



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 6, 2011

*Reminder: Our last week is all minimum days with dismissal at 1:25.
Please arrange for the early pick-up.*

Winding Up the School Year

Dear Kaiser Families,

Kaiser Alive! Kaiser Alive! Kaiser Alive! We had a terrific time at the picnic Friday evening. Kaiser Alive! is a program started a few years ago to get kids out and about, to get them moving and doing things and not sitting at home in front of their screens. The program culminates in a school picnic and we had a blast! Families and friends gathered at Lake Temescal to celebrate, play, and just be. A special thanks goes to Darlene Smith and her crew for all the organization and effort to pull this program and celebration together. And to Kim White for the yummy BBQ dinner! It was lovely! It was peaceful! It was our community celebrating life.

Wow! How quickly the year has gone by! It seems like just yesterday we were saying hello and inviting everyone to the Back-to-School Night event. And now we're getting ready to say good-bye for a few months.

Testing is completed and the forms sent away. As usual, the scores will arrive late August. (Please be sure we have your correct mailing address, if you've moved.) The students are having their final projects and assignments this week. Our teachers have worked hard to provide a wonderful program for the children, and you have joined in the effort. The academic year is drawing to a close and what do we have to show for it? We have tremendous growth! You can see it in the faces of the children and in their work. They have put forth their best efforts and have been rewarded with the satisfaction that comes from deep learning.

There have been many changes in the last 10 months. Some people have left our circle and others have joined in. There has been pain and joy, successes and challenges, like in any human group. In our community of learners we have learned a little more about each other and grown together along the way.

Through our PTA you have generously supported the school's programs and personnel this year. The PTA supports the lower-grade music program, computer instructor, clerical aide, and assemblies and field trips. The school budget pays for classroom teachers, principal, administrative assistant, PE teacher, library, upper-grade music teachers, and five intervention support people who also serve as noon supervisors. Next year the school's budget will be able to support classroom teachers, the principal, and an administrative assistant. Until and unless our budget increases we will cut one of the upper-grade music teachers, PE, and all five intervention support people/noon supervisors. While these cuts are pretty grim, I am very hopeful that by shifting some PTA support we can still provide a good program.

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Getting In The Know

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Again this year we had many, many terrific parent volunteers who have given of their time to support our programs and we appreciate it! This Wednesday, June 8, the teachers and I would like to invite all the volunteers to a Volunteer Celebration from 2:00-3:00. We have also prepared for childcare. Please come! And please call the office to RSVP. Thanks so much for all you do!

Mel Stenger, Principal

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/

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

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
June 8	Volunteer Celebration, 2-3 pm
June 10	New Families Ice Cream Social
June 13-16	Minimum Days, 1:25 pm dismissals
June 15	5 th Grade Promotion, 1 pm
June 16	Last Day of School

Announcements:

- This Friday, June 10, we will have a fun afternoon of activities hosted by the teachers. If you can help, mostly by herding kids, please call the office.
- Please return all library books and text books this week. Report cards will be held for lost books.
- The Community Meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening, June 8, has been cancelled by my supervisor, Mia Settles, our regional executive officer.
- The PTA Board meeting will go on as scheduled at 6:30 at the president's home.
- If your child is going to another school next year, please let us know if you have not already done so.

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

Getting in the Know

JCC East Bay Youth programs—Summer Camps and Afterschool Program

- **JCC East Bay Summer Camps** Check out our complete summer camp program, JCC East Bay Camp Tzofim and Specialty Camp options: www.jcceastbay.org/camp
- **Back to School Camp, Aug. 22-Aug. 26, 2011** Drop in, all-day programming and daily field trips. JCC members \$50/day+\$40 each additional sibling. Non-members \$65/day+\$55 each additional sibling. Daily activities and field trips: Pool Party, Choose Your Own Adventure, Messy Day, Sports and BBQ, and Outdoor Adventure
- **2011-12 After school Registration now open** Check out our newly discounted prices and sibling discounts. Customize your days; we'll work with your schedule! Transportation from school to our new location. For more information head to www.jcceastbay.org/youth/afterschool.html

For more information about any of our JCC East Bay Youth programs in Oakland, please contact Liz Donley at 510.595.9222 or Lizd@jcceastbay.org.