



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 4, 2012

Dear Kaiser Families,

I have safely returned from China and had a wonderful experience. There were over 400 delegates from across the United States, 44 from the state of California and 5 from Oakland. The trip was sponsored by The College Board and paid by the Chinese Government.

The main part of the trip took place in the Guangdong Province in the city of Guangzhou. Guangzhou has a population of 18 million! The weather is very hot and tropical. Everyone uses mopeds, bicycles, buses and cars to get around the city. Helmets are not required by law there, and I couldn't help but to worry about head injuries for the riders. There were many high-rise buildings and it seems like neon lights were everywhere. Also there are 3.8 million smokers in China.

In Guangzhou our days were full with tours of the educational systems. We had the opportunity to meet creative, smart, and charming college students and Directors of Education at the Guangzhou Education Mega Center. This is the main college with over 150,000 students. While we were there they took us to the Lingnan Impression Park and we had dinner with the Director of the University.

We also toured Xiehe Primary School of Guangzhou. There are over 1000 students attending this school and all students start learning English in the second grade. For stress management all students and staff to part in Tai Chi routine. The students performed a beautiful song in English, taught us how to write in calligraphy, and we participated in an open discussion about instruction. I really learned a great deal and had a wonderful time.

News from back in Oakland:

As stated in a robo-call earlier this week, one of our parents interrupted a man attempting to break into her car. After contacting other schools we learned that the same people broke into two vehicles at Bentley, one at Thornhill and attempted a break in at Redwood Heights. We also know that they are driving a black VW Jetta with dealer tags. Please do not leave any valuables in sight when parking your vehicle.

Thanks

Darrin Avent

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 12/17, and again after winter break.

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!

K-3 Parents,
Please note that we are in the process of scheduling an ORFF performance and will let you know that date as soon as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

Toys for Tots

The Girl Scouts will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots. Please make a child's Christmas that much brighter with a generous gift from your family to theirs. We will be collecting your generous donations from December 3rd through the 19th. Look for the large decorated bin by the office and place your unwrapped gift inside. Thank you for your supporting Toys for Tots!

- The Kaiser Girl Scouts

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Tues. 12/11	School Tour
Thurs. 12/13	Make-up Picture Day
Thurs. 12/20	4/5 Winter Music Night, 6:30pm
12/24-1/4	Winter Break, No School
Mon. 1/7	Classes Resume

Check out the complete 2012-13 school year [calendar](http://www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar) at www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Renee Sanchez

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae & Ingrid Patrick

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

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/

If you are interested in advertising in our school directory, please contact Jennise at KaiserMembership@gmail.com. Also, spread the word! If you know someone that owns a small business, please see if they would be interested in advertising in our school directory. Time is limited, so let me know as soon as possible.

5TH GRADE OPTIONS FORMS

The Options Enrollment window for the 2013-14 school year will begin on December 3, 2012 and close on January 18, 2013.

Pre-printed options forms and booklets are available at Kaiser. Families who miss the window for submitting an on-time application will be able to apply in person at the Student Assignment Office (746 Grand Avenue). The same application materials are required for later applications, and students will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Winter Performance



The 4/5 Winter Music Night will be Thursday, December 20th at 6:30pm. The evening's program begins with a recital of instrumental music and ends with the Winter Play, performed by the 5th grade class. Ms. McCarthy asks that performing students arrive at 6:00pm.

Bake Sale Survival Kit

Bake Sale coordinators now have a handy back-up supply box for any last minute bake sale needs. The kit is currently located in the nurse's station and includes, serving gloves, napkins, wet wipes, tongs etc. Please feel free to use as needed and replace in kind for the continued ease and success for our bake sales.



Why did you Join PTA

This fall, Jamba Juice is helping to sponsor a "Why I Joined PTA" celebration. California State PTA is asking members to help celebrate by sharing a very short video or essay with the reason why you first joined your local PTA.

Maybe you wanted to get more involved with your child's school, or get to know the teachers better? Maybe you wanted to be a part of the largest children's advocacy association in the state and nation? Or maybe you just wanted to help your child's class win a pizza party? Whatever the reason, we want to hear it!

Now through December, the first 75 people who help us celebrate by sharing their "Why I Joined PTA" video or essay will receive, courtesy of Jamba Juice, a Jamba Award for a free 16 oz. smoothie from their local store.

Plus, California State PTA will select certain videos or essays to feature online. If yours is selected, Jamba Juice will provide your local PTA with an additional 10 Jamba Award cards

(a \$45 value). These make great rewards for students and teachers.

It's easy to join the celebration! Submit your video or essay to website@capta.org. Videos may also be submitted on Facebook. And while you're at it, don't forget to reach out to others at your school or in your community and ask them to join your PTA this year as well.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

Whether you are a newcomer or a seasoned advocate, the California State PTA Conference is the place to learn what is happening in the capital that affects our children and schools. Our involvement is needed more than ever. The California State PTA Legislation Conference is the place to step up and make a difference. Save the date February 25th and 26th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Sacramento.

SAY CHEESE...AGAIN



Lifetouch's portrait makeup date will be Thursday, December 13th.

Getting a great picture is easy and fun. Just remind your kids to think about a few basics ahead of time.

- ✓ Check your hair and shirt collar at camera time
- ✓ Practice your smile
- ✓ Remember good posture
- ✓ Wear your best colors
- ✓ Relax and smile at the camera as if it's your best friend
- ✓ Be yourself and have fun

SPIRIT WEAR DEADLINE EXTENDED

Spirit Wear order due date has been extended to Friday, December 7th. Remember every Friday is Kaiser Pride Friday. Wear your Kaiser gear or Kaiser colors (green and gold) on Fridays and show your pride.

Giving Thanks to Our Volunteers

Giving thanks to the greatest volunteers in the country! **Did you know that last year alone PTA volunteers in California contributed more than 18 MILLION HOURS OF SERVICE to their schools and communities?**

Whether planning a student field trip, assisting in the classroom, supporting our teachers and school staffs, promoting more parent engagement, hosting a college night, science night or Reflections event, putting out a PTA newsletter, organizing a fundraiser, speaking up on important children's issues, serving as an officer and taking care of the day-to-day needs of your local association — or doing the hundreds of other things PTA members and leaders do every day to serve on behalf of children and families — **we thank you!**

Art For Education

The orders for the artwork have been sent to the company. If you did not get a chance to order or if you have family and friends who would love to see our work, **they can access the 2012 artwork AND THE 2011 artwork!** Go to www.artworkforeducation.com and look for **Visit the School Store** click on the Schools tab and type in Kaiser Elementary.

In the spring, they will be adding more products to the website and we should be able to order water bottles, bags and much more. As soon as these products are available I'll send notice.

Thank you all again and enjoy your cards!

PTA Membership Update

PTA Membership Update! The competition has ended for the PTA membership and the winner of the pizza party is... Ms. Araki's class! They have over 200% membership! Way to go Ms. Araki's class. She seems so quiet with a beautiful smile, but apparently she has the Kaiser Panther inside of her because they roared passed the other classes. In second place is Ms. Vineyard's class. They also have the Panther pride since they roared in at over 200% as well. Way to go kindergarteners! They start off their schooling years as fierce competition. It looks like we know which generation to watch out for...

Here are the overall results from each class:

Ms. Thomas/Ms. Gale @ 24 members or 114%
Ms. Vineyard @ 51 members or 204%
Ms. Araki @ 45 members or 214%
Ms. Haruyama @ 29 members or 132%
Ms. McGhee @ 27 members or 100%
Ms. Margaret (Yang) @ 32 members or 123%
Ms. Bailey @ 40 members or 133%
Ms. Hunter @ 34 members or 136%
Ms. Apaydin @ 31 members or 100%
Mr. Feague @ 40 members or 154%
Mr. Neat @ 38 members or 136%

Great job everyone! Thank you for supporting Kaiser Elementary PTA. Membership is open all year round. If you would like to become a PTA member, please fill out a Membership form and pay \$10 to Kaiser PTA. Forms are located online or on the table in front of the office or email KaiserMembership@gmail.com with any questions. Please note that if you want a Kaiser Directory, you will need to be a PTA member. – Jennise Mendoza, PTA, VP Membership & Pledges

The Kaiser Girl Scout troops will be sorting and **DONATING** any coats and clothing in lost and found on **Friday, December 14th**. Please look through Lost and Found items between now and December 14th for anything that might be yours. **After Friday, December 14th they'll be gone!**

Lost and found is located in the front entry of the **Multi-purpose Room (auditorium)**.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mari Cocek: 510-384-7119 mcocek@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Skiles-Hall: 510-550-1701 nancyskileshall@yahoo.com

Thank you!

Donation Options

As we approach the end of the year, some of you may want to take advantage of the tax write offs. Donate money to Kaiser PTA. We are a non-profit and 100% of your monetary donation is tax deductible. Our tax ID is **94-6184119**. Show your Panther pride and donate right now. No amount is too small. We accept cash, checks or credit cards. You can either drop off cash or a check into the Kaiser PTA box inside the office or right outside of the school office in the brown locked box. You can also pay online. If you happen to be on campus with a credit card and see Sarah Coulhurst, I hear she walks around with a little Kaiser swipe machine and will accept payments that way. We are willing to work with you. Thank you in advance for your support!

Also, please check with your work and see if they match donations. Some companies will match your pledge. Some companies will donate money for the time their employee works at the school. Please check with your company's HR department to see what they offer. Also, don't be hesitant because you work for a small company. You wouldn't believe the number of people that support education, so just ask.

If money is too tight and we all know how the current economic times are and want to donate, but don't know how, then please consider many of the other ways you can donate that would not cost you any additional monies:

Shop online? Try shopping through the Kaiser Amazon site (go to our homepage for the link) or shop through eScrips mall - it's like shopping at a real mall without the crowds (just make sure you have Kaiser Elementary School PTA, Oakland, CA as the beneficiary). A portion of your spending will go directly to our PTA. Tell your friends and family about it too. Set it up as a "favorite" on your computer so that every time you shop online, we can get a portion of the proceeds. There is no additional cost to you and our PTA will earn money.

Shop at Target? Sign up for the Target REDcard and designate Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School as the beneficiary. Don't have a Target REDcard, then you can apply for one online. The great part is that you can either apply for a Credit Card or for a Debit Card - your choice. Once again, your every day shopping can earn our PTA money!

Money so tight that you are not doing any of the above well here is another option for you... Look at the items you purchase and see if it has a BoxTops Education label. Cut the label out and place it in the BoxTops box located in our school office. We can earn money from those labels.

Have any old print cartridges or toner cartridges? Don't throw them away! Kaiser is working with another company that will pay us for these items. Have neighbors or friends that throw these away, then ask them if you can recycle them at Kaiser Elem and support our school at the same time.

These fabulous benefits do not just have to be a secret to Kaiser Elementary families. Spread the word. Have family and friends shop or provide the items above. Every penny counts especially in today's times. Thank you for spreading the news and thank you for supporting Kaiser Elementary PTA!

**Have an extra coat
in your CLOSET?**

**Kaiser Elementary Brownie
and Daisy Troops**

are collecting clean, gently used coats

**Collection Date:
Friday, December 14**

Feel free to drop coats off all week in the collection
box located near the front office

on behalf of ...



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