



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Dear Kaiser Families,

Gung Hay Fat Choy! Happy New Year! February 3 marks the beginning of the Asian New Year. This year is the year of the Rabbit, and more specifically, the Golden Rabbit which happens once every 60 years. In addition to the various years being labeled according to different animal types, they are also classified as wood, water, earth, fire, and metal (or in this case, gold. See what 5 minutes on Google can do!) The Year of the Rabbit may bring to mind the traits of sensitivity and cooperation. Strength, resilience and determination are also notable attributes displayed throughout the rabbit year in times of challenge. And since this is a "golden" year, we can expect good luck and prosperity!

Recently I spoke with the faculty about doing something to encourage our students to memorize their math facts. This means every child in every grade will be expected to commit to memory some form of math facts. This may mean knowing how to read any number up to 30 for a Kindergartener, to having the division facts memorized for numbers up to 12 for 4th and 5th graders. I'm leaving it up to teachers to determine what exactly this means at each grade level, and how to determine who had achieved mastery, to get a certificate of master from me. Please watch your teacher's newsletter for how they define it. And remember, February is Facts Month!

Soon many of us will celebrate Valentine's Day by giving expressions of love to our closest friends and family. Greeting card companies say about a *billion* Valentine cards will be sent or given this week. But what *is* love? Love is hard to define. There are at least four types of love: affection of people with family ties, friendship of those who share deep bonds, love that mates have for each other which usually includes physical intimacy, and the unconditional love that parents have for their children. They all fill our lives with happiness and they are all good! Let's celebrate! (please watch your teacher's newsletter for information about how your class will celebrate.)

How can we help our kids learn about love? We can model our commitment to relationships and difficult situation and show our kids how we are persistent for the sake of love. We can join a church or another organization where we are part of a positive community and where that community calls us to grow and give to others, thus increasing our capacity for love. And we can speak our appreciation of the small things in life and express gratitude, thus spreading feelings of love. One of the wonderful things I've witnessed in the classrooms is an activity called "Appreciations." The teacher quiets the class and then invites kids to publicly "appreciate" someone or something. It begins with things like, "I appreciate extra recess time." Then it progresses to deeper issues like, "I appreciate the way we all support each other in our class." This activity guides children in speaking their heart. What a wonderful world we would have if we all "appreciated" each other like that every day!

You're probably wondering how I'm going to tie this all together, so here I go: In this year of the Golden Rabbit, we want you all to express your cooperation by coming to the Benefit Auction this Saturday, thus leading our school to be a place of resilience and prosperity. That's a Fact! And I appreciate the way the parents in our community work so hard to support their kids and our school by giving their time, money, and vocal encouragements. I appreciate you all! Gung Hay Fat Choy! See you at the Auction! Happy Valentine's Day!
Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

School Site Council meets next Wednesday, February 16, at 4:00. Meetings are open to all interested parties. Watch for the agenda on Monday February 14.

Mr. Stenger's Dinner will be part of the live auction. Get a group together so you can out-bid everyone else and enjoy fabulous food and wine!

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb. 5	Kaiser Auction
Feb. 16	School Site Council, 4pm
Feb. 21	Holiday

Lost and Found Alert

Parents and kids!! Please check the lost and found for your missing items. Whatever is left will be donated to charity on Wed., February 9th.

IF YOU LABEL YOUR CLOTHES WE WILL TRY TO RETURN THEM TO YOU. Please label your clothes, especially jackets and sweathirts, and other loss-prone items like lunchboxes and umbrellas. Thanks!

The Pink Panther is also available at www.KaiserElementary.org.

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/