



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 5, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

Last week I wrote about the importance of reading in the power of writing. This week I would like to reflect on the importance and power of mathematics skills. Our math education starts in preschool and our parents teach us the fundamentals of counting. In kindergarten children are expected to know and use numbers to 30. And by fifth grade students are expected to master simple algebra equations, and be fluent in the fundamentals of data and statistics. We are often so absorbed in the teaching of skills that we forget that **these math tools help us to understand and manage our world.** How many times a day do we count money and subconsciously subtract the change? We check our checking account balance monthly. We think about how much money we don't have! When we are cooking, we deal with fractions and increase recipes with proportions. Consumer loans and credit cards remind us of the importance of understanding percentages. Just yesterday I scratched out on a piece of paper a comparison of checking accounts based on the interest rates they gave, how much they charge for ATM interactions, the interest rate on their credit cards, and an estimated number of total transactions. That's lots of math to make an informed decision. These are the kinds of math skills children will need to maneuver successfully through their adult world.

Here at school our teachers use quiz scores and test scores to monitor individual students' progress and to evaluate the success of their teaching based on group averages. These numbers then inform our teachers about who needs intervention, whether the whole lesson should be taught again, and how quickly to pace the curriculum. These numbers also alert us to a child "falling through the cracks." I do regular budget reviews to watch how district funds are being targeted for intervention services and other student support. In all of these situations, the numbers are not an end to themselves, but point to real human situations and reveal how they are changing.

Last week I gave you the challenge to work with your child on a weekly basis with reading and writing. This week I am issuing you an "invitation" to work with your child with math. If you have younger children, help them with counting, teach them about different coins, and have them read labels to you at the grocery store. You can invite older children in third through fifth grade to review credit card statements, check banking account balances, and start their own savings account. I recently read an article that said wealthy people teach their children about money, and the rest of us keep it a secret; maybe that's one of the reasons those people get rich!

And here's another invitation having to do with numbers. This Saturday, November 10, is the social event of the season: The Kaiser Benefit Auction! If you're still "on the fence" about attending, let me encourage you because:

- ❖ It's only \$25!
- ❖ It benefits the kids!
- ❖ It's a real fun-raiser!
- ❖ It's cheaper than your phone bill!
- ❖ You get to meet new people!
- ❖ You get to mingle with teachers!
- ❖ It's much better than another evening of TV!
- ❖ It's only \$25!

How's that for some "big math!"

Mel Stenger, principal

Getting In The Know



Happy Hour

Be on time to the auction!

5:30-6:30 p.m.
 Champagne fountain
 Linden Street Brewery beer
 Rosenblum wines
 Cartlidge and Browne wines

All drinks \$3 donation

SALLY FOSTER SUCCESS STORY!

Thank you to all of the families who supported our Sally Foster fundraiser. The students sold more than \$13,500 in items, which means that Kaiser School PTA earned \$6,750! Your items will arrive today (Monday, November 5) and will be distributed to the classrooms at the end of the day so that they're ready to take home on Tuesday. If you have any questions or concerns about your order once you receive it, please e-mail Janice Murphy at Janice-Murphy@SBCGlobal.net or call her at (510) 482-5453.

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 e-mail:

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

Please put "Pink Panther" in the subject of your email to ensure that it does not get deleted accidentally!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Nov. 5	Sally Foster delivery
Nov. 7	PTA general meeting: Family Reading Night
Nov. 10	Kaiser Auction: "A Night in New Orleans"
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day—No School
Nov. 15	SSC Meeting
Nov. 19-23	Thanksgiving Recess—No School
Nov. 28	PTA Board Meeting
Nov. 30	Report card period ends

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

Pink Panther Staff:

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd
 Copyeditor: Wendy Harcarik

A Night in New Orleans



Thank you, Kaiser Community, for an amazing show of support of this year's auction! Thanks for your donations, for volunteering in preparation for and at the big event, for buying tickets! It's now **too late** to accept any more donations but it's **NOT TOO LATE TO BUY TICKETS!** So, get those orders in now! The price goes up to \$30 at the door. (If you ordered tickets already, please note that there are no actual tickets—your catalog will be waiting for you at the door. Just sign in at the registration table upon arrival!)

Volunteers, I'll be contacting you via email this week with your assignments and details! Be on the lookout!

Thanks once again to all for your support! See you on Saturday night!

—Alison May, Auction Chair

P.S. Cut out the following to take with you to the auction:



A Night In New Orleans - Need to know:
Saturday, November 10, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Oakland Masonic Center
3903 Broadway

The details:

- Feel free to dress for Mardi Gras—fun, festive, masked, sparkly, whatever you like!
- Come hungry & ready to have a BALL!
- Parking available in lot in rear of building on Manilla (approach from 38th or 40th Streets)
- Enter through back door under the awning that reads "Oakland Masonic Center"
- Follow the long hallway to the elevators
- If your kids are attending Kids Night Out, drop them off at the 2nd Floor Ballroom
- The Auction takes place in the 3rd Floor Ballroom
- Stop at registration to pick up your catalog & bidder number
- Don't forget your checkbook or credit cards & THINK HOLIDAY SHOPPING!
- This is a fun evening that also raises money for arts & humanities programs at our beloved school!

"Laissez les bons temps rouler!" ~ "Let the good times roll!"

KAISER KIOSK



Ms. Pessin's class wins bowling party!

Congratulations to Ms. Pessin's class for getting the highest percentage of families to join the PTA. Her class has won a bowling party. Thank you to all of the families who joined the PTA and gave pledges. People can still join the PTA at any time during the year. For PTA members who would like to get an online newsletter from the national PTA twice a month, e-mail Julie Mills at julieandlarry@sbcglobal.net and she will sign you up for the newsletter.

Mark your calendars!

Monday, November 12, we will celebrate Veterans' Day and school will be closed.

Thanksgiving vacation is the entire week of November 19.

Are you on the Kaiser Elementary PTA members list?

Last week we attached the list to recognize everyone who has become a member, and to give members the chance to check the accuracy of our records. Please look for your name, and if you don't find it, consider joining our PTA.



Family Reading Night!

In lieu of the regular PTA Association meeting this week, we will be hosting Family Reading Night, starting at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, November. One of our special guests for the evening will be the **Blue Fairy**, who performs regularly at Fairyland. She will start out the evening singing and telling stories. **Please bring a blanket or rug that can be spread out on the auditorium floor so that you can lounge comfortably while sipping your hot chocolate and listening to the tales and music of the evening.** Students are welcome to wear their pajamas if they so choose.

For those of you who would like to hear more about what the PTA board is working on these days and to get an update on our financial standing, I will be hosting a brief meeting in the library during reading night to provide you with an update.

If you haven't done so already, please let Robin Sasada know if you plan to attend Family Reading Night so that we know how much hot chocolate to make. Hope to see you there!

Janice Murphy, PTA President

The Real Crisis of Katrina

How We can help at the Auction this Saturday

At our Benefit Auction this Saturday there will be a small tribute to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. One auction item, a large earthquake kit has been donated to send money to children who have survived the hurricane and are still very much in need of our support. This is done in the spirit of community reaching beyond the geographic boundaries of Oakland. The specific charity will be chosen by the donors of the earthquake kit who will be working other Kaiser families from the New Orleans area and Mr. Stenger to find a suitable child centered cause.

The real crisis of Katrina is here in its aftermath. Over our lifetime, this crisis will cost our society billions upon billions of dollars. And the echoes of the crisis will haunt the next generation. We will spend billions of dollars rebuilding the roads, bridges, buildings, pipelines, levees, oil rigs and houses. Will we spend billions healing these children?

The future of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast does not depend solely on structures. Our future depends on children... If we do not provide the safe, nurturing, predictable and enriched experiences those children need and we do not arm our caregivers... and educators with the tools they need... there will be new buildings filled with struggling children growing into adulthood expressing only a fraction of their true potential. .. We know that traumatic experiences can result in a host of chronic sometimes lifelong problems.

In short we need to give children the attention and resources that we give our roads, pipelined, bridges and infrastructure. The health and productivity are renewed each generation through its children. The society that understands and acts on this will succeed; the society that does not is doomed to fail. Let us not fail these children. Let us not fail ourselves."

--Dr. Bruce D. Perry, M.D. Ph.D.

Please consider purchasing the earthquake kit to help support our community in New Orleans. You can both give back and prepare to protect your own family

Deborah J. Williams, RN BSN PHN
Mother of 4th grader Taki H. Taki

For the complete text quoted above go to chss.com/guest_dispatches/katrina-tragedy.html - 16
To find more information about Dr. Perry's work @ www.ChildTrauma.org