



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Hello Kaiser Families,

We are off to a great start and I have to thank all the Kaiser families and the energetic team of teachers and staff for their wonderful support. I am excited and looking forward to a great year.

I would like to share with you many of the programs you and your children can look forward to this school year. We will review the programs in more detail during back-to-school night on September 14, 2011.

- ⤴ Art Instruction - I am excited to announce Bonnie Allen will return for the Kaiser Art Instruction Program in the classroom.
- ⤴ Second Step - a program that teaches social-emotional skills necessary for academic and life success.
- ⤴ Peer Mediation & Conflict Resolution - Students will learn to provide support to other students on how to resolve conflicts by using pro-social emotional skills.
- ⤴ Kaiser Student Council & Safety Patrol Program - Students leading and having a voice is something very important to me. We will start a Kaiser Student Council in November, as well as a Kaiser Safety Patrol.
- ⤴ Roots of Empathy - I am currently in negotiations to bring a new program to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at Kaiser called Roots of Empathy. Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown dramatic effect in raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. At the heart of the program is an infant and parent who visits the class with a certified Roots of Empathy Instructor every three weeks over the school year. Currently, the program is in Canada; however, there are plans to bring it to five (5) schools in New York City and five (5) schools in the Bay Area. Kaiser has a strong chance of being one of the five in the Bay Area.

I look forward to working with you and your children. If I have not met you, please feel free to stop by my office to say hello and/or chat. My door is always open!

Darren Avent, Principal

# Getting In The Know

## How to be in the *Pink Panther*

The Pink Panther comes out every other week. Look for it in your child's backpack on or around 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, 11/28 and 12/12.

We welcome submissions from everyone in the Kaiser Community. 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:

**joliem29@yahoo.com – Jolie McRae**  
**ingridpatrick@gmail.com – Ingrid Patrick**

Please put "Pink Panther" in the subject of your email to ensure that it is not deleted accidentally!

The Pink Panther is also available at [www.KaiserElementary.org](http://www.KaiserElementary.org).

## Bake Sale Schedule

3-4 p.m. (in front of School Cafeteria)

Hunter 9/15, 12,15, 3/22  
 Apaydin 9/22, 1/5, 3/29  
 Yang 9/29, 1/12, 4/5  
 Neat 10/6, 1/19, 4/19  
 Banks 10/20, 1/26, 4/26  
 Gorham 10/27, 2/2, 5/3  
 Bailey 11/3, 2/9, 5/10  
 McGhee 11/10, 2/16, 5/17  
 Araki 11/17, 2/23, 5/24  
 Haruyama 12/1, 3/1, 5/31  
 Feague 12/8, 3/8, 6/7

## **Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors**

PTA President: Renee Sanchez

## **Pink Panther Staff**

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Ingrid Patrick

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Sept 12	Emergency Packets Due
Sept 14	SSC Meeting 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Sept 14	Back-to-School Night / PTA General Meeting 6:30-9 p.m.
Sept 15	Faculty Council (FC) 3:15-3:45 p.m.
Sept 28	PTA Board Meeting 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Oct 07	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Staff Development Day
Oct 10 – 14	Parent-Teacher Conferences – <b>minimum days all week</b>
Oct 14	PTA Potluck, 6:30pm

**Check out the complete 2011-2012 school year calendar at [www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar](http://www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar)**

## **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/)**

*This letter was sent to all current 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents. It is included here so the whole Kaiser community can be aware of the changing structure in the upper grades and can support our students and teachers.*

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Kaiser Parents,

We, the principal and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers, would like to take this opportunity to introduce the program of block scheduling and team teaching we are implementing this year. In previous discussions around this issue, it has gone by the name “Wheel.” Whenever new programs are put into place, it is understandable that there are questions and concerns. Indeed, no system is perfect. In an ideal world, Kaiser School would have two classes of 20 (or even 15) in each grade, from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>. This is the ideal world for which we should always advocate. Considering how public education is currently structured and funded, however, we have to find the way in which we can best serve *all* the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade students we have. We believe we have found that way.

We have always had a problem at Kaiser School with the upper grade classes. Because of smaller class sizes in lower grades (which are, of course, a good thing), and because of student attrition, we have frequently had 35-45 4th graders and 35-45 5th graders with 3 classrooms to fit them in. Of course, school budgets are so tight that adding another teacher and classroom is totally out of the question. We have dealt with this in the past by having either (1) one huge 5th Grade class and 2 smaller-than-average 4th Grade classes or (2) a 5th grade class, a 4th Grade class, and a 4th/5th Grade class. Neither situation is ideal. When you have more than 35 5th graders # 1 is not an option. What happens in either situation (especially # 2) is that some students are shortchanged within a system that is far from equitable.

Last year Ms. Apaydin, Mr. Stenger, Mr. Feague and Mr. Neat (who have about 50 years teaching experience between them) decided, after extensive thought and conversation, that we needed to establish—if at all possible—a more equitable system. Inspired by a two-day "wheel" we had in place for two years in the recent past, we decided to establish—if funding was available—a 4-day block scheduling (M, Tu, Th, F) that would most likely run from 10:25 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

This is indeed the model that we are putting into place. Students will be organized by grade and musical instrument into 4 groups (2 groups from each grade) and will travel from class to class. The periods will be 45-50 minutes in length. The core academic subjects taught within block scheduling will be Math, Science, and Social Studies. The three home room classes will be taught all day Wednesday (M, Tu, Th, F from 8:45 a.m. - 10:15a.m. and 2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.). At these times, English-Language Arts instruction and small-group intervention will occur. The three home room classes are all 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> classes to encourage equity among students and collaboration between teachers.

Understandably, many parents would like their child to be taught all subjects by the same teacher in a single-grade classroom. However, it is not possible for every student to receive this experience. In addition, a system featuring a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, a 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade and a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is not a good situation for a school or for a grade level parent community. It is our strong opinion that it is not sustainable over the long run and that it will lead to continued attrition in the upper grades. Block scheduling was a huge hit when we enacted it previously; from talking to teachers at other schools in OUSD where such systems are in place, we understand it works very well.

There are other advantages to block scheduling/team teaching. For Math, Social Studies, and Science, there will be four groups of students, rather than three. This means smaller class sizes, which will help students learn and give teachers more time per student. Each student will be with the same group for the entire block schedule portion of the week, so they will have a chance to work with two different groups of classmates. Students will also get to work with different teachers and get a bit of a middle school warm up. Even our 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be in middle school before we know it. Most importantly, **under block scheduling, no student will have to learn the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, Science, or Social Studies curriculum in a combined-grade class.** English Language Arts (reading, writing, grammar, etc.) contains lots of overlap between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and it is a subject where instruction can be differentiated most easily between grades. Therefore, it is the best subject to be taught to the combined-grade “homeroom” classrooms.

So we have two choices: (1) We can continue with a new system that—despite some wrinkles that are being discussed and addressed (parent conferences, field trips)—is the most equitable for the community as a whole, is successful and popular at other OUSD schools where it has been attempted, and was implemented at Kaiser School (to a lesser degree) in the past with some success; or (2) We can persist with a system that may be simpler but is nonetheless inequitable. We hope parents can understand the situation we find ourselves in and that we can expect the support of parents and students as we move forward. One small thing we are asking all parents to do for their 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade students is to purchase a two-inch binder and eight dividers by Tuesday. This will be a great tool to help students stay organized.

As we implement block scheduling and team teaching, we will collaborate extensively, solicit parent and student feedback, and make adjustments as warranted. We do very much appreciate the feedback we have received so far, as well as all the support and enthusiasm we have encountered for this new program from many parents and students. Together, we can make this work, and we can build a stronger, more sustainable upper-grade program for Kaiser School.

Thank you, as always, for your support,

Darren Avent

Janan Apaydin

Doug Feague

Steve Neat

# Kaiser PTA Treasurer's Corner

Dear Parents of Kaiser students:

As the new school year gets underway, as PTA Treasurer, I would like to share my goals and provide a brief overview of the procedures that will be followed this year at Kaiser PTA.

## **Goals:**

The top priority is to improve the way we currently communicate our financial operations to our members. This means better tools, methods and procedures to provide clear and accurate financial information in a concise and timely manner.

The goals for the 2011 Fiscal year:

- Put in place tools and methods for better financial transparency
- Promote better understanding of the PTA budget procedures and operations with PTA members
- Improve current PTA financial record keeping procedures
- Work in partnership with Fundraising and Membership to accomplish our financial goals.

## **Overview:**

Our current Bylaws state that the financial legal documents (financial statement, budgets and Treasurer's report) cannot be distributed. This year's Board plans to evaluate the Bylaws and make necessary adjustments in the next year's Bylaws to make it more flexible to communicate the financial information to our members.

In the meantime, we are allowed to make available the financial legal records in a binder in the Principal's office. Any Kaiser PTA member can request the binder and review the financial information. The PTA Financial binder will be updated at the end of each month upon completion of the Treasurer's report.

Furthermore, we are permitted to include a summary of the Treasurer's report (a monthly financial report to the executive board) in the Pink Panther at the end of each month. Presented in the summary will be our account balance and income, and expenses from PTA funded programs. This summary will also be posted on the Kaiser PTA web site.

Lastly, I plan to hold a monthly PTA Finance Q&A session, which will be held on the last Friday, of each month, in the school Library from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. The goal of these sessions will be to provide members an opportunity to ask specific questions about our financial performance and get better understanding of PTA financial operations.

## **Kaiser PTA financial summary (for the period 08/30/11 - 09/05/2011):**

Balance at hand (as of 09/05/2011): \$11,963

Total income: \$1,453.50

Total Expenses: \$3,458

For details, please refer to the PTA Financial binder, which is available in the Principal's office.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me via email at [kaisertreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:kaisertreasurer@gmail.com), and I will contact you as soon as possible to discuss your concerns.

Yours truly,  
Danny Park, PTA Treasurer

**(intentionally blank)**



"A Community of Leaders"

## **Join Kaiser PTA and/or Make a Pledge** **All Donations are Tax Deductible!**

Kaiser Elementary is an exceptional school and a wonderful place for our children. Despite all the state budget cuts, let us come together as a community to help support our school – our children – our future. Joining the PTA and/or making a pledge is just the start. The PTA helps make the following possible:

- ❖ Art instruction
- ❖ Computer support
- ❖ Resource for teachers
- ❖ School garden
- ❖ The Pink Panther and much more...

Ten Dollars (\$10) will allow you to be a part of the Kaiser PTA. This gives you the ability to vote and influence PTA's spending and programs. It will give you access to the National and State PTA. Plus, we will give you a Kaiser directory to help keep you in touch.

In addition, we are asking for pledges. Our goal is \$30,000 which is \$120 per student. We know times are tough, but any amount we will be grateful for. **Please Note:** You do not have to make one lump pledge. You can give throughout the year. For an added convenience, we are offering an option of monthly pledge payments. Also, you may know a family member or friend who would like to donate to our school. Feel free to direct them to [www.kaiserelementary.org](http://www.kaiserelementary.org) where they can donate online. In addition, we are asking people to see if their company's would match their donations. Thank you to our past contributors who's employer matched their donation:

Mike Janson & Salesforce.com Foundation  
Siara Edmond & Wells Fargo Foundation  
Stephanie Sturgis-Griffin & Wells Fargo Foundation  
Larry Brown & PG&E Corporation Foundation

**Don't wait – Participate!** Help keep this community strong.  
Thank you in advance for your support!

**All Donations are Tax Deductible!**  
(Tax ID # 94-6184119)

# 2011-12 Kaiser PTA Membership

Please return form & payment to your child's Teacher or the PTA Membership Box outside the front office by **Friday, October 28th**.

Parent's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Kaiser's PTA to include my information in the school directory

Please do not include my information in the school directory

**Children's First/Last Names**

**Teacher(s) Names/Grade**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues and enrichment donations are tax-deductible.

**Yes! I want to join the Kaiser PTA**

Membership: \$ 10.00 X (# \_\_\_\_\_ of adults) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes!** In addition to my membership, I want to make an enrichment contribution to continue programs like music, computer, art and library. **This year's pledge drive goal is \$30,000.**

other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** (Membership + Pledge) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## **PAYMENT** (CHECK, CASH, CREDIT CARD)

Cash Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

- My check is attached (write check to **Kaiser PTA**)
- Credit Card (paid online at [kaiserelementary.org](http://kaiserelementary.org) - donate button)
- Credit Card (see below)

I \_\_\_\_\_ authorize Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School PTA to charge my credit card account as indicated below:

One-time payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reoccurring monthly pledge payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_

Account Type:  Visa  MasterCard  AMEX  Discover

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV2 (3 digit number on back of Visa/MC, 4 digits on front of AMEX) \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the above named business to charge the credit card indicated in this authorization form according to the terms outlined above. This payment authorization is for the goods/services described above and for the amount indicated above only. I certify that I am an authorized user of this credit card and that I will not dispute the payment with my credit card company; so long as the transaction corresponds to the terms indicated in this form.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## *Yearly Events Calendar 2011-2012*

(All evening events start at 6:30)

- Wednesday, August 24- Staff Development; PTA Budget Meeting (Board meetings on last Wednesdays)
- Thursday, August 25- Staff Development
- Friday, August 26- Teacher Planning Day
- Monday-Wednesday, August 29-31-three minimum days.
- Monday, August 29- First day of school, PTA coffee, committee sign-up and Produce Box sign-up.
- Monday, September 5-Labor Day, school holiday
- Monday September 12, Earthquake and Emergency packet due.
- Wednesday, September 14-SSC meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays), PTA general meeting; Back-to-School night 6:30-9:00
- Thursday, September 15-FC 3:15-3:45
- Monday, September 19- Faculty Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> working Mondays) 3:15-4:15; Evaluation Objectives due
- Wednesday, September 21-OEA evaluation conferences due
- Wednesday, September 28- PTA board meeting
- Thursday, October 6-FC 3:15-3:45
- Friday, October 7 Staff Development Day
- Monday through Friday, October 10-14 Conference Days; minimum days all week.
- Friday, October 14- PTA Potluck 6:30-8:30
- Monday, October 17- Faculty Meeting (Note change due to conferences) 3:15-4:15
- Wednesday, October 19-SSC meeting 4:00-5:30
- Wednesday, October 26- PTA board meeting 6:30-8:30
- Monday, October 31- Halloween Parade 1:15
- Wednesday November 2- PTA general meeting; Family Game night 6:30-8:30
- Thursday, November 10- FC 3:15-3:45
- Monday, November 14 - Faculty Meeting 3:15-4:15
- Friday, November 11, Veteran's Day Holiday, school closed
- Wednesday, November 16- SSC meeting 4:00-5:30
- November 21-25 Thanksgiving Holiday, school closed
- Wednesday, November 30 - PTA board meeting 6:30-8:30
- Tuesday and Thursday, November 29 and December 1 Kinder visitations
- Wednesday, November 30, Kinder Info evening 6:30-8:30
- Friday, December 2- Report Card Period ends
- Monday, December 5-Report Cards due
- Thursday, December 8-FC 3:15-3:45
- Friday, December 9-Report Cards go out; PTA Potluck 6:30
- Monday, December 12 - Faculty Meeting 3:15-4:15
- Wednesday, December 14- SSC meeting 4:00-5:30
- Wednesday and Thursday, December 14 and 15- Winter performances 6:30
- December 19-30- Winter recess. Reopens January 2
- Tuesday and Thursday, January 3 and 5 Kinder visitations
- Wednesday, January 5 Kinder Information evening 6:30-8:30
- Thursday, January 5-FC 3:15-3:45
- Monday, January 9- Faculty Meeting 3:15-4:15
- Monday, January 16-MLK, Jr. Day holiday
- Wednesday, January 18- SSC 4:00-5:30, PTA gen meeting, Reading Night 6:30-8:30
- Wednesday, January 25- PTA board meeting 6:30-8:30
- Thursday, January 26- PTA Potluck 6:30-8:30
- Friday, January 27- Semester end, Inservice day

- Thursday, February 19-FC 3:15-3:45
- Monday, February 13- Faculty Meeting 3:15-4:15
- Wednesday, February 15- SSC meeting 4:00-5:30
- Monday, February 20- President's Day holiday
- Friday, February 24- World Heritage Potluck 6:30-8:30
- Wednesday, February 29- PTA board meeting 6:30-8:30
- Wednesday, March 7- General PTA meeting; movie night 6:30-8:30
- Thursday, March 8-FC 3:15-3:45
- Friday, March 9- Report Card Period ends, Report Cards due March 12
- Monday, March 12- Faculty Meeting 3:15-4:15
- Wednesday, March 14- SSC meeting 4:00-5:30
- March 14-16- Parent teacher conferences, minimum days
- Wednesday, March 28- PTA board meeting, 6:30-8:30
- Friday, March 30- Cesar Chavez holiday
- Thursday April 5-FC 3:15-3:45
- Monday-Friday, April 9-13-Spring Break
- Monday, April 16 - Faculty Meeting 3:15-4:15
- Wednesday, April 18- SSC 4:00-5:30; PTA gen meeting; Math/Science Night 6:30-8:30
- Wednesday, April 25- PTA board meeting 6:30-8:30
- April 30-May 4- Standardized testing
- Wednesday, May 2- PTA general meeting
- Saturday, May 5- Walkathon and book fair
- Thursday, May 10-FC 3:15-3:45
- Monday, May 14- Faculty Meeting 3:15-4:15
- May 7-11- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Wednesday, May 16- SSC meeting 4:00-5:30
- May 22 and 24- Spring music performances and Open House 6:30
- Wednesday May 23- PTA Board meeting, old and new officers 6:30-8:30
- Friday, May 25- In lieu of Lincoln's Day holiday, school closed
- Monday, May 28- Memorial Day holiday, school closed
- Wednesday, May 30- Staff Volunteer Celebration
- Friday, June 1- Kaiser Alive picnic
- Tuesday June 5- All School Field Trip (SF Zoo?)
- Thursday, June 7-FC 3:15-3:45
- Friday, June 8- New Families Ice Cream Social 6:30-8:30
- Monday, June 11- Faculty Meeting 3:15-4:15
- Wednesday, June 13- Fifth Grade promotion 1:00
- Friday, June 15- Last day of school for students
- Monday June 18- Teacher Planning Day (The original calendar published by the district had Friday June 15 as the Teacher Planning Day, then the calendar was updated to include January 2 as another holiday, so that pushed the teacher day to the 18<sup>th</sup>.)