



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Welcome back after Spring Break! When I went around the classes to see all the children I was surprised at how much they've grown. It seems when we aren't looking they sprout up, without any effort from anyone. But we know the truth. We know that their physical growth and health is due to our careful watching, making sure their diet is ok, putting them to bed, taking them for regular physical checkups and vaccinations. We even make sure they turn off their TV and electronics and get outside for physical activities or sports. Our children's robust physical health is no accident; it is the result of constant care and watchful monitoring on the part of you, their parents.

The same is true for your children's academic "health." We all work together to guide your children in their academic growth. The teachers "feed" them nutritious curriculum, you parents guide their homework, and the students work to "digest" the information and concepts. Parents and teachers consult for the continued growth and progress with report cards, progress reports, phone calls and conferences. And children's robust academic health is no accident; it is the result of carefully planned routines, collaborative efforts, and time. Let's remember that academic growth, like physical growth, happens over time.

Just like a regular medical checkup helps us track growth and prevent problems, we are getting ready for our annual academic checkup (testing) at the end of April and beginning of May. Over the next few weeks we are making sure the kids are ready. Teachers will review the learning standards and testing release questions to make sure they've provided appropriate learning experiences and doing some last chance review. We are counting on parents to continue their support around homework, projects, and other academic needs for your child. And of course the children will do their best. Later I will write more on testing and what it means for your child and our school.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Darlene Smith and Janice Murphy for putting together Kaiser Alive!, a new program for our kids to get them off the sofa and pursuing an active life. The kick-off assembly will be Wednesday afternoon. Please ask your child about it this week. I appreciate the way our PTA is taking a leadership role in providing direction to giving our students a more rounded education, so the kids will end up "less rounded."

Happy Spring!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

MATH AND SCIENCE NIGHT

We will be having Math and Science Night on Wednesday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m., hosted by our very own Eric Ross and Margaret Yang. **Pizza and refreshments will be served.** While you enjoy your dinner, you will be entertained by our Kaiser Odyssey of the Mind team with the 8-minute routine that they performed at the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition. Also, we will be distributing the ballots for voting on the candidates for next year's PTA board. Of course, the main focus of the evening will be enjoying math and science games with your children.

If you plan to attend, please be sure to RSVP to Robin in the office so that we know how much pizza to order.

If you had a conference during the last session and would like to give feedback about the process, please email the principal at mel.stenger@ousd.k12.ca.us Names will remain confidential. Mr. Stenger will share the feedback with the faculty.

HAVE A STORY? GET IT IN THE PINK!
Parents, teachers, classroom volunteers and students: Great things are going on at Kaiser every day! Why not let the community know about them? Send your story to the PINK PANTHER!

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
April 2	Math & Science Night 6:30 pm
April 15	SSC meeting
April 30	PTA board meeting
April 28- May 9	Standardized testing
May 3	Walkathon & Book Fair
May 7	PTA general meeting

Teacher Requests: Because it is unclear what the grade configuration will be and who will be teaching which classes, please do not submit specific teacher requests. If you would like, you can give us a note describing classroom practices which have been successful with your child. That information can be used to help us configure classes as well as help the new teacher better serve your child.

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
 VP Communication: Lisa Downes

Pink Panther Staff

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

Getting In The Know

Let's get busy, Kaiser School!

We all know the importance of being active. It stimulates your mind, keeps you fit, and helps prevent diseases. But how about enjoying activities simply because they are FUN? There are so many awesome things to do, both outside and inside, that will keep your brain fresh and creative.

We have created for the students at Kaiser a passport to good health that will give them opportunities to be active and participate in a program in which they will be rewarded. Starting April 2, 2008, your child may use this booklet of suggestions for ways to stay fit, in mind and body. They can choose from activities that encourage them to play on their own, or they may select a page that will get them out in the community or enjoying fun things with the family.

The passport booklet takes into account every age group from K - 5th grade. That way everyone can participate and have a chance to win fabulous prizes. We have some great prizes to give out at the end of the ALIVE program, and we want EVERYONE to qualify for the prize drawing at the end of the year! In order to do that, we need you as a parent, coach, or teacher to witness and validate the child's passport on the line at the bottom of the appropriate page.

One passport is required for each student at Kaiser School. Participants' names will be entered in a drawing to win prizes based on these levels:

- 100-149 points
- 150-199 points
- 200-249 points
- 250-299 points
- 300+ points

Each child will be eligible for the drawing only if s/he has earned the minimum 100 points. However, all students will earn a participation medal at our program-end celebration. Also, the student in each grade who earns the most points will win a beautiful trophy!

Teachers will collect the passports on Monday, May 19. Please encourage your child to fill as many pages as he/she can. The more they do, the better the prizes are at our end of program celebration on Friday, May 30! We are hoping that our children will experience something new and test their limits.

Be ALIVE!

Actively Learn Initiate Volunteer Energize

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 \$9,000. 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.

Thank you so much for your support,

Cindy Hobbs and Lisa Cartolano, PTA Fundraising