



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 3, 2011

Let Us Begin Again

Dear Kaiser Families,

Welcome to the New Year! Happy 2011! Another year has started and with it, hopes for a better world. When we look at the bright, happy faces of your children, it's easy to believe that things will change for the better. Here's to the future they'll make! We were all *back at work* before 9:00! As I made my way to the classrooms to welcome the kids back I was greeted by students engaged in their work and happy to be back in their groups. There was a familiar buzz of activity and learning. The teachers were prepared, the students were rested and ready, and the whole "machine" ran smoothly. A lot of learning was taking place!

On another topic: If the question, "What did you learn in school today?" gets the answer "not much" at your house, you may wonder how to get the conversation going at the dinner table. Here are a few suggestions:

- Ask each other open-ended imaginative prompts like, "If you could have a wild animal as a pet, would you choose and why?" or "What special talent do you wish you possessed?" or "Tell me about someone who is really wonderful."
- Use family dinner conversation to plan an activity, such as a family vacation or outing.
- Play 20 Questions with topics such as ancient cities, state capitals, or mammals.
- Spotlight one family member with a special plate. On that night, other family members have to tell the person with the special plate what they like best about that person.

With just a little effort to take time to eat dinner as a family, you'll be helping your child build language skills, learn table manners, and create strong family ties. It's worth a try!

Over the next couple of months I will be working with the faculty and our School Site Council to update our School Site Plan and create a budget for next year. Because the state's budget for the coming years is so unpredictable, we need to be ready for probable changes in state support. At this point we've been told to prepare for another 15% cut. That's in addition to the 15% cut we took for the current school year. We'll be looking for ways to provide the same level of service (or better!) with a lot less money. Some might wonder if that can even be done. I choose to believe that we will find a way. If you have any ideas for next year, please email me at mel.stenger@ousd.k12.ca.us

In the letter before the winter holidays, I challenged you all to dare to hope and dream. Sometimes we adults scan the realities of our situations and let our dreams die before they get started. Our children lose themselves in their dreams, not letting obstacles get in the way and hold them back. We watch in amazement as they go through transformations we thought impossible, like learning to read or handling problems we thought too big for someone their age. We watch as they hope again and again, and when "reality" gets in the way, they reshape the details of their dreams, push forward, and persist at making real what they hope for.

We need to do the same. Our budget may look gloomy, and our resources strained, but working together we can indeed make our hopes for our children real. Let us begin again to (re)build our dream of a wonderful school, a learning community where everyone is welcome. Best wishes for the new year!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Girl Scouts will resume meeting on Monday, January 10! Girl Scouts will meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. They will meet in the same rooms as last year:

Ms. Gorham Portable C - Jr. Girl Scouts

Ms. Yang Portable A - Brownies

Ms. Bailey Portable D - Daisys

Thank you Kaiser Community!

Thank you for supporting the Toys for Tots drive and our One Warm Coat program with the Kaiser Girl Scouts! Both were huge successes. Because of your generosity many people had a brighter and warmer holiday season! Thank you!

Exercise Caution! – Sadly during the assembly on December 10 one of the cars belonging to a Kaiser parent was broken into and her purse was taken. Please do not leave any valuables visible especially purses. It only takes a minute for your things to be taken but an extraordinary long time to take care of the aftermath.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Jan. 5	Kindergarten Info meeting, 6:30 pm
Jan. 17	No School, MLK Day
Jan. 19	SSC Meeting, 4 p.m.
Jan. 19	PTA Reading Night
Jan. 28	No School
Feb. 5	Kaiser Auction

There will be an information meeting for Kindergarten on Wednesday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m. Please tell interested friends and family. If you are interested in attending as a supportive parent, please call the office.

Our Family Coalition is hosting a potluck for prospective Kindergarten parents on Friday, January 7, at 6:00 at Girls Moving Forward in Emeryville. This is a chance for LGBTQ families to discuss school choice and welcoming schools. More info at <http://prekpotluck.eventbrite.com/>

If you know of interested people, please pass along the word.

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!

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

Gentle Reminders for Drop off and Pick up. Please:

- Move forward to the Drop-off Zone in front of the multipurpose room.
- Children wait out front on the picnic tables in the morning until 8:30.
- Keep moving around the circle to allow other cars in and out when picking up your child.
- Don't beep your horn. Let's all model good manners.
- Kids they are expected to sit and wait in the Waiting Zone.
- Park on Hiller Drive or North Hill Court, if possible.
- Don't park in staff/teacher parking areas.
- Practice patience!

SCHOOL RESOURCES

You can see what books are in Kaiser School's library online! Go to <http://library.ousd.k12.ca.us> then go to "Kaiser", then go to the catalog tab to search for books in our library. Ms. Igarashi has been updating our collection so the list may not be totally accurate, but it's a big help.

A site that our school district has subscribed to in order to provide resources for teachers to plan their classes, and for parents to get information for their children is Net Trek. Go to <http://school.nettrekker.com/frontdoor/> User name: ousdtrek
Password: ousdtrek