



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 15, 2010

Dear Kaiser Families,

It's the week before Thanksgiving break. It's the time for some reflection on gratitude, thinking about those who have supported us and how our lives have been graced. I know some of the teachers are leading their students through the process of discussing and writing about gratitude and the things they are grateful for. You can also take this time as an opportunity to guide your own children in developing their sense of thankfulness.

- Help your child write a list of people and things for which they are thankful. They can share this list with friends and relatives on Thanksgiving Day.
- If your family practices a religion, guide your child in writing and Thanksgiving Day prayer or blessing before the meal.
- Model gratefulness and appreciation for your children and tell them what you're doing and why you're doing it. They will learn from your example.
- Encourage your child to write an appreciation note or a thank you note to someone. Imagine the delight and surprise upon receiving one of those!
- Tell your child that you are grateful for them and name a very specific reason. Giving the reason makes your sentiment much more believable, and contributes to its uplifting effect.

So now that I've given all this advice about how to develop gratitude in our children, I'd better set an example, especially with the last item. Here is a short list of why I am thankful:

I am grateful for you, our parents and guardians, who prepare your children so well and support the teachers in their efforts. We know how complex and difficult it can be to raise your children—feed, clothe, shelter, guide, nurture, respond, enjoy, read to, monitor hygiene, intervene when needed, work hard at your careers to pay for everything, getting the kids here on time, advocate for, nurse, medicate, enjoy, pray with, celebrate, teach respect and courtesy, help with projects, tell to listen to the teachers, volunteer with PTA, SSC, and in the classrooms, relearn math while helping with homework, discipline and train, pass on values, drive all over town, plan birthday parties, give music lessons and nag for practice, surprise with gifts at the holidays—and all the countless things you do to bring us these joyful beings with whom we work every day. We humbly thank you!

I appreciate our support staff who are the wonderful “worker bees” who keep the processes of our school flowing. Miss Pearl, our clerical aide and Kindergarten supervisor; Sonya Brooks, our family liaison and student support provider; Robin Sasada, our administrative assistant; Lucinda Igarashi, our Library parent volunteer; Rebekah Mclearn, our Library assistant; Susanne Plunkett, currently volunteering her support time in the lunchroom; Mitch Sasada, one of our noon supervisors; Miss Priscilla, our lunch lady; and Charles Piper, our custodian.

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Getting In The Know

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Accolades, acknowledgments, and indebtedness go to the faculty and enrichment instructors here at Kaiser School, who are the heart, soul, and strong back of our school. They do so much to make Kaiser the successful school that we are. The men and women who teach our children come to me in the intimacy of my office to share their joys and sorrows, their tears of frustration and celebrations of delightful success. They are truly *parents in place*, the legal term that means that teachers are the parents of our children while they are at school. They love our children and we love them!

Finally, I am thankful for our students, your children, who come to school every day with hopeful faces and open minds. They work and play and give their all to grow and try to do their best. They pay attention and do their work and *model for us* cooperation, trust, and sharing. They bring us their best work time after time, hoping for approval and praise. They courageously face their mistakes and work on self-improvement. We adults would do well to take their example in many ways. What gifts they are!

Sometimes it seems like a simple thing to say “thank you” to someone, to appreciate what another person has done for you, given to you. If we let ourselves stop and think about it, the experience of gratitude can be a point of change and transformation. It can be a heart-opening experience. When we take the time to experience thankfulness we make ourselves aware of the generosity of others, and it can lead us to act generously ourselves. Sometimes gratitude can be the start of doing good for other people. I read recently that we *rehearse* our way into our beliefs. We don’t need to *feel* particularly grateful to start *acting* generous, but the strange thing is, we will start to feel grateful by acting generous. One of those wonderful paradoxes of the human heart!

There is so much to be thankful for. Act generously!
Have a wonderful week off!

Mel Stenger, Principal

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Nov. 22-26	No School
Dec. 15	Winter Music Concert, grades K-3, 6:30 pm
Dec. 16	Winter Music Concert, grades 4-5, 6:30 pm
Dec. 3	Minimum Day, 1:25

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!

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

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

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.

There will be an information meeting for Kindergarten on Wednesday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m. Please tell interested friends and family. If you are interested in attending as a supportive parent please call

School Site Council Meeting this Wednesday has been cancelled.

Girl Scouts will meet this Monday, Nov. 15th. Please bring your dues in an envelope with your girl scout's name on it. Some Girl Scouts are meeting on the 29th. Please check with your troop leaders. Brownies and Jr. Girl Scouts are meeting on the 29th. We will not meet during December, but will be participating in the Oakland Holiday Parade on Dec. 4th. Let your troop leader know if you want to participate.

ONE WARM COAT NOV. 15th - DEC. 9th

The Kaiser Girl Scouts are sponsoring a "one warm coat" drive for Superstars Literacy schools in E. Oakland and BOSS, a non-profit that teaches self-sufficiency skills to the homeless.

*Superstar Literacy needs mainly coats for young boys in K-2 some for girls of the same age.

*BOSS needs adult coats

Many thanks! I know how generous our Kaiser community is. Start winter cleaning your closets now! There is a box by the office for donations!

Kaiser Elementary School Toys for Tots Drive

Please help those children in need to have a happier holiday season by contributing toys to our toy drive.

Daisy Troop 30445 and Fire House #18 is sponsoring the toy drive at Kaiser. We will be collecting toys until December 10. Please bring a **new, upwrapped** toy for children, grades kindergarten – 5th. There is a barrel in the main hallway for drop off.

Please contact Monica Lannon,
Ms.Lannon@gmail.com with any questions.

KAISER PTA MEMBERSHIP SCALES TO NEW HEIGHTS!

Kaiser families have responded with unsurpassed enthusiasm in scaling the PTA Membership Mountain! 299 parents and faculty members rallied and joined the PTA! Never before have we had that many PTA members! The competition was fierce for who was going to reach the top of the PTA Mountain. For the first time ever, we have 4 classrooms essentially “tying” for 1st place! Ms. Banks’ class had 24 students plus the teacher join out of 25, to reach 96% classroom membership. Ms. Haruyama’s class also reached 96% classroom membership, with 23 students plus teacher joining out of 24. But Ms. Gorham’s class and Mr. Neat’s class each also had 24 students plus teacher joining, to reach a tie with the most PTA members to join! All four classrooms will receive funds towards a class party/activity, the exact amount to be determined in consultation with the PTA President. Every classroom had a tremendous turn-out from parents and teachers, with nearly 70% membership or more in each class. Membership cards will be distributed with school directories before Winter Break. Thus far, between PTA membership dues and pledges, we have raised \$12,415 for our school, plus another \$1,000 pledge by generous parents through a Vanguard trust account. We are still continuing the Pledge Drive. You can place your donations in the PTA box on the table in the lobby or donate on-line too! Remember for pledges, many employers will match employee charitable contributions! Questions about the PTA Pledge Drive, contact Lisa Cartolano.

Teacher	# PTA Members Students/Teacher	Total Students plus Teacher	Percent PTA Membership
Banks	24	25	96%
Haruyama	23	24	96%
Gorham	24	26	92%
Neat	24	34	71%
McGhee	22	25	88%
Araki	21	25	84%
Hunter	21	25	84%
Bailey	19	24	79%
Feague	20	26	77%
Yang	18	25	72%
Apaydin	18	26	69%

THANK YOU SO MUCH KAISER FAMILIES! Karen Orsulak, VP Membership

Building the Strategic Plan Together

In July 2010, the Oakland Board of Education unanimously approved a new strategic vision for Oakland Public Schools named "Community Schools, Thriving Students". This vision calls for the transformation of OUSD into a full-service community school district. In this model, every school site is a neighborhood hub providing a range of supports for families including physical and mental health care; eye and dental care; job search, job training and parenting classes; language acquisition courses; nutrition, recreation and physical education services; housing assistance; post-secondary links and mentoring programs.

The emphasis is on educating and caring for the whole child. Social and human services are not seen as extra or add-ons in these schools. Instead, collaboration in service of the well-being of children and families is how these schools consistently behave. In this way, the school creates an environment which allows children to learn at high levels.

In partnership with the community, we have started the process of turning this vision into reality. That work begins with the development of a five-year action plan to guide implementation. To facilitate this, we have created 14 taskforces to offer recommendations on important issues related to safe, healthy, and supportive schools; high quality, effective instruction; and college and career readiness literacy:

1A: EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

1B: CORE CURRICULUM FOR COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

1C: LITERACY

2: EFFECTIVE PRINCIPALS & LEADERSHIP

3: AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE ACHIEVEMENT (AAMA)

4A: PreK-8 NETWORKS

4B: SECONDARY EXPERIENCE & ACHIEVEMENT NETWORK

5: BUILDING FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (FSCS)

6: QUALITY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT GROUP (QCSD)

7: DATA WAREHOUSE & BALANCED SCORECARD

8A: RESULTS-BASED BUDGETING (RBB) REFORM

8B: OPTIONS & SCHOOL CHOICE

9: OPERATIONS & FINANCE READINESS

10: FACILITIES & ASSET MANAGEMENT

More information about the strategic initiative process and the taskforces themselves is available at www.ousd.k12.ca.us/taskforces. OUSD has created these task forces to provide a framework for engaging each other and developing ideas that help us implement the strategic plan, but there are multiple ways to influence the process such as Board meetings, committee meetings, focus groups, town halls and community dialogues. We will keep you updated on the progress and encourage you to take part as we create richer, more connected communities with a wider range of appealing school options. By strengthening students, families, schools and their surrounding neighborhoods, the full-service community school model reinforces our commitment to a diverse mix of schools that expands opportunity for all students.