, or for specific information about this class, contact Michael Fee, Managing Director of Lango, at (415) 434-5620 or mfee@langokids.com. For general questions about Kaiser's after-school programs, contact Katy DeVecchi at 336-9679 or email katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

Orff Spring Concert, May 17, 6:30 p.m.

The Theme will be "Following Your Hopes and Dreams."

All K through 3rd grade students are expected to perform.

Spirit Week

Show your school spirit this week.

Tuesday - Twin Day (dress like your best friend)

Wednesday - Wacky Wednesday

Thursday - School Color Day (Green & Yellow)

Friday - Pajama Day

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.

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

The Annual Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 9 a.m. 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.

Please contact Lisa Cartolano at lisa.cartolano@prurealty.com if you have any suggestions or want to lend a hand!

Volunteers are needed for the Book Fair

If you're interested in helping to set up on Friday evening, May 4, or can lend a hand during the Walk-a-Thon on May 5, please contact Kim Carl at kcarl@berkeley.edu or 532-9103.

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

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

Please Support the PTA Pledge Drive!!

Help us reach our pledge goal of \$15,000. If every family pledged \$61.22 per student, we will achieve our goal. 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!

RATS!

Rats make great pets. They really do! And you get used to the tails. Seriously! We have already sent five happy little rats off to their new homes with Kaiser students, but we still have two boy rats and eight girl rats who are ready to leave their mama and go to their new homes—maybe with YOU?

If you are interested in adopting a pet rat (or two), we are giving them away FREE to good homes. All I ask is that you have the right equipment (cage, bedding, food, water bottle). For more info, call Katy at 336-9679 or email katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net. The rats will be visiting Kaiser Elementary every day this week. Stop by Mrs. Reese's room anytime to check them out!



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

WALK FOR YOUR LIFE

We hope that by now you are aware that this week is NATIONAL TURN OFF TV WEEK, which we at Kaiser School are celebrating as TURN OFF ALL SCREENS WEEK. This is your opportunity to encourage your child to do something more productive than watching TV and playing computer and video games. To help you with this, our PTA is sponsoring for the next two weeks a walking (or better referred to as a move-your-body) competition called "Walk for Your Life." Kaiser Permanente has provided a pedometer for each student, and we've given them a log so that they can record each day how many steps they've taken. The winner in each class will win a fun prize.

There are, of course, ways to "trick" the pedometer, and so the point of this competition is not so much about "winning," but about having the students challenge themselves and see how active they can be. You can encourage your child by taking walks together after dinner—either in your own neighborhood or somewhere where you find walking enjoyable and safe. There are great and easy hikes you can take together over the weekend in the East Bay hills. Or, if you have bikes, take them along the waterfront and explore the paved paths there. If it's raining, you can try to come up with creative indoor activities. For example, my daughters like to play "freeze dance" where one person is the "D.J." and plays a CD or the radio while the others dance very crazily around the room. When the D.J. stops the music, the others have to freeze until someone accidentally moves; then that person becomes the D.J. Your child will be amazed at how many steps he or she takes just playing a game like this one.

We also hope that this competition will help get your child ready and excited about the Kaiser School Walk-a-Thon. Your child can wear his/her pedometer while walking laps and challenge himself/herself by seeing if he/she can walk more steps each lap that he takes.

As we've said a lot in the "Healthy Lifestyles . . . Healthy Children" column, the point is to teach your child at an early age that exercise is fun and beneficial, and it doesn't have to take a massive commitment on your part to teach this lesson. We hope that our competition will inspire you this week and next to come up with new ways to be active together.

—*Janice Murphy*

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
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 _____