



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday weekend and celebrated Labor Day by doing very little. At my house we have a BBQ which means we do a lot of cleaning! Is that allowed on a holiday meant to refrain from labor? This newsletter is shorter because I didn't work on "school things" over the weekend...

**Back to School Night will be tomorrow, Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30.** Parking for that event, and all evening events, is on the upper field. This program is to inform parents of the curricular program teachers are presenting to your children. It is not a conference time. The evening will begin with Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grades presentations in their classrooms from **6:30-7:00**. Then we will move to the multipurpose room for some remarks by myself and our PTA. It is important that parent attend this portion to learn about our school-wide efforts this year, and vote to approve our budget. After that meeting, the upper grade teachers will do their presentations from about **7:45-8:15**. We look forward to seeing all of you then.

For some reason the test scores from last May took a long time to arrive. Parents received their children's scores in the mail only 2 weeks ago. As far as I know, we still don't have an official API (Academic Performance Index) or AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) yet. These are the 2 big indicators of our progress as a school. When they arrive, I will write about what they mean for us. I do not expect big changes in them however, because overall our school's scores changed very little. We went up about 5% in English/ Language Arts and down about 5% in Math, so that's not very different from recent years. We do very well overall, thanks to our wonderful staff of teachers and intervention personnel, and to terrific parent support!

As we get into the school year, I'm looking to "tighten up" monitoring student progress regularly. We have been able to work as a staff to refine the system of monitoring and intervention we provide for kids below level. We've been able to hire Brook Pessin part time to support the teachers in this way. (Mira Santos will also continue in her role as intervention support, but with a bit more leaning toward family support.) **We need your help.** Please take some time to review the letter you received about your child's test scores. (Current grades 3-5 only.) The letter should give you some general idea of your child's strengths and weaknesses to plan for support this year. Then watch your child's homework and classwork to monitor their performance. Let's work together to help all children have a successful year!

See you tomorrow evening!

*Mel Stenger, Principal*

# *Getting In The Know*

## Back to School Night

Park on the upper field.

6:30-7pm

Presentations in K-2 classrooms.

7-7:45pm

Important information from Principal Stenger and Kaiser PTA in multipurpose room.

7:45-8:15pm

Presentations in 3-5 classrooms.

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Sept. 3	Back to School Night 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	SSC Meeting
Sept. 12	Emergency Supplies Due
Sept. 12-26	Sally Foster Gift Wrap School Fund Raiser
Sept. 24	PTA Board Meeting
Oct. 10	Staff Development Day No School
Oct. 13-17	Conference Week Minimum Days All Week
Nov. 8	Kaiser School Auction

Sign-up for the OUSD E-Newsletter.  
Learn important district-wide information.

To sign-up, visit the OUSD website:

[www.ousd.k12.ca.us](http://www.ousd.k12.ca.us)

and select the "Join Now" box on the lower left side of the page.

### How to Reach Kaiser School

Our phone number is **(510) 549-4900**  
(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>**

**The Pink Panther is also available at  
[www.KaiserElementary.org](http://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](mailto:carriemail2001@yahoo.com) – Carrie Shepherd**  
**[jolie@earthlink.net](mailto:jolie@earthlink.net) – Jolie McRae**

Please put "Pink Panther" in the subject of your email to ensure that it is not deleted accidentally!

### **Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors**

PTA President: Janice Murphy  
VP Communication:

### **Pink Panther Staff**

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

## *Getting In The Know*

### PARENT VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

I supervise a group of about 10-15 students in room 5 on Friday afternoons from 3:00 - 3:45 PM. These are the 2nd through 5th graders who are waiting for the second African Dance class, which starts at 3:45. I need a parent (preferably someone with some experience working with school-aged children) who can fill in for me when I'm unable to be there.

Please see me for further details about this volunteer position. I can be reached at (510)703-9679 or by email at [katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katyhunterd@sbcglobal.net) or you can just stop by room 5 or leave a note for me with Robin in the office.

Thanks a million!  
-Katy Hunter

### AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASSES - PACKETS HAVE BEEN SENT HOME WITH STUDENTS!

Information is also available on the Kaiser website. There is still time to sign up for most classes.

Offered this fall:

- KidzArt
- Animation
- African Dance
- Chess
- Drama
- LEGO Engineering
- Spanish
- Mandarin Chinese
- Private Piano Lessons
- Group Guitar Lessons
- Miracle Chorus w/ Oakland Youth

Welcome back, families, to another exciting year at Kaiser Elementary, or if your child is new to the school this year, welcome – I look forward to getting to know you and your children!

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is already hard at work to make this another successful year. Given the tightening of the Oakland Unified School District's budget, we are fortunate to have so many parents at our school willing to donate money and time to enrich the programs that Kaiser offers. Over the course of the year, we will be working to raise the funds for our \$140,000 budget that pays for computer, library, Orff music and art programs, as well as for school assemblies, field trips, grounds beautification, teacher and office aides, and so much more.

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to become a member of the PTA by filling out the brochure that went home with your child on the first day of school (or you can find one on the PTA table outside the school office). For just \$10/person, your membership guarantees you a voice in how we spend the money we raise and keeps you apprised of what's happening at the school. You also receive discounts and benefits from the State and National PTA.

Also, please note within this edition of the Pink Panther, the school calendar for the year. You will see that we have a lot of exciting events planned – some that are just fun such as our many potlucks, family reading night and Kaiser ALIVE program—and some that are fun but are also fundraisers that are crucial to keeping and building upon the many great extracurricular activities offered at the school.

Lastly, equally as valuable to the students at Kaiser School, is the time that parents devote to volunteering – whether it's just one day driving on a fieldtrip or working in the garden, or time spent helping organize the walk-a-thon or a potluck – it has a great impact on the success of our school. Please take a moment to sign up for a volunteer activity either in your child's classroom or on the sign-up sheets posted on the boards in the front of the school hallway.

I look forward to working with the Kaiser families to help continue its success as a unique community of learners. Please feel free to contact me at [Janice-Murphy@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Janice-Murphy@SBCGlobal.net) or (510) 482-5453.

Sincerely,  
Janice Murphy  
Kaiser School PTA President