



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 8, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Welcome to the New Year! Happy 2008!

Without missing a beat! Isn't that what they say when something begins again like it never stopped? That's what today felt like! The teachers were prepared, the students were rested and ready, and the whole "machine" ran smoothly!

Did you make any New Year's Resolutions? Whether it was to read daily with your kids, to play as a family, to incorporate physical activity into your family routine or to lose a few pounds, here are simple guidelines to help make your resolution become a reality:

- Set a clear achievable goal that can be objective observed and measured. ("We will play a game as a family twice each week until March 1", rather than "we'll have more family fun.")
- Monitor and chart the progress, talk about successes and failures, and take steps to modify the plan instead of giving up on it.
- Reward yourself when you've achieved your goal!

Now, remember that it's much easier said than done, and just because we know how to do something doesn't guarantee that we'll carry through!

I'd like to suggest a resolution: Put away cell phones and talk to your children when commuting to and from school. These 10 minutes each way are important moments to spend with your child, sharing expectations and plans for the day, concerns about work and relationships with others, and reviewing the events of the day each afternoon. I think you'll find that driving time spent talking with your children about their school lives will greatly improve everyone's investment, and will become a very special part of the day.

So we're off to another session of learning. We have just a few weeks left before the end of the semester. January 28 will be an in-service day when the faculty will review how the students are doing, how we are doing, and how we can improve. We welcome your input. If you want to leave a note for us in the office, I will convey your ideas to the staff. We're always looking for ways to improve.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

ATTENTION 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH GRADE FAMILIES!!!

Would your 3rd, 4th or 5th grader like to be on a team of creative problem solvers? Several Kaiser students are on an Odyssey of the Mind team and are having a lot of fun. Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem solving program that has kids figuring out the solutions all on their own (with an adult coach for supervision) The Kaiser team is building a vehicle all on their own that they will drive in a "road rally" (it's inside a building). They will then perform several sports themed tasks while on the vehicle. They are also working together to creatively solve other problems. To learn more about Odyssey of the Mind, you can go to their website, www.odysseyofthemind.com. I recommend watching the video on the website to get a better idea of how the program works. Then if you and your child are interested in being part of the team call Julie Mills at 531-8699 or e-mail julieandlarry@sbcglobal.net. We meet Saturday mornings at 10:00. There are only a few spots left, so first come first serve. We are especially looking for a couple of girls, but we can take boys, too. So come and join the fun!

Guitar Lessons beginning Jan. 9

The second session of guitar lessons is beginning today and would like all interested students to come and try it out. They will need at least 5 – 7 students to keep the class going. If there isn't enough interest, classes will be canceled. Classes are in Portable C.

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
Jan. 7	Classes Resume
Jan. 9	Kindergarten Info Night
Jan. 15	SSC Meeting
Jan. 21	MLK Jr. Day Holiday School Closed
Jan. 25	Asian Heritage Potluck
Jan. 28	Teacher Planning Day – No School
Jan. 30	PTA Board 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/)**

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

In the Know

Starting next week, Marriage and Family Therapist trainee Lisa Turetsky will be joining us one day a week for the rest of the school year. She is in her last year of graduate studies at JFK University in Counseling Psychology, and she loves working with kids. She requested an elementary school for this part of her training and she said she was thrilled to be assigned to Kaiser. She looks forward to meeting you soon.

Also starting next week, Oscar Campos, who many of you know from Adventure Time, will start as another intervention assistant here. He will work closely with Mira Santos and the classroom teachers to provide additional support for all children.

Have you heard? Grades 2-5 will have completed reading tests and will have scores by January 14. If you don't hear from your child's teacher, feel free to contact them to see how your child did.