



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 3, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Today we received the list of new students for next year, and our office phone has been ringing all morning with callers who didn't get in. It always brings new excitement to know that so many people want to come to our school. And it reminds me that you, our parents and guardians, are doing a wonderful job promoting our school because most of the applicants find out about us by word of mouth.

Speaking of "Word of Mouth," we need some. The governor has proposed budget cuts that will affect our school and the quality of education your child receives. As with so many things related to state budget, various departments and programs are mounting their efforts to avoid being slashed, or to reduce the amount by which they will be cut. One of our parents, Ann Nomura has created [www.SaveCaliforniaSchools.blogspot.com/](http://www.SaveCaliforniaSchools.blogspot.com/). This is a blog that is dedicated to saving our schools from the proposed budget cuts. Please take a few minutes to go to the blog and follow the links to contact your lawmakers and express your opinions about the cuts. A couple of relevant facts: Our art and music programs have been funded by PTA or grants for over 15 years; California's funding of schools is 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation. ***We need your voices!***

Last fall we had nearly 100% participation in conference week, which is a good sign of a culture of continual communication with our parents. During those conferences teachers described an **Individual Learning Plan** for each student. You will be getting those plans back with updates from the teachers. If everything is going well, you'll probably get the plan with the report card on Friday. If there are still items to be discussed your child's teacher will request a conference next week. You may already have received a conference reservation form. We anticipate that teachers will not have a conference for every child, but rather for those situations calling for a closer watch, follow-up, or change in plans. Of course, if you want a conference with your child's teacher, feel free to request one, even if your child's teacher does not.

Now is also a good time to review your **homework procedure** in your home. In general, homework should be something that happens every night, and should be a **review of concepts already taught in class**. It's important to have homework be part of the child's routine. **Nightly reading** should also be included. Having homework and reading as part of the routine for your children will increase their self-esteem, boost their confidence and feelings of competence. Homework should be **mostly independent work** (with the exception of Kindergarten) and so doing it as a routine increases your child's sense of independence and develops their ability to plan time, solve problems, track assignments, and self-assess. Doing homework develops a positive work ethic and a sense of pride!

***Mel Stenger, Principal***

# Getting In The Know

## Let's Hit a Bull's Eye!

Holiday's are over, auction is past, tax time is near (think DEDUCTION) and spring is in sight! Do your part to help us hit Kaiser's pledge fundraising goal of \$15,000 as our annual pledge drive kicks into high gear! Please read over the pledge request letter attached to the back of this week's Pink and consider who could be a more worthy recipient of your pledge than the Children of the Kaiser School community. Keep an eye out for the giant dartboard that will be hanging in front of the school to help us track our progress and let's put a dart DEAD CENTER!!!



## Conference Week Approacheth!

Conference week is coming up the week of March 10. Our priority for conferencing will be children who have intervention plans happening.

Being on time is not only important for your child's education, it is also required. State law requires certain numbers minutes for credit for attendance. If your child is chronically tardy he/she may need to make up for instructional minutes during recess.

## 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
March 7	Report card period ends
March 14	Baseball orders due to Robin
March 10-14	Parent-Teacher conferences – 1:25 early release daily
March 18	SSC meeting
March 26	PTA board meeting
March 24-28	Spring Break – No Classes
March 31	Caesar Chavez Day – No Classes

**The Pink Panther is also available at [www.KaiserElementary.org](http://www.KaiserElementary.org).**

If you have a sibling who was not selected to attend Kaiser through the Options Program, please let us know ASAP, as we are now confirming students for next year.

## 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

### 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!!!!

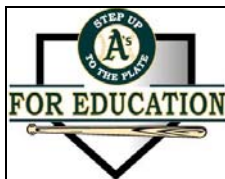
#### Simply...

- Look for the order forms (plaza level \$22 / field level \$28) online at [www.kaiserelementary.org](http://www.kaiserelementary.org)
- 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 14**.
- 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!



**Deadline  
Extended!**  
*Pick up an  
order form  
TODAY.*

**How Arts Activist Parents Can Affect Public Policy**  
**PANEL DISCUSSION MARCH 8, 10:30-12:00**  
**Malcolm X Elementary School, 1731 Prince Street, Berkeley**  
**Extra parking on school playground. 2 blocks from Ashby BART.**

How can parents and community members influence policy to make a better future for all our children? The state budget crisis, NCLB, funding shifts, and other big issues sometimes seem beyond our control, but in a democracy every citizen has the right to speak up and help shape our society. Find out how to make your voice heard in the public policy conversations going on now in City Hall, Sacramento, and Washington DC.

In this workshop you will hear from a panel of key staff members of your current elected officials. You'll learn about the best ways to make contact, how to follow up, when to visit and when to invite. You'll receive information that will make a practical difference in your future relationship with people who make policy in your neighborhood and world.

**Partial list of panelists:**

- ~ **Julia Fong Ma, District Representative for State Senator Don Perata**
  - ~ **Representative TBA for the office of State Assemblymember Sandre Swanson**
  - ~ **Jessica Buendia for State Assemblymember Loni Hancock**
  - ~ **Karen Hemphill, Berkeley School Board Member & Assistant to City Manager of Emeryville**
  - ~ **Sue Piper, Community Liaison for Jean Quan, City Council Representative & President Pro Tem, Oakland**
  - ~ **Julie Sinai, Chief of Staff to Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates**
- (More panelists pending confirmation.)**

This panel discussion is offered as one of the workshops in our exciting "Dreams Create Hope" Arts Learning Anchor Schools Conference March 7-8. To sign up for the 2-day conference, visit [www.artiseducation.org](http://www.artiseducation.org).

To attend the panel discussion only, without signing up for the conference, RSVP to [artsactiveparent@yahoo.com](mailto:artsactiveparent@yahoo.com) or call Kathy at 510-418-8523.



Alameda County Office of Education's Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership





Henry J. Kaiser, Jr.  
Elementary School  
PTA

January 10, 2008

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As we head into the final months of the school year, I want to thank everyone for their generous PTA contributions both financially and through the gift of time as volunteers. Many of you have "given a day", working in the classroom, driving on a field trip or volunteering at a PTA sponsored event. It is this kind of community involvement that makes Kaiser a wonderful place for our children to learn and grow.

The PTA went into the year with an approved budget of \$113,000 which works out to approximately \$460 per student. The bulk of that money goes towards the following:

- Library Instruction
- Music Instruction and Equipment
- P.E. Instruction
- Staff Aide
- School Assemblies
- Class funds (for field trips/extra supplies, etc.)
- Computer Lab equipment/software

We count on money from five main sources to meet our budgeted goal: Pledge Drive, Fall Auction, Sally Foster Gift wrap sale, Walk-a-Thon, and Grants. So far we have met our goals for Sally Foster and the Auction but **are falling far short in our pledge drive goal of \$15,000.** To date our pledge total is less than \$9000. We care close, but not there yet! **It is necessary that we meet our goal in order to maintain the programs that we have budgeted for this school year.**

**With the proposed budget cuts to schools of 10% it is even more important we meet or exceed our pledge drive goal.**

We thank those of you who have already contributed to the pledge drive. If you have not yet pledged, would you please consider doing so now? All donations are tax deductible and you are welcome to pay in installments. Just **\$60 per student** will get us to our goal! Paid in installments, it's only **\$15 each month over the last four months of school.**

Please help us reach our goal of \$15,000 by making a pledge contribution today. Checks can be made payable to Kaiser PTA and left in the office.

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Oakland, CA 94618

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Thank you so much for your support,

Cindy Hobbs and Lisa Cartolano, PTA Fundraising