



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

Part of what teachers do is constantly seek ways to help every child. Every week we hold an SST (Student Success Team) meeting. These meetings are for the classroom teacher to discuss ways to help a struggling student. (More information is on our school website under "The Pyramid of Intervention.") Often during the meetings parents want to know how they can help their child in particular areas. Here are some common topics:

Reading Comprehension: The underlying goal of reading is to construct meaning. To help improve your child's comprehension, **ask prediction questions**, such as a question about what a character may do next and why. **Model** out loud how you think about the text. Raise questions about **significant details** and guide your child in looking back into the text if they have forgotten. This **active reading** will enhance your child's comprehension skills.

Reading Fluency: You can help improve your child's reading fluency rate by doing a daily three-minute exercise. Time your child as they read from a favorite book for exactly one minute. Then, you read the same text for exactly one minute. Then have them read the same text a third time for one minute, and they'll go farther! This simple exercise will let them see an increase in their fluency, and increase their confidence. All in three minutes!

Math: Use Multiple Strategies to solve problems: Have your child describe how they solved a problem. Show them another method. This broadens and deepens their understanding.

Math Estimation: It is important for children to be able to do basic computation in their head. **Rounding** off and multiplying two digit numbers, keeping a **running total** at the grocery, or **estimating** change will sharpen these skills. **Predicting** the answer before they actually do the problem also helps.

Involvement In Everyday Math: One of the things I noticed over the years about successful math students is that they are often involved in their parents' math lives. That is, they go to the store with their parents and figure out the best prices, they talk about money and budgets with their parents, and they see how to apply math every day. These behaviors build the value of math.

Another way to give your child a strong message about the importance of their education is by being involved in their school. Some people may not feel comfortable in the classroom and that's fine. Here's an alternative: We could use your help managing the traffic circle in the morning and afternoon. It includes waving the traffic on so more cars can fit in the circle, sometimes opening doors for the kids, and saying "hello" or "good morning." Not so hard and it would help a lot. Let us know if you can help.

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Gentle Reminders:

- When dropping children off please use the circle, and pull as far ahead as you can. Please do not drive into the schoolyard 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.
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- Please remind students to take their things to the upper field before school to meet their class and teachers at 8:40, unless it is raining.

NOTICE: THE FEBRUARY 18 SSC MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

**FEBRUARY IS MATH
FACTS MONTH!**

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Janice Murphy

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd
Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb. 18	Assembly: Storyteller Diane Ferlatte 10 a.m. K-2; 11 a.m. 3-5
Feb. 27	African American potluck
March 25	Math & Science Night
March 27	Assembly: East Bay Community Orchestra 1:30 p.m. all grades

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

**The Pink Panther is also available at
www.KaiserElementary.org.**