



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 7, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

December can be a difficult time for parents in terms of values. Whether we celebrate Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah or another holiday, December is usually a time for gift-giving. Although our children's natural tendency is to be very concerned about what kind of gift they're going to receive, let's take this opportunity to help our children understand the importance of **giving** a gift. Sometimes they nag or negotiate or even threaten in order to get what they want. I'm sure you've all seen and heard it if you haven't experienced it in your own family.

We're lucky to have a faculty who works with you to teach our children much more than reading and math. We teach children a bit about our core values. **We explicitly teach values because kids don't become nice and respectful by us merely hoping they will.** For example, teachers invite kids to talk about courage to clarify the concept and deepen the students' understanding. Teachers sometimes have kids rehearse the desired behavior. For example, during Second Step lessons teachers discuss situations that are opportunities for kids to exhibit courage. Next, the teachers guide the kids to practice the values behavior or perform very short skits to rehearse behavior that reflects courage. Finally, they reinforce the behavior pointing out courage when they see kids showing it. Some teachers will have students write about the value, either in an essay, narrative, or story.

This holiday season we have an opportunity to teach our children our value of giving. Model this behavior and tell your kids why you are giving gifts, so your child sees you practicing this value. Teach your child how to give a gift by together choosing a recipient and discussing what *they* would want (not what the child wants). Help your child choose, buy (if they have their own money they can pay for all or part of the gift), and wrap the gift. While you do these steps, make sure you talk about the recipient, why the child wants to give the gift, imagine together how the person will enjoy the gift, and rehearse how to deliver the gift. After your child gives the gift, discuss how the act made them feel, how they were received, and who else they might want to give a gift.

As part of our efforts to teach our children deep values, especially in how to care for the less fortunate, Roxy Samuels, one of our parents, is spear-heading our Operation Smile campaign – check out their website at www.operationsmile.org. This is an organization which provides surgery to children in other countries to correct cleft palates. The students saw a short video about the project and were so mature in their empathetic response! They all have collection envelopes in the hope that we will be able to give a group of children the gift of a smile. How wonderful that would be!

This is the season of giving, and we have the opportunity to give our children the gift of giving. With guidance and rehearsal children will find that gift-giving is indeed a joyful experience. They may find that it is indeed better to give than to receive!

Mel Stenger. Principal

Getting In The Know

There will be an information meeting for kindergarten on Wednesday, January 6, both at 6:30 p.m. Tours will begin the first week in January. Please tell friends and family to call the school if they are interested in a tour.

Parents of current Kaiser kids should contact the office as soon as possible to let us know if you have a sibling who will be attending our school next year. This will help save a place for them as we project our numbers for September.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Dec. 9	Picture Retake Day 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Dec. 9	Winter Performance, Grades K-3 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Winter Performance, Grades 4-5 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	Winter Break begins
Jan. 4	Classes Resume
Jan. 6	Kindergarten Info. Night 6:30 p.m.

**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/](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
Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

Getting In The Know

Sign Up Now for Spring Little League Baseball Through North Oakland/South Oakland Little League!!!

Registration is now open for spring baseball—a chance for kids to learn teamwork, build skills, and have fun!

North Oakland and South Oakland Little League (NOLL/SOLL) provides baseball to boys and girls ages 5 through 18 from Berkeley (south of Virginia), Oakland, Piedmont, and Emeryville.

Depending on age, teams are formed in January or February for a season that runs through early June. The organization is 100% volunteer run, with families handling everything from coaching to field prep to umpiring. Scholarships are available for families in need of assistance.

Full details and online registration are available at <http://www.nollsoll.com> or email info@nollsoll.com with questions.

Girl Scout Coat Drive Ends this Friday 12/11

The Kaiser Girl Scouts are doing a "One Warm Coat" drive. We desperately need coats for K-1 boys (small or x-small). Do you have any hanging around your house you'd like to donate? We are donating to a school in East Oakland. I need 80 boy coats so each student could have a coat. This is our last week of the coat drive. I also need coats for little girls too, but only 20. Thanks for your help and thanks to those who have already donated.

Best,
Lori Admookom

Oakland Youth Chorus Holiday Chorus

*Saturday, December 12, 7 p.m.
First Congregational Church of
Oakland*

2501 Harrison @ 27th Street

*For tickets and more information
call OYC Box Office:*

510-287-9700 x110

Order online:

www.oaklandyouthchorus.org

Kaiser Elementary School Wellness Council Helping to Raise Healthy Children



December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month. What a great idea! According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there were an estimated 235,300 toy-related injuries treated in emergency rooms across the country. Most of the injuries were to the head and face and consisted of lacerations, contusions or abrasions. And, 73 percent of the toy-related injuries reported were to children ages 14 and younger.

Prevent Blindness America suggests the following:

- Make recommendations to family members and friends about gifts that you feel are appropriate for your child.
- Inspect all toys as much as possible before taking them out of the box. Once opened, go through each part of the toy to make sure there are no small parts that could be choking hazards or sharp edges.
- Avoid toys that shoot or include parts that fly off. BB guns and air guns should not even be considered toys. Flying toys caused 9,600 injuries in 2008.
- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (such as a basketball along with eye goggles, a baseball with a batting helmet with a face shield). In fact, 90 percent of all sports-related eye injuries can be prevented by using the appropriate eye protection.
- Educate yourself on what products have been recalled. Contact the CPSC at (800) 638-2772 or go to www.cpsc.gov.
- Keep toys meant for older children away from younger ones. Closely monitor all activities to make sure smaller children do not have access to toys that are not at their age-appropriate level.
- Inspect toys for sturdiness. Your child's toys should be durable, with no sharp edges or points. The toys should also withstand impact. Dispose of plastic wrapping material immediately on toys as they may have sharp edges.
- Never give toys with small parts to young children. If a part of a toy can fit inside a toilet paper roll, the toy is considered a choking hazard and is not appropriate for children under the age of 3.

I am always looking for websites and magazine articles for ideas and information to include in this section of the Pink Panther. I was looking for wellness days that are celebrated in December. I found the food and health site calendar that says December 12th is Gingerbread House Day and December 13th is Cocoa Day. The 19th is Oatmeal Muffin Day.

I got 856,000 hits when I typed in “How to Make a Gingerbread House” on Google. There were patterns and directions. I was quite impressed. There are contests and pictures and it all was quite interesting. I was at the grocery store and they have a book with everything I need. Pre-cut gingerbread and frosting in several colors. Sprinkles and candy wafers. Simple and fun to do. A couple spoons and knives and the grandkids and I are in business

Hot Cocoa Recipe

- 1/2 cup sugar 1/4 cup HERSHEY'S Cocoa
- Dash salt 1/3 cup hot water
- 4 cups (1 qt.) milk 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Miniature marshmallows or sweetened whipped cream(optional)

Stir together sugar, cocoa and salt in medium saucepan; stir in water. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Boil and stir 2 minutes. Add milk; stirring constantly, heat to serving temperature. Do Not Boil. 2 Remove from heat; add vanilla. Beat with rotary beater or whisk until foamy. Serve topped with marshmallows or whipped cream, if desired. Five 8-oz. servings.