



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 4, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

At Kaiser School we monitor the students' progress to see how well they are progressing. We pay particular attention to their progress in Math and ELA (English/Language Arts). Over the past couple of weeks you may have heard some terms, or not, which relate to the monitoring of your children. I'd like to take a moment to review many of the ways we do that:

Observation: Teachers observe children daily in the context of the activities. They make mental or paper notes about how the students are performing.

Class work/Homework Review: Teachers review the documents that children give us to see if the children are performing the activities to reflect what is being taught, and to see if the concept development is up to **grade level standard.**

Publishers' Tests: Teachers use test that come with the textbooks to check students' understanding of the concept they are teaching.

Teacher-Made tests: Teachers sometimes make up their own quizzes and tests to check student understanding

District Benchmark and Progress Tests: Teachers give students district tests to check students' growth for a limited number of concepts (progress) or to check growth over a semester (benchmark). These tests are computerized and added to the district's data about how we all are doing.

Standardized Tests: These are the "big" tests given at the beginning of May that test the kids in many areas, and are used to develop student scores and school scores.

Sometimes it seems that there are too many tests, that we can know enough about the progress of your child without so many. One of the other purposes of the testing is the monitoring of our program itself, so that we can see if we are weak in an area, or if we are treating all groups of kids equitably. We also want to keep up on the development of every child in every way!

You can help us with the monitoring of your child's progress by observing how they do on their homework. If you have a younger student, you should be near to be able to provide support and review. If you have an older child you should encourage independence, but have your child explain their plan for organizing their work, and then spot check it for accuracy. If you are noticing consistent, recurring difficulties, it's time to contact the teacher.

Speaking of time to contact someone, please take some time to write, call or email your state representative and governor, because the education budget is being threatened once again. The current plan is to slash our general budget 10% and special funds 6.5%. That will mean we would be at bare bones next year. I'm expecting to get specific budget figures this week and will share specific repercussions next week. We will need your voice!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

PTA Association Meeting

Wednesday, February 6

7 p.m.

“How to Become Financially Fit”

It's hard to believe, but now is the time to start saving for college. Please join us on Wednesday, February 6th, to hear Jeremy Niederstadt discuss the best ways to save for your child's educational needs as well as how to obtain “financial fitness”—how to have a healthy financial life. Jeremy is a Senior Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch in Oakland, where he specializes in wealth management, estate planning, and money management.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb. 6	PTA assoc. meeting: “How to become financially fit”
Feb. 18	Presidents Day No school
Feb. 19	SSC meeting
Feb. 22	African-American Heritage Potluck
Feb. 27	PTA board meeting
March 5	General PTA meeting

**The Pink Panther is also available at
www.KaiserElementary.org.**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Fest Results!

Maya Kelleher was inadvertently left off the list of school site oratorical winners. We apologize for this mistake. Congratulations to Maya and all the other winners and good luck at the regional competition.



Congratulations to our PE teacher, Mr. Toomer, his son, Amani, and the New York Giants for winning Super Bowl XLII. They defeated the New England Patriots 17-14.

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!

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/)**