



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

Thanks to all of the children and families for your warm smiles and hugs on the first day of school! Many teachers were here over the weekend to make sure things were ready. A special note of thanks goes to Robin Sasada, our fabulous administrative assistant, for all her overtime and extra help. Our staff is delighted with their classes and is ready for the challenge of another year. We welcomed new kindergartners and a few upper-grade kids too. We are happy you're all here to join our learning community.

We also welcomed a new P.E. teacher to Kaiser. Valerie Ostrom comes to us with experience teaching in other Oakland schools. She will be doing P.E. for us as well as assisting our intervention efforts. Rick Frey will be our computer instructor. Not only is he a parent here (Ruby in grade 1) but he also has had experience in several Oakland schools and will be bringing a literacy emphasis to the lab this year. Both teachers are eager to meet your families and get to know your children. We will publish a complete staff roster with this newsletter in the near future.

Back to School Night will be next Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. Parking for that event, and all evening events, is on the upper field. This program is to inform parents of the curricular program teachers are presenting to your children. It is not a conference time. The evening will begin with Kindergarten through 2nd grade presentations in their classrooms from **6:30-7:00**. Then we will move to the multipurpose room for some remarks by me and our PTA. It is important that parents attend this portion to learn about our school-wide efforts this year, and vote to approve our budget. After that meeting, the upper-grade teachers will do their presentations from about **7:45-8:15**. We look forward to seeing all of you.

It was a smooth beginning for everything except the traffic situation. The limited parking space we have on campus is reserved for teachers and staff. The best places to park are on Hiller Drive or North Hill Court. Please do not park in the circle, behind the buildings, or in either staff lot. Also, there is no parking on the uphill side of South Hill Court before and after school. Sadly, there simply isn't enough space for our parking needs on campus. Thank you all for your cooperation. Here are a few other gentle reminders:

- In the interest of creating a focused learning environment, please don't use cell phones or chew gum in the school.
- In the morning we ask that all students in grades 1-5 go to the upper field to meet their teachers and line up. For the first month Kindergartners use the back door near the portables.
- For safety we ask that kids do not bring glass bottles for drinks, and that they wear shoes that cover their toes.

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Getting In The Know

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We have two themes for the Kaiser learning community. The first is “Community and Collaboration” and flows out of educators’ movement to improve collaboration among teachers and to reach out to the family communities that we serve. The teachers have a collaboration period each week during which they work together to provide equitable curriculum and more focused intervention for the children who need it. “Collaboration” includes you! Don’t hesitate to let our teachers know if you think your child needs a nudge; we will have two tutors working with our students and teachers to provide focused intervention support.

Our other theme is “How can I help?” One reason our school is successful is because of you, our parents, and the wonderful support you give. I am asking every parent to think of how you can help. As a public school we obviously cannot make that support a condition of your child’s attendance, but we rely on your good graces and generosity to help in whatever way you can! Thanks in advance!

We have all prepared for a wonderful year. Let’s work together to make it happen!

Mel Stenger, principal

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Sept. 7	No School
Sept. 10	Back to School Night
Oct. 9	No School

Announcements:

Lunch is now \$2.25 and milk is 40 cents. To prepay, write a check payable to Food Services, put it in an envelope with your child’s name and teacher’s name, and turn it in to the office.

A gentle reminder: According to OUSD Board Policy, dogs are not allowed on campus at any time. We regret the inconvenience this may cause.

Let’s be courteous to our neighbors! I got an email Monday morning telling me that several cars were blocking neighbors’ driveways. Please be mindful when you park. Thanks!

We have a lower than expected enrollment. We hope to increase our classes in Grade 2, 3, 4 or 5. If you know of any children who may be looking for a wonderful school, please let us know!

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/

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

Kaiser Elementary School Wellness Council Helping to Raise Healthy Children



Welcome back! We missed you all!

Whether your child is new to school or returning to school, they may have some anxiety. New teacher? New classroom? New classmates? You can help make it easier. Here are some ideas from Hallmark on making the transition back to school easier:

Boost confidence and help ease the anxiety with these helpful reminders!

1. Keep the lines of communication open!
2. Acknowledge anxiety and stress but don't dwell on it!
3. Make school prep fun and shop for supplies together!
4. Try role-playing – especially with younger children!
5. Encourage healthy sleep patterns before school starts!
6. Don't over-program, and make sure your child has downtime!
7. Nurture your child's friendships and encourage family fun!
8. Once school starts, show interest and stay involved!
9. Plan a shopping trip after school has begun to pick up supplies and clothes other kids might be wearing!
10. Remind them you are always there to listen!

Kinetic Arts Center Classes Begin

Tumbling, trapeze, and juggling oh my! Bring your children to a unique new circus and fitness center opening September 8. Kinetic Arts Center is offering classes for kids of all ages, starting as young as 18 months old. Simultaneous circus and fitness adult classes are offered as well, everyone leaves renewed and happy! After School Circus Kids for grades K-5 runs daily 4-6 p.m. New classes are added online every day, be sure to keep checking back. We're located conveniently off of I-980, at 785 7th Street in Oakland. Visit us at www.kineticartscenter.com for more info and a complete list of classes.



As we begin the new school year, September is National Food Safety Month. Here are some tips from the United States Department of Agriculture.

KEEP FOODS CLEAN

Keep everything clean when packing the lunch. That not only goes for the food, but also food preparation surfaces, hands and utensils. Use hot, soapy water. Keep family pets away from kitchen counters. Wash your hands before you prepare or eat food.

KEEP COLD FOODS COLD

The best way to keep food cold is with an insulated lunch box. When packing lunches, include either freezer gel packs or cold food items like fruit, or frozen juice packs. Place perishable meat, poultry or egg sandwiches between cold items. Sandwiches can also be made ahead of time and kept refrigerated or some even frozen before placing in the lunchbox. (Don't freeze sandwiches with mayonnaise, lettuce or tomato--add later) If you use pre-packed combo lunches, they also have to be kept cold.

KEEP HOT FOODS HOT

Foods like soup, chili and stew need to stay hot. Use an insulated bottle stored in an insulated lunchbox. Fill the bottle with boiling water, let stand for a few minutes, empty, and then put in the piping-hot food. Keep the insulated bottle closed until lunch to keep the food hot.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to the University of California-There are foods in which bacteria does not grow because they are high in acid or low in moisture. The following foods can be safely left at room temperature for four to six hours: nuts and peanut butter; bread, cookies, crackers, and cake; jam, honey, syrup, and candy; butter, margarine, and cooking oil; dry cereals; powdered milk (until reconstituted); raw, cooked, or dry fruit; raw vegetables; pickles, relishes, mustard, and ketchup; dry or hard cheeses; yogurt; dried sausages, such as salami, pepperoni, and jerky; canned foods (until opened); and fruit pies.

Trail Mix for School Lunches

Directions: Combine any or all of these ingredients in an airtight container and toss gently to mix. Store airtight. Lasts for weeks.

Ingredients: Dry snacks: cereal (low in sugar, under 5g per serving), small pretzels, graham cracker or rice cake pieces, or animal crackers.; Dried fruits: Cherries, apricots, raisins, mangoes or coconut flakes (Tip: Cut up the big pieces with scissors).; Nuts and seeds: sliced almonds, pecan pieces, cashew pieces, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds or peanut pieces.