



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 28, 2007

**Dear Kaiser Families,**

Welcome back to Kaiser School! I'd like to welcome all the returning families, all of our new kindergarten families, and three new teachers. I'm excited to welcome the Mrs. Isa Estrada to the first grade, Ms. Katy Hunter to a 3/4 combination class, and Mr. Donald Toomer as our PE teacher. All three new teachers are highly qualified and experienced, and they are eager to meet your families and get to know your children.

Over the summer we saw the departure of several staff members. Jill Reese, our fifth-grade teacher, has retired, but will be returning occasionally as a new teacher coach. Tom Rust, one of our second grade teachers, has taken a job as principal of Paden Elementary in Alameda. Elizabeth Whittaker, our resource teacher, has moved to Southern California to be near her daughter. Carl Morris, our part-time PE instructor, has taken the opportunity to fill his schedule with more full-time employment. All of these valued members of our family will be sorely missed and we wish them the best in their new adventures.

My focus this year will be on the classrooms and on the instructional program. I will make it a point to get into each classroom every day. In this way we will continue our growth.

I have two themes for the Kaiser learning community this year. The first is "Community and Collaboration" and flows out of the district's direction to improve collaboration among teachers and to reach out to the family communities that we serve. The teachers will have a collaboration period each week during which they will work together to provide equitable curriculum and more focused intervention for the children who need it. My other theme is "Give Us a Day: Year II." I am challenging every parent of every child to be involved inside the school building at least one day this year. What could be more important? Last year we reached a participation rate of nearly 80%!

Finally, I am very proud of the staff's work here which resulted in an award for our school this summer. Based on the results of the Use Your Voice Survey, Kaiser Elementary School has the highest parental satisfaction rate in the district-- a whopping 96.1%! This doesn't mean that we never have problems, but it does show that when we have difficulties we work together to communicate about them and overcome them. I am honored to work again with this community.

***Mel Stenger, Principal***

# Getting In The Know

## PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!

- ❖ Drive slowly in and around school and residential areas.
- ❖ Drive without distractions. Don't use cell phones, eat, apply makeup, shave or anything that could take your attention from the road.
- ❖ Scan between parked cars, as children could dart into the driveway.
- ❖ Leave for your destination early, so you don't have to speed to arrive on time. Take the possibility of traffic jams into consideration when planning your departure time.

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
<b>Sept. 3</b>	Labor Day—No School
<b>Sept. 5</b>	Back to School Night PTA meeting
<b>Oct. 12</b>	Staff Development Day—No School
<b>Nov. 10</b>	Kaiser Auction: “A Night in New Orleans”
<b>Nov. 12</b>	Veteran’s Day—No School
<b>Nov. 19-23</b>	Thanksgiving Recess— No School

### ***Box Tops for Education = \$\$\$\$\$***

*Once again, Box Tops for Education can be dropped off in the office throughout the year. Last year we raised just over \$400 through Box Tops! I look forward to working with you and surpassing last year's total.*

*Sincerely,  
Diana Davis*

### **You Like Us, You Really Like Us!**

Kaiser Elementary has a 96.1% approval rating from its parents, the highest rating in the district!

### **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 both of the editors by **5 p.m. on Sundays** via email:

**carriemail2001@yahoo.com – Carrie Shepherd**  
**jolie@earthlink.net – Jolie McRae**

### **2007-2008 Pink Panther Staff:**

Copy Editor: Wendy Harcarik  
Pink Panther Co-Editors: Carrie Shepherd  
Jolie McRae

### **Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:**

PTA President: Janice Murphy  
VPs Communication: Kim Carl  
Kiki Bradley

# KAISER PTA

Dear Kaiser Families,

Welcome back to another great year at Kaiser School and, to those new to the school, I look forward to meeting you and learning how we can all work together to make this the best year yet. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer, and are entering the year with great anticipation.

The PTA board has been busy over the summer preparing for the year ahead. Julie Mills and Joyce Wessling, this year's co-membership chairs, will be starting the membership drive on the first day of school. We are aiming for 100% participation among our families. Your membership will provide full voting privileges, access to National and State PTA resources and discounts, a Kaiser School Directory, and most importantly, strengthen the PTA voice so that policy makers in all areas will hear a strong, unified message on behalf of our children.

Our auction chair, Alison May, has been working diligently all summer to make this year's auction both fun and successful. It will be "A Night in New Orleans" held on Saturday, November 10. Be sure to mark your calendars now and get ready to eat some great jambalaya, visit with friends old and new, and bid on some phenomenal auction items. Katy Hunter--yes, she's both a teacher and a Kaiser parent--resumes her role as after-school programs coordinator, and has put together an amazing array of options for our children's after-school enrichment. Our fundraising team of Lisa Cartolano and Cindy Hobbs are busy preparing for our various fundraisers, which are key to raising money for the enrichment programs in computer, library assistance, art, and music that complement the education your child receives at Kaiser.

Molly Talamantes has taken on the role of volunteer coordinator this year and will have sign-up sheets just about everywhere you look! Take a moment to introduce yourself to Molly, if you can, because there are endless ways to get involved and every little bit helps. There is no easier way to build community or strengthen your child's achievement.

Our exceptional Pink Panther editors this year are Carrie Shepherd and Jolie McRae. As always, the Pink Panther is an invaluable resource for staying abreast of important information. Look for it at the bottom of your child's backpack every Tuesday.

It is no surprise to us parents that Kaiser School won the award for highest approval rating in the district. We on the PTA hope to build on that wonderful sense of community. If you have any questions, suggestions, or whatever, please feel free to contact me by e-mail ([Janice-Murphy@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:JaniceMurphy@SBCGlobal.net)) or phone (482-5453). I hope to see you at our first PTA meeting on Back to School Night on Wednesday, September 5. It will be a great opportunity to meet the new board members, hear about our plans for the year ahead, and learn how you can become involved.

I'm looking forward to another wonderful year!

Janice Murphy  
PTA President