



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 29, 2010

### *Learning to Give*

Dear Kaiser Families,

Whether we celebrate Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah, or another holiday, December is usually a time for gift-giving. December can be a difficult time for parents in terms of values. We know we want to teach our children the value of giving a gift, but it's often difficult. Sometimes they nag or negotiate or even threaten in order to get what they want. I'm sure you've all seen and heard it, even if you haven't experienced it in your own family. Although our children's natural tendency is to be very concerned about what kind of gift they're going to receive, we can make this season an opportunity to help our children understand the importance of *giving* a gift.

During the holiday season we have an opportunity to teach our children our value of giving. You can *model this behavior* and tell your kids why you are giving gifts, so your child sees you practicing this value. Teach your child how to give a gift by together choosing a recipient and discussing what *they* would want (not what the child wants). Help your child choose, buy (if they have their own money they can pay for all or part of the gift), and wrap the gift. While you do these steps, make sure you *talk about the recipient*, why the child wants to give the gift, imagine together how the person will enjoy the gift, and rehearse how to deliver the gift. After your child gives the gift, discuss how the act made them feel, how they were received, and who else they might want to give a gift. Passing on our values involves these steps of explanation, rehearsal, and review. Often it takes many attempts before our children take on our values, but don't give up!

Here at school we also teach children about our core values. We're lucky to have a faculty who works with you to teach them much more than reading and math. **We explicitly teach values because kids don't become nice and respectful by us merely hoping they will.** For example, teachers invite kids to talk about courage to clarify the concept and deepen the students' understanding. The staff often asks kids about the behavioral choices they make and what they were trying to achieve. We have many informal discussions with individuals about respect, friendship, courtesy, and kindness. Teachers sometimes have kids rehearse the desired behavior in particular situations. For example, during Second Step lessons teachers discuss situations that are opportunities for kids to exhibit courage. Next, the teachers guide the kids to practice the values behavior or perform very short skits to rehearse behavior that reflects courage. Finally, they reinforce the behavior pointing out courage when they see kids showing it. Some teachers will have students write about the value, either in an essay, narrative, or story.

This is the season of giving, and we have the opportunity to give our children the gift of giving. With guidance and rehearsal children will find that gift-giving is indeed a joyful experience. They may find that it is indeed better to give than to receive!

Mel Stenger, Principal

## Getting In The Know

### Please Note...

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 or email Mel.

We have a minimum day on Friday December 3. Dismissal will be at 1:25.

The PTA is hosting a World Heritage potluck this Friday December 3, at 6:30, to celebrate winter festivals around the world. Come share something from your background and learn about others'.

The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukah, begins on December 1 at sundown. Happy Hanukah to our Jewish friends!

Muharram, Islamic New Year, will be celebrated on December 7. We wish our Muslim friends a blessed and happy new year!

If you want to give your child's teacher a holiday gift, please contact their room parent.

School Site Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, at 4:00. We will be reviewing the site safety plan and a summary of student performance data. All are welcome!

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. Parent Volunteers are needed for the Wednesday show to help on stage between acts and "runners," walking students over to the stage from the classrooms. Please leave a message at school for Kathy Quain, the music instructor, if you can help.

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

### KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Dec. 3	Minimum Day, 1:25 pm dismissal
Dec. 3	World Heritage Potluck, 6:30 pm
Dec. 15	School Site Council Meeting, 4 pm
Dec. 15	Winter Music Concert, grades K-3, 6:30 pm
Dec. 16	Winter Music Concert, grades 4-5, 6:30 pm

#### 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](http://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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/)**

## Kaiser Kiosk

Claremont Middle School Tours will be on 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.

If you have a child that is going to start Kindergarten in the 2011-2012 school year, please see Robin in the main office for the Options application. The Options process will begin on December 6 and run through January 14.

### GIRL SCOUT NEWS

The **Oakland Holiday Parade** is Dec. 4th at 2pm on Broadway/11th-20th Street. The Kaiser Girl Scouts will be participating. Have some holiday fun and cheer us on!

The Girl Scouts are collecting coats for the **One Warm Coat** program. We need coats for boys, and some girls, in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade for Superstar Literacy. We need adult coats for BOSS, a homeless self-sufficiency nonprofit group. We always appreciate the generosity of the Kaiser community. The coat drive will end Dec. 9th! Check your closets now!

### KAISER INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WINTER CONCERT

**THURSDAY, December 16th, 2010**

**6:30 p.m.**

Strings report to the library for tuning at 6:00 p.m.

Bands report to their homeroom at 6:10 p.m.

*Concert attire: Dark bottoms and white tops.*

Dear Parents:

You are invited to join us for the opening instrumental event of the year. Come celebrate the winter season with the music of the Kaiser Band and Orchestra and hear the beginners perform for their very first time. You won't want to miss it! The concert will be followed by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade play.

Parents, please keep encouraging your child to practice regularly: 10–20 minutes / 5 times a week is suggested (or 50-100 minutes per week). We want to sound great for our performance.

Concert participation is mandatory. Please let me know if your child won't be there because of an early vacation or other circumstances.

Thanks for your support.

Mrs. Claudia McCarthy

Instrumental Music Teacher