



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

Here we are, the week after Thanksgiving. It's December already! Stores are decorated and waiting for customers. The turkey is gone, well, mostly. The time at the year's end is an opportunity for some reflection on gratitude, thinking about our accomplishments and taking joy in what makes Kaiser a wonderful learning community. If you do holiday cards, you might encourage your child to write an appreciation note, which is like a thank you note except that it's not for a specific thing. It's simply a note telling someone how much you appreciate them for what they do and how much they are part of your life. Imagine the delight and surprise upon receiving one of those!

I appreciate you, our parents and guardians, who prepare your children so well and support the teachers in their efforts. I appreciate our support staff who are the wonderful "worker bees" who keep the processes of our school flowing: Miss Pearl, Mira Santos, Susanne Plunkett, Oscar Campos, Brook Pessin, and Robin Sasada. I also want to express appreciation for all our school volunteers who help directly support the school program. Accolades, acknowledgments, and indebtedness go to the faculty here at Kaiser School, who are the heart and soul of our school. Without all of these people working together we could not have the program we provide our children.

Finally, I am thankful for our students, your children, who come to school every day with hopeful faces and open minds. They work and play and give their all to grow and try to do their best. They pay attention and do their work and *model for us* cooperation, trust, and sharing. They bring us their best work time after time, hoping for approval and praise. They courageously face their mistakes and work on self-improvement. We adults would do well to take their example in many ways. What gifts they are!

On Friday this week you will receive your child's report card. If the report card is not all you expect it to be please remember that it does not define your child, but rather gives you a framework within which to view your child's performance. If there are grades showing wonderful performance, be sure to praise your child; conversely, if there are unpleasant marks please help your child discuss how they can improve. I have encouraged our teachers to keep you informed of your child's progress. Let's remember that report card is a reporting tool, it is the main way we report to you the progress of your child. I believe that most of our children are doing their very best. The bottom line is we need to react in a way that will help our child learn the most.

Three more weeks!

Mel Stenger, Principal

# Getting In The Know

## Orff Music Concert

On Tuesday evening, December 16, the K-3 Orff music classes will present their winter program "**Our Pitter Patter, Splitter Splatter, Splish Splash, Drip Drop Rainy Evening: A Musical Downpour in 3 Acts.**"

Our teacher Mr. Walz needs umbrellas and wind chimes (metal, bamboo, etc.) for the performance. If you have any of these to loan, please label them and bring them to the school office.

## Middle School Information Night

12/15/08, from 7-9 p.m.  
in Chabot Elementary's Auditorium

Hear information about these schools:

- Bret Harte Middle School
- Claremont Middle School
- Edna Brewer Middle School
- Montera Middle School

## 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>**

## 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
Dec. 3	Kindergarten Info Night at Kaiser, 6 p.m.
Dec. 15	Middle School Info Night at Chabot Elementary, 7-9 p.m.
Dec. 16	Orff Music Concert
Dec. 18	Instrumental Music Concert
Dec. 19	Last Day before Break
Dec. 22 – Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 5	Classes Resume

## Know Any Future Kaiser Students?

There will be an information meeting for kindergarten on Wednesday, December 3, at 6 p.m. Please tell interested friends and family.

**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

## **Claremont Middle School Information Night**

12/13/08, from 6:30-8 pm  
in the Claremont Band Hall  
5750 College Ave.

Hear detailed information about Claremont  
Middle School.

## **OUSD Options Fair**

December 10 - January 15 is the options  
window for the 2009-2010 school year.

An Options Fair for elementary schools  
will be held on December 4 from 5:00  
PM - 7:00 PM at the Oakland Marriott  
(1001 Broadway Oakland, CA 94607).

In addition to the fair, schools at the  
elementary, middle and high school  
levels will be conducting site tours and  
hosting open houses for the community.  
More details will be available soon. Look  
for additional detail on the Parents'  
portal of the OUSD website  
<http://webportal.ousd.k12.ca.us>

## **Kaiser Elementary 2009-2010 Open Houses and Kindergarten Informational Visits**

Kaiser Elementary is hosting its annual Prospective Parents Open Houses on  
Wednesday, December 3, 2008 and Wednesday, January 7, 2009, from 6-7:30  
p.m. Parents interested in looking at the school for their entering grade school  
children are welcome. Kaiser serves a K-5 population.

Kindergarten Informational Visits started on November 4. Continuing visits will  
be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with the earliest visits beginning at 9 a.m.  
and the latest visits at 11:30 a.m. To schedule a classroom visit, RSVP to Robin  
Sasada, administrative assistant, at 510.549.4900 or  
[robin.sasada@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:robin.sasada@ousd.k12.ca.us).

# Kaiser Kiosk

## **PARENTS** **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We have created three new PTA positions that we need to fill as soon as possible:

**Assistant to the Financial Secretary:** Our current Financial Secretary, Cheryl Ting, is greatly in need of someone who can help her organize, categorize and deposit our PTA checks. With two people doing the job together, your time commitment should not be too great, but you would greatly help streamline our operations.

**Community Liaison:** We need someone who can be the go-between for Kaiser School and the neighborhood and the Oakland community in general. This person would be responsible for attending, when possible, bi-monthly school board town hall meetings, as well as OUSD meetings that involve topics pertinent to the Kaiser school community. He or she also would communicate with the neighborhood about any issues of concern as they relate to, for example, parking on the street, school activities, noise, etc. This person would report to the PTA board any issues of which we need to be aware.

**Wellness Coordinator:** There is a growing demand from the OUSD that schools maintain certain nutritional standards, and this includes any food sold at PTA functions. Our coordinator would work with the PTA to help improve the quality of food served as well as make suggestions on how we can help our students live healthier lifestyles. The coordinator also would attend bi-monthly OUSD wellness meetings and report back to the PTA.

If you are able to take on any of these positions, or just want to receive more information on what the jobs entail, please contact PTA president, Janice Murphy, at (510) 482-5453, or e-mail her at [Janice-Murphy@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Janice-Murphy@SBCGlobal.net). We need your involvement to keep Kaiser School and its PTA going strong!