



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 11, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Last week I wrote to you about all the different methods we use to track the progress of students here at Kaiser. We have the results of this semester benchmark tests which were provided by our district. I am pleased to say that currently 66% of our students are proficient or advanced in English/language arts, and 77% of our students are proficient or advanced in math. The scores also show that only 17 children are far below benchmark in math, and 8 children are far below benchmark in English/language arts. This is quite an achievement and we should all be proud of our work! Of course the first people to be congratulated are the children, who have worked so diligently and have achieved so much. Following close behind are you, the parents, and our wonderful teachers. Thank you so much for all your work!

These percentages each represent three percentage points over our achievement with our standardized tests last May. As you may recall the federal No Child Left Behind Laws require every school to not only achieve, but to improve upon their achievement every year. (By the year 2014 every school in America is required to have 100% of the children in the category of proficient or advanced in both English/language arts and math, or be labeled as a low performing school.) The responsibility falls back to the principal to monitor and achievement during the year to make sure that the school constantly improves.

Here at Kaiser Elementary we are doing our best to provide intervention for children who are performing below grade level, as well as challenging work for children who are performing above grade level. This year we have established a system for looking after these children. Each grade level is involved in Workshop Time, sometimes called Independent Work Time, during which the classroom teachers are to provide intervention for struggling students, and challenging work for those who have already achieved their grade level standards.

The teachers meet weekly in grade level collaboration teams to look at information from tests, quizzes, and student work, and to determine which students need extra help and which students should be challenged. I am proud to say that every child's performance is reviewed, and every child's needs are taken into consideration. We have also hired extra help for our teachers: Mira Santos is not only our attendance clerk and family liaison, but she also supports teachers in their intervention time. Oscar Campos, from Adventure Time, works with teachers as a support person. And Susanne Plunkett, the manager of our Adventure Time Program here at Kaiser, works as an intervention support person with teachers, as well as closely monitoring the students that work with our Fast ForWord software intervention program.

Last week I encouraged you to take some time to write, call or email your 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 not be able to continue the program that I have described above. **We need your voice!**

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Take me out to the Ball Park...

Oakland A's tickets are now available to Kaiser families and friends for a cut rate and the A's will donate \$8/\$10 of every ticket we buy to Kaiser School!!!!

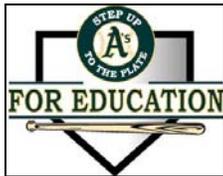
Simply...

- Look for the order forms (plaza level \$22 / field level \$28) attached to the Pink
- Select which games you would like to attend
- Return to Robin with your completed order form and a check to Kaiser School PTA by March 7
- Tickets will be mailed directly to you at the address you provide on the order form by the Oakland A's

Extend this offer to family, friends and co-workers!!

All seats on a single order form will be together and all Kaiser seats will be in the same area!!

This is a fun and easy way to raise money for our school!



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
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
March 10-14	Parent teacher conferences

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

A couple of gentle reminders:

- We do not have supervision for children before 8:30 a.m. or after 3:10 p.m.
- Please do not send your child with food that must be heated in a microwave, this is a service we cannot provide for all children.
- Please support your child's learning by making sure they do their homework, letting them have a complete school day by arriving on time and not leaving early, and by staying in close contact with their teacher regarding their progress.

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/)**

Getting In The Know

PTA News

Kaiser ALIVE Program Kick-Off

Thanks to the hard work of our PTA grant writing committee, the Kaiser School PTA has been awarded a \$1,500 Healthy Lifestyles grant from the California State PTA. With this money, we plan to launch our **new Kaiser ALIVE! Program**—Actively Learn, Volunteer, Initiate, Energize—starting on April 1.

All students will be given an "ALIVE" passport in which they can check off activities they've accomplished during the two months of the program. These activities are aimed at getting our Kaiser students to explore their environment, try new things, get active outside, and learn the value of volunteering in their community. Activities will range from things as simple as flying a kite or building a sand castle to more involved tasks such as volunteering at an assisted living center or joining an organized sports team. Each item has a point value, and parents will be required to sign off on each item that their child has accomplished.

At the end of the program, we will have a party, tentatively scheduled for May 31, to celebrate the students' achievements. All students who participate will receive a Certificate of Participation and those who earn certain point levels in their passport will receive medals, trophies and, for those earning the most points, a gift card to a store such as Target or the Sports Authority.

Since this is a new program, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Are you interested in helping us determine what items are put in the passport and how we structure this program? Then please join us at our next meeting on Sunday, February 24, at 10:30 (location yet to be determined). Please call our ALIVE program coordinator, Darlene Smith, at (510) 536-9173 to let her know you'd like to help, or you can e-mail her your ideas at

Darlene.smith@kp.org.

SELECT OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, Feb. 12
CLOSED FOR LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Melrose Tween Time
Contact: 510-535-5623

Fun activities for ages 8 to 12 years. Meets every Wednesday.
Location: Melrose Branch, 4805 Foothill Blvd.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 3 p.m.
Berkeley Rep Target Story Builders Workshop for Black History Month
Contact: Juenita Lee 615-5726

Anansi, a mischievous folk hero, sets out on a dangerous journey and gets into all sorts of trouble along the way. In this exciting rescue story, the cooperative whole is worth more than its parts.
Location: Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, 7200 Bancroft Ave., Ste. 211

Friday, Feb. 14, 3:30-5 p.m.
Knitting for All Ages! with Marie Riehle
Contact: Susan White/Marie Riehle 238-7344
swhite@oaklandlibrary.org

Kids and adults welcome. Learn to make a variety of projects with just the basic knitting stitches! You might come away with something to keep you warm in the cooler weather.
Location: Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero

Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Basic Instrumental Music Training
Contact: Library Staff (510) 597-5023
jturbak@oaklandlibrary.org

Beginners class, for age 7 and up, meets 10 to 11 am.
Jazz combo (intermediate/advanced) class, for ages 12 and up, meets 11 to 1 pm. Classes are free and meet every Saturday.
Location: Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave.

Saturday, Feb. 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Kids Chess at Chavez Branch
Contact: Derrick (510) 535-5620

All ages welcome to drop in and play. Meets every Saturday.
Location: Cesar Chavez Branch, 3301 East 12th St., Ste. 271