



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

Is it October already?! The days fly by and new months are upon us before we know it. Mark your calendars! Our Benefit Auction is little more than one month away! I've seen the invitation and it looks like a lot of fun. Alison May, our coordinator, tells me there are many great donations just waiting for your bids. And new families, don't hesitate to come to the Auction. It's a great way to meet other members of the Kaiser community who don't usually make it to the school site. The dinner price is very reasonable, the auction is fun, and it's all for the best cause on earth—our kids!

On Wednesday I met with the faculty, our SSC (School Site Council) and PTA Board and realized I'm not communicating as well as I'd like. Several people told me that they didn't realize that we had a school site plan or that the plan was adapted every year. Here are the three focus areas for a planned this year:

1. We will implement a Professional Learning Community by restructuring our program to include weekly collaboration period for staff, an annual retreat, and group reading and reflection. The weekly collaboration sessions for the grade level teachers are made possible through the alignment of the enrichment programs supported by the PTA. The enrichment programs cost between \$56,000 and \$60,000 per year. We appreciate your support!
2. We will strengthen our intervention program by focusing our resources during a specific time of day, using data to inform intervention, providing support personnel, and connecting with families. We have restructured our master schedule so that each grade level has small group activities at the same time of day, during which time we will send the tutors to the classrooms to help support the teachers.
3. We will provide outside professional development for the staff. We have contracted with CH SSP, the California History and Social Science Project out of UC Berkeley, to meet with our staff monthly around the issues of developing lesson plans tied to the standards, implementing a writing program, and historical investigation. We have also contracted with VTS, Visual Thinking Strategies, "VTS will assist with concept development through analysis and discussion of art. Teachers will be expected to give a monthly lesson in art analysis."

Of course, having these three areas as special emphases this year does not mean that we drop our efforts in other areas. Our teachers continue to provide core curriculum in math, English/language arts, science, and social studies. Our students receive enrichment in library, computer, visual art, music, and PE. We believe that the richness of our program and the variations in the curriculum are what support our children and their development. And we know that we could not provide this program without the support of our parent community.

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Getting In The Know

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Numeracy and Literacy. We all know about literacy—it’s the ability to read and write and use language to accomplish goals. Numeracy is similar—it’s the ability to use numbers and math to accomplish goals. Take a look at the attached a list of essential numeracy skills. I’ve been in social situations where people will laugh at their own lack of numeracy skills, “Oh, I couldn’t begin to balance my check book!” Ha-ha, chuckle... or “I’m not good in math. I just let my spouse do all that.” Would we ever joke about our own lack of literacy skills? Why is being poor in math ok in our society? Let’s start to change that attitude now! By getting involved in your child’s math education, you’ll get a refresher course yourself!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Hip-hip hooray!

Our attendance rate for the first reporting period was 97.8%

Way to go, Kaiser folks!

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.

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
Oct. 3	Best Me Family Night 6pm (for 2 nd --5 th grade families)
Oct. 12	Staff Development Day—No School
Oct. 15-19	Parent-Teacher Conferences (1:25 release every day)
Oct. 17-19	Scholastic Book Fair 1-5pm and 10/19 6-9
Oct. 19	Latino Heritage Potluck 6:30
Oct. 26	Picture Day
Nov. 7	PTA general meeting
Nov. 10	Kaiser Auction: “A Night in New Orleans”
Nov. 12	Veteran’s Day—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/

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:

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

Kaiser Kiosk

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.

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!



Seeking Donations for Auction Fundraiser!

We are looking to you, our school community, to add to our already extensive list of offerings to be sold at this year's auction. Remember, the auction raises funds needed for many of our great enrichment programs & staff members. So, it makes this school better for ALL of our children!

We are looking for unused items, vacation spots, services, or gift certificates. Here's a list of donation ideas that we'd love to have from you:

- ~Vacation Getaways - anyone you know have a house or timeshare they'd like to donate for a week or weekend getaway?
- ~Theme Dinner Parties, Wine Tastings, Hot tub Parties - Mel's dinner is always such a hit. Now, aren't you ready to take the plunge and host one of these yourself?
- ~ Original Art, Photography, or Hand-sewn/Knitted Items
- ~Sports or Theater Tickets - have season tickets you'd like to share?
- ~Airline Miles
- ~Landscaping, gardening, construction, computer or other services that you specialize in
- ~Baby-sitting certificates - this one RAKES in money at other schools - and all you have to offer is about 10 hours of evening childcare - that's only about 2 nights of care!
- ~A gift basket of some kind
- ~Bottles of wine to be sold at auction or used by the bar
- ~Or, if your time is precious OR you just don't feel you have something to give, why not pick up a gift certificate for a retail store or local restaurant. We can sell it!

FYI: ALL DONATIONS ARE COMPLETELY TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

To make a donation, email Alison May (alisonemay@comcast.net or 530-6264.) Or, just drop it off with Robin in the office & she'll see that Alison gets it. Please have all donations turned into Alison by October 26th.

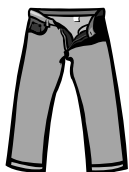
CELEBRATING LATINO HERITAGE



**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!

Tutor available (free) evenings:

Tyler Hayes-Kim 482-9297 He is a high school student who is interested in tutoring for community service.

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.

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 9th 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.



The Auction Fundraiser, A Night In New Orleans, is coming up soon! Don't forget to get your ticket orders in NOW! Order forms are available outside the office & you can drop them in the box on Robin's desk.

Parent Leadership Opportunity

There will be a Parent Leadership Conference on Saturday, October 27, from 8-4:00 at Patten University here in Oakland.

If you are interested please email Sara Nuno at sara.nuno@ousd.k12.ca.us for details.

The Best Me Family Night

This is a free live theatre performance about healthy eating and active living for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students and their families. Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Programs.

Wednesday, October 3rd

The program begins at 6:00pm with a FREE healthy dinner. The show is 45 minutes long, with a focus group after.

If you have any questions, please call Robin 879-1710.

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

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

Coming soon! Kaiser's 1st Book Fair of the year.

October 17, 18 & 19th
1:00 5:00p
plus 6p-8p on 10/19 during the
Latino Heritage potluck

Kids can go to the below address and
click on the above address to create
their own wish list on line:

[http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/
homepage/kaiser_](http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/kaiser_)

Math Numeracy

One of our districts goals is to make sure that every child is “algebra-ready” by the time they hit eighth grade. That puts a tremendous responsibility on elementary educators and on parents. The staff has been reviewing the math pacing guides to make sure we teach all the elements during their collaboration times and preparation periods. We could use your help with the basic components of math numeracy—the things students need to really understand to be “fluent” in math.

In the primary grades children should master:

- Odd and even numbers
- Adding and subtracting up to 3 digits
- Multiplying and dividing up to 3 digits
- Expanded notation and place value
- Inverse relationships (adding and subtracting are opposites, as are multiplying and dividing.)

In the upper elementary grades children should master:

- Prime and composite numbers
- Fractions/Decimals/Percents and their relationship to each other
- Negative numbers
- Parentheses and the Order of Operations
- Inverse relationships (fractions to wholes, ratios and proportions)

If you want to know any more about this feel free to stop and ask me or Mr. Ross. Although these may seem like a lot, keep in mind that the kids learn a little bit every day. And it is important that they do get that little bit every day!