



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

Recently I've received some questions and concerns about safety here at Kaiser. In the next couple of weeks I will be reviewing the fire drills, earthquake practice, disaster plans, and evacuation procedures with our teachers. Our evacuation plans are dependent upon up-to-date information on your emergency cards, so please let us know when your phone number changes.

Speaking of safety, I need to remind you all to be extra cautious on the traffic circle. I have heard of several incidents where parents have ignored their directions, refusing to open the window to communicate, continuing to move the car and blocking the parking lot. Here are some reminders:

- Park on Hiller Drive whenever possible. Our campus is very crowded so walking up the hill reduces traffic and provides a moment to connect with your child as you walk back. Feel free to wait on Hiller Drive and direct your child to walk down to you; but please don't ask them to wait there until you come.
- Do not park on the uphill side of South Hill Court. It blocks and slows the traffic.
- Do not park in the teachers' lot until after 3:30. All the spaces are assigned and some of our staff even need to park on the streets. Staff members come and go during the day and it's very frustrating for them to return to find their assigned space taken.
- Pay attention to the traffic monitors and be respectful of each other. Traffic drives us all crazy. Let's all take a deep breath and remember who we are to each other.

Let's work together to keep the traffic circle safe!

The first 6-8 weeks of the school year is a very stressful time for teachers as they establish routines with their students, set up curricular program, and gather baseline data on their students. I have been in every classroom every day to let the teachers know that I am present in the school as an observer and guide. Official teacher observations begin shortly. Let's be teacher-supportive!

Childhood obesity and diabetes are at epidemic proportions. I'm asking you all to take a look at what type of foods you're including in the lunches. I received an email this week from a website that gives information and recipes for healthy eating. You might want to visit [www.parentsagainstjunkfood.org](http://www.parentsagainstjunkfood.org) and check out their offerings. Let's do our part to promote healthy diets!

Autumn officially began early Saturday morning with the Equinox. It's the season of gathering in, of harvest, of reflection and reconsideration. We join with those among us who celebrate the changing seasons. We just ended the Jewish High Holy days with Yom Kippur, and we acknowledge our Jewish families in this time of reflection. Ramadan is also here for the Muslims among us. As we get to know each other, we get to know our celebrations and how we mark the progression of time. Let's acknowledge our connectedness!

Mr. Mel Stenger, Principal

# *Getting In The Know*

## **GENTLE REMINDERS**

A few "Gentle Reminders" to help our school run better and more courteously:

- If you need to bring something to your child, please bring it to the office and we will call the student at the next recess to come and get the item. Please don't go directly to the classrooms and interrupt class time.
- Please use cell phones outside only.
- Beeping your horn on the traffic circle doesn't help.
- Be observant in the crosswalks! We have had several near hits.
- Please wait for students outside near the picnic tables after school (except for Kindergartners). Dismissal is more orderly that way.
- Let's keep adult conversation among adults. When talking to our children about classroom and teacher practices remember that children cannot bring the complete picture of the situation, nor is a child unbiased in their assessments, so they really shouldn't be included in such conversations as peers.
- If you arrive after 9:15 please stop in the office with your child. Before that, you can send them directly to the classroom. And please let your child stay through the end of the day.

### **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**

## **KAISER CALENDAR**

DATE / DAY	EVENT
<b>Sept. 26</b>	PTA Board Meeting
<b>Oct. 12</b>	Staff Development Day—No School
<b>Oct. 15-19</b>	Parent-Teacher Conferences (1:25 release every day)
<b>Oct. 19</b>	Latino Heritage Potluck
<b>Oct. 26</b>	Picture Day
<b>Nov. 7</b>	PTA general meeting
<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

### **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/)**

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

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

# Kaiser Kiosk



## Going! Going! Gone!

Announcing this year's Auctioneer Extraordinaire & Master of Ceremonies, with a style all his own: Pete Normandin! Many of you know Pete as Kaiser Parent, dad to first-grader, Bailey Jones. Some of you know him as Kaiser's Under 8 Soccer Coach. Some of you know him as the Head of our Site Safety Council Committee. Some of you just know him as all around good guy. Some of you don't know him at all. But now's your chance to get to know him. Come to this year's Auction, **A Night in New Orleans**, and see Pete strut his stuff!

Thanks, Pete!

If you have any auction inquiries or would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact Alison May, Auction Chair at (510) 530-6264 or [alisonemay@comcast.net](mailto:alisonemay@comcast.net).

And don't forget to get your ticket orders in! Extra copies are available on the table outside of the office!

## HELP WANTED

We're still looking for someone to install several DVD/VCR machines in classrooms as well as to post phone directories in classrooms!

## Sally Foster Sale Is Under Way!

It's the perfect time to stock up on gift-wrap for the upcoming holidays! Also available are all-occasion papers and gift bags, delicious gourmet chocolates, and wonderful gift items for the home. **50% of all purchases made by Kaiser Family and friends go directly to the Kaiser PTA and the programs it supports.** Even purchasing one or two items can make a difference!

**Terrific prizes available!** Everyone wins something when they sell from both the catalog and internet. From a Wacky Bouncy Ball (1-4 items) to an iPod Shuffle (175 items), there are many exciting prizes.

Be sure to register at [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com) under the "sellers section" in the top left corner, for easy online sales. Perfect for out of town supporters! When family and friends receive the email and click on the link to the Sally Foster® online store, our school earns 50% of their purchase. You'll need our school's account number 0370976 to sign up. Orders made online are shipped directly to the buyer.

Sally Foster catalogs were sent home with students last week. If you did not receive one, or need extras, you can pick them up in the office. The sale will be running through September 28. All catalog orders and money must be turned in no later than Monday, October 1....only one more weekend to sell!

For questions, please contact Lisa Downes (532-5913, [lisadownes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisadownes@sbcglobal.net)).

Thanks for your support!!

## LOST!

One of our students lost a jade heart pendant necklace on the playground last week. It's a family heirloom piece from the child's grandmother, so it's very precious. Could you please ask your child if they know anything about it? If so, please call the office. Thanks.

# Kaiser Elementary Fundraising at a Glance

## Did You Know?

### The Kaiser PTA...

- ❖ Helps fund the Art, Music, Computer Maintenance and Library programs which include our wonderful librarian, school beautification (including the garden), art instruction, music, concerts and much more!
- ❖ All this and more is provided by funds raised through the PTA efforts. **JOIN US** to become a part of the magic to make Kaiser Elementary one of the best schools in Oakland.

To fully fund all the programs offered here at Kaiser we need to raise \$400 per child for the school year. Here is how you can help!!

<p><b>PTA Enrichment Pledge</b> When joining the PTA Remember you can donate additional funds and all membership fees and donations are tax deductible! Our pledge goal is \$15,000; it only takes a contribution of \$60 per child.</p>	<p><b>BRING US YOUR IDEAS AND HELP!!!</b></p>
<p><b>Auction (November)</b> Come out for a night of fun and shopping to help the school!! Email if you have anything to donate for the auction. Don't miss it!</p>	<p><b>Employer Matching Gifts</b> Many companies show community support by matching dollar for dollar the contributions their employees make to non-profit organizations like the Kaiser PTA.</p>
<p><b>Sally Foster (September)</b> Our annual gift-wrap and small gift sale! Get a head start on buying wrapping paper and gifts for the Holidays/Birthdays. 50% of all sales are donated directly to the school. All items purchased can be shipped directly so even if family members and friends are out of the area, they can participate too!</p>	<p><b>E - Scrip Program</b> An easy, regular way to benefit Kaiser at NO COST to you!! A percentage of your purchases is donated directly to the school. <b>ESCRIP:</b> Register your credit, debit and grocer club cards at <a href="http://www.escrip.com">www.escrip.com</a> and start to support Kaiser today.</p>
<p><b>Walk-A-Thon (May)</b> Children collect pledges for laps walked. The kids get to participate in this one! They help collect pledges and by walking laps they help raise funds for the school! It is a fun day that the kids really seem to enjoy.</p>	<p><b>Book Fair (May)</b> You'll find great books for children and adults on sale. A portion of the proceeds benefits Kaiser. The Book Fair will be occurring at the same time as the Walk-A-Thon, so you can make some purchases while the kids walk!</p>
<p><b>Ink Jet Printer Cartridge Recycling</b> Bring in your used ink jet printer cartridges and we recycle them through Office Depot. We receive up to \$2 per recycled cartridge.</p>	<p><b>Grant Writing</b> Grant writing is a fresh way to find funds to help enrich the programs at Kaiser. If you have experience grant writing, we need your help!</p>
<p><b>Boxtops for Education</b> Clip Box tops from hundreds of participating brands. Bring box tops into school and with the help of our school's Box Top Coordinator we can earn up to \$60,000 though Box Tops.</p>	<p><b>Campbell's Soup Labels for Education</b> Through this program Kaiser completes a volunteer project, fitness activity or education program. We fill out a participation form and send the form to Labels for Education. Kaiser earns points that we can redeem to purchase items for the school.</p>

### Coming Soon With Your Help!

We have some new ideas to help raise funds. We need your help to get these ideas up and running, so contact Lisa Cartolano at 510.213.1139 or [lcartolano@apr.com](mailto:lcartolano@apr.com) or Cindy Hobbs at 534.0593.

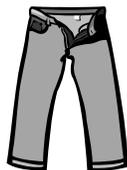
# CELEBRATING LATINO HERITAGE



KAISER SCHOOL FAMILY POTLUCK  
OCTOBER 19, 2007  
6:30 PM

Thank you for helping with Set Up: 6pm  
or Take down and Clean Up: After the event

## Outgrown Clothes? Put 'Em to Use!



We need clothes for younger kids when they have toilet accidents. This is a good use for hand-me-downs!

"**The Best Me**" presented by Kaiser Permanente, Wednesday October 3 at 6:00. Last spring we had 2 presentations about healthy living and the director called me Friday, wanting to present a new program to us. We realize most 5th grade students will be gone, but their parents are welcome, as are all students in grades 2-5. The program includes a free healthy meal, a show, and feedback groups after.

## Have You Joined the PTA Yet?

Have you had a chance to send in your PTA membership yet? Thank you to those of you who have joined already. Also, thank you to the many people who joined and who also donated money to the pledge drive. Remember, the PTA supports many programs at Kaiser that help to make it such a great school. There is an award for PTAs that get enough members by October 1, so let's try to get as many as we can by then. Our goal is to get 100% percent membership. The class that gets to 100% first will get a bowling party. If you have any questions about membership, contact Julie Mills at 531-8699 or [julieandlarry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:julieandlarry@sbcglobal.net).

Here's how the classes are doing as of 9/23/07(% of families who have joined PTA):

Apaydin: 35%	Hunter: 43%	
Bailey: 45%	McGee: 45%	
Estrada: 47%	Neat: 37%	
Gorham: 20%	Pessin: 55%	
Haruyama: 47%	Ross: 14%	Yang: 12%

It's a close race and every class still has an opportunity to win, so turn your membership in today!

## **Make a Difference!**

On Sunday, October 7, there will be the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for Peace in the Berkeley Marina. Take a stand for peace and justice, support local activists, get healthy, meet great folks, and have fun! Register and get a free t-shirt at [www.run4peace.org](http://www.run4peace.org).