



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

Dear Kaiser Families,

Back-to-School Night was a wonderful event! I appreciate how so many of you took time out of your evenings to come and hear about the program that we are offering your children. We also heard about the plans of our wonderful PTA. You are an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. Your applause gave me chills!

If you missed the program here are a few highlights:

- Our test scores 73% proficient/advanced in ELA and 75% in math, with an API of 880.
- We have satisfaction rates in the upper 90% levels!
- And a nearly 80% volunteer rate! (nearly 80% of our parents volunteer at least once) **Wow!**
- Please be on time for school and don't pull out your child early.
- On the traffic circle pull all the way around before letting your child out.
- Avoid chewing gum and cell phone use at school. Let's all model appropriate behavior!
- Monitor your child's homework and school performance—don't let them slip!
- Please read the Pink Panther and teachers' newsletters to keep informed about school events and class news.

Our staff takes our test scores seriously, while holding that the CST is only one indicator of student success. As we looked deeper into the test scores we saw that while 39 children made more than a year's progress, 40 made less; we call that "slipping." Additionally, since 28 of the 40 kids who slipped are African American, it brings up the issue of equity and calls on us to examine our practice deeper to find ways to help **every** child succeed. We need your help. If you find that your child is not keeping up or does not make benchmark on progress assessments or does not pass major tests, *please contact the teacher*. Our teachers are working very hard to help every child, but sometimes your insights can help our efforts. Every child deserves to make at least a year's progress every year! Please help our school grow from very, very good to stellar!

Also at Back-to-School night I spoke a little about the school budget and the ways you are supporting us through the PTA. I listed the personnel support you provide and some recent campus improvements. What I neglected to acknowledge was that you, our generous parents, are helping us in many other ways. Looking at the calendar, we have 2 assemblies coming up, paid by the PTA. This year the school budget doesn't have enough money for supplies, and the teachers are communicating with you about how to contribute. They tell me that you are responding beautifully and giving so much! Thanks!

Today a mother told me her daughter often tells her, "I'm so happy! I just love my life. I just love my school!" Wow! To think we can inspire a child like that! It makes it all worth it!

Mr. Mel Stenger, Principal

## *Getting In The Know*

The Pink Panther Newsletter comes out every other week. The next edition will be coming home on or around 10/4.

### IMMEDIATE HELP NEEDED: DOLL DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR PTA DISPLAY

Sadly, our PTA Mountain Display Board was accidentally discarded over the summer. We quickly need donations of 11 "Playmobile" like dolls that look like children, to scale our PTA mountain. If you have any 3-inch dolls (Playmobile/ Lego/Fischer Price) that resemble school-children/mountain climbers to permanently donate to our new display board- we really need them. One doll represents each class as it scales the membership mountain to reach 100%. A box will be placed next to the PTA membership box on the front hall table to drop in your doll. You can attach your name/number if you want it back if we don't use it. Otherwise we'll donate any extras to the kindergarten classes or Adventure Time. Thank you. Karen Orsulak-VP Membership. karen.orsulak@gmail.com

### KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Sept. 20	Emergency Kits Due
Sept. 22	School Site Council Meeting, 4pm
Sept. 29	PTA Board Meeting
Sept. 30	Volunteer Orientation 6:30-7:30pm
Oct. 8	Staff Development Day No School
Oct. 11-15	Parent-Teacher Conferences <b>minimum days all week</b>
Oct. 11-15	Book Fair!
Oct. 28	Picture Day

*Check out the complete 2010-2011 school year calendar at  
[www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar](http://www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar)*

The Pink Panther is also available at  
[www.KaiserElementary.org](http://www.KaiserElementary.org).

**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

**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 Kiosk

There will be a Town Hall meeting with Superintendent Tony Smith on Tuesday, September 28, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Piedmont Avenue Elementary School, 4314 Piedmont Avenue. This is an opportunity to learn more about OUSD's Strategic Plan for Community Schools that serve the needs of the whole child. We also welcome your ideas on how the school district can best involve students, parents, and the community. Light refreshments provided.

Our neighbor, Gordon Piper, is a finalist in the Cox Conservation Heroes Award competition. He has been beautifying neglected Oakland properties for twenty years. Deadline to vote is October 10. The online voting site with the nominees' videos: <http://goo.gl/XFRx>.

### **Volunteer Orientation September 30, 6:30-7:30**

Learn how to make your efforts in the classroom most successful, and how to get a letter of clearance from Oakland Public Schools.

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### **Coffee with Kim**

Come have coffee with PTA President, Kim White, on Thursday, 9/23. It's happening at the picnic tables in front of the school around 8:30 a.m. Find out what's happening with PTA or voice your questions and concerns.

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.

Many thanks for the school supply donations. It was a great success and Britta from Superstars was so touched by your generosity. Thank you Kaiser School and Kaiser Girl Scouts!

Here's another way to help kids at under-served schools across Oakland: When you shop at Whole Foods Market in Oakland (230 Bay Place) this coming Wednesday, September 22, five percent of the store's profits directly support the Oakland Schools Foundation and our 45 network schools! <http://www.oaklandschoolsfoundation.org/wholefoodsday2010> Hope to see lots of Kaiser families there!

Kaiser Girl Scouts start meeting Monday, Sept. 27th after school from 3-4pm for Daisys and Jr. Girl Scouts, Brownies 3-4:15pm:

Daisys (K-1) meet in Ms. Bailey's Portable D contact troop leader Mari Cocek, [mcocek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcocek@sbcglobal.net)

Brownies (2-3) meet in Ms. Yang's Portable A contact troop leader Lori Admokom, [lusocho@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lusocho@sbcglobal.net)

Jr. Girl Scouts (4-5) meet in Ms. Gorham's contact troop leader Mary Laverty, [mmlaverty@yahoo.com](mailto:mmlaverty@yahoo.com)

## HELP YOUR CHILD'S CLASS CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE KAISER PTA MOUNTAIN!

The race is on to see which classroom will have the most PTA members in total and the highest percentage of class membership! The top 2 classrooms will earn a party! Ms. Banks' class is currently in the lead in both categories, with 17 families joining the PTA, equaling 65% of the class! Ms. Haruyama's and Ms. Gorham's class are tied for second place with 16 PTA families equaling 62% of the class! Great Enthusiasm! There's still time for parents to join and help your child's class reach the top! The deadline for membership is October 29<sup>th</sup>! Additional membership forms are by the PTA box by the office. If you don't have a form, you can also just write down your children's name and teacher's name along with your check made out to Kaiser PTA and put it in PTA box.

**DON'T DELAY, JOIN TODAY!**

Teacher	PTA Members	Students/Teacher	Percent
Hunter	14	26	54%
Haruyama	16	26	62%
Banks	17	26	65%
McGhee	15	26	58%
Apaydin	14	26	54%
Araki	9	26	35%
Gorham	16	26	62%
Neat	12	26	46%
Bailey	10	26	38%
Yang	13	26	50%
Feague	15	26	58%

If you have any questions, call me at 510-610-3682 or email at [karen.orsulak@gmail.com](mailto:karen.orsulak@gmail.com). Thank you so much to those parents who have already become PTA members and for the very generous pledge donations! GO KAISER! "Life's a climb, but the view is great".

**Karen Orsulak, VP of Membership**

Consider signing up for a produce box delivery. The PTA gets a small cut and you get healthy vegetables. Go to [www.thecreamofthecrop.org](http://www.thecreamofthecrop.org) for more information!

# Kaiser ALIVE! Suggestion Sheet

Please feel free to make suggestions on how we can improve on the current Kaiser ALIVE program. We welcome suggestions that you may have for new items to the booklet or any activities that you feel might enhance the program.

We ask that you please adhere to the following guidelines

1. If you have a suggestion that require coordination with a particular company, **you must make all arrangements, obtain any necessary coupons and provide complete company contact information (name, phone number or email address).**
2. Please include a write up of any new activity and a suggestion of the point totals for the activity.
3. All suggestions must be returned to Darlene Smith (Kaiser ALIVE Coordinator) by **Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2011** to be included in this year's booklet.
4. All print ready coupons must also be returned to Darlene by **Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.**

Please note that if the information is incomplete and we cannot contact you for clarification, your item will not appear in the 2011 Kaiser ALIVE booklet.

Thank you for your continued support!

Darlene  
Email: [luv2scrap42@yahoo.com](mailto:luv2scrap42@yahoo.com)

Suggestion	Point Total	Coupon Required (yes/no)

Activity suggestion or write up:

**HAVE  
FUN,  
RAISE MONEY...**



**Chevys**  
FRESH MEX

Make a Difference

**Please Join Chevys At  
Our Fundraising Event For**

**Every Hope for**

Invite all of your friends and family to dine with  
us and Chevys will donate **25%**  
of the proceeds to our fundraising partner!

September 30, 2010 / 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

At any of the following locations:

Emeryville 1890 Powell Street

San Leandro 15555 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street

San Ramon 18080 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  
: *It's just our way of giving  
back to the community!*

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The fourth annual *Harvest Crush Wine Benefit* for Adopt A Special Kid will be held on Friday, September 24, 2010 from 6 – 8:30 pm at JC Cellars Winery, 55 Fourth Street, Oakland. The *Harvest Crush Wine Benefit* is a major source of support for Adopt A Special Kid's (AASK) mission to find forever families for children within the California foster care system. Since 1973, AASK has been a pioneering agency in placing these kids in permanent, loving homes.

We hope that you will join us! Tickets are \$20, \$40, or \$75. The Raffle Grand Prize is Carmel-By-the-Sea: a 4Br/3BA Carmel ocean view home for a week. Raffle tickets are \$20 for 1 or 6 for \$100. Please email [contact@aask.org](mailto:contact@aask.org) for more information.

Your support will truly make a difference!