



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 26, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

The last few weeks of school are always a mix of feelings and tasks. We're winding down from one school year and simultaneously preparing for the start of another. Perhaps you've seen the boxes in the hallway filled with equipment and supplies for the fall. As parents we're busy scheduling activities for our kids for the summer and thinking about how this year went. It's a natural time for reflection.

This school year has marked tremendous growth for many children, and we see how much more they can do now than when they entered last August. They can read better, do more complicated math, think through situations better, handle conflicts better—in short, our children have become fuller versions of themselves. We parents and teachers have guided and supported them and it's our pleasure to see how far they've come.

Sometimes we're not so sure they've come along at all! Our kids may have encountered difficulty this year in academics or in social growth. Things may seem so "stuck" that we doubt our parenting skills and decisions. At times like this it may help to talk with other parents to get a bit of a reality check to see if our expectations are out of line. It may also help to seek professional help from time to time. Hey, whatever works! And a wise woman once said to me that it's important to remember that our kids are not younger versions of ourselves. By that she meant that we should look at our children in terms of who *they* are and what *they* need and want, rather than what we need and want. Easy words to say, difficult to live by.

Memorial Day is a national day of reflection. We take a day to stop and remember those who've given their lives for our country. My father was in D-Day in Normandy in WWII. Six of my uncles served in that war and my namesake uncle was killed in Germany. My Goddaughter is stationed in Afghanistan and my brother will be going to Iraq in July. I, however, am antiwar, so my feelings about this holiday are complex to say the least. Whatever our political beliefs, we can share in this respectful remembrance. If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to explain this holiday to your kids. It's one of those topics where you can teach them so much more than we can.

The long Memorial Day weekend always marks a transition for me. Around my house it's a time for making a list of jobs to be done during the summer, doing gardening in the backyard, and having the first barbecue of the season. Some children (and teachers!) have told me that we have only 13 more school days left. That's only 13 days to finish up the goals that we had for our students, to return musical instruments, text books, and library books, to finish up reports and do a final push for memorizing sight words, addition facts, or multiplication tables. And for us, that's 13 days to reflect on this year and prepare for next!

Mel Stenger, principal

Getting In The Know

Summer Intervention begins Tuesday, June 23. If you have any question about whether your child has been enrolled please call me or Robin in the office.

Please resolve any missing library book or textbook issues. District policy is to hold report cards until these issues are resolved.

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 27	Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, 1:45 p.m.
May 27	PTA Board Meeting
May 29	Walkathon pledges due
May 29	Kaiser ALIVE Picnic 5-7:30 p.m.
June 5	Ice Cream Social for New Families, 6:30 p.m.
June 10	5 th Grade Promotion, 1 p.m.
June 9-11	Minimum Days: 1:25 p.m. dismissal
June 23	Summer Intervention Begins
August 31	School Starts, 8:45 a.m.

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.**

Spring Pledge Drive

Thank you very much to all of our Kaiser Families who have donated \$75 per child to our Pledge drive. If you have been waiting for our Spring Pledge Drive-now is the time! We are asking families to help us support the great programs offered at Kaiser School by making a pledge donation. We recommend \$75 per child.

SUMMER PIANO LESSONS!

Where: Kaiser School
When: June 15 - August 12 (1 x week)
Cost: \$20 per lesson + book
Call: Marilyn Marsh (at Kaiser since 1994)
Phone: (510) 923-1620

SPACE LIMITED -- CALL SOON!

PTA Board Position Open-VP Fundraising

If you are interested in becoming more involved in Kaiser and would like to be on the PTA board, please consider becoming VP of Fundraising. This is also a great position to share with a friend. The VP of Fundraising works with the Chairperson of each of the fundraising events at Kaiser School. Please contact Kristin Carpenter if you are interested. www.mamademaya@yahoo.com.

Kaiser ALIVE! Closing Remarks

Kaiser ALIVE has come to a close....By now all of you will have turned in your booklets and we have begun the tally to see how successful you have been. Our profound hope is that you tried new things, went many fun places, and most of all that you will continue to actively learn, initiate, volunteer and energize.

Please join us for the celebration party. We will be presenting the participation medals for all, trophies to the top point earners for each grade and drawing the names for the raffle prizes. We would love to see everyone at the park. There will be games and food and plenty of fun. So come and celebrate!

Please note that children who are unable to attend the festivities are still entered into the respective raffles, are still eligible for trophies and may pick up their medals and prizes (if appropriate) from Robin in the office the week of June 1st.

Kaiser ALIVE! Celebration Party
Friday May 29th
Lake Temescal Park (Broadway Side)
5 PM to 7:30 PM

Some great opportunities to help Kaiser School

As we head into the home stretch of our school year, I am hoping you will consider working on one of our many fundraising projects for next year. If you are not able to take on the project as a chairperson but would like to work on it as a co-chair or helper that would be great too.- just send me an email- mamademaya@yahoo.com. Here are some volunteering opportunities open for next school year:

Sally Foster Wrapping Paper Sales: We need a chair or two co-chairs (this is a great two person job). Are you detail oriented and great at planning? This is for you. This sale takes place at the beginning of the year with sending packets out, then collecting and tallying the orders. When orders are delivered to our school you would oversee the distribution of packages and handle any reorders. (60 hours)

Walk-A-Thon: (spring) The chair person or persons for this event plan the many aspects of the walk-a-thon including food, logistics, t-shirts, and pledges. (40 hours)

Pledge Drive: (fall, spring) Oversee the pledge drive, in the Fall and Spring. Next year we will also have a PayPal feature to use. This position requires promoting the pledge drive and taking pledges at Back to School Night. (20 hours)

A's Ticket Sales: (spring) This position requires going to a informational meeting, sending out fliers and reminders in the pink panther, coordinating with room parents and tallying orders. (20 hours)

Ongoing throughout the year:

E-Scrip and Boxtops: Promote signing up for scrip and saving Boxtops for Education. (10 hours)

Grant Writing: If you have grant writing experience or are interested in working on a grant, we need your help.

Pizza Nights: Coordinate with Red Boy Pizza or California Pizza Kitchen at two or three times during the school year to schedule and promote Kaiser Pizza Nights. (5 hours per pizza night)

Thanks for your support, Kristin Carpenter