



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 18, 2010

Dear Kaiser Families,

Thank you all for all your help during conference week. I know it means a lot of schedule adjustments and various inconveniences to help us provide this time for parent and teacher communication. The reports that I've received so far have indicated that it was time well spent and worth the extra efforts. Of course, if you have any suggestions for improvements, just email me.

During this week I was able to sit in on a handful of conversations about your children. What a privilege! What I witnessed were teachers doing their best to present their assessment of student strengths and challenges, and parents listening and offering insights: partners in nurturing the education of our children. In some cases difficult things were said; hard news had to be delivered. In some cases tender and sensitive subjects were addressed, all in respectful tones and with concern for the improvement of the child. Overall I got a view of a coalition of partners working together toward a common goal. What a rich process to witness! My appreciations go out to our teachers who took the time to prepare their comments and tailor their messages, and to you, our parents, who came with information and questions about your children and a willingness to hear what we had to say. Great work everybody!

Also during conference week we were treated to a Book Fair sponsored by Pendragon Books. It was delightful to look over all the book offerings and it was encouraging to see all the parents and students looking for new books to read. And of course, we appreciate those of you who purchased classroom donations! Finally I want to communicate a big THANKS to all the volunteers who staffed the book sale: Janice Grossman, Kelly Bartlett, Jessica Forbes, Lucinda Igarashi, Corina Pedraza, and Renee Sanchez. Without you, it would not have happened. Thank you for building up the gift of reading at our school!

In her book The Power of our Words Paula Denton describes how the words we choose and the way we structure our speaking and tremendously change the way our message is received and the effect it has. For example, when we correct a child our impulse is to say something like, "Stop running!" The image of *running* is left in the child's mind, so the *stop* part gets forgotten, and the child is soon running again. Better to direct the child to the desired behavior, "Please walk in the hall!" so that the image left in the child's mind is that of walking. Another example is the use of specific praise over personal praise; it is better to praise a child for their specific behavior or efforts than to make it general or personal. "I like the way you set the table. You did that very well!" is better than "You're such a good boy/girl!" The first comment encourages the child to do additional efforts in a specific area *and* it feels good, whereas the second comment only gives a good feeling without specific feedback.

Conversations with teachers about support our children, helping in the book sale, shifting the way we speak to kids. These may seem like little things, but the little things help.

Enjoy the rest of October!

Mr. Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Some Reminders:

- Please remind your children to not bring trading cards to school ever. They too often result in tears and accusations.

- Please have students wear shoes that are safe for feet, i.e. no flip-flops or sandals. With the rough surface on the playground and hundreds of other feet to step on toes, we want protection over fashion.

- Please remind your children to wear clothing appropriate for a school setting. Some shorts are *too* short, and send a message I don't think is intended.

Our annual Halloween parade is scheduled for Friday, October 29, at 1:00. Please do not send your child to school in their costume. The students change at lunch time. Parents of younger children, please coordinate with your teachers. Park on Hiller Drive as all parking on the circle is reserved for disabled and elderly. Boo!

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

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors
PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd
Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

KAISER CALENDAR

| DATE / DAY | EVENT |
|------------|---|
| Oct. 20 | SSC Meeting, 4pm Everyone Welcome! |
| Oct. 28 | Picture Day |
| Oct. 29 | Halloween Parade, 1pm |
| Nov. 11 | No school |
| Dec. 15 | Winter Music Concert, grades K-3, 6:30pm |
| Dec. 16 | Winter Music Concert, grades 4-5, 6:30pm |

Check out the complete 2010-2011 school year calendar at www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar

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/

Kaiser Kiosk

Oakland School for the Arts is hosting a Haunted School 7:00-10:00 pm on October 28-31. Admission is \$5. The event will be at Black Box Theatre, 530 19th Street.

We collect and redeem ink cartridges as a fundraiser for Kaiser - the drop box is in the main office.

Thrill the world Oakland this Saturday, Oct. 23 from 1-4 pm. Be a part of the record breaking thriller dance in Oakland. The dance will be taught the day of and performance is at 4 pm. Studio One, 365 45th Street. Get your ghoul on and come join us! It's free, but donations are accepted. Very kid and parent friendly!

Girl Scouts will meet Monday, Oct. 18th. We will have a special meeting on Monday, Oct. 25th to celebrate Juliette Lowe's birthday. It's a Kaiser clean-up day from 3-4pm. All girl scouts are welcome. Meet in the back corner of the upper-field. Bring plastic or rubber gloves if you can for protection.

Contact Lori Admokom if you have any questions at lusocho@sbcglobal.net.

The East Bay Agency for Children ("EBAC") Auxiliary's Annual Masquerade Ball is coming to Piedmont October 23. Save the date and buy your tickets now!

What: "The Phantom Masquerade Ball"

Location: A beautiful mansion in Piedmont

When: Saturday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$125-400 per ticket

Phone: (510) 735-9890; embcooper@gmail.com for questions/tickets

The EBAC Auxiliary's Annual Masquerade Ball promises to be a captivating evening of fabulous entertainment, a sumptuous buffet, dancing, remarkable auction items (from a beach week in Cap d' Antibes during the Cannes Film Festival, and platinum passes to NASCAR, to a once in a lifetime trip to the Masters in Augusta) and more, all for a per person price of \$125 to \$400. VIP donors will be treated to a special party on October 14 at a stunning showcase Piedmont home. The Masquerade Ball will not only support the Child Assault Prevention Training Center of California (CAP), but also the other 12 EBAC programs, including Circle of Care—Grief and Illness Support, Hawthorne Family Resource Center and the EBAC Probation Mental Health Services. For more information about the Masquerade Ball or the EBAC Auxiliary, please contact event co-chair Edna Cooper at (510) 735-9890 or embcooper@gmail.com.

Enroll in Studio One Art Center's After School Arts Academy in the Temescal area of Oakland! After 62 years of enriching the community through arts, Studio One's After School Arts Academy offers students after school snacks, super tutors, and one class each day led by our Master Teaching-Artists in mediums such as ceramics, drama, dance, mixed media, culinary arts, and painting and drawing. Pick-up is included in our fee, which is \$15 dollars per day! We pick up in front of building D.

For more information on the program, please visit our parent blog at afterschoolartsatstudioone.blogspot.com or

www.studiooneartcenter.net. If you have any questions, please email the After School Program Coordinator, Sara Mumolo at studiooneartcenter@gmail.com or call 510.597.5027

Cal Science and Engineering Festival: A community celebration of Science@Cal, October 23, 10:00-2:00, Spieker Plaza. Explore the wonders of science with FREE activities for the whole family at the Cal Science & Engineering Festival.

There will be a potluck for Lesbian/gay headed families and their supporters for networking and community building this Friday, October 22, at 5:30, at the home of a Kaiser parent. If interested, please contact Maya at mayascottchung@gmail.com

Arianna Kandell, the older sister of 3rd grader Becky Furer, is interested in doing some babysitting/tutoring. Arianna went to Head Royce and is on a leave of absence from Northwestern University. She is 20 years old, and has lots of experience watching kids. She also is able to teach beginning music lessons (she studied trumpet for 10 years), and to do language arts skills development for the 4th and 5th grade (she has done professional editing under author Dave Eggers and helped to create three versions of Houghton Mifflin's *The Best American Non-Required Reading*). If interested, please contact (510) 295-9466.

Mark Your Calendar!

Winter Holiday performances will be Wednesday and Thursday, December 15 and 16, both starting at 6:30. The Orff and lower grade performance has been moved to Wednesday, from Tuesday.

THE FINAL ASCENT IS ON!

TWO MORE WEEKS TO REACH THE TOP OF THE PTA MEMBERSHIP MOUNTAIN!

Ms. Gorham's class, Ms. Banks' class and Ms. Haruyama's class are neck and neck in their ascent to the summit of the PTA Membership Mountain! Each classroom has 88% membership! Ms. Gorham's class has the highest number, with 23 members! All classrooms are doing a great job and still have a chance to surge ahead to reach the top of the mountain! Two classrooms will earn \$100 for a class activity; the one with the highest percentage and the one with the greatest number-so all classes are still in the race! So far, 193 students are represented in PTA membership. We only need 81 more students to reach 100% membership for the whole school! 100% of our teachers have already joined. Parents, let's continue to support our school!

| Teacher | # of Students + Teacher PTA Members | Total # Students and Teacher | Percent PTA Members | # of Students Remaining |
|----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Gorham | 23 | 26 | 88% | 3 |
| Banks | 22 | 25 | 88% | 3 |
| Haruyama | 21 | 24 | 88% | 3 |
| Hunter | 19 | 25 | 76% | 6 |
| McGhee | 19 | 25 | 76% | 6 |
| Araki | 18 | 25 | 72% | 7 |
| Feague | 18 | 26 | 69% | 8 |
| Yang | 16 | 25 | 64% | 9 |
| Apaydin | 15 | 26 | 58% | 11 |
| Bailey | 14 | 24 | 58% | 10 |
| Neat | 19 | 34 | 56% | 15 |

DON'T DELAY, JOIN TODAY! If you haven't joined the PTA already, it's only \$10 per adult and gives you the right to vote on important matters impacting your child's education. The PTA is critical in funding many of the great programs at Kaiser. Look for membership forms in the front hallway by the PTA member box or fill one out in your classroom when you go to your Parent Teacher Conference. No form? Just put submit an envelope with payment, stating parents and children's names and teacher. The deadline is November 1st. Questions? Contact: Karen Orsulak, VP Membership, karen.orsulak@gmail.com

PTA MEMBERSHIP AND PLEDGE DRIVE: Update and Clarification

As of October 17th, Kaiser parents, teachers and staff have generously given \$11,705 during the PTA Membership Drive! Of this amount, \$2630 is in membership dues and \$9,075 has been contributed for the Pledge Drive! This year, the Pledge Drive Goal is \$30,000! These funds will help maintain all of the great programs at Kaiser in the face of school district budget cuts. The Annual Pledge Drive will be gearing up in full swing starting now! The Pledge Drive is the major 2010 Fall fundraiser, as this year the Auction will not be until February 2011.

The PTA Membership Drive officially ends November 1, 2010 for the purposes of the classroom contest. Our district PTA requests reporting of membership by mid-November and each school has to pay district dues based on total membership. These district dues help in advocating for education at the district and state level. According to the district, PTA memberships are generally for one year, but always end on October 31st of the following school year. Parents can still join the PTA up until March 1st and can make a pledge donation anytime during the school year.

So far, 263 Kaiser parents and staff have joined the PTA. More parents can become members than the number of students enrolled in the school (274), because in two parent families with one child, both parents can join. Actual PTA membership is counted according to parent. A parent only has to join once, paying one \$10 membership and it will cover all children in the family. Either one or two parents per family can join, for 2 parents it is \$20 in dues. The actual PTA membership number doesn't equal the number counted in the classroom competition, because in the class competition it is counted according to student representation. Each student in a family is given one "credit" for parent(s) joining. If one parent has 3 children, each child in the family is given a credit for his/her classroom. If 2 parents join for their one child, that child is given one credit for his/her class.

Parents can still join the PTA by completing the PTA membership forms that are outside your classroom or on the table in front of the main office. If you don't have a form, just write down your names, child's name, teacher's name, amount enclosed for membership dues and put it in an envelope. You can hand it in through your teacher or place it in the PTA membership box on the table in the front hall. Pledge donations can be made on the membership form or on the separate orange Pledge forms, if you've already joined the PTA, but now want to make a pledge contribution. Pay Pal is being set up for pledges.

Questions? Contact: Karen Orsulak-Membership Drive, Lisa Cartolano-Pledge Drive

DON'T DELAY, JOIN THE PTA! MAKE A PLEDGE TODAY!

GIFTPRINTS will be here on Thursday, October 28 to take school pictures of our students. Listed below are the different packages available to families. Specially marked envelopes for this will be sent home next week for your use.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|------|
| Package A | Economy Package | 2 – 3x5 pictures Class Picture | \$12 |
| Package B | Keepsake Package | 2 – 3x5 pictures 8 – full size wallets Class Picture | \$24 |
| Package C | Traditional Package | 2 – 5x7 pictures 2 – 3x5 pictures 8 – full size wallets Class Picture | \$28 |
| Package D | Classic Package | 1 – 8x10 portrait 2 – 5x7 pictures 8 – full size wallets Class Picture Free Gift – 4-3x5 pictures | \$33 |
| Package E | Family Package | 2 – 8x10 portraits 2 – 5x7 pictures 8 – full size wallets Class Picture Free Gift – 4-3x5 pictures | \$38 |
| Package F | Gold Package | 3 – 8x10 portraits 2 – 5x7 pictures 8 – full size wallets Class Picture Free Gift – 4-3x5 pictures | \$41 |
| Package G | Deluxe Package | 1 – 12x18 portrait 3 – 8x10 portraits 2 – 5x7 pictures 16 – full size wallets Class Picture Free Gift – 4-3x5 pictures | \$70 |
| Package H | Digital Package | 3 – High-resolution digital images and consent to copy form attached. We may contact you if there are any issues with your images. <u>THIS PACKAGE IS NOT REFUNDABLE.</u> | \$73 |

Special Items:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| 12x18 Calendar | \$25 | 12x18 Individual portrait | \$23 |
| 8x12 Calendar | \$15 | 8x10 Individual portrait | \$12 |
| 4x6 Magnet | \$12 | 2 – 5x7 Individual pictures | \$12 |
| 8 Extra wallets | \$12 | 4 – 3x5 Individual pictures | \$12 |
| 16 Mini wallets | \$12 | Class picture | \$12 |