



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 18, 2011

Dear Kaiser Families,

In some reading I've been doing recently I ran across the phrase "helping students become who they are not yet." The phrase was in a book on English language learners, but applies to all student-teacher relationships. It's a subtle but important way of looking at the way we structure what our children experience.

You've probably all seen the situation where a toddler falls and doesn't cry until he looks around to see how the adults are responding, and then takes his cue from their behavior. If the adults act shocked and begin to shriek and scurry to help, the child wails. If the adults act calm and cool, the baby doesn't cry but gets up and continues to explore. I remember my older sister, mother of eight, telling me not to say anything when I saw my niece tumble over, and sure enough, she just got up and kept going. This is just one example of how kids not only accept our framing of situations, they look to us for it.

Most often with school age children the framing comes in the language we use to describe what's going on. The language we use with kids is such a powerful shaper of identity and self-perceptions that it also becomes a shaper of kids' abilities and performance. Our expressions and statements of belief in our children can help them to believe in themselves. If we say, "When you're ready to listen I'll tell you what we're going to do" it conveys our belief that they can quiet down and listen and pay attention. Yes, they may be quiet if we just tell them to be quiet, but the previous method *carries with it an assumption about our belief in their abilities.*

When we *praise our kids with specific details* such as, "You completely cleaned off the kitchen table! It's spotless!" it builds their confidence in their abilities. This works better than, "Great job!" because it gives the kids the reason for the praise. Noticing and speaking the positive details of our approval lead children to believe in themselves. They also will be more likely to work hard to repeat the behavior for which they are praised. Also, we never know when our positive words will have a transformative effect in a child's life. We should be free in giving encouragement because we never know when our words can catapult a child into something wonderful.

Some years ago when, as a teacher here I was involved in the district's Historiography Project, we were invited to visit with Clay Carson, the director of the Martin Luther King Project at Stanford. Since we celebrated the holiday just yesterday, I'm reminded of a story Carson told us. "Gone With the Wind" had just won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1939. One of the parties had an antebellum theme, with the women in hoop skirts and the men in morning coats. They all paraded into a grand hall which was decorated as a Southern Plantation. Hattie McDaniels, who had won Best Supporting Actress, could not attend the ball because she was black. The producers of the ball wanted things to be very authentic, so they hired a black Gospel choir and dressed them as slaves to entertain the partygoers. The choir was from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alabama, directed by Martin Luther King, Senior. Martin Luther King, Junior, was a boy of 10, dressed in slave rags, singing in the choir. I often wonder what effect this experience had on him. Maybe the irony of it all sunk in. Maybe he was hit with the injustice of the exclusion of blacks. Maybe it was a moment of life-changing decision. Maybe his father helped him frame and define the evening's events. We'll never know. We do know though, that we can never be certain when what we say or do will affect someone or how it will. Create a possibility!

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

The site competition for the MLK Oratorical Fest will be held on Thursday, January 27. The theme is Winds of Change. The categories are group choral, individual poetry and speeches, and original poetry and speeches. Some classes are preparing for the competition, but you can also prepare your child independently. Please see Trish Gorham (oklyntrish@yahoo.com), School Site Coordinator, for more information.

The PTA sponsored Reading Night will be this Wednesday, January 19, at 6:30. All children are invited to come and hear stories and read books!

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

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Kimberlee White

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Carrie Shepherd

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

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!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Jan. 19-21	Book Fair
Jan. 19	School Site Council, 4pm
Jan. 19	Reading Night / PTA Mtg 6:30pm
Jan. 28	No School (Prof. Development Day)
Feb. 5	Kaiser Auction

TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND THE KAISER AUCTION

1. You get to chat with other parents at a social event.
2. The venue is REALLY cool.
3. CHILD CARE FOR HOURS FOR \$10?!?!? That's reason alone.
4. It is LOADS OF FUN!
5. Great food and cool stuff to buy.
6. Tickets way cheaper than your cell phone bill.
7. Great entertainment.....Guest DJ Chuy Gomez of KMEL's Morning Show.
8. You get to hang out with the staff and administration.
9. You get to see everyone dressed beautifully, enjoy a drink, get to see the kids' creations and raise some money for our kids by buying on some fun stuff!
10. A rare opportunity to spend an entire night laughing, talking, eating and socializing with Kaiser parents and staff WITHOUT children present while also having the best excuse for spending a load of money on a great cause.

AND, of course.....IT'S FOR THE CHILDREN!

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/

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS TICKET OFFERS

KAISER ELEMENTARY NIGHTS WITH THE WARRIORS! A portion of each ticket sold goes directly to the Kaiser Elementary!



Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Fri.	Jan. 14	LA Clippers	7:30 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 25	Atlanta Hawks	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Apr. 2	Dallas Mavericks	7:30 p.m.

Bring your family and friends out to these specially discounted games to watch the Golden State Warriors take on the LA Clippers, Atlanta Hawks or Dallas Mavericks supporting Kaiser Elementary!

Each ticket includes a food voucher good for a hot dog, bag of chips and soda!

Grouped seating for the school where everyone can sit together!

For more information or questions, please contact Lisa Cartolano at 510-213-1139 or via e-mail at lisa@lisacartolano.com

TICKET ORDER FORM

Deadline for Mail Delivery Orders: 10 days before game date
All orders received after mail-in deadline will be left at Will-Call.
 Check box to leave at Will-Call regardless of date received

Circle your game: 1/14 LAC 2/25 ATL 4/2 Dallas

# Tickets	Ticket Price	Seat Location	Total
_____	@ \$65 ea. (Reg. \$70)	Lower Level Corner	_____
_____	@ \$40 ea. (Reg. \$45)	Club 200 Sideline (rows 1-9)	_____
_____	@ \$25 ea. (Reg. \$30)	Club 200 Corner/Baseline	_____
Grand Total = \$			_____

Name _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____
Will-Call Name (if necessary): _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check: Check # _____ (Payable to Golden State Warriors)
 Cash

For more information – please contact Lisa Cartolano @ 510-213-1139

OFFICE USE ONLY: Account Number # _____ 9288712

TURN ORDER FORMS INTO LISA CARTOLANO