



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 14, 2009

Dear Kaiser Families,

It's the holiday season! But which holiday? Christmas begins on December 25 (it's 12 days, really!), the Islamic New Year, Muharram, is on December 18, and Hanukkah began on December 11 and goes for 8 days. Then there's the Winter Solstice celebrated this year on December 21. Additional holiday celebrations include Las Posadas, Kwanzaa, and Diwali. There may be others going on now or coming up. If I missed your special day, my apologies.

So why do we celebrate these events? Different groups of people mark different dates, but it seems that we all celebrate something. Our holidays say something about us, about what we value. They are also a time set aside from ordinary time, to remind us of who we are, and to let others know of our identity and our values. For this reason, it's important that we learn about each other's holiday celebrations. By learning about other group's holidays, we learn about who they are and what they value.

Most of the holidays mentioned above relate somehow to hope. Some tell us that we must undertake new actions and resolve to improve our lives and the world. Some tell us that the birth of a Messiah gives people hope. Some remind us that the movement of time itself promises change, with the hope that things will indeed get better. When we take time to investigate a different holiday celebration we often find that we share many of the same values, and that helps the world become a more unified place.

Last Tuesday evening I had a very satisfying feeling watching our children perform. As in most parts of the world school children were performing for their parents; parents crowded into the multipurpose room and beamed with pride. But there was also something different that is a source of pride: Children of different races, religions, ethnicities, and genders were all performing together. One of the parents stopped me afterward and said that it shows that it's really possible. When I questioned what "it" was, she responded that it's possible for us all to live together, learn together, and indeed be happy together. It was a moment when I understood how children can give us hope.

Maybe during break time you'll have the opportunity to witness or research a tradition other than your own. We can join our children in bringing hope to the world. There are so many holidays to celebrate; I hope you have a wonderful time with yours! Enjoy your time with your children!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Kindergarten Info Meeting Scheduled for January 6

There will be an information meeting for prospective kindergarten parents on Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30 p.m. Please tell any friends, relatives, or neighbors with incoming kindergartners about this meeting. We are also hosting two tours that week. Word of mouth is our best advertisement!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
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.
Jan. 18	MLK Day, No School

**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!

Now you can see what books are in Kaiser School's library online! Go to <http://library.ousd.k12.ca.us> then go to "Kaiser", then go to the catalog tab to search for books in our library. Wow!

Another great online resource is Net Trek. Go to <http://school.nettrekker.com/frontdoor/> user name: ousdtrek; Password: ousdtrek. This is a site that our school district has subscribed to in order to provide resources for teachers to plan their classes, and for parents to get information for their children.

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
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Getting In The Know

Hello Kaiser Families,

This is Roxie Samuels, regarding Kaiser School Smile Team! Well, this is the last week to collect any donations for Operation Smile! The envelopes are due by this Friday, December 18. You can turn them in before that if you like! How beautiful it would be to transform a child's life forever! Remember Smile Team, tax receipts are available. Just include your name, address and phone number! Checks and c.c are made payable to Operation Smile. Also note that if each Team Member donates \$10, we can possibly heal 11 smiles. Any amount will help. What a fantastic gift to give! Any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Roxies1@hotmail or 510.750.9979 Thank you!! Let's go Kaiser School Smile Team!!! Woo Hoo!!!!

Kaiser Donates Nearly 200 Coats to One Warm Coat Program

Dear Kaiser Family,

Thank you for making the Girl Scouts' One Warm Coat project a huge success. We sent the adult coats to a program called "BOSS," which deals with homeless people and those with mental health issues. We sent the little people coats to children attending schools in the superliteracy program in East Oakland, <http://www.superstarsliteracy.org/>. We collected close to 200 coats. WOW! Many people will be nice and warm thanks to you. Special thanks to our donators, sorters, washers, and Alison May who connected us to the schools in need. Happy holidays!

—Lori Admokom

4th AND 5th GRADE WINTER MUSIC PERFORMANCE IS THIS THURSDAY

Dear Parents:

All 4th and 5th grade students will be performing in the Kaiser Instrumental Music Winter Concert, Thursday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. Students should arrive 20-30 minutes early for tuning/warm ups and be dressed in concert attire: dark bottoms/white tops (or as close to that as possible). Parents can help our budding musicians by scheduling lots of home practice into this week. We want to sound our best! Parking will be available on the upper field. Thanks for all of your support. See you there.

—Claudia McCarthy, Instrumental Music Instructor

Kaiser Elementary School Wellness Council Helping to Raise Healthy Children



I picked up my granddaughter after school the last day of school before Thanksgiving vacation began. As I waited for her, I was able to watch the African dance class. What a joyful experience that was. I was almost sorry she got back from the playground so quickly. It was a great reminder of the diversity at Kaiser.

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday about the festival of the first harvest of the crops. It begins on December 26, and lasts for seven days. The name Kwanzaa, sometimes spelled Kwanza, comes from a phrase that means “first fruits” in Swahili, an East African language. According to an article on Kaboose.com, the point of Kwanzaa is not one of gift giving or religious celebration, but a commemoration of heritage and togetherness. Family and friends should find Kwanzaa to be a time of sharing and pulling together. The guiding principles teach values we tend to lose in a more modern and solitary society. Since the original ideas were to bring forth the harvest, the guiding principles bring people together to remind us how important we are to each other.

The modern celebration of Kwanzaa lasts seven days, from December 26 to January 1. Each of the seven days of the celebration is dedicated to one of the seven principles. Each day one candle is lit that represents each principle.

- Day 1 - middle candle - Black - Umoja - Unity
- Day 2 - innermost red candle - Kujichagulia - Self-determination
- Day 3 - innermost green candle - Ujima - Collective Work and Responsibility
- Day 4 - middle red candle - Ujamaa - Cooperative Economics
- Day 5 - middle green candle - Nia - Purpose
- Day 6 - outermost red candle - Kuumba - Creativity
- Day 7 - outermost green candle - Imani - Faith



Try a recipe for the celebration.

Prep: **30 minutes** Bake: **35 minutes** Broil: **1 minute**



Ingredients

- **12** purchased graham cracker crumb tart shells (two 4-oz. pkg.)
- **1** egg white, lightly beaten
- **2** 23-oz. cans sweet potatoes, drained
- **2/3** cup whipping cream
- **3** egg yolks
- **1** cup granulated sugar
- **1** tsp. vanilla
- **1** tsp. water
- **1/4** cup pure maple syrup
- **2** tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- **4** egg whites
- **1/8** tsp. salt

Directions

- 1.** Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Place tart shells in a 15x10x1-inch baking pan. In a small bowl combine egg white and water. Brush beaten egg white over crusts. Bake for 5 minutes; set aside to cool.
- 2.** For filling, in a large bowl combine sweet potatoes and whipping cream; mash and stir until smooth. Stir in maple syrup, egg yolks, and pumpkin pie spice. Spoon filling evenly in tart shells. Bake for 30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack for 2 hours.
- 3.** Meanwhile, preheat broiler. For meringue, in top of double boiler combine sugar, 4 egg whites, vanilla, and salt. Beat with electric mixer on low speed for 30 seconds. Place over boiling water (upper pan must not touch water). Cook, beating constantly with electric mixer on high speed, for 8 to 10 minutes or until mixture is fluffy, holds soft peaks, and reaches 160°F on instant read thermometer. Remove from heat. Beat 30 seconds more, scraping sides and bottom of pan.
- 4.** Mound meringue mixture on baked pies, forming peaks. Broil 5 to 6 inches from heat for 1 to 2 minutes or until tops are lightly browned. Cool on wire rack for 10 minutes before serving. Cover and refrigerate to store.

Just a note: Many farmers markets operate all year long. This is a list of what is currently in season:

Fruit: pears, avocado, exotic fruits - kumquats, sapote, ugli fruits, pepino melon, cherimoya

Vegetables: white and sweet potatoes, mushrooms, celery, onions