



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

A wonderful start for a wonderful school!

The opening of school went very well! Thanks to the hard work and cooperation of all the Kaiser community there were no crises and only minimal heartache—except in Kindergarten where I think some of the parents had a difficult time saying good-bye! Within minutes I could see our students with happy faces engaged in the business of childhood (learning) and becoming part of our community of learners.

There are a couple of practical issues that have arisen:

- **We can only provide supervision for children after 8:30 a.m. and until 3:10 in the afternoon.** I wish we had staffing for more coverage. I see as many as 50 kids here before 8:30. If you need additional time, please enroll your child in Adventure Time with Susanne, 845-3371.
- Lunch is \$2.00 and milk alone is \$.40
- School starts at 8:45 and there is no such thing as an excused tardy, meaning that it will go on the student's record.
- Please use cell phones outside. In the building we want all attention for the kids.
- Please help you child get the full benefit of our program by being here every day, all day, from 8:45-3:00.
- Unless you are a Kindergarten parent, we ask that you wait for your child either near the office or outside at the table area. That will avoid clogging the hallway.
- You can avoid the afternoon traffic circle by parking on Hiller Drive or North Hill Court.

Wednesday evening is Back-to-School Night!

- Time 6:30-8:30 General Information first in the multipurpose room, followed by sessions in the classrooms.
- Park on the upper field. There's plenty of room there.
- This is an adult event. Please do your best to not bring children as the evening's structure is a lot of "sit and listen" and then "question and answer", which is very boring for kids. And please don't let your children talk you into bringing them so they can play on the upper field; there will be no supervision.
- This is not a conference night; if you want a conference with your child's teacher, please contact them for an appointment.

Another theme we have this year is "Collaboration and Community." This summer three teachers (Janan Apaydin, Trish Gorham and Mary Grace McGhee) and I had the opportunity to attend 4 days of professional development in Boston on the topic of Professional Learning Community. The underlying concept of a "PLC" is that faculty members get regular time to examine student performance and their own practice in order to improve both. This year we have restructured our master schedule to give grade level

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Getting In The Know

teachers a weekly period to meet to coordinate curriculum, review data and plan intervention for students. Of course, pulling in our parent community is another part of our learning community that we will be developing is really a sign, not that we are problem-free, but that we *work together* to solve challenges as they arise. No, we can't please all the people all the time, but we try to do our best. Thanks for the vote of confidence!

On a more personal note, I am thrilled to return as your principal for a second year of serving you. For those that I disappointed last year, I apologize and will try harder to make decisions which are best for us all. I hope to live up to your expectations to provide leadership for our learning community

Mel Stenger, Principal

KAISER DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

- ❖ Kindergarteners must be dropped-off and picked-up either at their classroom or at AT.
- ❖ 1st-5th Graders may be dropped-off and picked-up on the circle. Please only exit and enter the car at the front of the circle.
- ❖ Please watch for students and parents walking up the hill to school.
- ❖ 1st-5th Graders may arrive as early as 8:25 to play in the yard with supervision until the first bell rings.
- ❖ Children should be picked-up promptly after school (or go to AT) as there is no after school supervision.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Sept. 5	Back to School Night PTA meeting—6:30pm
Sept. 7	Gardening Group 3pm
Oct. 12	Staff Development Day—No School
Oct. 15-19	Parent-Teacher Conferences (1:25 release every day)
Nov. 10	Kaiser Auction: "A Night in New Orleans"
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day—No School
Nov. 19-23	Thanksgiving Recess— No School

Back-To-School Night This Wednesday at 6:30 pm Begin in the Auditorium

- Brief PTA Meeting
- Welcome from Principal Stenger
- Go to classrooms for information from your child's teacher.
- This is a parent-only event.

PTA Notes

- Please review attached PTA budget. We will be discussing and voting on the budget at PTA General Meeting on Wednesday, September 5.
- Attached is revised PTA Directory Form. Please complete and return to Robin in office by 9/10/07.

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
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Kaiser Kiosk

Free Dance Class & Open House hosted by Luna Kids Dance

Saturday, September 8, 2007
Julia Morgan Center for the Arts
2640 College Ave., Berkeley

California Institute for Dance Learning (CIDL) Open House

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For teachers. Come meet the CIDL faculty and learn about professional development resources and support offered to dance teaching artists, classroom teachers, school and arts leaders and social workers.

Luna Kids Dance (LKD) Open House & Dance Class

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for dance, play, improvisation, refreshments and fun with your family! Meet the Luna Kids Dance faculty and learn more about creative-based dance education. With its focus on creative expression and choreography, the LKD curriculum provides children with both the structure and freedom in which to explore the elements of dance: body/shape, space, force/energy, and time. Luna Kids Dance offers Creative Dance, Modern Dance, & Choreography classes for 3-17 year olds.

Sundays In The Redwoods Outdoor Concert Series

Enjoy Four Free Outdoor Concerts
@ Woodminster Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park
3330 Joaquin Miller Road
Gates Open @ 2pm Concerts Begin @ 3pm

September 23 - "Classical Sounds" featuring the Oakland East Bay Symphony, conducted by Michael Morgan

September 30 - "World Music Fest" featuring the John Santos Quintet with Papa Mambo

October 7 - "Gospel: A Joyful Noise" featuring Sunny Hawkins

October 14 - "The Jazz & Neo-Soul Experience" featuring Goapele

Presented by the Office of Parks and Recreation and Councilmember Jean Quan

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

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/)**