



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

Q&A with Darren Avent, Kaiser's Interim Principal

By now you've probably had an opportunity to meet Mr. Avent, there's still more to know about Kaiser's Interim Principal. Mr. Avent graciously answered a few questions from the Pink Panther.

Q: What is your hometown? What are some other places you've lived?

A: I was born and raised in Queens NYC (I know you heard the accent); I have lived in Norfolk, VA; Nashua, NH; South Bend, IN; and Plainfield, NJ.

Q: What was your favorite subject in elementary school? Also, did you play an instrument? Participate in sports?

A: My favorite subject then and now is U.S. History. I never played an instrument but studied art in junior high school. I played the three major sports: football, basketball, and baseball. Basketball was my favorite, but I wasn't good at it.

Q: What brought you to Oakland?

A: My wife's company purchased a company in South San Francisco and moved everyone to the West Coast. We choose to live in Oakland because of the diversity, it was very important that our son live in an area that represents the world.

Q: What has been the best thing about Oakland so far?

A: Coming from New Jersey the best thing is the weather (no more shoveling snow).

Q: And the worst thing?

A: I can't watch my beloved NY Jets!!

Q: What inspired you to work in education? How did you decide being a principal was the path for you?

A: My inspiration came from a teacher in high school. When I asked him if I should apply to college, he told me I wasn't college material. I didn't listen and did graduate from college and earned two Master's Degrees (showed him!), but I often wonder how many students did listen to him and never tried. This is the reason why I went into education; I never want to see young people told what they can't do when they should be told to reach for the stars.

Q: What has been your proudest moment?

A: My proudest moment was the birth of my son.

Q: What's the best way for parents to reach you?

A: Email is the best way (darren.avent@ousd.k12.ca.us), but I'm old fashion and still like face-to-face conversation.

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 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.

Bake Sale Schedule

(Time: 3-4 p.m. – Location: In Front of School Cafeteria)

Hunter 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
Sep. 28	PTA Board Meeting
Oct. 6	Faculty Council Meeting 3:15 a.m.
Oct. 7	NO SCHOOL Staff Development Day
Oct. 10 – 14	Parent-Teacher Conferences – minimum days all week
Oct. 14	PTA Potluck, 6:30pm
Oct. 19	School Site Council Meeting
Oct. 26	PTA Board Meeting
Oct. 31	Halloween Parade

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

PARKING

**PARENTS—NO PARKING IN STAFF PARKING
 LOT. Before/After School Procedures:
 Drop Off/PickUp/Waiting Zone Only
 PLEASE—NO EARLY DROP OFFs and BE ON
 TIME FOR PICK UPS!**

Kaiser Is Under Attack And We Need Your Help!

It is well known by now that our school is under attack by the OUSD and the threat of closing is imminent. We all know why this is a great environment for our children and families, but we need to educate the rest of the community. Many of us have been working in various ways, but we all need to do our part! Regardless of your availability of time and resources, there are a few simple ways you can help:

- 1) **Sign on to our Facebook campaign.** Join us on <http://www.Facebook/SaveKaiserSchool>. Create a link to your personal page, broadcast it to your friends and colleagues, write a message on the wall and overall create a social media buzz. Additionally, consider submitting a photo of your family along with a caption of why we love our school. You can submit pictures electronically at Joanna.Fraguli@gmail.com or drop off hard copies near the office where there will be an envelope marked Facebook Campaign Photos on the red bulletin board.
- 2) **Educate, educate, educate!** Write to your school board representatives, talk at your neighborhood meeting, talk to your friends and/or your congregation. Explain why the Board decided that children of color who are excelling in the District are given the message that they do not have the right to attend a school in the hills. This includes talking to your children about ways they can be involved in the process. What a great real-life civics lesson opportunity!
- 3) **Consider joining a sign making party** either at school, after hours or at home. Those who drive by our school need to know that our community is not happy about this! Consider making personal signs that reflect your family situation and personal reasons for choosing Kaiser. Banners, collages, children's art, etc., are wonderful and touching statements.
- 4) **Show up to the OUSD Board meeting on September 27** at 1025 2nd Avenue, at 5 p.m. We want to show a critical mass and hear from multiple perspectives and a diverse group of families. Please join us even if you are reticent to speak publicly. We want to maximize access for working parents with child care or other considerations, so please contact Joanna Fraguli by leaving a message at the office or via email to coordinate support needs. Likewise, we need volunteers to provide support, childcare, carpooling, etc., to ensure that everyone can be present at this important meeting.

Our community is under attack, so **let's present a united front** to educate our administration that **Kaiser is indeed a community school!**

Join Kaiser's Yahoo! Message Group

The Kaiser PTA has an [online message group](#) through the Yahoo! Groups service. Message group members will become part of an online community where they can post messages and share useful advice and ideas with each other. Subscribers will also get e-mail messages from the PTA about important school news and events.

How does it work?

Think of a community bulletin board, where people tack up messages that everyone can see. In this case, people use their e-mail to post messages to the whole group. Members can reply to the e-mails as they see fit, by sending a message only to the sender or the group as a whole.

I'm a busy person. What if I don't want to get all those e-mails?

You can adjust your participation so you only get "*special announcements*" or a "*daily digest*" of each day's message. After logging in to the Yahoo! group website at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/ go to "*edit membership*" at the top of the home page to adjust your settings.

How do I subscribe?

Simple. Send a blank e-mail message to [kaiserelementaryschool_group-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:kaiserelementaryschool_group-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or, even easier, go to the school's website at <http://www.kaiserelementary.org> and click on "join our virtual community" in the upper right corner of the home page. Soon, you'll get an e-mail confirming that you want to subscribe. Just reply to the e-mail and you're on your way!

What if I change my mind and want to cancel?

Send a blank e-mail to kaiserelementaryschool_group-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Questions? Problems? E-mail the moderator, [Annie de Jong](mailto:anniemekedejong@comcast.net) at anniemekedejong@comcast.net

YAHOO! GROUPS ETIQUETTE

Our Yahoo! Group List is designed as a community message group to keep current with school and PTA news. As group members, we become part of an on-line community where we can post messages and share useful advice and ideas with each other.

The following guidelines are provided in accordance with our school's mission to provide an environment where all can feel respected, valued and safe.

Ask Yourself These Questions...

Is what you post aligned with Kaiser's mission and the rules of the Group?

Does your discussion post add value to the Group?

If you are not sure as to whether or not it is appropriate to post a particular discussion, your safest bet is to first check it out with the group list moderator, a Kaiser PTA board representative or a member of the school's administration.

List Rules and Etiquette

- Respect for others' viewpoints in any e-mail discussion is expected. Please be polite. Speak to and about people just like you would in public and in person.
- Relevant replies to any question are welcome; however, if you wish to carry on an extended personal or controversial conversation, it is best to respond to the individual instead of the whole list.
- Official requests for information/clarification should state so in the subject heading and should be redirected or replied to by school administrators, PTA Board Representatives or the SSC Chair.
- Know who's talking. Unless and until you trust the source, take everything with a grain of salt.
- Resist the temptation to insult ("flame") others on the list. This includes allusions to hearsay, surmising of facts and sending messages in ALL CAPS. These discussions are meant for constructive exchanges.
- Use the list judiciously and be concise. When you reply to a post, trim the included text to the minimum needed to give context for your reply.
- Please don't send a message that says nothing but "Me too" or "Thanks" or "I don't know." Send such personal replies privately rather than to the list.
- Please change your subject heading, if necessary, so that it accurately reflects the content of your post.



Thank you to everyone who has signed up for membership and thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to Kaiser. We are blessed to have such a supportive community. I know times are hard for many family members because of our country's current economic state, but please do not let this hold you back from contributing to Kaiser. I do not mean that you need to open your wallets and just give us money – I just would like you to think twice when you shop especially for your household needs. There are two ways you can still donate to Kaiser while just shopping for you and your family: (1) eScrip and (2) Amazon.

eScrip is not just Safeway. Go directly to www.escip.com to sign up your Safeway card plus your various credit cards. Every time someone shops at an eScrip's participant, a portion of your sale goes to Kaiser Elementary. **There is no cost to you.** In fact, you can ask family members and friends to sign up for eScrip too and designate Kaiser Elementary as the beneficiary. Plus, if you shop through the eScrip's mall, then a percentage goes to Kaiser. You can still go to your local restaurants, shop for clothing, shop for your pets (1-800-Petmeds, Petco, etc.), shop for your electronics (HP, Dell, Apple) get your school or office supplies (Office Depot) but just shop through the eScrip's mall when you do this.

Another option to consider is to go through our school's website when you shop on Amazon versus going directly to Amazon's website. You can put Kaiser Elementary's website (www.kaiserelementary.org) as one of your "favorites" and click the Amazon button. When you shop on Amazon through Kaiser Elementary's website, a percentage of your sale goes to Kaiser's PTA.

Please spread the word. Ask your family and friends to hop on board and shop through eScrip (www.escip.com) or shop at Amazon through Kaiser's website (www.kaiserelementary.org). Your efforts will be greatly appreciated since it will help fund the wonderful programs (computers, P.E. equipment, classroom materials, ORFF music) that are available to our students.

Go Kaiser Elementary!

Jennise Mendoza
PTA – VP Membership



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 (\$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 given 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 where they can donate online. In addition, we are asking people to see if their companies would match their donations. Thank you to our past contributors whose 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

Child(ren)'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) \$ _____

PAYMENT (CHECK, CASH, CREDIT CARD)

Cash Amount Enclosed: _____

- My check is attached (write check to **Kaiser PTA**)
 Credit Card (paid online at 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 _____