



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 23, 2011

Friday and Monday, May 27 and 30, are School Holidays!

Communication: Something we can all work on

Dear Kaiser Families,

It seems like the weather is finally turning a corner and behaving like it should! The sun is shining and the air is a little warmer. The recent rain has left us with the promise of new blossoms and new growth. The kids are excited to be able to work in the garden again. Thanks especially to Rick Frey for his watchful eye and generosity, we have been harvesting bok choy and chard. Other plants are growing and filling our garden beds and giving us something to look at.

The PTA general membership meeting on May 12 also gave us some things to look at. Although our school was complimented on the many programs and policies in place to keep our school safe, there were some comments that evening that suggested we still have work to do. Of course! The nature of a school, with changing and growing children, demands that we be constantly asking ourselves if our systems are working. Our main purpose is academic learning, followed closely by experiences in the arts and the social-emotional development of our students. These three main objectives are not achieved through static structures but rather by implementing different strategies as we consider the needs of the children, public education goals, parental input, and our resources. We will continue our work on developing positive school climate in September.

A large portion of our Wednesday meeting on May 18 was devoted to reading and discussing the written comments from the meeting. One recurring theme was difficulties around communication: some parents let us know that they don't receive important information, or they receive it late. I understand how that can create problems, and so it is something I'd like to work on for next year. Currently we put out a newsletter at least every 2 weeks, post things on Yahoo Groups, put some events on the marquee, and some are listed in teachers' newsletters. Emails from room parents also happen. On the other hand, some people who have complained have also admitting of not taking advantage of any of our outreach methods. What to do? This has been a constant difficulty for as long as I can remember. If you have any ideas on how to make a more effective communication system, please let us know.

I recently found out that there will not be a district survey this year. In the past we have used a survey called Use Your Voice to gather opinions from staff, students and parents about the various ways our school functions. Working with our research department, I will be making available some type of survey for your voices to be heard. In the meantime, the easiest way to communicate with me is by my email: mel.stenger@ousd.k12.ca.us

Mel Stenger, Principal

Getting In The Know

Important announcements:

- June 8 Volunteer Appreciation Event 2:00. Please RSVP to the office.
- June 3 Kaiser Alive! Picnic at Lake Temescal. It's our last chance to get together as a whole school this year. Come and fun!
- Come join the fun at the Ice Cream Social for new families. June 10, 6:30.
- **Important Date Changes:** Orff music night will be May 31, and the instrumental music night will be June 2. Both musical programs start at 6:30. There will also be an Open House beginning at 6:00 on those evenings for you to see children's work. As always, parking will be available on the upper playground.
- Minimum days June 13-16. Dismissal at 1:25 all week.
- Kaiser Alive ended last week and that the books are due in to the teacher ASAP. They must have the student's full name, teacher's name and a final tally of points.

KAISER CALENDAR	
DATE / DAY	EVENT
May 25	Walk-a-thon Money Due
May 27	Holiday
May 30	Holiday
May 31	ORFF Music Concert, 6:30pm
June 8	PTA Board Meeting, 6:30pm Volunteer Celebration, 2pm
June 2	Instrumental Music Concert, 6:30
June 3	Kaiser ALIVE Picnic and Award Ceremony
June 10	All School Zoo Field Trip & New Families Ice Cream Social
June 13-16	Minimum Days, 1:25pm Dismissals
June 16	Last Day of School

The Pink Panther is also available at 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

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!

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/

PTA Corner

KAISER ELEMENTARY PTA BOARD 2011-2012

PRESIDENT: Renee Sanchez
VICE PRESIDENT: Lisa Cartolano
TREASURER: Danny Park
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Kate Marx
SECRETARY: Melissa Kleker
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Monte McClain
V.P. of MEMBERSHIP: Jennise Mendoza
V.P. of FUNDRAISING: Kimberlee White
DOCUMENTARIAN Moya Henderson
PRINCIPAL Mel Stenger
TEACHER REP. Monthly Rotation

Please see PTA documents under "FILES" on the Yahoo Site for a list of all PTA Board and Standing Committee Volunteers and e-mail contact information (and remaining openings). There are still volunteer opportunities!

A Big Thank You From the 34th Annual Kaiser Walkathon

The walkathon has come and gone. We had a wonderful turn out, with families spending the day together and very graciously giving their time. We have already collected \$13,000 in donations, and that is only half of the promised sponsor money! Way to go Kaiser kids! If everyone remembers to turn in their money, we will have raised \$26,000 this year! Don't forget to keep those sponsor checks coming in. I had originally stated that May 25th is the final date to turn in your money. While I would certainly appreciate this, I will continue to accept your money until we have collected all of their hard earned lap pledges. There is a manila envelope in the PTA drawer (in the office) marked "walkathon sponsor money".

Also, a big thank you to some of our noteworthy student participants:

Winner of the t-shirt design contest: **Quinn Sedlachek**, 2nd grader in Ms. Yang's Class.
Congratulations Quinn!

Winner of the class pizza party for the most forms turned in on time: Amy Haruyama's 1st grade class.
Pizza party tentatively scheduled for May 31st.

Winner of the most laps: **Caiden McDonough** in Ms. Yang's class. Caiden ran / walked 80 laps! Way to go Caiden.

We still have an ice cream party to award to the classroom with the most pledge envelopes returned by May 25, 2011.

Thank you again to all of our wonderful Kaiser kids and families!
Sarah Coulthurst sarahcoulthurst@comcast.net

*Congratulations
Science Fair Winners!*

Student	Grade	Experiment Name
Jake McRae	Grade 4	Crystal Radio
Colin Foley	Grade 4	Do Dogs Have a Color Preference?
Miles Haimovitch	Grade 5	Shooting Stars
Sophia Igarashi	Grade 4	Boiling and Freezing Saltwater
Ben Batom	Grade 4	Can We Do This Tomorrow?
Gabriel Sanchez	Grade 3	Biomass Energy

The projects from these young scientists are going to the Chabot Science Center for a display of project from across the city. We are very proud of their tremendous efforts!

Everyone is invited to the Chabot Science Center for a celebration of the work of our students this Wednesday, May 25, 5:00-8:00 pm.

Late Breaking News and Corrections!

The **final PTA Board Meeting** will not be this Wednesday at school, but rather Wednesday, June 8, at Kim White’s home. Her address will be in that week’s newsletter.

Our plans for the **All-School Field Trip to the San Francisco Zoo** have been finalized. We are going on Friday, June 10. Although funds are tight, this event will be a great morale booster as well as learning experience. There are several ways you can support our excursion:

- Be a **driver** for the trip. We will order some buses, but if we have parent drivers it will help us by reducing the cost of buses. Please pick up a driver form from the office and turn it in by June 3.
- Be a **parent chaperone** for the trip. Coordinate through your child’s teacher.
- Make a **donation** specifically for the trip. Write a check to the Kaiser Elementary PTA and write Zoo Trip on the note line.
- Complete the student **permission form** which will come home next week.