



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

Dear Kaiser Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday weekend and celebrated Labor Day by doing very little labor! We all had a full and busy week, so a day of rest was well deserved.

Back to School Night will be *next* Wednesday, September 15, at 6:30. Parking for that event, and all evening events, is on the upper field. This *adult* program is to inform parents/guardians of the curricular program teachers are presenting to your children. It is not a conference time. The evening will begin with Kindergarten through 2nd grade teachers talking in their classrooms from **6:30-7:00**. Then we will move to the multipurpose room for some remarks by myself and our PTA. It is important that a parent/guardian attend this portion to learn about our school-wide efforts this year, and vote to approve our budget. After that meeting, the upper grade teachers will do their presentations from about **7:45-8:15**. We look forward to seeing all of you then!

CST test scores tell us that we made some progress in ELA (66 increased to 69, as the percentage of our kids who tested proficient or advanced) and math (70 increased to 76, as the percentage of our kids who tested proficient or advanced). The API (Academic Performance Index) or AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) will be released Thursday. These are the two big indicators of our progress as a school. When they arrive, I will write about what they mean for us. I do not expect big changes in them though, because overall our school's scores changed very little. We do very well overall, thanks to our wonderful staff of teachers and intervention personnel, and to terrific parent support!

Many of you have asked me how the state budget crisis affects us. The Oakland Unified School District has suffered drastic cuts in their central offices. Additionally, Kaiser School will experience many direct budget cuts this year as well. We have eliminated teacher overtime pay, professional development funding, refreshments at meetings, and reduced our materials and supplies budget. In spite of these and other cuts, our teachers are working very hard to provide wonderful learning experiences for all our students! Our site budget depends on the number of kids attending and the attendance rate. Over the past three years we have increased our lower grade class size to help with this problem. Student absence also affects us. We had about a 4% absentee rate last year which means a **loss of about \$56,000**. *Every day counts!* Please schedule vacations and other non-urgent absences for vacation days or holidays.

Our school is successful in large part because of your support. Last Thursday's Volunteer Orientation had 23 attendees! Wow! If you want to volunteer in the classrooms we need you to attend an orientation to receive clear information about how to help best, and to learn about the school district's new volunteer application and approval. This orientation does not need to be done before you start, however, so don't let that stop you! We also count on you to watch your child's homework and classwork to monitor their performance. Beyond that we depend on you joining the PTA and contributing toward the enrichment programs here. Please keep in mind that our PTA budget breaks down to just over \$600 per child. Let's work together to help all children have a successful year!

We're off and running! Go team!

Mr. Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Please have your children wait in "The Waiting Zone" out front of the multipurpose room before 8:30 am, and after 3:00 pm when they are waiting for pick-up.

Look for information about the earthquake/emergency packets. Your child should have received it last Friday and the packets are due to your child's teacher by September 20.

WHAT'S IN THE KAISER LIBRARY?

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.

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/

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 |
|------------|--|
| Sept. 15 | SSC Meeting |
| Sept. 15 | Back to School Night / PTA Meeting 6:30-8:15 |
| Sept. 20 | Emergency Kits Due |
| Sept. 29 | PTA Board Meeting |
| Oct. 8 | Staff Development Day No School |
| Oct. 11-15 | Parent-Teacher Conferences minimum days all week |

Consider signing up for a produce box delivery. The PTA gets a small cut and you get healthy vegetables. Go to www.thecreamofthecrop.org for more information!

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

The online Pink Panther includes information from our Wellness Committee

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

Kaiser Kiosk

Woodminster Summer Musicals presents:

Paint Your Wagon

Paint Your Wagon takes place in the California wilderness of 1853, and tells the story of a crusty old gold miner, Ben Rumson, his daughter Jennifer, and a townful of miners and other colorful Gold Rush characters. Songs include "I Talk To the Trees," "They Call the Wind Mariah," and "Wandrin' Star."

September 9, 10, 11, 12
Woodminster Amphitheater
Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m./ Sun. at 7 p.m.

Children and teens (16 and younger) who are accompanied by a paying adult get in FREE.

Looking for an Alternative to Team Sports? Try Circus Arts at Kinetic Arts Center

Consider Circus Arts at Kinetic Arts Center as an alternative (or in addition) to team sports for your children. Every class has a warm-up period, a strengthening and skills building component, and an opportunity for your child to become more self-aware and confident – just like soccer or basketball practice. Never again will you have to console your crying child after losing another soccer game or say, "Well, honey it's not about winning, it's about having fun." In circus, every class is fun and every class is a workout and every child is a winner. We have after-school classes, weekend classes, and sometime classes for the whole family at the same time. Visit us at www.kineticartscenter.com or call us at (510) 444-4800.

Best wishes,

Victoria Angello
Managing Director
Kinetic Arts Center
785 7th Street, Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 444-4800
www.KineticArtsCenter.com

**KAISER ELEMENTARY WILL BE STARTING AN AFTER SCHOOL
MANDARIN PROGRAM on Thursdays from 3-4:00pm- Seeking interested
Families to Participate**

Note from parent organizers Maya and MeiBeck Scott-Chung: Our daughter Luna just started first grade with Ms. Haruyama. We are so happy that she (and we) have been given the opportunity to join Kaiser Elementary's dynamic, diverse learning community.

Luna was at Grand Lake Montessori in Oakland for three years previously and we chose the school in part because she was able to learn both Spanish and Mandarin in her classroom. We are committed to having Luna continue studying Mandarin now that she is in OUSD.

Luna and several other Kaiser Elementary students attended New Sprouts Mandarin summer school program this summer. (Stay tuned for family reflections next week!) Our family is Mexican, Chinese, Scottish, Irish, Catalan, Argentinean American and neither of Luna's parents speak Mandarin, but her grandparents speak Mandarin on one side and Cantonese on another. New Sprouts works with many children whose families do not speak Mandarin, as well as Chinese American families who want to support Chinese cultural and linguistic studies for their children.

About the afterschool Program:

Madhouse Mandarin: Learn Mandarin through story telling

New Sprouts' innovative afterschool program teaches Mandarin through in-depth study of a story. Students will learn new vocabulary and sentence structure within a dynamic and meaningful context. Students choose their story, create their own lines and work toward putting on a play in Mandarin with the guidance of an experienced Chinese teacher.

This approach allows literacy to grow progressively and the language is constantly reinforced through creative thinking. Children will have fun and be more actively involved in class. Watch your child grow confident and inspired through storytelling in Chinese.

Madhouse Mandarin is offered by **New Sprouts Chinese School** for children in **Grades K through 2**. Class meets **once a week for 60 minutes each**. The class has a size limit of 12.

If you are interested in having your child(ren) participate, please email Maya Scott-Chung at mayascottchung@gmail.com and/or call (510) 381-0876. Deadline for registration is Friday September 17th for class starting Thurs. Sept. 23.

