



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 27, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

When I came to school on Sunday to check in with the gardening group, I was expecting a handful of parents and maybe a couple of kids. What a delightful surprise! There was a small crowd here yet at 1:45, and those in charge told me there had been nearly 80 people! WOW! That's a terrific number of volunteers who had given of their free time on a beautiful Sunday to help make our campus more beautiful. I have posted a "Thank You" in the main hallway, but I wanted to take a moment to thank three special people here. They are Margie Potts, Maureen Caldwell, and Debbie Goldsberry.

For over 6 years Margie Potts has been a parent volunteer helping with gardening projects at Kaiser. Even after her daughter went on to middle school, Margie was able to continue with gardening and with working with younger students here. Ms. Potts has worked with all 11 classes, providing them with lessons and in-the-dirt gardening experiences. Many children would not otherwise have these opportunities if it were not for Margie and her activities.

Maureen has also worked behind the scenes on gardening and beautification. She puts in lots of time and effort. She is always full of ideas, yet is happy with what we accomplish. Her bright smile and positive attitude are a pleasant addition to the activities.

New this year is a Kindergarten parent, Debbie Goldsberry. She is interested in getting a Wellness Committee going, (look for a meeting in late May) and she has connected with Margie, Maureen and others in her efforts. Debbie was here Sunday with not only information about healthy eating and nutritious snacks, but edible examples as well. Learning about healthy, nutritious food is so much easier when someone like Debbie brings the tasty treats!

The other day a visiting psychologist asked me about the phrase "community of learners" that appears on our welcome mat. It's really a reminder of the two major focuses of our school: we are here to learn, and we are here to form community. I believe that kids learn best when they feel emotionally safe, and part of that means feeling that they belong to a community. Teachers do community-building activities in their classes, and our parents here organize events for the adults too, so that everyone can be a part of our learning community.

We have some other community-building events for families coming up: Our Walkathon is on May 2, where kids walk and parents schmooze! We have a movie night for the kids on May 8. Later in May there will be Music Nights and Open House on May 19 and 21. Our Kaiser Family picnic will be at Lake Temescal on May 29.

We come from all over the city, and in some of our neighborhoods we may find it difficult to form friendships and community relationships. The Gardening Day is just one example of how Kaiser families come together to make our own community. There are many other ways to participate. There really is something for everyone, and everyone is welcome!

Mel Stenger, Principal

## Getting In The Know

### Leaving Kaiser?

Sometimes life situations pull kids away from our learning community. If your child will not be returning to Kaiser next year, please let us know ASAP because it impacts grade configuration for next year. Thanks.

PTA Board meeting this Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 p.m. in the library. All are welcome!

Our Walkathon will be this coming Saturday, May 2. It's a fun day for everyone, so check your family's calendar so you can be sure to be there!

#### 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/)**

### KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
April 29	PTA Board Meeting
May 2	Walk-a-Thon / Book Fair
May 8	Movie Night
May 13-15	Science Fair
May 15	ALIVE Passports Due
May 19	Music Night / Open House for K-3
May 21	Music Night / Open House for 4-5
May 22	No School in lieu of Lincoln's Day
May 25	No School Memorial Day
May 27	Volunteer Appreciation Celebration
May 29	Kaiser ALIVE Picnic

#### 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](http://www.KaiserElementary.org).**

## Are You Interested in Joining Girl Scouts?

*Girl Scout Information Meeting: Wednesday, April 29, 7-8 p.m.*

*Ellen Driscoll Playhouse, 325 Highland Avenue, Piedmont, CA*

If you are the parent of a girl in Pre-K (entering Kindergarten in fall 2009) through 5th grade who is interested in getting involved in Girl Scouts, please come to this informational meeting. We will give a presentation of the Girl Scout program in the Bay Area, answer questions about the organization, and help interested participants start a troop. Girls are welcome to join the Girl Scouts at any age—no prior program experience is necessary. Please also plan to bring your daughters—we will run some age-appropriate Girl Scout-themed activities. Please RSVP to Sheryl Graab:

sgraab@girlscoutsnorcal.org with your name, and the name, age, and school of your daughter by April 27. If you cannot attend, but are still interested in the program, please RSVP accordingly. For general questions, prior to the meeting, regarding the Girl Scout program in the Oakland/Piedmont area, contact Lisa Reynolds #510-652-9333 or lisareynolds440@comcast.net.

Sheryl

Sheryl Graab

Community Development Director

Girl Scouts of Northern California

San Francisco Bay Area

(800)447-4475 x 118 / (510)499-4981

### Lights, Camera Book Fair

in the Library



Fri. May 1st 3-5 pm

Sat. May 2nd during the Walkathon

#### **Need Volunteers!!**

Fri = Adults to manage chaos

Sat = Adults & Teens to manage chaos and storytime/babysit toddlers.

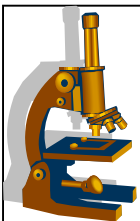
Volunteers rewarded with free books

contact: Kelly

[kelly.bartlett@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.bartlett@gmail.com) or

### Three Cups of Tea Project

You may have noticed parents on the tables cutting fabric or kids talking about the books they are making. Or you might have seen 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> graders painting in the hallways. This project is based on the best selling book Three Cups of Tea which has been the rave for months. Basically the book is about local hero Greg Mortenson who against all odds built 58 schools in Pakistan. The k-3 children are making dolls with their own books dressed as the school children in Pakistan do. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been cutting heads, hair, and hair for the younger kids as well as making large scenes from Three Cups of Tea. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will take digital pictures of the children as they hold their doll up to their favorite mural of the story. The edited pictures will then be placed on the Oakland Website for everyone's viewing. All the dolls, books, and murals will be up in the hallways for Open House on May 19<sup>th</sup>. As a school we are going to also participate in a worldwide campaign to collect pennies to help maintain the Pakistan schools and build new ones. In the hallway you will find a canister prepared by the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to collect pennies. 1 penny buys a pencil and 1 dollar educates a child for a month. By the way one of the significant parts of this story is that girls can go to these schools. Read the book it is very compelling. We will take orders for all three of the books – adult version, jr. version, and Listen to the Wind, which is a primary version. Thank you so much for your support.  
Ms. Leonardo, Art Teacher



### Science Fair Approacheth!

It's time to start your science fair project! The Science Fair will be held May 13-15.

# Walk A Thon Reminder!!!

## Yes We Can!

When: May 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am-3PM

Where: Here at Kaiser Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**Just a Reminder.....**

In an effort to help minimize our impact on the environment, try to remember to bring your own water bottle that you can fill up at the school.

**Pledge Sheets**



Please bring your pledge sheets on the day of the Walk A Thon when you register to walk. This will help simplify the process. Thanks!

Any questions? Contact Lisa Cartolano at [Lisa@LisaCartolano.com](mailto:Lisa@LisaCartolano.com) or at 510.213.1139

Dear Kaiser Families,

The Food Committee for this year's Walk a Thon on Saturday, May 2 is looking for volunteers to bring baked goods to the Walk-a-Thon. Do you like to bake? If so, why not prepare a batch of something yummy to sell at the event? Your special recipe for cookies, cupcakes, brownies, lemon bars, etc. is sure to please kids and grown-ups alike.

If you can bring a dessert to the Walk-a-Thon, please let me know -- or just bring something along.

Thanks so much,  
Wendy Harcarik  
(Ryland Henke's mom, Mr. Ross' 3rd grade class)  
[pennyharc@hotmail.com](mailto:pennyharc@hotmail.com)  
530-8987

## KAISER STUDENT WINS ASIAN PACIFIC FUND AWARD

Mariah Orsulak (2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Ms. Yang) was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place for her artwork entry in the “Growing Up Asian in America” contest sponsored by the Asian Pacific Fund. Mariah will be honored at an awards ceremony at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. She will be granted a \$1,000 savings bond, which will go towards her college fund. Mariah competed with 1,200 other students from nine Bay Area counties in art and essay entries about the theme: “If You Could Change One Thing to Make the World a Better Place, What Would It Be?” Mariah created a mixed medium collage about “Saving Our Earth” in which she used origami, pastels, rice paper, and non-earth friendly materials such as plastic and styrofoam to represent American landfills and Vietnamese green landscapes. Mariah also received honorable mention for her essay in the grades K-5 category. Mariah’s accomplishments are significant, as it has been several years since a child has won in both the art and essay categories. She will be photographed and interviewed at Sunday’s celebration, which kicks-off the beginning of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The APA Heritage Celebration starts at noon on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and will include Asian music, dancing, children’s arts and crafts, story telling and free admission to the museum. We are all very proud of Mariah for her achievements! Mariah would like to thank Ms. Yang and her mother for developing her writing skills and artistic creativity in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade!

Disney will plant a tree for everyone who attends the “EARTH” Movie it's opening week, which is this week. It is showing at the movie theater in Emeryville. If you want to educate your kids about our earth, plant a tree and have a fun time at the movies go see the movie EARTH.



Thank you very much to all of the Kaiser Families who bought A's tickets during our fundraiser. We raised over \$1,300. Ms. Hunter's class sold the most tickets and has earned a pizza party! Please note that the tickets are processed by the A's and will arrive by mail. Look for a small manila colored envelope. Please contact your grade level parents or classroom parents to plan your specific tailgate party. Thanks again for supporting Kaiser School.

Kristin Carpenter