



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 26, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

With the Thanksgiving break completed, many of us are turning our thoughts toward preparation for Hanukkah, Christmas, or other winter holidays. During our time off I was repeatedly flooded with feelings of gratitude with working with this community. The combined efforts from your children, the parents and other adults, and teachers and staff helped make Kaiser Elementary School a successful learning community. As new parents are coming to visit our school for the possible placement of their kindergartner here, I have no trouble in telling them that Kaiser School is "the best school in the world!"

For the teachers here at Kaiser, this week will be spent in finishing study units and evaluating student progress for report cards. This process takes a lot of time and we anticipate that the report cards themselves will be delivered on December 7. As part of my job it is my responsibility to evaluate the teachers. In an attempt to demystify this process and to help you understand what forms the basis of my evaluation of the teaching staff, I thought I would take this opportunity to briefly describe the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. Each of these standards has five or six components, and each of those components has five to seven supporting ideas. If you multiply that out, teachers are expected to fulfill over 250 expectations as they do their job. Here's a short description of each of the major standards:

1. **Engaging Students in Learning:** connecting students' life experience with learning goals, promoting reflective learning for all students, engaging students in problem solving to make subject matter meaningful, using a variety of instructional strategies to meet diverse needs, facilitating learning experiences that promote autonomy and choice.
2. **Maintaining an Effective Learning Environment:** creating a physical environment that engages all students, using time effectively, using classroom routines that support student learning, establishing a climate that promotes fairness and respect promoting social responsibility, establishing and maintaining student behavior standards.
3. **Organizing Subject Matter:** demonstrating knowledge of subject matter content and student development, using resources and technology to make subject matter accessible to all students, developing student understanding with appropriate strategies, organizing and planning curriculum, relating ideas across subject matter areas.
4. **Planning Instruction:** drawing on students' backgrounds and respecting developmental learning needs in planning lessons, modifying plans above and below grade level, designing short-term and long-term plans for learning, writing in articulating learning goals, developing instructional activities.
5. **Assessing Student Learning:** communicating clear learning goals for all students, collecting and using multiple sources of information to assess students, involving in guiding all students in assessing their own learning, using assessment results to guide instruction, communicating with families about student progress.
6. **Developing as a Professional:** reflecting on teaching practice and planning professional development, establishing and pursuing professional learning goals, working with various communities to improve professional practice, working with families to improve practice, working with colleagues to improve practice, balancing professional responsibilities and maintaining motivation in an overwhelming job.

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Getting In The Know

Of course some teachers are better at some of these standards than others, and some teachers exhibit wonderful qualities that are not covered by the standards yet add to student learning. Teaching is not a job like many others; it involves blending learned skills and the art of dealing with humans. Evaluation literally means, "to pull the value out of." Although I sometimes need to point out to teachers where they are not meeting standards, most of my evaluation process is about showing teachers the value of what they do, of reminding them of their tremendous skill base, of sharing with them my observations of how they meet these incredibly high expectations.

So, I think it is fitting that in between Thanksgiving and Christmas I take the time to publicly thank our teachers for their efforts and dedication in working toward these standards, and recognize the gift that they are to our learning community. You might take the time this week to remember something that your child's teacher has done and mention it to the teacher.

Mel Stenger, Principal

There will be an information night for Kindergarten and Fifth Grade on Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m.

We apologize for needing to schedule this event on the first night of Hanukkah. It was the only evening open before the beginning of Options Month, which begins December 7.

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 is not deleted accidentally!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Nov. 28	PTA Board Meeting
Nov. 30	Report card period ends
Dec. 5	Kindergarten & 5 th Grade Info Night, 6:30
Dec. 18	ORFF Music Concert 7 pm
Dec. 20	Instrumental Music Concert, 7 pm
Dec. 24- Jan. 4	Winter Recess

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

KAISER KIOSK

ORFF Music Winter Concert Music and Dance From Around the World

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.

Students in grades K-3 should report to their classroom by 6:45 p.m.

Parents gather in the auditorium to enjoy their children's singing.



Sign Up for Little League Today!

North Oakland/South Oakland Little League (NOLL/SOLL) is currently accepting registrations for spring 2008. Boys and girls ages 5 through 18 who live in Oakland, Emeryville, Piedmont and Berkeley (south of Virginia St.) are eligible. The program runs February through June. Register during November to get early-bird rates! Scholarships are available for families in need of assistance.

For more info or to register, visit nollsoll.com. If you have questions, leave a message for NOLL/SOLL at 510-903-1736.



Instrumental Music Winter Concert Thursday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.

Students report for tuning:

6:30 p.m. - string instruments

6:45 p.m. - wind instruments

Students should wear dark bottoms and white tops.

The 5th grade class will also perform their class play.



If you have had changes in your family's emergency information, please remember to update your child's emergency card in the office. And if you haven't yet turned in an emergency card, please do!

Can't find your child's jacket? Lose that second lunchbox? Our Lost and Found is overflowing with lost or forgotten jackets, sweaters, shirts and lunchboxes. Please take time during our winter performances to go through these items and maybe find some of those lost things. The lost and found items will be placed in the main hallway.