



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Dear Kaiser Families,

This past Friday we celebrated Asian New Year. It was a dark and rainy night. (No, this is not the start of a mystery!) By 6:30 the hall was filling up with our school community, gathered to celebrate Asian New Year. Karen Orsalek and her crew had decorated the space and made sure that everything was prepared. Old friends and new came together and filled their plates from the communal table. Many Asian cultures were represented this year. It was a great chance to try something different—yum! Like so many families, food is the center of our celebrations, and this was no exception. And it was delicious! Thanks to all who contributed and a special thanks to Karen.

Later there was some entertainment. Alumnus Neil Wessling and his younger sister Mei demonstrated some martial arts moves and we were all impressed. A martial arts teacher came and did a whole group lesson. The kids on stage were very focused and left me wondering how many went home to ask their parents if they could take lessons! Another event included children gathered on stage to perform a dragon dance. They lined up under a dragon body and wound around the stage as other kids beat rhythm instruments, all in an effort to chase away the evil spirits from this year. Based on the noise they made, I think we're safe!

In case you're wondering what we all did yesterday, I'll give a brief summary. In the morning The Kindergarten and first grade teachers went to an inservice workshop about DIBELS, which is an assessment they are using for the first time this year. The time they spent was intended to help them refine their skills and to take a deeper look at their own classes. Teachers grades 2-5 went to math training on strategies for teaching basic facts. This is the group of equations that kids should have memorized and not need to think about. In the early grades we expect them to learn basic facts in addition and subtraction of numbers up to 20. In later grades we expect students to commit to memory basic facts in multiplication and division of numbers up to 12 (up to 15 as a challenge!).

This idea is somewhat like memorizing sight words, which helps in the overall development of reading skills. We have found that when children have mastered this group of basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, they do better in general in math. As they get older, students face an increasingly complex math curriculum (like introducing algebra in 4th grade!) and if they don't have the facts memorized, it gets in the way of their understanding the more complex problems and being able to perform them easily. Long division is a perfect example of the type of math problem which depends on the automatic memory of basic facts; if a child is struggling with the basic facts in multiplication/division, they have a much harder time getting the steps of a long division problem. I'm sure in the next few weeks you'll be hearing more about this topic from you child or their teacher.

This week I was counseling a struggling student and found myself saying to her, "Inch by inch. Keep improving. Keep your eye on the goal. You'll get there! And along the way take a look back every once in a while and see how far you've come." Coincidentally I got a call from a researcher who told me that our school has the highest math scores for African American elementary kids in Alameda County. We're not at the goal of equity yet, but it's nice to hear that we're making progress!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

The recent tragic earthquake in Haiti serves as a reminder to be prepared for disasters. **If you have changed your phone number recently, please let us know so that we can contact you in a disaster situation.** Most probably we will not be answering the office phone should such a situation occur.

Medical Supplies Drive

Please help us gather supplies for the relief efforts in Haiti. Supplies may be dropped off in each class.

- Kinder – non-latex gloves (one size fits all)
1st – antibiotic ointment and hydrocortisone ointment
2nd – rolling bandages and surgical masks
3rd – sterile gauze pads and adhesive band-aids
4th – triangle bandages
5th – iodine

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!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb. 15	NO SCHOOL – President's Day Holiday
Feb. 17	SSC Meeting
Feb. 24	PTA Board Meeting, 6:30
Feb. 26	African American Potluck, 6:30
Mar. 3	General PTA Meeting, 6:30
Mar. 12	Report Card Period Ends Minimum Day
Mar. 17	SSC Meeting, 4:00
Mar. 18-19	Parent-Teacher Conferences Minimum Days

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
Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

PTA CORNER

Big News for Budding Artists!

KidzArt is now offering shorter, more affordable KidzArt sessions for their Friday class. Here are the dates:

NEW February Mini-Session: \$55.00

Start Date: 02/05/2010

End Date: 02/26/2010

Description 4 classes total. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

NEW March Mini-Session: \$55.00

Start Date: 03/05/2010

End Date: 04/02/2010

Description 4 classes total. Mar. 5, 12, 26; Apr. 2.

April Mini-Session: \$55.00

Start Date: 04/16/2010

End Date: 05/07/2010

Description 4 classes total. Apr. 16, 23, 30; May 7.

June Mini-Session: \$55.00

Start Date: 05/14/2010

End Date: 06/11/2010

Description 4 classes total. May 14, 21; June 4, 11.

To register online, please visit www.kidzarteastbay.com <<http://www.kidzarteastbay.com>>

Events at Oakland Public Libraries

Shadow Puppetry

The [Oakland Museum of California](#) presents Shadow Puppetry with artist Cheryl Perko in celebration of Lunar New Year. Welcome the Year of the Tiger with stories, Zodiac shadow puppet crafts, and your own puppet show.

2/2 7pm Montclair Branch, 1687 Mountain Blvd.

2/9 6pm Cesar Chavez Branch, 3301 East 12th St., Ste. 271

2/13 2pm Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave.

Derique

In a celebration of music, dance, circus, comedy, and high-tech hambone, performing artist Derique tells the story of how African-American slaves were deprived of drums and developed the traditional form of body percussion known as hambone. Honoring Black History Month.

2/6 1pm Cesar Chavez Branch, 3301 East 12th St., Ste. 271



School Board Director **Jody London**

Invites you to a District 1

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Parent Empowerment: Building Mutually Satisfying Home-School Partnerships

Saturday, February 27, 2010

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Emerson Elementary School

4803 Lawton Avenue

Oakland, California

Parents have new power to shape and move their schools. Yet devastating budget cuts mean schools have increasingly less to work with.

- **How can parents and guardians work with schools to provide the education they want for their child?**
- **How can engaged parents and guardians recruit others to join in their efforts?**
- **How can the constituents of District 1 create efforts for all children to succeed? Are we all in this together?**

== Refreshments and childcare provided ==
Please RSVP if you require childcare

For more information and to RSVP:

Jody London

Jody.London@ousd.k12.ca.us · 510-459-0667

Kaiser Elementary School

25 South Hill Court, Oakland 94618 Ph: 549-4900

"Collaboration and Community."

Academic Talent Development Program at UC Berkeley

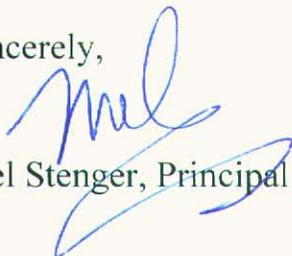
Dear Kaiser Parents,

It's not too early to start thinking about the summer and what your child will be doing. Recently ATDP (Academic Talent Development Program) at UC Berkeley sent us information about their summer program and encouraged us to let you know about it.

Programs such as ATDP are often the first in a series of opportunities leading children to college. I know that to be true from former Kaiser students who report back to me as young adults. Because of their connections to the university and other resources, this type of program can also help your child experience deep learning sometimes not available in a typical classroom.

The other side of this letter has the details. I would encourage you to check out the website or call 642-8308 for more information.

Sincerely,



Mel Stenger, Principal

ACADEMIC TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
3639 TOLMAN HALL • BERKELEY, CA 94720-1670 • 510-642-8308

Dear Student and Parents,

UC Berkeley's Academic Talent Development Program (ATDP) invites highly motivated young scholars to apply to its 2010 Summer Session of challenging courses.

When selecting students for acceptance, ATDP considers indicators of academic talent, including a student's report card, standardized test scores, an essay, and a teacher recommendation. ATDP carefully chooses its faculty members from a pool of university, public school, and private school instructors. In addition to their demonstrated excellence in the classroom, our instructors share a commitment to the education of gifted and talented youth.

ELEMENTARY DIVISION (K-6)

Each July, ATDP students in grades K-6 spend an exciting three-week session exploring academic areas not normally offered at their schools. ATDP selects motivated and talented students who desire opportunities for intellectual and social enrichment. The 2010 Summer Session runs from Monday, July 12 to Friday, July 30, and classes are at Washington School in Point Richmond (9 miles northwest of UC Berkeley). Tuition is \$475, plus materials fees.

SECONDARY DIVISION (7-11)

Each summer, ATDP's Secondary Division brings highly motivated and talented young scholars in grades 7-11 to the UC Berkeley campus for a six-week session of challenging and stimulating courses, designed for both academic acceleration and enrichment. The 2010 Summer Session runs from Monday, June 21 to Friday, July 30. Tuition is \$475 for 5-unit courses and \$705 for 10-unit courses, plus materials and lab fees.

Students who complete courses with a grade of B and above receive Program recommendation for credit at their schools.

TO RECEIVE AN APPLICATION

All catalog information and the application forms are available at the ATDP website:

<http://atdp.berkeley.edu>

If you are interested in receiving a hard copy of the catalog and application for the 2010 Summer Session, you can also send a self-addressed, stamped 9" x 12" manila envelope with \$1.56 in postage (\$2.24 for two) to the ATDP office:

UC Berkeley
Education: ATDP
3639 Tolman Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720-1670

Indicate which catalog you would like to receive by writing "ED" (Elementary Division) or "SD" (Secondary Division) in the lower left-hand corner of the return envelope. Also indicate the number of catalogs you are requesting (e.g., 1 ED + 1 SD, or 2 SD). For more information, phone 510-642-8308.

The deadline to send in a completed application is Wednesday, March 3, 2010 for SD and Wednesday, March 31, 2010 for ED. However, applying earlier is advantageous, as the date a complete application is received can be an important factor in determining course placement. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Nina Hersch Gabelko, Ed.D.
Director, ATDP

2010 Elementary Division

(By grade completed in June 2010)

Oviparous Animals (K)
Tide Pools (K)
Mathmagic! (1st)
Sea Studies (1st)
Folktales from Around the World (2nd)
Exploring Light and Vision (2nd)
Applying Mathematics (2nd)
Rainforests (2nd)
Jazz Up Your Writing (2nd)
Authors' Corner (3rd)
Human Anatomy (3rd)
Those Wonderful Simple Machines! (3rd)
Energy (4th)
The Artists' Studio (4th)
Math for Scientists (4th)
Critic's Corner (4th)
Fluid Physics (4th)
Going Global (4th)
Writers at Work (5th)
Lab Chemistry (5th)
Creating Music, Movies & Games With Computers (5th)
Human Anatomy & Physiology (6th)
Extra-Terrestrial Trigonometry (6th)
Writing for Secondary School (6th)
Cosmic Wonders (6th)

2010 Secondary Division

(Completing Grades 7 to 11 by June 2010)

The Writing Process
Reading for Creative Writing
Writing for High School
Public Speaking & Writing
Writing for College
Advanced Reading and Writing
Beginning Acting 1 & 2
Drawing and Design
Advanced Placement Art History
First-Year Latin
First-, Second-, Third-, and Fourth-Year Japanese
The Virtual ATDP
The Internet Classroom
The Advanced Internet Classroom
Introduction to Java
Foundations of Algebra
Algebra I
Introduction to Geometric Thinking
Geometry
Algebra II/Trigonometry
Precalculus
Advanced Placement Calculus AB
Advanced Placement Statistics
World Mythology
Introduction to Psychology
Introduction to Sociology
Architectural Design
The Practice of Law
Introduction to Business & Finance
Contemporary Explorations of the Mind
Advanced Placement Psychology
Introduction to Biotechnology
Marine Biology
Introduction to Chemistry
Advanced Chemistry
Advanced Placement Biology
Introduction to Neuroscience

Challenging Summer Courses for Highly Motivated Young Scholars