



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 8, 2013

Dear Kaiser Families,

We're planning for next year and we need to determine an accurate count of students not returning so that we may project real spaces for the 2013-14 school year.

In California, school districts receive money largely based on the number of students enrolled and the number of days those students attend school. At the school site level, budgets (and staffing, the major component of a school budget) is based on the projected student enrollment established in the spring. If, in the fall, the number of students falls below expectations—meaning the overall revenue is less than predicted and there is not enough money to fund all the teachers at the site—adjustments must be made. Kaiser Elementary is projected to have 277 students next school year.

At the beginning of this school year 20 students who attended Kaiser the prior year and were eligible to return elected to leave the school without informing Kaiser or OUSD. Similarly, 10 students were “no-shows”—new students whose families registered for the Kaiser, but did not attend and did not advise Kaiser or OUSD of this decision. Kaiser must hold these spaces based on the assumption that many of these kids would attend Kaiser for the school year. These factors forced Kaiser to be under projection by 23 students and facing consolidation.

In an effort to avoid a repeat of these events we are asking all Kaiser families to complete an Intent to Return form. Please assist us by completing this form and returning it to your classroom teacher by Monday, April 29.

Thank You,

Darren L. 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 next 4/22, 5/6, 5/20, and 6/3.

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!

Calling All Receptionists

Help needed in Kaiser's front office.

Duties will include answering phones, fielding parents' questions, healing booboos/first aid or calling parents when kids are sick. We do have a full-time administrative assistant and part-time attendance clerk, but the daily demands require a parent to help out with some of the unexpected requests. This is a fabulous opportunity for a parent to help out at Kaiser Elementary while getting to know all of the wonderful children and parents in our community. We are asking that several parents sign up because the staff will need help Monday–Friday. If you are interested and can help, please contact Ericka (our administrative assistant).

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
Tue. 4/9	Community Feedback Meeting, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Mon. 4/15	Walk-a-Thon T-Shirt Contest Entries Due
Wed. 4/17	SSC Meeting
Tues. 4/23	½ Bake Pizza Fundraiser Orders Due
Wed. 4/24	PTA Board Meeting
Wed. 5/1	Math & Science Night
Sat. 5/4	36 th Annual Walk-a-Thon, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

The **Kaiser Girl Scouts** are hosting the **Alameda Community Food Drive** www.accfb.org April 8–May 6. Donate nonperishables and help fight hunger.

Canned Fruit and Vegetables
Canned Meat and Fish
Low Sodium Soups, Stews, and Chili
Pasta and Tomato Sauce
Beans and Rice
Peanut Butter
Low-Sugar Cereal and Oatmeal
Powdered Milk

Bring in a BAG of groceries to the hallway by the office from April 8 to May 6.
Bring a BAG of groceries to the Walk-a-thon, May 4, and receive 5 laps!!!
Thank you Kaiser Community,
The Kaiser Girl Scouts

How to Reach Kaiser School

Phone: (510) 549-4900 (includes a 24-hour message service).

School community group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/

Dear Kaiser Community,

Recent review of the PTA's finances shows that we have insufficient funds to continue our enrichment programs through the rest of the school year. We currently spend about \$13,000 per month on enrichment classes and other expenses such as field trips, assemblies, and teachers' supplies. While we expect another successful Walk-a-thon, the money raised will not be enough. To effectively fund the next three months' expenses plus the beginning of the next school year, we need to raise an additional \$20,000 by April 26.

Once the April 26 deadline arrives, the board will determine what next steps must be taken. Possible scenarios include continuing classes, reducing class hours, or suspending our programs altogether. By the time you receive this letter, the enrichment teachers will have been informed of our financial difficulties and the possible outcomes if we don't raise enough money.

What happened?

As most of you are aware, OUSD's cuts in our school budget last year resulted in lost funding for our Student Support Coordinator (Ms. Jackson). Furthermore, OUSD asked us to consolidate kindergarten and first-grade classes. The PTA board decided these actions were not acceptable, and chose to cover the costs of Ms. Jackson's salary and the non-consolidation of kindergarten and first grade. Since then, Mr. Avent and the Kaiser staff have been reviewing Kaiser's budget and seeking ways to reinstate Ms. Jackson on Kaiser's payroll, and last week they found a solution and are in the process of returning Ms. Jackson to the Kaiser payroll. Unfortunately, this is too late to prevent a big hole in the PTA's budget – about \$20,000.

How will we raise the money?

We are asking each student's family to contribute \$100 to fund our enrichment classes. This is a suggested amount, and contributions larger or smaller than \$100 are welcome. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by April 26. Please make your donation by dropping off a check payable to the Kaiser PTA at the principal's office, or donate through PayPal on our school website, <http://www.kaiserelementary.org>.

In the next few weeks, the PTA and Kaiser faculty will encourage your participation and will provide weekly progress reports on this endeavor. We are aware that some of you may feel frustrated or disappointed by this outcome. And we acknowledge mistakes were made. However, the board unfortunately lacked a treasurer for a few months and while seeking a replacement did the best we could with the information we had.

The board truly cares about our school and our kids. Everyone serving on the board feels responsible for addressing the current problem. Decisions made in the past, while not always perfect, were always made with the best interests of our children at heart. For this, we are proud. Now it is your turn to do your part to support our PTA and our children.

Sincerely,

Danny Park
Kaiser PTA Treasurer

Kaiser 2013 Walk-A-Thon

Dear Kaiser Walkers and Families,

Spring is here, and it's time for our annual Walk-a-thon. This year will mark the 36th annual Walk-a-thon, which will be on **Saturday, May 4**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Walk-a-thon is a fundraiser where Kaiser kids raise money for their school. Our kids get pledges and walk the laps to earn money from their sponsors. This event usually brings in about \$22,000 in sponsorships, which makes it one of the top fundraisers for Kaiser, and our kids do most of the work! We also need the support of parents—approximately 60 volunteers are needed to make this event a success. We look forward to this collaborative event in which the kids, parents, and staff all contribute to support our school.

The proceeds from the Walk-a-thon will support the art program, music, computer lab/instruction, our teacher's aide, and Second Step, as well as all other PTA sponsored events and much needed supplies. All donations are tax deductible. As you know, the PTA program and the money required to support them are important to Kaiser.

T-shirt design contest information was sent home with your child, through your room parents, and on the Yahoo group. Walk-a-thon packets were passed out on April 2. They contain information about parent volunteer opportunities, permission slip, prizes, and a sponsor sheet. You can also download copies of everything on our website, or pick up extra forms in the office.

The Walk-a-thon route starts at the circle by the multipurpose room. The kids walk around the building to the upper playground, behind the multipurpose room, and back again. There will be lap check-in stations and water stations along the way. We will also have the Kaiser Café—delicious food will be available for sale—so stay and have lunch. Our own Kaiser Girl Scouts will also have a bake sale with proceeds donated to the PTA.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at 510-220-4035 or sarahcoulthurst@comcast.net.

So, put the date on the calendar...**Saturday May 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Come to walk, help out, catch up with friends, visit the book fair, and enjoy a day of Kaiser Community. See you there!

Sincerely,

Sarah Coulthurst
Walk-a-thon Chair

Update on the Small Working Group

3/14/2013

Members of the Small Working Group:

Susy Hovland (2nd), Monica Yu (K, 4th, 5th), Jennice Mendoza (1st, 3rd), Yasmin Anwar (3rd), Deborah Mistry (4th), Dean Sedlachek (Incoming K, 3rd, 4th), Andres Elenes (3rd), Moya Anderson (K), Sari Henry (1st, 3rd), Jim Moxon (1st, 3rd), Liz Gusman (1st), Liza Lyons (incoming K, 3rd), Josh Simpson (1st, 3rd), Darren Avent (Principal), Staff Members (rotating).

Brief History of the Mandate:

In October of 2011, the Board of Education directed the staff of Quality Community Schools Development (QSCSD), an OUSD department with David Montes De Oca overseeing the Kaiser mandate, to provide recommendations by February 2013 to either expand Kaiser on our current site or to relocate to an alternative OUSD school site and expand our numbers there. The full wording of the mandate is available on the Kaiser site:

<http://qualitycommunityschools.weebly.com/kaiser-expansion.html>. Included in the mandate is Burkhalter Elementary as Superintendent Tony Smith recommended both schools be removed off of the closure list in recognition of their academic successes. As a result of this mandate between October 2011 and February 2012 the parent community formed a number of groups, including Strategy, Expansion, Relocation, Survey, Marketing, and more. Of these groups the members of the Strategy, Expansion and Relocation groups have remained connected to the issue the longest and continue to be part of the Small Working Group to date.

Brief History of cooperation with OUSD:

On February 15, 2012 a preliminary meeting between parents and staff and OUSD came together that led to several more meetings between OUSD's David Montes De Oca/QCSD and began the long work of getting to the point of cooperation (*you can see details on the Kaiser <http://qualitycommunityschools.weebly.com:kaiser-expansion.html>*) and agreed that a community meeting needed to be scheduled and it took place on March 8th. That meeting included parents, staff, prospective Kindergarten parents, and surrounding community representatives. Many subjects were discussed and raised at that meeting, including the agreement that a smaller group of parents would meet regularly with OUSD representatives and report back at community meetings (*you can see details on the Kaiser Site*).

Where do we stand now?

- Relocation – or expanding off-site (OUSD’s wording) – has been deemed not a feasible solution –after exhaustive efforts by the parents on the Relocation and Survey teams that culminated in a school-wide survey and a Community Impact report attesting to the lack of feasibility –this point is no longer debated. This is a victory!
- Expansion on site is the direction we are going. However, the rate of growth - both in quantity (how many children) and, in how much time – has been a negotiation point still in play.
- The staff - in independent meetings – have been consulted and their concerns have been acknowledged. However, OUSD has not been as forthcoming with solutions to their concerns.
- We have, on a regular basis, offered a third solution to OUSD’s staff: to leave the school as is. Offering as supporting points: finances of the district and other schools in need of the expenditure. OUSD staff has not felt that this third solution should be added to the recommendation – ***Thus far***.
- A community meeting is coming up, presently scheduled for April 9. At that meeting an almost completed version of the recommendation will be presented to the community at large. **We urge everyone to take the time between now and then to go to the site (*you can see details on the Kaiser Site <http://qualitycommunityschools.weebly.com/kaiser-expansion.html>)*** and educate themselves on what has transpired in Community and Small Working Group meetings. Amongst the documents you will find the Community Impact report (done by the Relocation group) on why relocation was not a feasible solution; a Power Point presentation about what the school site could sustain (based on the research done by the Expansion group); the results of a school-wide survey (done by the Survey group) and much, much more.
- This community is inquisitive and productive and now is the time to get and educated on the issues surrounding the expansion of Kaiser on our wonderful site. The more facts and current news the community has at its disposal, the less chance for rumors and false information to raise fears. To that end we will have a number of volunteers that will place themselves during pick-up and drop-off times to answer any questions from the community.
- The Small Working Group has been working diligently throughout last and this year, including during summer vacations, and they need your help and participation. Even if you can only read updates and give feedback by email, any and all input is welcome!

Thank you Kaiser Community.



To: Students & Parents
From: Michelle Larson-Patxi's Pizza
Date: 4/9/13
Re: 2nd Half-Baked Pizza Fundraiser

Hello! Thank you for choosing Patxi's Pizza as part of your fundraising options for your school! We are excited to be a part of your team. Our half-baked pizza fundraiser promise to be fun, delicious, and of course, help raise monies for Kaiser Elementary! **25%** of all pizza and gift certificate sales for this event will go towards your school.

How it works: Pre-sell as many pizzas as you can to friends, family members, etc. Let them know that pizzas can be frozen for up to 3 months!! Encourage them to buy one for dinner that night and put one away in the freezer! As an added bonus, there is the option of buying a gift certificate in any denomination as well. Think stocking stuffers, birthday presents, teacher gifts, etc. Remind everyone that **25%** goes back to your school!

What makes Patxi's Pizza special? Our sauce and crust is vegan. Sauces and dough are made fresh daily. Cheese is shredded and veggies are chopped fresh daily.

There will be some amazing prizes for the top sellers!

Most importantly, have fun!

All order **forms must be returned by April 23rd**. Pizzas will be dropped off directly at the school just in time for pick up on April 30, at 3:00PM!

PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Paxi's Pizza is proud to collaborate with Kaiser for a 2nd fundraiser this year with 25% of the proceeds going to our PTA.

May is always a busy month for our school and it all starts with the Walk-a-thon, who has time to cook?

Why not order your half-baked pizzas with this PTA fundraiser, freeze them and use when you need them to feed your family or next party?

Paxi's will provide the pizzas and deliver them to our school. We need to have over 100 orders, we did so well in October and raised

\$400+ dollars for the school, let's aim for a bit more this time.

It's easy!

Fill out the form (attached or down-load from the Kaiser Site; if you have allergies be sure to ask for soy cheese or gluten-free), attach your check, and deposit in the office.

So, order for your family, friends, coworkers or neighbors. You can also buy gift cards instead of pizzas and still support our school.

When: **Starts 3/11/2013**

Ends 4/30/2013

Pick-up your pizzas on **4/30/2013 at 3PM**



Patxi's Half-Baked Pizza Menu Form
Spring 2013

25% of ALL Half-Baked and Gift Certificates will go towards Kaiser Elementary!

Please specify quantity:

Pizza Deep Dish Chicago Style:

12" Cheese \$20 _____ 12" *Classic Meat \$25 _____ 12" Veggie \$25 _____

(*includes all three Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Canadian Bacon)

Pizza Regular Crust Classic Pizza:

14" Cheese \$15 _____ 14" Pepperoni \$20 _____ 14" Veggie \$25 _____

All prices includes sales tax

Additional:

Patxi's Pizza Gift Card in any denomination. Please specify amount: _____

Please make checks payable to Patxi's Pizza re: Half-Baked Pizza

Return in envelope marked "Half Baked Pizza"

Due April 23rd.

Kaiser Family Name _____ - Order for: _____

Circle classroom: K/ Gale Vinyard 1st/ Haruyama Araki 2nd/Yang McGhee 3rd/
Bailey Hunter 4th/Fague Apaydin 5th/Neat

Total Amount Paid _____

Check # _____

SUMMER CLASS SIGN UPS ARE STARTING GREAT PARTY or DATE NIGHT IDEA for KIDS or ADULTS

Sign up to have a **PARTY** or for **CRAFT WORKSHOPS** being held at City of Paris Studios!!

EMAIL: debrarunyon@yahoo.com Class sizes will be limited and grouped according to activity.

The kids really enjoyed the whole process. I think you or your child would too, so sign up to take a class to create or schedule a creative party in my beautiful space!!

Beginner Workshops being held-

- HAND PAINT TILES that we will then have fired (p/u one week later)
- DECORATE 6" hotplates or wall art using COLORFUL MOSAIC TILES (take home that day)
- DECORATE a 4" Planter using COLORFUL MOSAIC TILES (take home that day)
- COSTUME JEWELRY MAKING! From your own designs make pendants, bracelets and earrings

Advanced workshops- (Take after Beginner workshop)

- MAKE A MOSAIC MIRROR FRAME
- MAKE A MOSAIC TABLE

LOCATION: City of Paris Studios 3156 Adeline Street in West Oakland 94608

TIMES: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays 11am-6pm, Fridays 7pm-9pm, Saturdays 7pm-11pm and Sundays Evenings 5pm-9pm

CLASS OR PARTY ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

COST: All **workshops and kids parties** are \$15/hr for kids 14 and under, \$30/hr for Adults Beginner Workshops include all Glazes, Bisque Tiles, Mosaic tiles cements and backer board materials needed to create projects. Advanced classes require additional materials (Custom size Mirror and Table frames) to be purchased.

Want to just Rent the studio for your own idea for a party or event? Cost is \$100/hr for Event space, catering and cake, drinks is additional charge –let's talk about options!

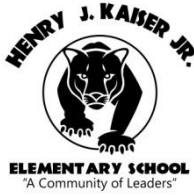
INSTRUCTOR: Debra Buckley (Mother of Katelin and Madeline Runyon)

- licensed Tile Contractor working around the SF Bay area for past 20 years.
- Interior and Furniture Design and Welding skills.
- I create custom metal, wood, mosaics and tile furnishings in my Studio I own in West Oakland.
- worked with our children at Kaiser Elementary to help them learn how to make their own designs into usable art for the school auctions every year

Kaiser Auction Projects w/ Ms. Banks, Ms. McGee, Ms. Bailey, Ms. Apaydin

Feel free to contact references at the school whose classes I've worked with. More references upon request.

- We made **hand paint tiles** of their own custom designs
- made **patterns and abstract pictures using broken mosaic tiles** then to set them onto tables or mirrors - made **Mosaic Tile Hot Plates** for them to take home,
- made **Mosaic Planters** decorated with abstract flowers and vines that the kids set to the pots themselves.
- created a **hand sewn quilt** of all their little hands cut out of bright fabrics



**INTENT TO RETURN
FOR SCHOOL YEAR: 2013-2014
Only Current K-4 Students**

Dear Kaiser Families:

We are currently compiling our enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year. In order for Kaiser to effectively register students it is imperative that we know how many students will be enrolled in our school at each grade level. The first step in this process is the Intent to Return Form. This is an opportunity for families to inform us if it is their intent to have their child(ren) remain at Kaiser the next school year.

Please, indicate your intentions by completing this form and return it to your classroom teacher by **Monday, April 29, 2013**

We appreciate your assistance with this matter. Thank you.

Parent Name: _____
(Please Print)

Student's Name: _____ Grade for 2013-2014: _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade for 2013-2014: _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade for 2013-2014 : _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade for 2013-2014: _____

_____ **My child/children will be returning for the 2013-2014 school year**

_____ **My child/children will NOT be returning for the 2013-2014 school year**

(Parent's Signature)

(Date)

Office Use:
Date Received: _____
Date Registered: _____