



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court, Oakland, California 94618 (510) 549-4900

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Last week I wrote about the “right sizing” of schools, which is a review program started by our interim superintendent, Dr. Roberta Mayor, to determine which *small schools are too expensive, and should be closed*. The support and response has been tremendous, as is typical from our community! More than a handful of parents have attended a community meeting for input, and have let the administration of the district know that we have no intention of having our school closed!

We are at the beginning of the process. Word came back to me that I told people our school is closing, and that I did it to get everyone “riled up.” To be clear: I don’t think our school will close, but I also think that there is a definite chance that it will. *The difference will be the parental response*. When the upper administration looks closely at our school, I believe they will decide to let us continue. A list of schools considered for closure will be drawn up on October 8; let’s avoid getting on the list! There are 2 more community meetings on Monday and Tuesday evening. Please attend the one most convenient for you!

Many of you asked for points to bring up when you attend the meetings. Here are a few ideas:

1. None of the criteria mentions whether a school operates within budget. We do, and have had a surplus for the past 3 years.
2. Our budget spends significantly less than 35% on administration and operations, as was outlined in the presentation from Dr. Mayor.
3. Our African American students achieved an API of 803, whereas the state average for African American students is 658.
4. Dr. Doby Winston, professor emeritus of UCLA, cited Kaiser Elementary as one of the 7 top schools in California for educating African American children. (Peralta Elementary is the only other Oakland school to receive this recognition.)
5. In addition to meeting our growth targets for the school, moving from 853 to 863, we met our AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for our only statistically significant subgroup, African Americans, moving from 791 to 803.
6. Over 70% of our parents volunteered at school at least once last year, and the same for the year before.
7. One of the preliminary questions is whether a small school can provide programs desired by the parents; we have a 96% satisfaction rate.

It is important that those who are organizing the community meetings see the diversity of the Kaiser community and encounter us at many places around the city. There remains among many in Oakland the perception that our school is mainly white and under populated. We need people of color in particular to participate to help our school district get a realistic picture of who we are at Kaiser. Thank you all for your continued support!

Mel Stenger, Principal

## Getting In The Know

We will have a Kaiser Beautification Day on October 5, 10:00-3:00. It's a good thing to come and help the school look more beautiful!

*Thank you all for blending in smoothly with our new morning routine. Our teachers' contract provides them with preparation time at the beginning of the day. In the past this time has often been lost due to lots of interruptions. At most schools in Oakland the kids are on the playground until they line up at their places at the bell. The kids have some time to socialize a bit and the teachers have time to get final details in place before starting the school day. It's working here, too, thanks to you!*

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 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
<b>Oct. 5</b>	Kaiser Garden Day 10-3
<b>Oct. 10</b>	Staff Development Day No School
<b>Oct. 13-17</b>	Conference Week Minimum Days All Week
<b>Oct. 15</b>	School Site Council
<b>Oct. 17</b>	Latino Heritage Potluck
<b>Oct. 29</b>	PTA Board Meeting
<b>Nov. 8</b>	Kaiser School Auction

### 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/kaiserelementarvschool>**

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

### Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Janice Murphy

### Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

# Kaiser Kiosk

## Pledge Drive

We thank those of you who have already contributed to the pledge drive. The PTA is asking each family to contribute **\$75 per child** that attends Kaiser. This sounds like a hefty sum, but divided by the amount of school days, this works out to 42 cents a day. We have many programs that are funded by the PTA that add value to the education and teaching of our children. Some examples include:

- 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

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. Also, we look forward to offering a PayPal payment option on our website very soon.

All donations are tax deductible and you are welcome to pay in installments.

Thank you so much for your support,  
Kristin Carpenter  
VP Fundraising

## DONATE A BOTTLE!?!

Please consider donating a bottle of wine (or more!) to the “Instant Wine Cellar” for this year’s auction. To give, simply pick up a bottle of wine (\$10 value or greater, please) and drop it off in the school office. FYI: The BevMo 5¢ sale is going on right now—buy one bottle, get the second for 5¢. Keep one for your home and donate the second to your school. No brainer—and just think what this would amount to if every family did it!

## HOW ABOUT DONATING A HOUSE!?!

Do you have a vacation home or time share? How about airline miles? If not you, does someone in your family or a good friend? If so, please consider donating them to this year's auction. Last year we were lucky enough to get a two-night stay in an apartment in New York City as well as a weekend at a house in Tahoe—both from within the Kaiser community.

Contact Alison May ASAP, at 530-6264 or [alisonemay@gmail.com](mailto:alisonemay@gmail.com) with your generous offer. Thank you!

# Kaiser Kiosk

We took down the list of volunteer sign-ups out front, but it's never too late to step forward to help! Here is a list of the PTA Volunteer offerings for 2008-2009:

- Math and Science Night
- Reading Night
- Asian Heritage Potluck
- African-American Potluck
- Latino Heritage Potluck
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation
- Library Help
- Computer Assistance
- Sally Foster
- Pledge Drive
- Membership Drive
- Orff Music Program
- Fall Auction
- Walk-A-Thon
- Garden Watering Volunteer
- Gardening
- New Classroom Gardening Program
- Child Care For PTA Meetings
- Grant Writing
- Emergency Preparedness
- Book Faire
- Kaiser Alive! Program
- Classroom Help
- Office Support
- Technical Support
- Escrip Coordinator
- Boxtops for Education
- Cartridge Recycling
- Communications (Pink Panther, Thank You Notes)

## Don't Delay! Join Today!

Have you had a chance to send in your PTA membership yet? The membership fee is only \$10 per person. The PTA supports many programs at Kaiser that help to make it such a great school. Thank you to those of you who have already joined. Also, thank you to the many people who donated money to the pledge drive. If you have any questions about membership, contact Joyce Wessling at 531-7161 or [cronwessling@earthlink.net](mailto:cronwessling@earthlink.net).

## Kaiser School T-shirts

- New deadline to order is Oct. 10.
- Sizing samples are in the office.
- Please order correctly because there are no refunds or exchanges!
- Turn in the order form to your child's teacher not the PTA mail slot.