

# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 14, 2011

### Some Things to Consider

Dear Kaiser Families,

You may have noticed a new face in the office. Her name is Beth McCleary, and she is our new substitute administrative assistant. Please welcome Beth! Come say hello and introduce yourself!

Our most recent attendance data show that we average about 97% attendance each month. If we brought that up to 98% it would mean about \$13,000 more in our annual budget per year. Although we understand keeping your child home when sick, please bring them for a partial day when they have appointments and try your best to schedule personal business to non-school days. Please help us by having your child attend every day! This amount is equivalent to one Academic Mentor.

I don't often put such an emphasis on the connection between attendance and our budget, choosing more often to connect attendance to children's benefit from routines and the positive aspects of coming to school every day, on time. Recently, however, there have been some events which cause us to focus more on the budget itself. Our superintendent, Tony Smith, has advised the principals that we should expect cuts deeper than ever before. Here we will be reduced to 11 classroom teachers, an administrative assistant and a principal. Four teachers and I have received letters telling us we may be transferred or laid off.

For our part here at Kaiser, I've been in communication with Kim White, our PTA president. She has assured me once again of your support. I will be working with Kim over the next couple of months to put together details of continued and increased PTA support for Kaiser Elementary. The teachers, staff and I take great comfort in knowing that you, the parent community, will step up and help fill the gaps. On March 2 many of you came to the rally and modeled for our children how to make your voice heard. Thank you! This is one of our rights in a democracy. And now is the time to make your voice known. We all know that there is not enough money in the state coffers to answer all the needs, but that our state government is making decisions on how to spend what is available. **Please**, for the sake of the children and our school community, write, phone or email the appropriate state government officials. Tell them to make schools, particularly Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, a priority in the state budget. Thanks in advance for your support!

The teachers have wrapped up grades for the second trimester. Report cards come out this week. These are not permanent records, but are a means of reporting to parents on the progress of your child, so that teachers and parents can work together to intervene if needed. Wednesday through Friday will be minimum days to allow teachers to have conferences with those who need them. If your child is not making benchmark, please schedule a conference to develop a plan to help them improve. If your child is doing well, or if you already have been in contact with the teacher about improvement plans, there is no need to meet.

Keep on, keep on! Together we can make wonderful things happen!

Mel Stenger, Principal

## Getting In The Know

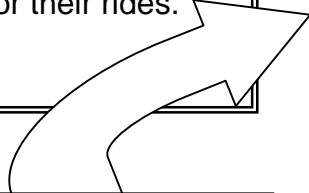
### Friendly reminders:

Phones and electronics will be confiscated and returned to parents.

No gum ever.

No students may be on the playground prior to 8:30 or after school beyond 3:00 unless supervised by their parent.

Before and after school, students are to **sit** at the picnic tables (**the Waiting Zone**) in front of the school to wait for their rides.



**Three Early Dismissal days this week!** Please make arrangements for Wed.-Fri., 3/16, 3/17 and 3/18.

Sam Pasarow, the principal of Edna Brewer Middle School, is inviting us to their School Site Council meeting on March 15 at 7:00, to plan a response to the current state budget crisis. If you are interested attending, please call Edna Brewer Middle School.

### 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
March 16	SSC Meeting, 4 p.m.
March 16	Jump Rope Assembly, 11-12 pm
March 17	Conference Day, Early Dismissal – 1:25
March 18	Conference Day, Early Dismissal – 1:25
March 31	Cesar Chavez Day No School
April 18-22	Spring recess-No School

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

**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 ALIVE! is Back!** **So let's get busy, Kaiser School!**

We all know the importance of being active. It stimulates your mind, keeps you fit, and helps prevent diseases. But how about enjoying activities simply because they are FUN? There are so many awesome things to do both outside and inside that will keep your brain fresh and creative.

Once again, we have created for the students at Kaiser a passport to good health that will give them opportunities to be active and participate in a program in which they will be rewarded. Starting April 6, 2011, your child may use this booklet of suggestions for ways to stay fit, in mind and body. They can choose from activities that encourage them to play on their own, or they may select a page that will get them out in the community or enjoying fun things with the family.

The passport booklet takes into account every age group from K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. That way everyone can participate and have a chance to win fabulous prizes. We have some great prizes to give out at the end of the ALIVE program, and we want EVERYONE to qualify for the prize drawing at the end of the year! In order to do that, we need you as a parent, coach, or teacher to witness and validate the child's passport on the line at the bottom of the appropriate page.

One passport is required for each student at Kaiser School.

Their name will be entered in a drawing to win prizes based on these levels:

- 100-149 points
- 150-199 points
- 200-249 points
- 250-299 points
- 300+ points

Each child will only be eligible for the drawing if they have earned the minimum 100 points. However, all students will earn a participation medal at our program-end celebration. Also, the student in each grade who earns the most points will take home a beautiful trophy!

Complete your booklet and return it to your teacher by Friday, May 20, 2011.

Please encourage your child to fill as many pages as he/she can. The more they do, the better the prizes are at our End of the Year celebration on Friday, June 3!

We are hoping that your child will experience something new and test his/her limits.  
Be ALIVE!

**Kaiser ALIVE! Actively Learn Initiate Volunteer Energize**

## **Spring Break Camp at The Jewish Community Center East Bay**

The JCC Oakland branch, now located at 58th/Telegraph, will hold Spring Break camp for OUSD students. Camp is open from 8 am to 6 pm and includes daily activities, excursions, and healthy snacks. The JCC East Bay is a nonprofit and offers youth and community programs to Oakland families.

Head to

<http://www.jcceastbay.org/youth/tzofim.html> for more information.

## **School Site Council Meeting**

The SSC meeting is on March 16 at 4:00. We will discuss the school plan for next year.

## **Town Hall Meeting**

Mayor Quan's District 1 Town Hall Meeting will be April 2, 10:00 am-12:30 pm, at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.