



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 27, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

One of the things teachers struggle with is how to design the right learning experiences for children. They need to consider the grade level standards which tell them what they should be teaching and what the students should be learning. They also need to consider the individual learning needs of their students. Then they need to think about the number of kids at various levels of competence, the time they have to teach and assess, the materials needed, how to get the children interested and engaged, and how the lesson relates to the other concept they're teaching around the same time. It gets pretty complicated.

When we look at a learning task we want to get it into the *zone of proximal learning*. That's teacher talk for making a lesson just right. Remember Goldilocks? She wouldn't stick with anything unless it was *just right*. Well, kids aren't very different. Even if they aren't picky, kids do better with lessons that are tuned to their level of learning. What we mean is that if a task is too easy, the child will not pay much attention to it and won't learn much from it. If it's too hard, the child will get frustrated and give up before learning anything. The task has to be just right and the child will engage and struggle and learn and succeed. (Some studies show that about an 80% success rate keeps most people engaged, but that is just a rule of thumb.)

This idea goes along with the types of encouragement we give our children. I wrote about that a few weeks ago, that specific feedback about specific efforts will get kids to try harder.

There's another factor: parental expectations. Expectations that are too high set parents up for disappointment, and set kids up for discouragement and failure. Kids think: "I'm inadequate; something's wrong with me." And expectations that are too low tell our children that we do not believe in them; they learn to not believe in themselves. Girls use to be told: "You can't play baseball; you're just a girl." Then they give up on sports. Expectations that are "just right", appropriate to their age and ability, show kids that their parents believe in them. Positive, appropriate expectations help kids do their best.

Feeling guilty and inadequate yet? Don't worry, please. This information is to help you, not judge you. We're all in this together. Give it a try. You might surprise yourself!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Halloween Celebrations

On Friday, there will be a Halloween Costume Parade at approximately 1pm on the Upper Field. Parents are invited to come and watch. Children can bring costumes to school and change during the lunch period. Please do not let your child(ren) come to school in costume. Some classes may have parties following the parade – ask your child’s teacher for more information about what they are doing.

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!

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
Oct. 29	PTA Board Meeting
Oct. 31	Halloween Parade or Alternative activities
Oct. 31	Deadline for purchasing Auction Tickets
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>

The Pink Panther is also available at 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

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 24.

% of families who have joined the PTA

Apaydin - 56%	Araki - 75%
Bailey - 83%	Banks - 72%
Gorham - 67%	Haruyama - 60%
Hunter - 67%	McGhee - 76%
Neat - 43%	Ross - 59%
Yang - 56%	

Ms. Bailey is in the lead with 83%; 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

There's still time to donate a bottle (or more) of wine for "The Instant Wine Cellar". Donations will be accepted until 3:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 7th.

BevMo is having another "5 CENT SALE!" Starting this Friday, Oct. 31st. Get 1 bottle and the 2nd one is only a nickel! So go down to your local BevMo, (there's a new one opening in Emeryville Oct. 31st,) and get one bottle for yourself and one for the school!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated already! There's an empty wine box in the nurse's station to place your donation. (I'll even come by your house and get it from your porch if you don't want to leave it at school. Send me an email or call.) Come on people give till it hurts!

Thanks! Any questions call or email
Liz Hall
probossliz@pacbell.net / cell (510) 325-7803

Come to the Auction!
It's only \$25 and that's a lot cheaper than a phone bill, or a cable bill, or dinner out, or shoes, or....

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.kaiserelementary.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!



AUCTION TICKET SALES HAVE BEEN EXTENDED!!

Purchase by October 31, 2008

Don't miss out on the opportunity to support our school programs and to enjoy a great party. We have a large and wonderful selection of items for our silent and live auctions –restaurants, kids' items, kids' camps, health and fitness activities, jewelry, cooking classes, dinners, parties (Ladies Bunko Night, and Paisano and Liotta), weekend getaways and much, much more. We'll also have the priceless class and teacher/staff offerings such as:

Classroom quilts, ceramics, pillows and other items designed and made by your children

A day at the zoo with Ms. Haruyama

Tea and cake decorating with Ms. Bailey

An ice cream date at the park with Micah and Ms. Pessin

Soccer with Mr. Neat

Landscaping consulting services by Ms. Apaydin

A day of hooky with Mr. Stenger

Order forms are available on the school website www.KaiserElementary.org, in the office and the parent information table outside of the office. At the parent information table you will also find a preview catalog of auction items.

For your convenience, there will be registration drop off at the circle during drop off next week.

Please remember to make your own childcare arrangements for the evening. **Childcare will not be provided.**

If you have any questions contact Dora (813-7096 or doritapt@sbcglobal.net) or Linda (507-9380 or lindape923@att.net).

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW! TICKETS AT THE DOOR WILL BE \$30.