



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2010

Dear Kaiser Families,

Our annual Halloween parade was last Friday. Halloween is about the second most important date in the year to most. The kids were sooooo excited! They were dressed in costumes that reflected fantastical, aspirational, or scary. And, Mrs. Kaiser was here! Yes, the surviving widow of Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. came to visit our school for the Halloween parade and afterward we made a tour of the classes. It was thrilling to see the light in your children's eyes as they realized the wife of the namesake of our school was standing in front of them!

Halloween is all about play. It may seem silly and pointless, but it's not. Play serves an important purpose in the development of the whole child. Just as with Halloween costumes, play lets kids approach and interact with their fantasies, fears, and futures. By that I mean that it's important for kids to play out fantasies, to try them on, to imagine different possibilities for themselves and their surroundings. Playing with fantasies give kids a better sense of reality and grounds them in the real world because they have let themselves visit a fantasy world.

Playing with fears is also important. Some kids like scary movies or dressing up as zombies or monsters because it gives them a way to handle their fears. By playing in the realm of fear children learn to manage it better; they learn again what is real and what is not. This prepares them for the times when they encounter fears in real life. They have rehearsed. They know that it's going to be all right. Playing with fearsome characters and ideas teaches the child that they are more powerful than fears and can manage anxiety.

Play involving futures is also very important for children. Often the costumes we see are of occupations—astronaut, doctor, teacher, soldier—all career costumes I saw on Friday. Kids often pretend they are (insert adult role here) when they play. This is a way they “try on” a persona, an adult character, or an occupation. In this type of play they wonder about the future and begin to see if different roles fit, and if they do then they start to plan. Many great people started dreaming about their adult careers when they were kids, just playing around.

There has also been a substantial body of research done around play and learning. Surprisingly, giving children periods of unstructured, nondemanding free play improves their learning of academic subjects. Some years ago I read an article about a study of children in England who made significant gains in reading when they were given a daily silent drawing session of about 20 minutes. Teachers have “always” known that short frequent periods of study alternating with play time is better for the mind to absorb what is being taught—thus school periods with recess. Recently Katy Hunter, one of our third grade teachers, found a great article about the value of play. Check it out at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=19212514>. Very interesting and an easy read.

And don't forget: play doesn't belong only to kids. Adults can play too. It frees us and relaxes us and gives us time to just *be* with each other. So, go play!

Mr. Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Some Reminders:

The PTA will host a game night for kids and general meeting for parents this Wednesday, November 3, at 6:30.

Saturday, November 6, there will be a Cal Day Gardening day here, 9:00-3:00. Thanks, Rick Frey, for organizing it. All are welcome to come and join in on the fun!

Thursday, November 11, is Veterans Day and a school holiday. Take a moment to say something to your children in appreciation of those who serve our country.

The Kaiser School community wishes to express their deepest sympathy to Robin Sasada and all the Sasada family at the loss of their mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother.

All Our Family Coalition will host an Inclusive Schools Forum at Malcolm X Elementary in Berkeley on November 3, 5:30-8:30.

Claremont Middle School Tours will be on November 12, 19, December 3, 10, and January 7 and 14. If you are interested, please call 654-7337. There will also be an Open House on November 30 and December 14, from 6:30-7:30 pm.

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
Nov. 3	PTA game night and general meeting, 6:30 pm
Nov. 6	Cal Gardening Day, 9 am-3 pm
Nov. 11	No school
Dec. 15	Winter Music Concert, grades K-3, 6:30 pm
Dec. 16	Winter Music Concert, grades 4-5, 6:30 pm

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/

PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & FAMILY GAME NIGHT

NOVEMBER 3RD
6:30PM

COME OUT!!! BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAME(S), ENJOY KARAOKE AND FOOD
CONCESSIONS.

PARENTS; PLEASE JOIN US IN THE LIBRARY FOR AN
INFORMATIVE MEETING AT 7:00PM

BAKESALE PRICE LIST

in Support of

_____ / ROOM _____ Class Fund

SLICE OF PIZZA \$

NACHOS \$

HOT DOG \$

CUPCAKES/CAKES \$

COOKIES/BROWNIES \$

FRESH FRUIT \$

DRINKS \$

COMBO MEAL DEAL \$

SPECIAL _____ \$

SPECIAL _____ \$

Girl Scouts will meet the first and third Monday of November (1st and the 15th). Please remember your dues and put them in an envelope with your name on it.

Thank you!

Lost and Found items are now across from the school office. Please pick them up by **Nov. 5th** or they will be given to charity.

Big thank you to the Girl Scouts, troop leaders, and parent volunteers for making Kaiser cleaner, putting together the lost and found items and weeding. Girl Scouts rock!

Kaiser's Kids

Can *You* Help the Children?



100% of your generous donations go the Kids at Kaiser and is Tax Deductible!

Don't deny the kids Music, Art, Computers, a stocked and functioning Library, donate today!!!

For all of these amazing programs at Kaiser costs **just \$.67 a day!** That is \$120 for the school year. Our goal is raise \$30,000.

We Can't do it without YOU! Help the kids today!

Kaiser's Kids

Can *You* Help the Children?

Donating is Easy and Convenient!

Don't forget about Friends and Family. They can help the kids at Kaiser too!

There are **FOUR** ways to donate!

1. Online. Go to www.KaiserElementary.org. Click on the Donate Now button. Use your credit card or PayPal account to donate
2. Check. Fill out the form below and drop off in the Pledge Drive Box
3. Cash. Fill out the form below and drop off in the Pledge Drive Box
4. Don't forget your Company's Matching Program!! Contact your HR department to see if they provide a company matching program that will add to your already generous donation!!

Check	Make Checks Payable to Kaiser Elementary PTA
Cash	Please place cash in an envelope and write your name, your child's name and donation amount
Credit Card	You can make 1 flat donation, or set it up to have \$5, \$10, \$20, etc. per month donations during the school year.
Go to www.KaiserElementary.org to use the Donate Now Button or fill in the information here	
Credit Card Number	
Name as it shows on the card	
Donation Amount	
3 digit security code on back of card	
Signature	

You're invited to ...
Prove The Pet

PET CONTEST PROVE THE PET

- ✓ SUBMIT A VIDEO (60 SECS OR LESS) THAT WOULD SHOW YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT YOUR PET DESERVES THE AWARD AND MONTHLY FEATURE
- ✓ RALLY YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO VOTE FOR YOUR PET
- ✓ TOP VOTES GET THE AWARD AND MONTHLY FEATURE OF YOUR BEST PET
- ✓ AND...A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE \$1,000
- ✓ JUDGEES WILL SELECT THE TOP THREE FINALIST TO HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE \$1,000 BY APRIL 2011

FINAL JUDGE WILL BE BRIAN M-K WALKER, KID
ENTREPRENEUR
8 years old
<http://thesocialpets.com/socialengine/>