



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday weekend and celebrated Labor Day by doing very little labor! We all had a full and busy week, so a day of rest was well deserved.

Back to School Night will be this Thursday, September 10 at 6:30. Parking for that event, and all evening events, is on the upper field. This adult 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 teachers talking in their classrooms from **6:30-7:00**. Then we will move to the multipurpose room for some remarks by myself and our PTA. It is important that a parent 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 then!

CST test scores tell us that we made some progress in ELA (66 increased to 69, as the percentage of our kids who tested proficient or advanced) and math (70 increased to 76, as the percentage of our kids who tested proficient or advanced). The API (Academic Performance Index) or AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) will be released Thursday. These are the 2 big indicators of our progress as a school. When they arrive, I will write about what they mean for us. I do not expect big changes in them however, because overall our school's scores changed very little. We do very well overall, thanks to our wonderful staff of teachers and intervention personnel, and to terrific parent support!

Many of you have asked me how the state budget crisis affects us. While our school district has cut drastically in central offices, we are still having some difficulty here. Our site budget depends on the number of kids attending and the attendance rate. We are about 13 kids under our projection which translates to a loss of about \$40,000. Student absence also affects us. We had about a 4% absentee rate last year which means a loss of about \$56,000. Every day counts! Please schedule vacations and other non-urgent absences for vacation days or holidays. We have eliminated teacher overtime pay, professional development funding, refreshments at meetings, and reduced our materials and supplies budget. We have cut one planned tutor and noon supervisor. In spite of these and other cuts, our teachers are working very hard to provide wonderful learning experiences for all our students!

Our school is successful in large part because of your support. We count on you to watch your child's homework and classwork to monitor their performance. Beyond that we depend on you joining the PTA and contributing toward the enrichment programs here. Please keep in mind that our PTA budget breaks down to just under \$600 per child. Let's work together to help all children have a successful year!

See you Thursday evening!

Mr. Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Announcements:

Lunch is still \$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.

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!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Sept. 9	PTA Executive Board Meeting 6:30
Sept. 10	Back to School Night
Oct. 9	No School
Oct. 12-16	Conference Week 1:25 Dismissal all week

After school classes
begin this week!

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/)**

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

JOIN THE PTA! MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS!

What makes Kaiser Elementary an exceptional school and a wonderful place for your children? It's the commitment and sense of community of everyone here: Our principal and administrative office team, teachers, parents and students! We're all working together, striving to create an enriching, supportive, stimulating and fun learning environment. The PTA plays a vital role in making this all happen. Through collective energy, enthusiasm, devoted volunteering and fervent fundraising, the Kaiser PTA makes significant contributions to make the following things possible:

- Art Instruction
- Orff Music
- Computer Support
- Library Instruction
- Resource Teacher
- Teacher's Aides
- Musical Instruments
- Physical Education Equipment
- Classroom materials, books and supplies
- Multi-cultural assemblies and cultural events
- School garden
- The Pink Panther

In this era of horrendous school budget cuts, how many other public schools are still able to provide these fabulous resources to its students?

Please become an active part of the Kaiser Community by becoming a PTA member today! Membership is just \$10.00. Our goal is 100% PTA Membership! And an extra bonus is: The classroom with the highest membership will win a class prize!

**Don't Wait-Participate
Join the PTA!
Karen Orsulak-VP of Membership**

Kaiser Elementary School Wellness Council Helping to Raise Healthy Children



Let me introduce myself! My name is Barbara Blaser. I have been a registered nurse for over 40 years. I am the mother of 4 and the grandmother of 7. One of my grandchildren is now in 1st grade at Kaiser. She follows 2 of her cousins who were previous students. Before my husband and I moved to California to be closer to our family, I worked at the University of Chicago where, as part of my job, I was the editor of one of their newsletters. I just wanted you all to know who was putting this section together. As part of the Wellness Council I am committed to helping raise healthy children. Thanks for letting me be part of that effort.

H1N1 Flu (Previously known Swine Flu)

The Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) updates their website regularly with information on the H1N1 flu. According to information available this week, About 55 million students and 7 million staff attend the more than 130,000 public and private schools in the United States each day. At least 250 of those are our children here at Kaiser.

The flu season is usually in the fall. Here are some guidelines from the CDC:

Under conditions with similar severity as in spring 2009

- **Stay home when sick:**
Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs.
- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:**
The new recommendations emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of influenza prevention: stay home when sick, wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).
- **Routine cleaning:**
School staff should routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often with the cleaners they typically use. CDC does not believe any additional disinfection of environmental surfaces beyond the recommended routine cleaning is required.
- **Early treatment of high-risk students and staff:**
People at high risk for influenza complications who become ill with influenza-like illness should speak with their health care provider as soon as possible.
- Early treatment with antiviral medications is very important for people at high risk because it can prevent hospitalizations and more serious illness.
- People at high risk include those who are pregnant, have asthma or diabetes, have compromised immune systems, or have neuromuscular diseases.
- For more information, one of the best things to do is check out the CDC website. Call your family doctor. Eat right, drink plenty of water and get plenty of rest.

Wait! What about just the regular flu?

Symptoms of flu may include:

- fever (usually high)
- headache
- extreme tiredness
- dry cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle aches
- Stomach symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, also can occur but are more common in children than adults

What's the difference between a cold and the flu?

The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. Because these two types of illnesses have similar flu-like symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness, and dry cough are more common and intense. Colds are usually milder than the flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations.

How do we prevent the spread of flu?

There is a lot of information available about the flu vaccine, please ask your doctor.

