



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 13, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

Welcome back! I hope you had an adventurous and restful spring break. Maybe you did something a little different and found something fun, or maybe you just took a lot of naps like I did! Some of us are celebrating Passover or the Easter season or the renewal of life in spring! We're back and we're rejuvenated and ready for action!

On April 1 we started the Kaiser Alive! Campaign which nudges the kids to Actively Learn, Initiate, Volunteer, and Energize. As part of the campaign we are encouraging everyone to celebrate National Library Week, April 12-18. Do you (parents) have a library card? Make a trip to the library and get a card for yourself and your child. They have lots of books, and many libraries have video and music lending departments also. Something for everyone!

Also, we are joining with other schools around the country to declare April 20-25, Monday through Saturday, "No Screen Week." We used to call it No TV Week, but now there are so many other types of screens that we needed to change the name. You'll find No Screen Week described in the Kaiser Alive! passport. We're asking that families turn off all electronic screens for TV, movies, computers, video games—any entertainment on a screen. Then guide your children into other activities, and do it with them! Be patient with yourselves, sometimes moving your family in this direction can be stressful. If it becomes too much, talk about what you've learned and then turn the screen back on. Give it your best effort!

I want to send a big THANK YOU to Darlene Smith for spearheading the Kaiser Alive! Campaign for the second year and making it one of our traditions. Through efforts such as hers, our kids will get out and get fit! Several times this morning I said to a parent volunteer, "We couldn't do this without you." Those aren't just fluff words. The staff here at Kaiser knows very well that our school's success is in large part due to the parent support we receive. Every way you support us matters, even small things like getting your kids to school on time and guiding them in their homework. No, each is not a matter of life or death, but on an accumulated basis, they make a big difference. We appreciate your efforts, and we couldn't do it without you!

Sadly, it has come to me that somehow in my efforts to get mornings to run smoothly some people have felt less welcomed. Please accept my apologies if you've felt that way; that was never my intention. I've tried to get out the message that time before school is for teacher preparation in their classrooms, and that children should gather on the upper field. I want to clarify that you are welcome to come up on the playground with your children before school or after school to hang out. In fact, it would be nice if you do! It's a wonderful space for play and we've put in benches for adults to sit and watch. The goal is a safe environment for the kids, and having a lot of parents there would actually help. Again, we couldn't do it without you! You are always welcome at Kaiser School!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Kaiser Gardening Day!
Saturday April 25, 9:30-12:30. Come and help clean up the gardens at Kaiser. Come and show you care for the Earth!

We try to be good neighbors! We need a parent to help us with traffic cones. The sign on South Hill Court restricts parking only between the hours of 8-9:00 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. The neighborhood association has asked that we remove the cones between 9:00 and 2:30. Can you help? Please see Mira in the office.

Please do not park behind the buildings. Regretfully we only have room for staff parking.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
April 22	SSC Meeting 4pm in the Library
April 25	Gardening Day 9:30-12:30
May 2	Walk-a-Thon / Book Fair

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/

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!

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Janice Murphy

Pink Panther Staff

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

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

Hello Kaiser Parents,

Our Walk-A-Thon is fast approaching -- Saturday, May 2nd -- and our coordinator, Lisa Cartolano, desperately needs some help! She needs someone who can coordinate the registration process. That means working the whole event registering walkers and making sure the process runs smoothly throughout the day. There will be others (who have past experience) also helping at the registration table at different times of the day, but we need one main point person whose sole task is registration.

And secondly, we need an event co-coordinator - another point person so to speak -- who can help Lisa direct the activities of the day. If you can volunteer for either of these roles, please contact me as soon as possible, either by e-mail (Janice-Murphy@sbcglobal.net) or phone 510-482-5453.

Thank you!

Janice Murphy
PTA President

Claremont Middle School Community Engagement Meeting

Date: April 16th, 2009

Time: 5:30 pm (dinner)

6 to 7:30 pm (meeting)

Childcare provided

Place: Claremont Middle School

CSUEB (California State University East Bay) will be hosting a science fair on Saturday, April 25, from 11:00-4:00. For more information please visit www.sci.csueastbay.edu/festival (Our school science fair will be in mid-May.)

Intent to Return Form

As we look ahead to next year, it's important for us to know who is returning to Kaiser School and who is not. Currently we are projecting a very full school, and the difference of a few kids at a grade level can affect the configuration of how the students are organized into classes.

Please complete the following form, one for each child, to let us know of your intentions. Please let us know if you are a "maybe" because that will help us decide the number of new children we admit. We will hold your space unless you tell us you are not returning.

Child's name: _____

Current grade: _____

Current teacher: _____

Please check a choice:

_____ My child will definitely return to Kaiser next year.

_____ Our plans are uncertain, but hold our place.

_____ My child will be attending a different school next year.

Adult signature: _____

Please do not submit specific teacher requests. If you would like, you can give us a note describing classroom practices which have been successful with your child.