



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 26, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

What enables us to be innovative, problem solve, and be happy, smart, resilient human beings? Play. We've all seen the blissful faces of children as they play in a park or on a schoolyard or the happiness as they race across a lawn. This is the look of play, by definition all-consuming, purposeless, and restorative. Play is its own reward and its fun.

I just started reading a book by Stuart Brown called *Play: How It Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul*. He has some pretty good ideas and challenging thoughts. When we become adults we often feel guilty when we play because it takes away from the real valuable things we could be doing (housework, career work, errands, helping the kids...). When we play we are open to new possibilities and sparks of insight and thought. Play strengthens relationships and fuels our creativity. We are designed by nature to flourish through play.

When's the last time you played with your kids? Video games, word games while driving, board games, pretend games, making music or art, goofing off... And outside games involving physical movement and maybe some competition, racing to the car, seeing who can jump the farthest on the sidewalk... Kids need to play, and we adults do, too, and playful interaction is a great opportunity to grow as a family.

On the other end of the spectrum we sometimes find ourselves too focused on work and our kids too focused on homework and scheduled activities. Balancing work and play is important for our overall health and continued success. In my supervision of the teachers we talk about how to strike that balance, because teaching can be an all-consuming profession and lead to burn out; and that would help no one! This past week I went to a screening of a film called *Race to Nowhere*, which examined the negative effects of the high-stress life some teenagers face in trying to accomplish everything they are told they need to do. You can see a trailer and read related information at www.racetonowhere.com.

Thanks to our P.E. teacher, Val Ostrom, we have a calendar full of playful activities you can do with your kids. It's attached. I've also included a list of the world's healthiest foods. Please encourage your children to be active daily and to eat quality foods for a variety of nutrients. But please, don't make them eat carrot sticks for Halloween! Go paint your face and join the fun!

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, and discussions!

Alternative Activity During Halloween Parade

If your family doesn't celebrate Halloween, there will be an alternative activity during the Halloween Parade on Friday, Oct. 30, in the Library from 12:45 until after the parade. Listen for the announcement, come to the library and be prepared for fun and games.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Oct. 30	Halloween Parade
Nov. 4	Dairy cow visit, upper field, 10 a.m.
Nov. 11	No school (Veteran's Day)
Nov. 14	Kaiser Auction, 6-11 p.m.
Nov. 18	SF Opera "Daughter of the Regiment," 11 a.m. (5 th grade only)
Nov. 23-27	No school (Thanksgiving recess)

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

The online Pink Panther includes information from our Wellness Committee

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/

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd

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PTA CORNER

THE RACE IS CLOSER THAN EVER! FOUR CLASSES ARE RUNNING “Neck and Neck” For Highest PTA Membership!

Three classrooms are now tied with 20 PTA members each! Ms. Haruyama’s class has pulled out in front and taken the lead by having 87% of her classroom’s families join the PTA! Ms. Banks and Ms. Hunter’s classrooms also have 20 PTA families, but it is 83% for Ms. Banks and 80% for Ms. Hunter. Ms. Gorham’s class now has 83% of her families joining the PTA, with 15 out of 18 families signed up. This is a tight race and any classroom can still reach the top and win!

REMAINING FAMILIES: YOU CAN SEND IN YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD’S HOMEWORK FOLDER TO YOUR CLASSROOM. JUST WRITE DOWN THE PARENTS’ NAMES, CHILD’S NAME, TEACHERS’ NAME ON A PIECE OF PAPER-YOU DON’T NEED THE MEMBERSHIP FORM. MAKE YOUR CHECKS OUT TO KAISER PTA AND SPECIFY THE AMOUNT FOR MEMBERSHIP AND ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR PLEDGE. PUT IT IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED PTA MEMBERSHIP AND THE TEACHER WILL MAKE SURE WE GET IT.

Teacher	PTA Families	Total Students	Percent of Class	Families Needed
Haruyama	20	23	87%	3
Banks	20	24	83%	4
Hunter	20	25	80%	5
Gorham	15	18	83%	3
Apaydin	14	20	70%	6
Bailey	16	25	64%	9
Araki	15	23	65%	8
McGhee	15	25	60%	10
Yang	12	20	60%	8
Neat	15	26	58%	11
Ross	14	26	46%	12

THE DEADLINE IS THIS FRIDAY, OCT. 30!

Henry J. Kaiser Elementary School PTA

Over The Moon



Auction Countdown - 20 Days Away!

Plans are well underway for a fabulous evening on November 14th. Thank you to all who have already purchased tickets, donated auctions items and offered to help. We continue to need your support!

1. **Purchase Tickets** (\$30/person when purchased by October 30th).

- Registration and donation forms will be made available mornings and afternoons at the drop off circle. They can also be found near the PTA table as well as on the Kaiser website.
- Your entry fee includes a variety of wonderful heavy hors d'oeuvres for you to enjoy.

2. **Get your DONATIONS in by Friday, November 6th**. A preliminary catalog will be available in the office and online in the next two weeks. Here's a sneak peak at some of the items we have secured so far:

- Local Getaways - Madrona Manor, San Francisco Westin, Vichy Spring Resorts
- Restaurants – Bay Wolf, Oliveto, Franklin Square Wine Bar, La Note, Dona Tomas
- Summer Camps – Feather River, Roughing It
- Tahoe Getaways - Lake Tahoe Homes, Sugar Bowl Tickets
- Family Fun – Aquarium of the Bay, Oakland Zoo, Lawrence Hall of Science
- Theatre and Concert – San Francisco Symphony, ACT, Concord Sleep Train Pavilion
- Themed Parties - “Paisano & Liotta Italian Feast & Flick” and “Kaiser Cocktail Club”.
New events include Dinner at the new Fire Station 18 and wine tasting at Wine Mine.
- Special outings with our Fabulous Teachers / Dinner at Principal Mel Stenger's home
- **Volunteers NEEDED in the afternoon for facilities set-up and throughout the evening.**
Contact Dora for more information on assistance with:
 - ✓ Guest Registration

✓ Bidding Check-Out

✓ Facilities Clean-Up

3. Donation Wish List:

- Art and Photography
- Restaurant Certificates (Local and San Francisco)
- Wine for the Instant Cellar raffle
- Professional Services
- Adult and Children's Parties
- Vacation Getaways (Local, Stateside or Abroad)
- Jewelry

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!

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