



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 8, 2008

Dear Kaiser Families,

We're lucky to have a faculty who works with you to teach our children much more than reading and math. We teach children how to be human beings, which includes teaching them our core values. **We explicitly teach values because kids don't become nice and respectful by us merely hoping they will.** For example, teachers invite kids to talk about what courage means to clarify the concept and deepen the students' understanding. They rehearse the required behavior; during Second Step lessons teachers discuss situations that are opportunities for kids to exhibit courage. Next, the teachers guide the kids to practice the values behavior; again in Second Step lessons the kids sometimes perform very short skits to rehearse behavior that reflects courage. Finally, they reinforce the values behavior; the teacher reminds students by pointing out courage when they see kids showing it and making sure the kids see it again. As an extension, some teachers will have students write about the value, either in an essay, narrative, or story.

In December we face a difficult time for parents in terms of values. Whether we celebrate Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah, or another holiday, December is a time for gift-giving. Although our children's natural tendency is to be very concerned about what kind of gift they're going to receive, let's take this opportunity to help our children understand the importance of *giving* a gift. Sometimes they nag or negotiate or even threaten in order to get what they want. I'm sure you've all seen and heard it if you haven't experienced it in your own family. The ideas that "gifts are for giving" or "it's better to give than receive" are totally lost on them when our kids get like this.

Let's take this opportunity to explicitly teach our children our value of generosity and giving. Model the behavior and tell your kids why you are giving gifts, so your child sees you practicing this value. Teach your child how to give a gift by together choosing a recipient and discussing what *they* would want (not what the child wants). Maybe include them in on the surprise aspect of the present. Help your child choose, buy (if they have their own money they can pay for all or part of the gift), wrap the gift, and write a card. While you do these steps, make sure you talk about the recipient, why the child wants to give the gift, imagine together how the person will enjoy the gift, and rehearse how to deliver the gift. After your child gives the gift, discuss how the act made them feel, how they were received, and who else they might want to give a gift to.

This is the season of giving, and we have the opportunity to give our children the gift of giving. With guidance and rehearsal children will find that gift-giving is indeed a joyful experience. They may find that it is indeed better to give than to receive!

Two more weeks!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Orff Props Needed

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. 11	African dance and guitar performance, 7 p.m.
Dec. 15	Middle School Info Night at Chabot Elementary, 7-9 p.m.
Dec. 16	Orff Music Concert, 6:30 p.m. (grades K-3)
Dec. 18	Instrumental Music Concert, 6:30 p.m. (grades 4-5)
Dec. 19	Last day before break
Dec. 22 – Jan. 2	Winter break
Jan. 5	Classes resume

Our Winter Musical performances will be on Tuesday, December 16, for grades K-3, and Thursday, December 18, for grades 4-5 Instrumental music. Both programs are open to everyone and both begin at 6:30. Parking will be available on the upper field.

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

Claremont Middle School Information Night

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

Hear detailed information about Claremont
Middle School.

Kaiser Elementary 2009-2010 Open House and Kindergarten Informational Visits

There will be an information meeting for prospective kindergarten parents on Wednesday, January 7, at 6:00 p.m. Please tell any friends, relatives, or neighbors with incoming kindergartners about this meeting. Word of mouth is our best advertisement!

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.

Winter Performances News

It's time again for our annual 4th & 5th
GRADE WINTER FESTIVAL –
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008!

Instrumental Music Students will start us off at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mr. Neat's 5th grade play. If there is a reason why your child cannot participate, please send a note to Mrs. McCarthy ahead of time. The performance will begin at 6:30 p.m., but all 4th and 5th grade students must arrive at 6 p.m. for tuning. Please have your child wear concert attire: white top and dark bottoms. Also, please encourage your child to practice. We want to sound terrific for our Festival! Thanks for your support and see you there.

African Dance and Guitar, Too!!

There will be an evening assembly at 7:00 on December 11. The children who have been studying guitar and African dance will perform. All are welcome!