



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 20, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Conference week has ended. I hope you had a satisfying meeting with your child's teacher. We decided this year to again use an Individual Learning Plan form that I hope your teacher completed with you during the conference. The purpose of the form was to help the meeting focus on your child's academic progress in English/language arts and math. Teachers were also supposed to "give homework to the parents" in terms of telling parents specific things to do to support their child's progress. Let me know what you think about our conference process as we are always open to improving our service to you. You can email me, drop me a note, or stop me at school.

This past Friday evening we had our annual Latino Heritage Potluck. A very special thanks goes out to Isa Estrada, Molly Talamantes, and all the other parents who helped make the evening special. On Friday afternoon, about 20 minutes before dismissal, I went around to all the rooms to remind the kids about the special evening. There were 2 pleasant surprises: In every class every child was engaged in the task at hand (that's not always the case on Friday afternoons at many schools). Secondly, when I asked about who was welcome to come to the Latino Heritage Potluck I was met with a resounding, "Everybody!" That's so wonderful because it indicates that the kids are internalizing the value of inclusivity—everyone belongs!

A little bit of medical information: Last week I incorrectly said that we could dispense medicine with a doctor's note. What I should have said is that **we can only dispense prescription medicine, and only as prescribed by the doctor**. In addition the medicine must be in its original container. We cannot give other medicine, even over-the-counter drugs. I know this may be inconvenient at times, but the policy is really in the best interest of the children. This week we've attached a copy of the policy to avoid confusion, and an application for medical insurance with varying prices depending on income. We hope that someday all kids will be covered for their medical needs.

This past Monday I went to a funeral for one of my former students who took her life after suffering from mental illness for some years. In the eulogy her mother spoke about the woefully inadequate mental health system in our country. It reminded me that I may have not been informative enough about what we can offer in this area. First, if you have any concerns of this nature, please talk to your child's teacher or me. We have been able to secure a counselor trainee from JFK University one day per week, on Thursdays. Also, our Family Liaison, Mira Santos, may be able to find supportive services to help with mental health needs. Please don't hesitate to ask. We're here to help.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

A Note on Playground Use...

Many of our families send their children to Adventure Time here at Kaiser. Recently I was reminded that AT actually leases our upper field as well as the multi-purpose room both before and after school. The challenge is that some families like to bring their kids to the upper field after school for a few minutes of running around time. I have spoken with AT and they have agreed that it is fine to have other Kaiser kids on the playground before and after school for about 20-25 minutes. It is okay to stay as late as 3:20 or 3:25 to watch your kids play. A gentle reminder: please go to the field with the kids for their supervision.

NOT CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN?

Kaiser will have alternative activities for children not participating in the Halloween parade on Friday, October 31st. We'll show an appropriate (entertaining and educational) movie and eat some nutritious snacks. To have your child(ren) join us, send an email to MalMay@comcast.net and/or remind your child(ren) to listen for the announcement after lunch that day. Thanks!

KAISER CALENDAR	
DATE / DAY	EVENT
Oct. 21	Picture Day
Oct. 29	PTA Board Meeting
Oct. 31	Halloween Parade or Alternative activities
Nov. 5	PTA General Meeting
Nov. 8	Kaiser School Auction
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day NO SCHOOL
Nov. 14	Kaiser Movie Night

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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool)**

**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!

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Janice Murphy

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

Don't Delay! Join Today!

Please join the PTA. The membership fee is only \$10 per person. The PTA supports many wonderful programs. Our goal is to get 100% membership and, as an added incentive, the class that gets to 100% first (or the class with the highest percentage) will win a pizza party. Here's how the classes are doing as of October 17.

% of families who have joined the PTA

Apaydin - 48%	Araki - 70%
Bailey - 78%	Banks - 68%
Gorham - 65%	Haruyama - 55%
Hunter - 63%	McGhee - 68%
Neat - 43%	Ross - 59%
Yang - 56%	

Mrs. Bailey is in the lead with 70%; however, every class still has a chance to win, so turn your membership in today! **The deadline is November 15.** A big thanks to those who have already joined.

--Joyce Wessling, VP Membership

PTA Movie Night Is Coming to Our School!

Join us for an evening of family fun! Mark your calendar for **Friday, November 14**, when we will be showing the blockbuster hit movie, *Kung Fu Panda*. You also will have the opportunity to participate in giveaways, including *Kung Fu Panda* Activity CDs and the *Kung Fu Panda* DVD. Proceeds support Kaiser School's PTA. More information on this evening of fun will be coming soon.

HELP THE KAISER AUCTION! DONATE TO THE INSTANT WINE CELLAR

BevMo's Annual 5-Cent Sale is over, but we still need your donations for the auction. Please donate one or more bottles of wine for Kaiser's Annual Fall Fundraiser "Instant Wine Cellar" auction item. The more wine you donate, the bigger the cellar! Please donate wines priced above \$10 and place the donations in the wine case in the nurse's station in the school office.

Any questions? Please email Liz Hall at probossliz@pacbell.net or call 510-325-7803

Come on people! Give till it hurts!
Thanks.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF and Halloween at Kaiser

This year, we will send home UNICEF boxes for 'Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF' with every child this Friday, October 24 (just in case students have Halloween parties or other opportunities to collect donations this weekend.) This is a purely optional activity, but we like to encourage students to participate in things that make the world a better place for others, and this is such an opportunity. The boxes are due back to school on Monday, November 3. Ms Gorham and I will tally up the school total and send the money to UNICEF.

This year, Halloween is on Friday, October 31. The Halloween parade will be after lunch Friday. Parents are welcome to attend, and if you can come during the lunch/lunch recess (12:05-12:45) to help kids change, that is always needed. We will gather on the upper field as quickly as possible, and have grade levels parade, starting with the youngest. After that, classes may have parties, so check with your teacher on that. If you want to take your children home early, that is your choice. For those that don't celebrate Halloween, we will provide an alternate activity.

Kaiser Kiosk

Dear Kaiser Families,

Our Annual Auction is Nov 8th. Tickets are on sale now! All proceeds benefit our school and our kids. There are many wonderful items to bid on such as restaurants, kids' activities and camps, massage treatments, theatre tickets, and weekend getaways just to name a few.

For your convenience, Mr. Stenger and other volunteers will be standing out in the circle in the morning collecting order forms for the next week. Order forms are also available in the office and on the schools web page www.kaiserelementry.org.

Don't miss our schools biggest fundraising event. Come and enjoy good eats, cold beer and wine bar. This is a great time for adults to get together and party!

See you there!!

*Dora (Andres 1st) and Linda (Javier 2nd)
Auction Co-chairs*

"A Community Harvest" Kaiser's 34th Annual Auction Fundraiser

November 8 at 6:00 P.M.
Jack London Aquatic Center

Don't forget to order your tickets now!

Some of the great items you'll be able to bid on are:

Gift certificates to hundreds of Bay Area restaurants and stores
Pamper packs like manicure-pedicures, facials & spa treatments

Wine, tastings, and beer

Luxury baskets

Gym memberships

Dinners and parties (Katie McLane is offering up her final
Famous Fiesta!)

A Ski Getaway!

A Wine Country Getaway!

even A Hometown Oakland Getaway!