



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 27, 2014

Dear Kaiser Families,

"Things that matter most should never be at the mercy of things that matter least." - Goethe

Many of us are very busy both personally and professionally, and a reflection on the never-ending dimension of time, I feel is relevant. As we go about our lives there just doesn't seem to be enough time to accomplish all that we desire to do. Do you ever feel stretched for time? I do!

After 15 years working in public education, I have come to the realization that time constraints will always be present and that I will never get it all done. We all are striving to be the best people that we can be, but in order to be our best it's important that we take care of ourselves. What can we do to manage all of our life activities, both professionally and personally? Richard Carlson states in his book *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff—And It's All Small Stuff*, that we should "learn to live in the Present Moment."

Many people live as if it were a dress rehearsal for some later date. But in fact, no one is guaranteed tomorrow. Now is the time we have, and it's the only time over which we have any control. When our attention is in the present moment, we push fear from our minds. Fear is a concern over events that might happen in the future...the copying machine might break, our students may not meet the standard on the standardized test, or are they going to try and close the school again. When we allow future concerns or past problems to dominate our present moments, we can end up anxious, frustrated, and hopeless. We also postpone our gratification, and our happiness, by convincing ourselves that someday things will be better than today.

John Lennon once said, "Life is what's happening when we are busy making other plans." When we're busy making other plans, our children are busy growing up, the people we love are moving away, and our dreams are slipping away. In short, we might miss out on life.

I once saw a video on a presentation called "Put the Big Rocks First." The presenter pulled out a wide mouth gallon jar and placed it next to a pile of fist-sized rocks. After filling the jar to the top with rocks, he asked, "Is the jar full?" The group replied, "Yes!" He then got some gravel from under the table and added it to the jar. The speaker jiggled the jar until the gravel filled the spaces between the rocks. Again, he asked, "Is the jar full?" "Yes!" the group shouted. Finally, the speaker filled the jar to the brim with water and asked the group the point of this illustration. Someone replied that you could always fit more things into your life if you really worked at it. "No," countered the speaker. "The point is, if you didn't put the big rocks in first, would you have ever gotten them in?"

What are the big rocks of your life? In 2014 think of the "big rocks" in your life and put them first. Doing this will make 2014 a happier and more productive year for yourself and others.

Thank you,

Darren Avent
Principal

Getting In The Know

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE log your hours in the front office - including, **but most especially**, those hours you spend doing something for the school at home, and whenever you are on campus helping the classrooms, the front office, the garden, the library, the lunch hour, the playground, the Dad's Club, the PTA meetings, the SSC meetings, all the events, potlucks and so much more that we know our community does for Kaiser Elementary.

We are a school that functions on our highly involved parent community however, whenever, wherever you donate time.

Please take the time, the next time you are at the school, to record any past volunteer time you have provided for the school.

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 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/29, 5/13, 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
Joanna.Fraguli@gmail.com – Joanna Fraguli

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

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Jennise Mendoza

Pink Panther Staff

Co-editors: Jolie McRae / Joanna Fraguli

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Wed. 1/29	SF Shakespeare Festival performing Julius Caesar Kaiser Multipurpose Rm, 9:00 am
Fri. 1/31	Staff Development Day – No School
Fri. 2/7 New date TBD	Kids' Movie Night
Mon. 2/17	Presidents' Day Holiday—No School
Wed. – Fri. 2/26-28	Parent-Teacher Conferences (by appt.), 1:25 pm release days

The Pink Panther is also available at
www.KaiserElementary.org.

Check out the complete 2013-2014 school year 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 President's Corner

Hello Kaiser Families,

I can't believe that we are already at the end of January. Time is flying by. We have several fun events coming up, so please check the Kaiser calendar on our school website page or join the Kaiser Yahoo group to keep informed. Thank you to everyone who participated in the pizza fundraiser. It sounds like that was a success. Please remember that when you financially support Kaiser PTA, you are helping to pay for our consultants (classroom support, teacher support, music teachers and computer teacher) as well as classroom supplies, field trips, school library, plus more.

We are looking to find a company or individual that is willing to become a financial donor for Kaiser PTA. If you know of someone that could possibly do this, please reach out to them and let me know. We know that a few Oakland public schools have had success with this, so this is why we are reaching out to the greater Oakland community for financial support.

WE NEED A SPIRITWEAR COORDINATOR. Unfortunately, the person in charge of Kaiser Spiritwear cannot continue to do this position because of work obligations. Therefore, we are looking for someone who can lead and process the Kaiser Spiritwear sales. Mr. Avent recently informed us that all spiritwear can be stored on Kaiser campus. Therefore, you do not need to store the spiritwear items at your house. If you are interested in leading this, please contact me at KaiserPresident@gmail.com.

WE NEED PARENTS TO HELP SHELVING BOOKS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY. After several months of hard work, Susie Goodin and Karen Smith revamped our school library. Both of these ladies are not current Kaiser families, so we are very grateful for all the work they did. Plus, they both donated several items to our school library which we are extremely grateful for too. Unfortunately, these ladies needed to move on to help another library in need. Therefore, the teachers are running the library, but between teaching the students, prepping their class for the next assignment, and reviewing homework and tests, plus more... they have no time to shelve the books in our school library. Therefore, we need parents to come to the school library and help shelve books. If you can help with this, please let Mr. Avent or Corina Pedraza know.

Thank you to all the parents who help out at Kaiser Elementary. Thank you to all the families that donate their time and/or money to the PTA. Our school would not be a success without you. Your continued support is greatly appreciated so that we can continue to provide the support and services to ALL the students at Kaiser.

Go Panthers!

Jennise Mendoza
Kaiser Elem PTA President

**Kaiser Elementary School
PTA Board Meeting
12/12/2013 at J. Mendoza's house**

Minutes Summary

I. Approval of Minutes

Defer until next meeting

II. Principal's Report

Principal Avent attended an OUSD Board Meeting and an All Administrators Meeting.

Gary Yee presented large scale budget changes, mainly changes in the way funds are distributed to schools. This will help with inequities. There will be a flat base for each school plus additional allotments based on environmental factors. Geographic location of the school will help determine additional funds. Overall, this will increase the amount of money going to all schools and is a positive change. However, Kaiser may not be represented by our geographic location, as only 10% of our students live within the district lines. High schools have a similar issue. Over the next few weeks will see how each school is individually affected.

School tours are going well! We have good prospective parent participation and we have received good feedback.

III. President's Report

We now have 2-3 volunteers at lunch per day and growing! We hope to get to 4 volunteers per day.

Request from the group for ideas to recruit more family volunteer time and financial support:

Ideas:

Use classroom parents to help communicate.

Utilize the teacher role in a positive way.

Teachers to include needs in their weekly newsletters.

Create a form for Back to School Night where teachers set up specific needs. Each parent is responsible for signing up for at least one thing.

Weekly messages from the Principal

Look for fresh voices-not the same parents always requesting help.

Approach individual parents with our needs.

PTA President to send an email to Yahoo groups and classrooms.

Principal Avent to make announcements at performances and Association meetings.

Encourage attendance at the next Association meeting. An update regarding expansion and auction revenue could be helpful in generating attendance. We will also have a family activity this time.

Relay the sense of urgency we have in order to continue funding our PTA paid programs. Help parents understand that we risk losing these programs.

Create a more positive lens for viewing our financial and volunteer needs.

Identify a lump sum donation per family needed per year.

Send a letter with the monthly costs of our programs. Announce where our money goes and how much.

Create a winter pledge drive.

Remind parents that they can ask their families and friends to donate.

IV. Financial Reports

Treasurers report

See financial sheets.

At the next PTA Association meeting Josh will report finances to our members. We should have more information at that time about our ability to fund our programs.

V. Reports of Committees

Auction Committee Report (Monica)

The files/outlines for running this event will be passed on to next year's committee. There was no outline available this year.

We had decreased volunteerism this year.

Ideas for improvement for next year include:

Improved promotion of the event

Strategic planning for all fundraising events throughout the year. It is hard for parents to continue to give at all times.

December is a hard month for an event due to time and financial obligations of our families.

Membership Committee (Lisa)

We have 272 members . We need 278 members to meet 100%.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

We need set rules and guidelines for field trips. Issues to address include signing up drivers/completing forms in time, supervision, safety, parent and student rules to follow. Aven and staff will set formal guidelines.

Minutes prepared by Liz Gumas, Secretary

**Kaiser Elementary School
PTA Association Meeting
1/9/2014 at Kaiser Elementary**

Minutes Summary

VIII. Principal's Report

Principal announced information regarding the new state funding system to take effect 2014=2015. In brief: Overall, the Local Control Funding Formula will benefit our school, although there are some concerns specific to our school (geographic location of the school versus where students live). The goal is increased fairness. ADA% will be removed, salaries will be removed from individual school budgets, location is weighed. Discussion Q&A followed.

IX. President's Report

The Pink is coming out next week. Reminder for deadline for submissions.

PTA school directories have been handed out to PTA members.

Reimbursement requests for parents need an address.

The PTA needs to raise more funds or we will have to look cutting PTA funded programs.

X. Financial Reports

See report (available in the office for PTA members).

We will need more funds or we won't be able to afford our PTA funded programs.

Brainstorming session followed.

Ideas:

Publicize our programs, publicize our crisis. Use videos and live programs.

Pass the hat at meetings.

School tour for neighbors.

Alumni network.

A team was formed to coordinate a live performance fundraiser: Monte McClain, Hillary Jackson, Monica Lannon. Considerations: coordinating with a current activity, such as the spaghetti dinner, possibly moving up the spaghetti dinner if we did this combined event. Including the neighborhood, including Jody London.

XI. Reports of Committees

Financial Secretary Report: see report in the office available to members.

Fundraising: see report in the office available to members.

Ideas:

Should we reduce the number of fundraising events while making each event more profitable?

Discuss past and present fundraisers: profitability, fun

Consider a drive during school registration.

Annie will put together a questionnaire for the community.

Membership:

104% is our goal. We still have distinguished school classification.

Mr Neat's class won the pizza party based on the November deadline. Ms. Haruyama's class is now ahead.

What are good ways to communicate to members? Ideas; Shuttterfly, email. What's too much info and what's not enough? How can we increase communication and networking? How do we target parents that are not participating? Annie will add some of these ideas to the community questionnaire.

XII. New Business

Nominating committee was voted in.

Children's library activity provided by Corina Pedraza!

JCC- Oakland Afterschool School's Out: Friday, 1/31- Lawrence Hall of Science

Do you need care Friday, 1/31 when OUSD is closed? The JCC's School's Out Programming will be open from 8am-6pm and heading to Lawrence Hall of Science for the day. You pack the lunch, we do the rest! [Check here for more details and registration.](#)

JCC Member \$55 per child/\$45 for each additional sibling
JCC non-member \$70 per child/\$60 each additional sibling

JCC- Oakland Branch is located at 5811 Racine St. (59th & Telegraph)

Congratulations Lucas!

This past December Kaiser 5th grader Lucas Chaney qualified for and competed in the USATF Junior Olympic Cross Country National Championships in San Antonio, Texas. He and his teammates on the Castro Valley Track Club competed in the boys' 9-10 age group 3-kilometer race. His team took 15th place out of 25 teams in the nation. Lucas was the third finisher for his team of five boys and he finished 188th overall out of 329 finishers. Not only did he have a great time with his teammates, he got to visit The Alamo! You can ask him if he "Remembers The Alamo".

If you are interested the Castro Valley Track Club please review their flyer in this edition of the Pink.