



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 12, 2009

This is Conference week!
There will be minimum days all week, with dismissal at 1:25.
Please make arrangements so your child is not left sitting for the extra time.

Dear Kaiser Families,

Parent-teacher conferences are happening this week. Some teachers may have started already because it's difficult to get through their whole class in one week. This conference is a time to check to see how your child has done so far and to set some long range goals. Teachers have reviewed last year's assessment data and the results from work and quizzes your child has done so far this year. Working together you should be able to set some realistic goals and some methods for achieving those goals. In some cases it might be helpful to set behavior goals or attendance goals also.

So you go to the conference and come home to your child. What do you say?

The newest research on helping children to improve performance shows that we should *praise effort rather than ability*. When we make comments to our kids, positive or negative, about their *identity*, they tend to try less. We are learning that it is almost as bad to refer to kids as "so smart" or "very bright" as it is to give them messages that they are stupid or unable to do what's expected. For example, if kids are constantly told that they are smart and the task before them seems difficult, they will not engage because it makes them feel stupid, and that doesn't fit with their picture of themselves. What we want is for our kids to engage in the struggle of learning, to take risks in their learning. Therefore we need to encourage them by praising their efforts, to make it safe to take risks and to learn from failure.

This past week I spent Thursday working with principal colleagues on encouraging "rigor" in our curriculum. Rigor was defined as helping kids learn from material which is complex, ambiguous, provocative, personally or emotionally challenging. In other words, a rigorous program helps kids deal with extraordinary situations, helps them *learn how to think*. This is also important in your conversations with your kids. So often we tend to give answers to our children when they ask questions, but if we want them to learn how to think we need to push them into thinking. We can ask about their opinions and why they think the way they do. We can teach them to think about thinking!

Mel Stenger

Getting In The Know

Stay Connected

- Join the Kaiser community message **Yahoo Group**: kaiserelementaryschool_group. Click on Join Group and email the moderator with your student's name and teacher to be verified and granted approval to become a member.
- Kaiser is also now on **Facebook!** Become a fan! Great place for messages, pictures, discussions!

REMINDER:

Just a reminder there is no after school enrichment programs due to parent-teacher conferences. See you next week!

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors
PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd
Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

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!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Oct. 12-16	Conference Week 1:25 dismissal all week
Oct. 16	Latino Heritage Potluck, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	Picture Day
Oct. 30	Halloween Parade
Nov. 4	Dairy cow visit, upper field, 10 a.m.
Nov. 14	Kaiser Auction
Nov. 18	SF Opera "Daughter of the Regiment," 11 a.m.

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.**

**The online Pink Panther includes
information from our Wellness
Committee**

Over The Moon

Auction Fundraiser

Auction Countdown - Your Support is Needed!

The 35th Annual Auction Fundraiser is just 33 days away. Without acquisition there is no auction. The auction's success depends on the participation of families, teachers and staff. Help us raise the \$50,000 needed to ensure we sustain the wonderful programs at Kaiser Elementary. Below are some ways you can assist us:

1. Purchase Advance Tickets (\$30 per person when purchased by October 30th)

2. Donating Items
 - Cash Donations (to help defray auction expenses)
 - Vacation Homes, Apartments, Condos, Beach or Ski Mountain Getaways
 - Frequent Flier Miles
 - Restaurants Gift Certificates
 - Fine Wine
 - Spa Services Gift Certificates (manicure, pedicure, massage, facial)
 - Sports Merchandise/Event Tickets (A's, Giants, 49ers, Raiders, Sharks, Golf, etc.)
 - Concert Tickets (Greek Theatre, Concord Pavilion, etc.)

3. Donating Services
 - Plumbing/Electrical
 - Construction/Handyman
 - Professional Designer/Painter (redecorate a child's room)
 - Financial Planner
 - Personal Workout Trainer
 - Flowers Once A Month for a Year (could be provided from your own garden/resources)
 - Host a Themed Party for Parents or Kids (dinner, wine tasting, pajama or birthday party)
 - Computer Repairs
 - Cooking Lessons
 - Babysitting
 - House Cleaning
 - Book Keeping
 - Lunch Packing
 - Personal Assistant for a Day
 - Gardening (weed, rake, trim, plant)
 - Custom made furnishings(such as a bookcase, table, desk, etc. made to order)
 - Professional shadow opportunities such as:
Vet, Movie Producer, Firefighter, Police, Artist, Potter, Baker, Interior Decorator, Horse/Animal Trainer, Professional Jockey, Animal Groomer, Professional Athlete, Radio Personality, Pilot, Chef, Hair Dresser, Auto Mechanic, Blacksmith, Auto Assembly Plant, Boat Builder, Train Engineer, Harbor Master, Ship's Captain, you name it!

If you have any questions, stop and chat with us at school or feel free to call or email us with any questions you may have!

Dora Pulido-Tobiassen | doritapt@sbcglobal.net

Leticia Avalos | lavalos@sbcglobal.net

Latino Heritage Potluck

Kaiser Elementary will once again host the annual Latino Heritage Potluck on Friday, October 16. This event is intended as a celebration of "Latino" culture and tradition and gives **all Kaiser families** the opportunity to celebrate Latino Heritage month together.

Bring your family's favorite dish to share. There will be activities for the kids and entertainment for all. Please join us!!

CHABOT ELEMENTARY ANNUAL FALL CARNIVAL: Sunday, Oct. 25th, 11am - 3pm

Everyone is invited to join this Free Celebration! Events include a Petting Zoo, Kids Costume Contest, Games, Food, Music, and new this year is a Dog Costume Contest. The Carnival will be held nearby at Claremont Middle School, at 5750 College Avenue, across the street from Rockridge BART. The PTA hosts the Chabot fall carnival and the day's fun provides financial support for Chabot's music, art, garden, and computer programs; maintains the school's library, and contributes to new playground equipment and improvements for Chabot. Come Join the Fun!

Kaiser Elementary School Wellness Council

Kaiser Elementary School Wellness Council Helping to Raise Healthy Children



EMBRACING DIVERSITY

You know how there are things that kids say that grab at your heart? I recently heard a beautiful little girl with curly black hair say, “When I grow up I want to be a princess so I can have long blonde hair.” Wow! (By the way, there is a great children’s book called Princess Grace that has a beautiful girl with black curly hair and a crown on the cover.) I thought we should look at diversity in this issue.

—Barbara Elaser, RN

The following paragraph was cut and pasted from the Kaiser Elementary School website.
(www.kaiserelementary.org):

“Kaiser is unique in the district in the way it brings together children and families from so many diverse backgrounds. Ethnically, Kaiser is a microcosm of the city of Oakland. We celebrate children from a broad range of economic classes and cultural backgrounds. What some see as special challenges we view as opportunities to build community. Our children learn by seeing our efforts to do this. Our parents understand that their efforts to be inclusive and connected with each other provide youngsters with a valuable example.”

The world is full of different types of people. Diversity in the classroom might include learners with special needs including children with learning disabilities and physical disabilities. Another part of diversity comes from the many cultures that are a part of the United States. The hope is that children will learn to respect and admire different cultures.

According to PBS (Public Broadcasting Station), children start becoming aware of gender, race, ethnicity, and disabilities between ages 2 and 5!

Here are some ideas that parents and teachers might do to promote an understanding and acceptance of diversity:

- Remember what you do or say is as important, if not more important, as what you say.
- Provide opportunities for children to interact with other children who are racially/culturally different from themselves and with people who have various disabilities.
- Listen to and answer children's questions about themselves and others. Don't ignore, change the subject, or in any way make the child think she is bad for asking such a question.

- Teach children how to challenge biases about who they are. Give them tools to confront those who act biased against them.
- At home or at school, give children messages that deliberately contrast stereotypes by providing books, dolls, toys, wall decorations, TV programs, and records that show: men and women in nontraditional roles, people of color in leadership positions, people with disabilities doing activities familiar to children, and various types of families and family activities.
- Make it a firm rule that a person's appearance is never an acceptable reason for teasing or rejecting them. Immediately step in if you hear or see your child behave in such a way. Talk positively about each child's physical characteristics and cultural heritage.
- Use accurate and fair images in contrast to stereotypes, and encourage children to talk about the differences. Help them to think critically about what they see in books, movies, greeting cards, comics, and on TV.
- Let children know that unjust things can be changed. Encourage children to challenge bias, and involve children in taking action on issues relevant to their lives.



Next time you are at the supermarket, look for a fruit or vegetable you haven't tried....maybe a **mango**. According to the Wikipedia website, it came from India via South Africa. Yummy alone or in a salsa or salad. Good and good for you. Slices well for school lunches. Try the recipe below.

CALIFORNIA MANGO SALAD

Mango slices
 Avocado slices
 Kiwi slices
 Poppy seed dressing

Arrange sliced mango and avocado, alternating slices of each on single salad plates. Garnish with sliced kiwi and lightly drizzle with poppy seed dressing. Chill until ready to serve.

If you haven't submitted a recipe yet for the Kaiser cookbook, do it today. Your family's favorite. Simple and tasty. Email to barbarablaser@sbcglobal.net.



(800) 759-1234
P.O. Box 1834
San Leandro, CA 94577

**PICTURE DAY:
Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

Kaiser Elementary School

Dear Parent:

Your child will have his/her professional color photograph taken on the date indicated above. We are proud to present the following picture plans from which you may select.

Plan 1 — \$47.00
 2 - 8" x 10" Wall Decorator Prints
 2 - 5" x 7" Personal Prints
 2 - 3½" x 5" Gift Prints
 8 - 2½" x 3½" Wallet Prints
 8 - 1¾" x 2½" Exchange Prints
 1 - Class Photograph
 Price includes your choice of either **BONUS A, B or C**

Plan 2 — \$38.50
 1 - 8" x 10" Wall Decorator Prints
 1 - 5" x 7" Personal Prints
 2 - 3½" x 5" Gift Prints
 8 - 2½" x 3½" Wallet Prints
 8 - 1¾" x 2½" Exchange Prints
 1 - Class Photograph
 Price includes your choice of either **BONUS A, B or C**

Plan 3 — \$32.00
 1 - 5" x 7" Personal Prints
 3 - 3½" x 5" Gift Prints
 6 - 2½" x 3½" Wallet Prints
 1 - Class Photograph
 Price includes your choice of either **BONUS A, B or C**

BONUS A = 12 WALLETS
BONUS B = 1 - 5" x 7" + 4 WALLETS + 4 EXCHANGE PRINTS
BONUS C = 1 - 8" X 10"

BONUS A, BONUS B OR BONUS C MAY BE PURCHASED WITH PLANS 4, 5, 6, OR 7 FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$8.50

IF ORDERED ALONE (A LA CARTE), BONUSSES ARE \$11.50

Plan 5 — \$19.50
 2 - 3½" x 5" Gift Prints
 4 - 2½" x 3½" Wallet Prints
 8 - 1¾" x 2½" Exchange Prints
 1 - Class Photograph
 With Bonus A, B or C — **\$28.00**

Plan 6 — \$14.00
 1 - 3½" x 5" Gift Prints
 2 - 2½" x 3½" Wallet Prints
 4 - 1¾" x 2½" Exchange Prints
 1 - Class Photograph
 With Bonus A, B or C — **\$22.50**

Plan 4 — \$25.00
 1 - 5" x 7" Personal Prints
 2 - 3½" x 5" Gift Prints
 4 - 2½" x 3½" Wallet Prints
 8 - 1¾" x 2½" Exchange Prints
 1 - Class Photograph
 With Bonus A, B or C — **\$33.50**

Plan 7 — \$9.00
 1 - Class Photograph
 With Bonus A, B or C — **\$17.50**

Custom Digital Products:

Our Custom Digital Products may be ordered individually or as a part of a more traditional school picture package. A flyer showing full color samples will be sent home prior to picture day.

Plan 8 — \$11.00
 12—Designer Wallets

Plan 10 — \$14.00
 2—Photo Pennant Magnets

Plan 12 — \$13.75
 STYLE 1—Scrapbooker's Special

Plan 14 — \$14.50
 8½" X 11" Dry Erase Refrigerator Magnet/Calendar with Pen

Plan 9 — \$12.00
 1—Double Take Portrait

Plan 11 — \$21.00
 Fractured Frames—1-5" x 7", 2-3" x 5", 8 Wallets

Plan 13 — \$13.75
 STYLE 2—Scrapbooker's Special

Plan 15 — \$6.50
 Digital Magic Retouching
Must be purchased with another plan

Each student who wishes to purchase a packet of photographs must pay the photographer on picture day. Packets will be printed only for those students who pay the photographer that day. Whether or not you wish to purchase pictures, all students should be photographed so that they will appear on the class picture.

You will receive a money envelope/reminder before picture day. Please note on that envelope which picture packet you wish to purchase as well as the other information requested. Make checks payable to Baird Thompson Photography. Please include child's and teacher's names in the memo section of your check. Satisfaction is guaranteed. Payment by check is your express authorization that all returned checks and max allowable by state fee will be debited/drafted from your account. To revoke/verify/dispute 800-460-0124.

Please think carefully about what your child should wear to make the best possible color portrait. Choose colors that best compliment your child's natural coloring. These portraits are guaranteed against technical defects and are of the highest quality. Good grooming, a good night's sleep and a relaxed attitude on picture day will assure you of a pleasing portrait.