



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 3, 2011

Dear Kaiser Families,

As we are well aware, Kaiser has been removed from the Board's closure list. The Kaiser community now has the task of expanding on its present site to accommodate 380 students or relocating to a facility that can. In my informal conversations with parents, I understand that most families would love to expand Kaiser on its present site and move to a PreK-5 configuration. In an effort to be transparent I would like to explain the obstacles we face.

Moving to a PreK-5 configuration will be an easy task, thanks to the passing of the Kindergarten Readiness Act (SB1381). This Act allows students who turn five anytime before December 2 to attend a separate kindergarten class. This class will be known as "Transitional Kindergarten" or "TK" and will have credential teachers using a curriculum that places an emphasis on social and emotional skills, early literacy and math. The law will be phased in gradually starting the 2012-13 school year. What this means for Kaiser is that any "TK" class will have Average Daily Attendance or ADA funding.

Relocating to a new site is an easy option on the surface, but there is one major obstacle, WHERE! In my effort to talk to OUSD I am learning that the only sites available are the sites that will be closed in the coming years (Santa Fe, Lakeview, Maxwell Park, etc). If the Kaiser community chooses to relocate, I will support the move anywhere, but Lakeview. As a parent of a child with asthma and a principal that believes in the health and safety of his students, I feel it's a crime to have a playground next to a major freeway. If relocation is the option, I will also ask OUSD to start upgrading the site (music room, computer lab, etc.) for Kaiser's needs before we move in.

The last and the toughest will be expanding on the present site. This is the toughest, because of the biggest obstacle of all, FUNDING! I have talked to an architect and together we explored the options of portables and modular building. Portables are cheaper, but also hardest to move and place. Modular are expensive, but will fit into the present design of the school. Other factors with expanding will be the neighboring community. Will they allow us to expand? They did sue Bentley for expanding. I hear community will be in favor of our expansion, if a back road entrance is built over present OUSD and Caltrans land. Who will pay for the road to be built?

One more thing I would like everyone to keep in mind, Dr. Smith's recommendations were, just that, a recommendation. The Board could (although highly unlikely) go against his recommendations and close Kaiser. I don't say this to cause fear, but it is a reality.

Finally lets all remember we have time. There seems to be a feeling that we need to make a quick decision on our future and this is not true. We need to take this time to research and debate to make the best decision. I am not talking about a decision that saves the school but one that helps our students. So as we debate the future, I ask that each of you seriously think about each option and ask yourself is this best for all Kaiser Students.

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 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

Hunter 12/15, 3/22
 Apaydin 1/5, 3/29
 Yang 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
Oct. 7	NO SCHOOL Staff Development Day
Oct. 10 – 14	Parent-Teacher Conferences – minimum days all week
Oct. 10 – 14	Book Fair
Oct. 14	PTA Potluck, 6:30pm
Oct. 19	School Site Council Meeting, 4pm
Oct. 26	PTA Board Meeting 6:30pm
Oct. 31	Halloween Parade
Nov.. 2	PTA Meeting & Family Game Night, 6:30pm
Nov.. 11	No School Veteran's Day

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/

PTA Membership Update

We are strong! We are powerful! We are Panthers! Go Kaiser families! Thank you to everyone who has become members and/or pledged.

With that being said – the races are off... Which classroom will win \$100 for having the highest membership percentage? Here's the numbers as they stand so far:

Apaydin's class (4th/5th graders) – 18 members or 60%
Araki's class (1st graders) – 27 members or 104%
Bailey's class (3rd graders) – 25 members or 93%
Bank's class (kindergartners) – 24 members or 92%
Feague's class (4th/5th graders) – 23 members or 77%
Gorham's class (2nd graders) – 15 members or 58%
Haruyama's class (1st graders) – 19 members or 70%
Hunter's class (3rd graders) – 27 members or 100%
McGhee's class (kindergartners) – 29 members or 112%
Neat's class (4th/5th graders) – 22 members or 73%
Yang's class (2nd graders) – 18 members or 72%

Will Ms. McGhee's kindergarten class keep up the momentum and show the 4th and 5th graders who really rule the school? Will Ms. Araki's class move ahead and be singing the song "Dust in the Wind – all you are is dust in the wind..." to the rest of the classes? Should we count Ms. Gorham's class out or will they surprise us all by pouncing on us like Panthers? Stay tuned... Deadline to submit membership for this competition ends **Friday, October 28th**.

Congratulations Julia Brimmer from Ms. McGhee's class who got not only both of her parents to join PTA, but her 3 grandparents too that live out of state! Way to go Julia!

Please remember that for \$10, you too can become a Kaiser PTA member. Please note this does not require you to show up to the PTA association meeting. It does allow you to vote and be a voice in our Kaiser PTA community. Plus, you can qualify for discounts and who doesn't want that?

Jennise Mendoza
Kaiser PTA - VP Membership

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) \$ _____

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 \$ _____

recurring 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 _____

Thank you to everyone that are using eScrips and shopping on Amazon through Kaiser Elementary's website. Our PTA Treasurer is starting to see the returns!

Reminder...

When you shop online, please try shopping through eScrip's mall (www.escrip.com). Just make sure you are signed up and have Kaiser Elementary as your beneficiary. Please remember **there is no cost to you**. 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), etc. but just shop through the eScrip's mall when you do this.

Also, if you are shopping on Amazon, try shopping on Amazon through the Kaiser Elementary's website (www.kaiserelementary.org). When you shop on Amazon through Kaiser Elementary's website, a percentage of your sale goes to Kaiser's PTA.

Please continue to spread the word. Ask your family and friends to hop on board and shop through eScrip (www.escrip.com) or shop on Amazon through Kaiser's website (www.kaiserelementary.org).

Your efforts are greatly appreciated since it will help fund the wonderful programs (computers, P.E. equipment, classroom materials, ORFF music) that are sponsored by the PTA and made available to our students.

Go Kaiser Elementary!
Jennise Mendoza
PTA – VP Membership

KAISER FALL BOOK FAIR OCT 10-14

After your parent/teacher conference next week, be sure to stop in the Kaiser library for the **Fall Book Fair!** We will be open every afternoon from 1:25 to 4:30...or later.

The Book Fair will include new books, used books, sale books, and more, all chosen for our students by Pegasus Books on College Avenue.

Browse through

- New Releases
- Classics
- Fiction and Nonfiction
- Graphic Novels
- Early Readers
- Picture Books
- Art Books
- Adult Bestsellers
- Halloween Books for All Ages!

We will also have a special selection of Kaiser teachers' "wish list" books that you can purchase directly for your child's classroom.

A portion of each sale will benefit Kaiser Elementary. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted. Thank you for supporting our wonderful school!

Interested in helping out at the Book Fair? We always appreciate volunteers, and we especially need extra hands between 1:20 and 2pm. Please email Janice at miralumom@gmail.com if you'd like to help.