



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 27, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

Here we are at the semester point of the school year. It's a natural time to check in about a few things:

How is your child or children doing academically? We do report cards on the trimester basis, so there won't be an extensive report coming home. I have asked teachers to send home the midyear test results for English/Language Arts and math. If you don't hear from them, feel free to ask. All the tests were completed last week. If you are a parent of a student in grade 3 to 5, it is appropriate to use those scores to set goals for the rest of the school year. It's not officially conference week, but don't hesitate to make a phone call to your child's teacher to check in.

How are you doing with regards to being involved here at school? The benefits of your school participation for our children are myriad. Children learn better and learn more in an emotionally nurturing environment, and when they know parents are working with teachers to promote their progress. And there are benefits for you as well. Getting to know our school from the inside helps relieve anxiety and soften reactions to occasional difficult situations that arise. Building friendships with other parents gives you the opportunity to share ideas and resources and at times to comfort each other. Being present in the school helps you to get to know teachers, school practices, and build relationships which benefit us all. If you haven't yet, please "Give Us a Day!"

I gave out Perfect Attendance Awards last week. How's the attendance for your family? It's hard to educate children if they're not here. Just as importantly, arriving late and/or leaving early is also hard on kids because it creates embarrassment and confusion. If you're a "late bird," work on that pattern please. Hurray for those who are always here, on time!

Is your emergency card up-to-date? New phone number? Please add it. In a major catastrophe if you cannot get to school, you may want to be able to have another Kaiser family pick up your kids. If so, they must be listed on the card. Just a thought.

Is there something you need from us that we're not providing? Is there some way we can improve our performance? Can we support you in a better way? Your feedback helps us think about our job. Feel free to email me your comments at mel.stenger@ousd.k12.ca.us

Monday was the official date for Chinese New Year. It's the Year of the Ox! Gung Hay Fat Choy! This Friday there will be a celebration and potluck sponsored by our PTA. This is another chance to come be a part of our network of families and friends. There is a place for you here. We come from all over Oakland and represent most of its neighborhoods and population groups. Let's work together to continue to build a wonderful school community.

Mel Stenger, principal

Getting In The Know

Dear Kaiser Parents:

Once again, we are facing drastic cuts to our state education budget that will affect us all -- and as many of you may be aware, Kaiser is already running very lean. There's no "fat" to trim and so more financial cuts are going to mean a loss of some important resources at our school. Therefore, it is important that we get momentum going to make sure that the Governor and others in Sacramento realize that there are A LOT US against the current proposed cuts. Right now there is talk of another PTA backed rally in Sacramento -- I will let you know when I find out more about that. In the meantime, schools around Oakland are organizing a letter-writing campaign using a letter very much like the one attached. According to Senator Loni Hancock and Assembly Member Sandre Swanson, we need to show our support in sheer numbers by sending letters. It doesn't matter so much that they're original, just that there are a lot of them. So, please take a moment to print out the attached letter, sign it, and mail it today to Loni Hancock at her office in Sacramento. Feel free to make any changes to it as you see fit. You also can send one to Sandre Swanson and Governor Arnold Schwarzeneger at the addresses listed below:

Assembly Member Sandre Swanson
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849, Room 6012
Sacramento, CA 94249-0016

Governor Arnold Scharzeneger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thank you for supporting Kaiser school and education in Oakland.

Janice Murphy
Kaiser School PTA President

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Jan. 28	PTA board meeting
Jan. 30	Asian Heritage potluck
Feb. 16	Presidents Day – No School
Feb. 27	African American potluck

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!

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_group/

**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

A few gentle reminders:

- When dropping children off please use the circle, and pull as far ahead as you can. Please do not drive into the school yard near the portable classrooms or use the faculty parking lot for a quick turnaround.
- Please do not leave your children unattended for long periods before or after school.
- Please refrain from using cell phones in the school building.
- Please remind students to take their things to the upper field before school to meet their class and teachers.

TAKE THE KIDS CHALLENGE

Kaiser Permanente is sponsoring the Kids Challenge program at East Bay Regional Parks. The 2009 Kids Challenge guidebook is filled with 15 self-paced activities for kids age 17 and under. All participants will receive a prize, and those complete the Kids Challenge of trying five activities will receive a colorful commemorative patch and Frisbee (one per child, while supplies last).

Some activities require parent participation and/or additional fees. Materials are free to Alameda and Contra Costa County residents and kids of Kaiser Permanente employees. Registration is required; to sign up, call 1-888-EBPARKS (327-2757), option 2, 3.

Beginning Ballroom/Hip Hop Dancing Classes



**When: Saturday 10-10:45 am K-2nd grade
11-11:45 am 3rd-5th grade**

**Where: Resurrection Lutheran Church
Euclid/Van Buren Street/Oakland**

Cost: \$10 per class per student

The instructor for this class is Makmud. Makmud is a professional international ballroom dancer who trained in Moscow and all over the world. His years of experience include professional dancing, instructor for children and competitions. His passion is to teach children in all areas of ballroom dance. Classes will start Saturday, February 7th for 12 weeks. Space is limited to 12 students. Please call or email Lori Admokom with questions or to enroll in the class (510-763-7027 or lusocha@sbcglobal.net)