



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 12, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Like a lot of people I think my mom is pretty special. Like a lot of people I sent her a card and called her for Mother's Day. She was happy to hear from me and she told me how each of her children had remembered her. When I'm having difficulty with parenting issues, I often call Mom and ask, "What do I do about...?" Often she'll have sage advice that boils down to "make sure they know you love them," even when my kids are acting out!

I've attached 2 articles about bullies and victims from Michele Santos (no relation to our Mira), a psychologist. They some insights and give a few good strategies. I think one of the hardest things about the issue is that we need to re-frame the situation so that we let go of the notion of "us and them." It's not so easy to see, and some may disagree, but many professionals in psychology, spirituality, and education see bullies and victims as 2 sides of the same coin. In her article Santos says that bullies are very often victims themselves. In our lessons about bullying in our classrooms, we teach that there are bullying **relationships** involving bullies, victims and bystanders—and that everyone is getting something out of the relationship.

"I worry that seeing the world in this way, as a binary world of good and evil, is itself the problem; I wonder if there might be a radically different kind of leadership that would reframe it.... I am increasingly worried that we are making grievous mistakes, both here and abroad: meeting violence with violence, feeding the fires of hatred, acting in isolation with arrogance and hubris, hardening ourselves to the suffering and pain our actions are causing. I believe there are other, different ways to lead." Diana Chapman Walsh, president of Wellesley College.

Bullies are turning their pain and anger on others they see as weaker than they are, so it becomes a power dynamic. Many of us buy into the idea that the bully is the only problem. I think we need to look deeper into why each person involved in such a set up. In the past week I've counseled kids who were arguing in the classroom, teasing others about sex, and fighting on the playground. In all those situations I sensed that the one who caused it was in some way looking for power because they felt weak. In addition to letting the bully know that their behavior, we must find ways to help them feel confident and competent so they won't need to resort to bullying to satisfy that hunger.

Some may say that I'm taking it to the extreme, that I'm really stretching to make a connection to broader world issues, that it's a bit much to connect schoolyard bullying with international politics, but I believe that there is a direct connection. If we believe, as I do, that the purpose of education is to re-weave civilization, and then it is we who are guiding the development of the future leaders of our communities, maybe even our nation, and instilling them with the values by which they will be leading us.

So what do we do? In her articles Michele Santos says the profiles of both the bully and victim come across as people who need more love and support. Beyond the practical strategies that she offers, it is clear that we need to make real in our everyday actions our beliefs that each individual is a valued and precious human being. We do this by recognizing them, being present, listening, and reacting with kindness and respect. Just like my mother would!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

ATTENTION FIFTH GRADERS

ALL BREWER DAY

Saturday May 17, from 11 a.m. -2 p.m.

Edna Brewer PTSA, students and staff are planning a day to celebrate all the positive changes implemented at Brewer this year! It's a day to have fun with our community. Activities will include sports events, carnival games, arts and crafts, music, dancing and entertainment, community booths, cake walk and our very own Brewer Barbeque Bonanza and smoothies! There will be an only-at-Brewer-Day raffle—win CASH or prizes! Don't miss your opportunity to drench some of your favorite teachers at the water toss! Come and support your future middle school and get acquainted with the fun you'll have next year and see what Panther Pride is all about! Hope to see you there!

GO PANTHERS!

— Trish Dolan (Vanessa Wittmer, 4th grade & Salina Wittmer, EBMS 7th grade)

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

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
May 14-16	Science fair
May 16	ALIVE donations due
May 19	ALIVE passports due
May 20	ORFF Spring Performance, 7 p.m.
May 23	No school
May 26	No school
May 27	Walkathon pledges due
May 29	Instrumental Music Concert, 7 p.m.
June 3	SSC meeting, 4 p.m.

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/

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

Summer Is Fast Approaching

Can you believe summer is almost here! Have you been wondering how you're going to get your child from program to program? Do you have a plan for summer care? Wonder no more. God's Chosen Generation Family Day Care has limited space for drop-off and pick-up services as well as summer care.

For more information, please contact Tracy Levy at 510-532-7585 or email leejoelevy@aol.com.

Leaving Kaiser?

Sometimes life situations pull kids away from our learning community. If your child will not be returning to Kaiser next year, please let us know ASAP because it impacts grade configuration for next year. Thanks.

4th and 5th Grade Music Concert

The 4th and 5th grade music concert will take place on Thursday, May 29th at 7 p.m. Please be sure that your student in their classroom by 6:30 p.m. Please dress them in dark bottoms and white top.

Mr. Ross' class will also be performing their play.

Bulletin board photos: There are new Walkathon pictures up. Please do not take them. They will be available at the end of the school year.

Jump Ropes: Please remind your children to never use jump ropes on any climbing structures.

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 that 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.

Let's Learn From the Past, Let's Plant the Future

Orff Spring Performance
K – 3 grades
Tuesday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

Please have your students in their classrooms by 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Yang's 3rd grade class and Pope Flyne's African Dancers will also be performing.

KAISER ALIVE

OFFICIAL PROGRAM PARTY

Friday, May 30th

@

Temescal Park

FOR YOUR CONVINIENCE
ORDER FOOD TO FEED THE FAMILY!!

TACO BAR

CHICKEN or FISH

TWO "GRANDE" TACOS

with all the fixin's

CHIPS & SALSA

WATERMELON AQUA FRESCA

fresh fruit drink

or **WATER**

FRUIT SKEWERS WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE

ONLY \$5.00 PER PERSON

Name: _____

of Dinners: ___ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please enclose exact amount

(Cash or Check made payable to K.J.W.)

turn order into ROBIN SASADA in the school office by May 23rd.