



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 3, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

Here we are in December already! Thanksgiving week is gone, and the stores are all decorated for the holidays. **Happy Hanukkah** to all our Jewish families! Hannukah begins on the evening of December 4. The staff had an enriching time this past weekend attending the Northern California Math Conference held at Asilomar on the Monterey Peninsula. Ten of us attended and we tried to cover as many of the special presentations as we could so that we could share our experiences with each other. We look forward to bringing more exciting math to your children!

Teachers have analyzed all the data, looked at student work, and prepared grades for the report cards. As I walk down the hall there is a buzz -- a buzz of work. It's a good kind of work, a satisfying kind of work, the kind of work where teachers and students are focused on learning together. Yes, there is an occasional child crying, or a teacher correcting their class, but there is a feeling in the air that everyone is involved in something that brings them contentment: our learning community. It is clear that the main work of the students and teachers at Kaiser School is learning, and that the learning is a source of joy.

Please keep this image in mind this week as you receive your child's report card. Your child is an important part of learning community that we call Kaiser Elementary and they are happy in the pursuit of the learning and growth. If the report card is not all you expect it to be please remember that it does not define your child, but rather gives you a framework within which to view your child's performance. If there are big, wonderful surprises, be sure to praise your child; conversely, if there are unpleasant surprises please try to help your child discuss how they can improve, rather than condemning them or punishing them. I have encouraged our teachers to keep you informed of your child's progress; with that said, I know from experience that sometimes parents want to know why they weren't told of something before the report card. Let's remember that **report card is a reporting tool**, it is the main way we report to you the progress of your child. I believe that most of our children are doing their very, very best, but of course, you know if your child is not. The bottom line is we need to remember to react in a way that will help our child learn the most!

Whether we celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah, December is a time for gift-giving. Although our children's natural tendency is to be very concerned about what kind of gift they're going to receive, let's take this opportunity to help our children understand the importance of **giving** a gift. It takes more than a simple conversation. Children need help in choosing a recipient, thinking of a gift that the recipient would like rather than one that the child would like, buying and making the gift, and then giving the gift. With this guidance and rehearsal children will find that gift-giving is indeed a joyful experience. They may find that it is indeed better to give than to receive!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

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.

If you know of people who may be interested in sending their children to Kaiser School, now is the time for them to visit our school.

Options Month is December 8 to January 15. This is the time for all students, regardless of grade, to make a choice for a school. Final selections can be turned in here at Kaiser any time before January 15.

Oakland Public Library Claremont Branch MONTHLY EVENTS:

Toddler Story Times: 1st & 2nd Saturdays at 10:30 am

Pre-School Story Times: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30 am.

Pajama Story Times: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER:

Sewing Felt Craft Session: December 6th, Thursday, 4:00 pm. Please come on time, this project takes the full hour. Kids 7 years and older, teens, and adults welcome. Call Erica at 597-5017 if you have any questions.

The library will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th.

The library will be open from 10:00 to 5:30 on Monday, December 31st!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Dec. 5	Kindergarten & 5 th Grade Info Night, 6:30
Dec. 18	ORFF Music Concert 6:30 pm
Dec. 20	Instrumental Music Concert, 7 pm
Dec. 24- Jan. 4	Winter Recess

Gently Used Baby Equipment Needed

Ms. Polly, our library clerk, due in mid-December, is in need of baby equipment; stroller, crib, changing table and especially an infant car seat. Please email Marcia Brooks, marciabookwoman@gmail.com, to arrange for drop off if you have anything to give. Your help is much appreciated.

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/

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!

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, 6:30 p.m.

Students in grades K-3 should report to their classroom by 6:15 p.m.

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

Parking available on the upper field.



Hello Parents, Teachers and Students

We've got some VERY important news! The Oakland City Council has approved our request for an amnesty for fines, as an effort to help people get back into using the library. The last time we forgave fines was about 5 years ago, but this time we're also forgiving lost book charges. This does not come around often!

Here are the facts you need to know:

Fines and Lost Books Forgiveness Program:

November 24 to December 14, 2007. Come to any Oakland Public Library during these dates, and get a fresh start. We will forgive your fines and fees for overdue or lost items (except Tools from the Tool Lending Library), and welcome you back to the library! For more information, call 238-3134.

We know that many teachers check out books for their classes, and once in a while find themselves with a bill to pay. We hope students, teachers, and parents will take this opportunity to look for any long-overdue library books at home, but come talk to us whether you find them or not!!!

Thanks to everyone for your steadfast support of your public library, and we especially hope to see you over the next few weeks!

- Erica, Oakland Public Library

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.



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.