



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 15, 2007

This is conference week. Take a few minutes to prepare for the conference. And remember: school dismissal is at 1:25 p.m. all week!

Dear Kaiser Families,

Friday was an in-service day, but our faculty was busy Thursday evening through Saturday lunch on the retreat together. I know it was inconvenient for many of you to find alternate placements for your children for the day, so I wanted to extend it to you the staff's appreciation for making it possible for us to spend the time to gather to improve our teaching practice. We had time to share about who we are, why they became teachers, and what we have to bring to our learning community. We had time to discuss the importance of the arts in our education program. We had time to look at our data and focus on goals for this year. I guess you can tell from the previous three sentences that we were really delighted to have time to be together, something that is so rare in our busy, busy schedules! It was a very full and busy retreat for all. Next week I will write about some of the discussions that we had.

This week I came across an article on the Internet about the need for sleep. I've attached it for you to look at. We have known for some time that sleep deprivation can cause harmful effects for one's physical health, emotional well-being, and focus. Extended sleep deprivation can cause mental breakdowns and even psychoses. Now new research shows that not getting enough sleep interferes with children's learning. Now why didn't they listen to our mothers? My mom told me years ago that I had to sleep well in order to be ready for school. Seriously, over the last week we've had three children come to the office, and after sitting for a while, have fallen asleep. Elementary children need nine to 10 hours sleep a night in order for them to be physically rested and mentally alert. Please do your best to get your kids to bed by 8:00 p.m.

Everyday I make my rounds of classrooms and am always delighted to see students focused on their work. All students! In classroom after classroom I see dedicated teachers who work hard to plan lessons and put together a curriculum to reach every boy and girl in the class. That always makes me feel good. But on Thursday I got an extra boost. Winston Doby, retired vice chancellor from UCLA, called me out of the blue. He has been doing statewide research on schools that are successful with African-American students, and his telephone call revealed to me that we are one of the top seven elementary schools in the state when it comes to educating African-American students. I am delightfully surprised that we ranked so high. His telephone call and news prompts me to say once again thank you to our teachers and thank you for the wonderful family support!

Mel Stenger, Principal

At a recent principals meeting we were told that only one out of 12 entering kindergartners graduates from an Oakland public high school.

Getting In The Know

AFRICAN DANCE RESUMES IN NOVEMBER

There will be no more African dance this month. This Friday, October 19, is the last of a week of minimum days, structured for conference week. And class on the last Friday, October 26, has been canceled. Classes will resume in November.

Celebrate United Nations Day

Here's another opportunity to teach your children about the world in a positive way. There will be a United Nations Day celebration on Sunday, October 21. Please see the attached flyer for information including how our own Janan Apaydin is involved in this event.



Join the Parent Leadership Conference

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.

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. 15-19	Parent-Teacher Conferences (1:25 release every day)
Oct. 17-19	Scholastic Book Fair 1-5 pm and 10/19 6-9
Oct. 19	Latino Heritage Potluck 6:30 pm
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
Nov. 19-23	No School
Nov. 19-23	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/

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors:

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

A Night in New Orleans



Thanks to all of the generous Kaiser families who have graciously donated their time, vacation homes, and a big variety of other items for this year's auction. If you were thinking of making a donation, please get it in to Alison May no later than October 26th or it may not make it into the event's catalog!

Feel free to drop items off with Robin Sasada or contact Alison for pick up or drop-off arrangements: 530-6264, alisonemay@comcast.net.

Thank you again. We are looking forward to a really fun night with TONS of fun items to bid on! New items just in: A weekend getaway in New York City! Another weekend getaway – in Tahoe! Day trips to the zoo with our beloved 1st Grade Teachers! Class-made quilts, photo books, mosaics! And so much more!

Be sure to order your tickets now!!!

Instant Wine Cellar!

Have you been unsure how to participate in the auction? Here's your chance! You can participate in the "Instant Wine Cellar"! It would be great if every parent who's able would buy a bottle of wine to contribute to the cause. If you have two kids in the school, buy two! This collected lot will be auctioned off as an "Instant Wine Cellar" to the winning bidder.

If you'd like to participate, please bring a bottle valued between \$12-15. There will be empty wine cases provided in the Nurse's Station.

Beverages & More (there's one in Jack London Square) is having its "Buy one bottle, get the second for 5¢" sale. You can get yourself a bottle and give the other to the school! The sale ends 10/22 on some of the wines and 10/29 on the others.

Please make your donation by 10/26.
Thanks, Liz Hall
email: probossliz@pacbell.net.



Is there a BAKER in the house?

(A call for volunteers...)



The Auction Planning Committee needs a baker to bake 50 cupcakes for the big King Cupcake raffle. If you have the skills and the time (on November 10th) to do this, give Alison a call or email: 530-6264 or alisonemay@comcast.net.

We are also in need of a few more volunteers to make the event run smoothly. If you're coming to the auction anyway and you'd like to become more involved & take an hour shift, give Alison a shout - 530-6264 or alisonemay@comcast.net. There are some FUN slots to fill!



KAISER KIOSK

Have You Joined the PTA Yet?

Have you had a chance to send in your PTA membership yet? Thank you to the many families that joined already. Also, thank you to the many people who joined and who also donated money to the pledge drive. We have 184 members. Our goal is to get 100% percent membership. The class that gets to 100% first will get a bowling party. While you can join the PTA at any time during the year, **the deadline for the class contest for the bowling party is Nov. 2.** So get your membership in as soon as possible. Remember, it's only \$10 per adult to join. The PTA supports many programs at Kaiser that help to make it such a great school. To join, fill out a membership form (included in your back to school packet or available on the table outside the office) and turn it in with the membership fee to your child's teacher or put it in the locked box on the table outside the office. Please join today! 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 10/12/07:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>% of families who have joined PTA</u>
Apaydin	40%
Bailey	65%
Estrada	58%
Gorham	30%
Haruyama	60%
Hunter	57%
McGhee	64%
Neat	46%
Pessin	80%
Ross	29%
Yang	27%

TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF!

Halloween is coming up, as if you didn't know! This year two of our teachers, Trish Gorham and Janan Apaydin, will be encouraging children to trick or treat for UNICEF. We will give them information and trick-or-treat boxes at school, and we need your help and support in encouraging them to do this fine charitable work.



CELEBRATING LATINO HERITAGE

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


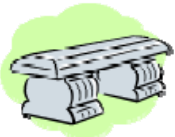
Thank you for helping with Set Up: 6pm
or Take down and Clean Up: After the event



SAVE OCT. 27TH FOR THE KAISER SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION DAY

We have an opportunity to make a lot of progress improving our school grounds on Saturday Oct. 27th, since the Berkeley Project has chosen us as one of their major projects.

This year, we are hoping to continue some of the efforts started last year. Lots will be going on at Kaiser School, both in our gardens and grounds, as well as a major effort to fight back the brush on the hillside above the playground. Here are some of the possibilities:

- Organizing the tool area 
- Trimming back some of the trees overhanging the school, to promote fire safety
- Supporting the major effort mentioned above on the hill behind the school
- Fighting back the uninvited invasive plants in our gardens... a fancy way of saying WEEDING
- Washing the school windows, the better to enjoy our gardens from within.
- Dismantling and removing the older planting boxes.
- Adding new plants to our gardens
- Improving our benches and pathway near the front circle 
- Building some more benches for Mel's mini outdoor amphitheater.

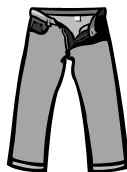


Please mark down the date and set aside some time to help us make our children's environment a wonderful place to spend their days!

We also have a regular work day on the first Friday of each month after school lets out. If you would like more information, please contact me directly – jgibbster@comcast.net.

Hope to see you there! – Jeff White

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!

Book Fair Blizzard

Oct. 17, 18 & 19

W Th F 1-5p

Need Parent Volunteers

at 1:20p to help with crowd control
as school lets out.

contact Kelly 510-851-3513 or

kelly.bartlett@gmail.com