



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 4, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

It was drippy—okay, raining! There were clouds in the air but smiles on faces! It was Saturday at Kaiser School's Annual Walkathon! Families of all variations were there, and the age range went from infant in arms to the wise veterans of life. The gathering was truly a testament to what our school community is all about: people coming together for a fundraiser but having a lot of fun at the same time. We should be proud and thankful to be part of such a community, in which parents not only encourage their children to support their school, but the children themselves truly support their school and show it by turning out in large numbers to raise money for our educational programs.

It's just not possible to express thanks to each person who gave their time and energy. If you helped, please accept a "Thank you!" from me on behalf of the staff and children at our school. There is no way to be sure to mention everyone's name, so I mention only one: Lisa Cartolano. Lisa was the head of the committee and worked tirelessly for numbers of hours to pull together the support people, iron out all the details, and maintain her smiling face and patient attitude through it all! Our heartfelt thanks go out to you, Lisa!

Tuesday is Cinco de Mayo! We celebrate this important historical event with our Latino children and families! We look forward to the time when we can work toward liberation of all people. Please take a minute and review the attached page about this holiday with your children.

Standardized testing continues this week. So far, this testing has gone on with little fanfare. The tests consist of four sections each about an hour; for grade 2 is six shorter sections. These are spread out so as not to overstress the kids. Our children are not melting down, and seem as happy as ever. I believe this is because of the hard work done by the children under the guidance of their teachers and supported by you, the parent community. We are all looking forward to positive test results, which will reflect the growth of our learning community this year.

This coming weekend brings us Mother's Day, and a reminder of the variations of family structure that we welcome and support here at Kaiser elementary. We have families that have one mother, two mothers, and some with no mothers. I need your help, in that if you come from a family that does not have just one mother, please contact your child's teacher to let them know how you prefer them to handle the situation with your child. Our teachers and staff will support the choice, but need to know your wishes. (We regret if it may ruin a surprise.) In this way we put into action the part of our mission statement, which says that everyone is welcome in our school. Happy Mother's Day to you all!

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.



Science Fair Approacheth!

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



Our Orff Music Instructor, Kathy Quain, is looking for some parents to help with visual props for the May 19 performance. Please contact her at kathyquain@sbcglobal.net to be involved

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/

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
May 8	Movie Night
May 13-15	Science Fair
May 15	ALIVE Passports Due
May 19	Music Night / Open House for K-3, 6 p.m.
May 21	Music Night / Open House for 4-5, 6 p.m.
May 22	No School in lieu of Lincoln's Day
May 25	No School Memorial Day
May 27	Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, 1:30 p.m.
May 29	Kaiser ALIVE Picnic
June 9-11	Minimum Days: 1:25 dismissal

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.

Three Cups of Tea Project Update

Here we go! This week the K-3 classes will start to make the dolls. The clothes are ready, the faces, hands, and hair are ready. The Pennies for Peace can is in the hallway—you can start dropping pennies (or change) anytime. Also, parents who would like to help the children assemble can join me in the classroom on Tuesday from 9:30 to 3:00 or on Thursday from 9:00 to 3:00. It will take us two weeks to complete the assembling. Your help means so much to the children and me.

What has come to light during this project is that many children, including those in the 4th and 5th grade, have a very hard time cutting. At first I found this very shocking, but upon reflection I suspect that we just don't cut as much anymore. What is tragic is that developmentally this is an important skill for eye-hand coordination and integration of information in the brain. Kummon Reading stresses cut-and-paste activities for acceleration in reading. I am devoted to next year giving some focus on art activities that will increase this skill. At home you can encourage your children to cut for collages or decorations. In our dialogue the children discovered that many occupations require this skill, i.e. surgeons, dentists, architects and astronauts. The other thing they discovered is that cutting with scissors can be very relaxing.

Thank you so very much for your support. Your children are wonderful and I am so blessed.
—Ms. Leonardo, Art Teacher

It's Teacher Appreciation Week

This week is Teacher Appreciation week and there are a couple of different activities taking place, but the teachers' favorite always seems to be the potluck lunches we provide all week long. Please consider volunteering and/or bringing a dessert, fruit, cheese plate or some other delicious item for the teachers to enjoy at lunchtime. Paper plates and plasticware are also needed.

Schedule for the classes to bring food:

Monday: McGee, Hunter, Bailey/Veasey

Wednesday: Haruyama, Neat

Friday: Araki, Gorham

Tuesday: Banks, Ross

Thursday: Yang, Apaydin

People are needed to help set up at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at noon (Alison May can do this on Monday); as well as to clean up at the end of each day. Anicia Peppas has volunteered to help with cleanup on Tuesday and Thursday at pickup time. We could sure use volunteers to help Anicia and others to do it on Monday, Wednesday and Friday—with a full and complete cleanup and breakdown of decorations, etc. (Alison May can help on Friday after school.) If you want to coordinate with Anicia, contact her at peppas4@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your volunteer consideration and for all of the time you put into your child's school already. Now it's time for us to thank the teachers!

—Molly Talamantes

Volunteers Needed for Movie Night!

The end of April and all of May is a busy time here at Kaiser School, and none of it would run smoothly if we didn't have the wonderful support of Kaiser families like you. We had Gardening Day, the Walkathon, and now teacher appreciation, *Bolt* movie night and finally the Kaiser ALIVE celebration in Temescal Park. So, again we need your help—this time at the movie night. We need people who will sell pizza and bottled water, admit into the “theater” the families who bought tickets, and help us clean up at the end. If you can volunteer, please e-mail me at Janice-Murphy@sbcglobal.net or call me at (510) 482-5453. Thanks!

—Janice Murphy

BOLT Movie Night Update

Sixty-two students have purchased tickets to our showing of Disney's *Bolt*, which is this Friday, May 8th. That means, when you count parents and siblings, we're expecting to have more than 150 people at the event. We will be serving slices of pepperoni and cheese pizza and bottled water for \$1 each. We will be unable to serve popcorn this time around, so if you can't watch a movie without popcorn, feel free to bring your own. Also, remember to bring pillows and blankets on which to sit. You also can bring low lawn chairs, but they will need to be placed in the back of the room so that all of the children have a clear view. Doors will open at 6:15—no one will be admitted before that time. The movie will start at 7:00, but if you plan to purchase food, please be sure to arrive early. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Calendar of upcoming events:

May 19: K-3 Open House and Music night, 6 p.m. Park on the upper playground.

May 21: grades 4-5 Open House and Music night, 6 p.m. Park on the upper playground.

May 27: Volunteer celebration, 1:30 p.m. We want to thank everyone who has volunteered in our school this year. Because we can't possibly remember every person by name, please let Robin know by May 13 if can join us for the celebration.