



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 17, 2007

Dear Kaiser Families,

Here we are the week before the holidays already! So much has happened in the life of our school and our students. Parents have been generous to the needs of our school and students. You are a gift to us and we appreciate you! Our teachers and staff have given so much out of their own hearts. And of course, the students have given their time and effort to do what we have asked, hoping to learn and grow. All this giving and the holiday hasn't yet arrived!

I'd like to offer a few thoughts about looking at our children as gifts.

- A gift is not something you need but rather what someone else thinks you would like. Maybe we can expect our kids to fulfill our need to have them do what we say and want, and to enjoy them for who they are and what they bring to our lives. Like a surprise gift.
- Gifts inspire pride. The recipient is proud of what he or she is received; they are happy to have it. Their pride and happiness show in the responsibility toward the gift. When a gift is cherished, the new owner takes responsibility for the gift effortlessly, devoting time and energy into taking care of it. If we look upon our children as gifts, we can look upon taking care of them as our response.
- When we know we're getting a gift, the giver often asks us what we want. There's a joyful surprise in knowing that we might get something that we ask for, but that whatever it is, we know that the giver has thought of us. Similarly, when we ask our children to grow or to try, we need to trust their best efforts, and accept what they give us as their best gift.
- We have to wait for a gift. We have to wait for a gift. We have to wait for a gift. Sometimes the waiting can be frustrating, but often the waiting and the anticipation adds to the excitement of getting the actual gift. We have to wait for our children to grow and remember to be patient with their growth, and enjoy the anticipation of who our children will become.
- When we receive a surprise gift, we will either be delighted, or we will act as if we are as our parents have taught us. I would encourage you to do the same with your children: when they change or grow in ways that are unexpected and maybe not the ways you want, choose to be delighted or fake it. Our children need to know that we are delighted in them.
- Gratitude and appreciation are normal responses to receiving a gift. When is the last time that you thanked your child, or told them how much you appreciate them? These comments of gratitude and appreciation mean much more when they include details.
- Isn't it fun to take off the wrapping and see what's inside a gift? In very much the same way, I hope you have the time over the holidays to get into some conversations with your children, to dig deep into who they are, and to see who is inside this child-gift. Open your eyes to see the gift that's been right in front of you all along.
- Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus! If we believe our children are gifts to us, that belief can transform our relationships with them.

May you all have a wonderful holiday time!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Check It Out!

Now you can look online to see what books are in Kaiser School's library! Go to <http://library.ousd.k12.ca.us>, then go to "Kaiser," then go to the Catalog tab to search for books in our library. Wow!

Parent & Teacher Resources

Another great online resource available to you is Net Trek. Go to <http://school.nettrekker.com/frontdoor/>
 User name: ousdtrek
 Password: ousdtrek

Our school district has subscribed to this site in order to provide resources for teachers to plan their classes, and for parents to get information for their children. I showed this to Ms. Bailey and she was amazed!

Kindergarten Information Night

There will be an information night for Kindergarten on Wednesday, January 9, at 6:30 p.m. If you know of parents of prospective Kindergarten students, please let them know.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Dec. 18	ORFF Music Concert 6:30 pm
Dec. 20	Instrumental Music Concert, 7 pm
Dec. 24- Jan. 4	Winter Recess
Jan. 7	Classes Resume
Jan. 9	PTA General Meeting
Jan. 9	Kindergarten Info. Night, 6:30 pm
Jan. 15	SSC Meeting

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/](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: Lisa Downes
 Kim Carl

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd
 Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

KAISER KIOSK

ORFF Music Winter Concert Music and Dance From Around the World

African Dance Performance
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.



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.

PARKING AVAILABLE ON UPPER FIELD

LOST ITEMS?

During the Winter Performances on Tuesday and Thursday, items from our Lost and Found will be spread through the hall. No, they're not for kicking around, and no, we didn't forget to pick them up. The clothes will be spread out for you all to look for those long-lost things that belong to your children. After the holidays, we will donate the clothes to a charity.



BOOKS: THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!

Buy your children books for Christmas, or have Santa Claus bring them. Reading competency and confidence are vital to the success of every child. Read to your children! Read with your children! Have your children read to you! Inspire them to love to read and give them that gift for Christmas.



GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH

A local Girl Scout Troop is sponsoring a clothing drive called "One Warm Coat." You can donate a gently used coat—in any size—by putting it in the box in the main hall.

Announcement about after school classes at Kaiser...

It is time to sign up for the winter session of after school programs at Kaiser!

Packets will be sent home with students on Tuesday, December 18.

The classes offered will be:

- M: Spanish for K/1 (TENTATIVE) (see flyer for info)
- T: Kaiser Miracle Chorus w/ Kelly Takunda Orphan Martinez (see flyer for info)
- T/W: Private piano lessons with Laura Sherman (call 434-1267 for info)
- W: Chess from Berkeley Chess School (see flyer for info)
- W: *Drama production of *Sleeping Beauty* (see flyer for info)
- W: Private piano lessons with Marilyn Marsh (call 923-1620 for info)
- W: Group guitar lessons with Greg (see flyer for info)
- TH: Spanish for 2/3 (TENTATIVE) (see flyer for info)
- TH: KidzArt (see flyer for info)
- F: African dance with Pope Flynne (see flyer for info)

*Note: **Lego will not be offered** at Kaiser again until April. There will be information about how to sign up for the spring session in the packets that will be sent home in March.*

Note: This fall the **drama class was over-crowded and there were several complaints from parents and students. Your concerns did not fall on deaf ears. Trevor Weaver, the artistic director of Kids Take The Stage, will be teaching the class this spring, and he has decided to limit enrollment to 18 to keep the class size more manageable. His goal is to return the class to its "glory days." This should be a good production and a valuable experience for all with Trevor in charge. Don't let your child miss this opportunity for a great theater experience!*

***One final note about drama.** Though the flyer is not out yet, you may sign your child up now, and you **receive a 15% discount if you sign up before DECEMBER 20**. To receive your discount, use the promo code: BEAUTY. Sign up by calling (510) 527-1138 or by visiting www.kidstakethestage.com.

FREE Oakland Public Library Winter Programs

Opera Piccola presents Multicultural, Musical Tales for the Holidays:

"Hansel & Gretel" (Germany), Grimm's famous story, comes to life in an energetic adaptation of Engelbert Humperdinck's folk opera from 1893.

"Hansel & Gretel"

Tuesday, December 18, 7:00pm

Dimond Branch Library

3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Puppet Art Presents Fairytales with a Holiday Twist:

"Jack & the Beanstalk"

Wednesday, December 19, 10:00am

West Oakland Branch Library

1801 Adeline St.

"Jack & the Beanstalk"

Wednesday, December 19, 3:30pm

Melrose Branch Library

4805 Foothill Blvd.

For more information, please call (510) 238-3848, or see the Oakland Public Library's Web site: www.oaklandlibrary.org.