



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Dear Kaiser Families,

*"In times of great stress or adversity, it's always best to keep busy, to plow your anger and your energy into something positive." Lee Iacocca*

As we approach the final 80 days of the school year, it is easy for many in the Kaiser community to get into that familiar habit of complaining and focusing on the negative. I want to be the one who encourages you not to fall into that rut; if you already have, I want to be the one who encourages you to find a rope and climb out.

Each and every day our students need us. We should embrace the fact that Kaiser is a constant presence in students' lives and we all should make a choice that it be a positive presence.

This school community has a great opportunity to work together and have an impact on students' lives from day to day. This is a huge responsibility, and it should not to be taken lightly. I know there are days when something may grate your nerves, or you may get cut off in the circle, but regardless of the situation always remember that we all can model positive behavior to our students.

Over the next few weeks, I encourage everyone to avoid complaining and displaying negative behavior in front of students. It is vitally important that Kaiser serve as a stable, constructive factor in our students' lives. Again, we may be the only constant factors they have, let us commit to being positive ones!

Thank you,

Darren Avent

# 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 12/10, and into 2014.

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

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## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
February 17	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> President's Day
February 19	SSC Meeting
February 26 - 28	<b>Minimum Days</b> Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 7	Parents Night Out Kids' Movie Night
March 20	PTA Spaghetti Dinner
April 11	Evening of Art & Music

The Pink Panther is also available at  
[www.KaiserElementary.org](http://www.KaiserElementary.org).

**Check out the complete 2013-2014 school year calendar at**  
[www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar](http://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/)**

## PTA President's Corner

Hello Kaiser Community!

I can't believe it is already February! A lot of celebrations this month... Black History Month where we remember the people that have opened the doors and paved the way for our future generations: President Barack Hussein Obama, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. DuBois, Macon Bolling Allen, Jane Bolin, Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche, and Eartha Kitt to name a few. We also celebrate Valentine's Day, Ground Hog Day, President Lincoln's Birthday, President's Day, President Washington's Birthday and much more. I guess the holidays have not stopped... Enjoy and remember the people that have helped to give us the freedoms and opportunities we have today.

Now back to PTA stuff... I know it is February, but we need to start looking into a new PTA Board for next year. Each position is for one year though candidates can be in a position for 2 consecutive years. The Nominating Committee is interviewing potential candidates. If you are interested in being on the PTA Board next year, please contact Monte McClain (montemclain@gmail). The following positions will need to be filled: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Historian, Membership and Fundraising.

**WE FOUND A SPIRITWEAR COORDINATOR!** Thank you Jim Armstrong for stepping up and taking over Kaiser Spirit Wear sales. Also, thank you to Liza Lyons for all the work you did to date this year for Kaiser Spirit Wear. I know the community appreciates it.

**WE NEED SPAGHETTI NIGHT HELPERS!** If you are willing to help with this event, please contact Annie de Jong (annemiekedjong@comcast.net). Spaghetti Night is scheduled for **Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 pm at Kaiser Elementary**. I know Annie has attempted to contact the Spaghetti Night Coordinator, but has not had success. If we do not have a coordinator for this event, then it may be cancelled.

One last housekeeping item... In an effort to be in compliance with PTA rules, we are forming a new procedure for deposits. This will mainly affect PTA Committee members and Board members, but the community will have an impact too because of Thursday Snack Sales. We are requesting that when a completed Cash Verification/Deposit Form is completed, that a copy be made and placed in the Treasurer's folder. This means that the originally completed form and cash will be given to Principal Avent and a copy will be placed in the PTA drawer which is located in the office in a folder marked "Check Request." I will try to remember to update the folder and mark it Treasurer's folder to make it easier for everyone. This process is just a two point check and complies within the PTA rules. If you have any questions about this new procedure, please contact me.

Please keep a look out for all the upcoming PTA fundraising events. We need as many people as possible to participate in every fundraiser within the Kaiser Community. Feel free to recruit outside of Kaiser for supporting our various fundraisers. Your financial support is greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone who helps Kaiser Elementary to make us the success that we are today.

Go Panthers!  
Jennise Mendoza  
Kaiser Elem PTA President

# KAISER ALIVE 20014 NEEDS YOU!

Hello Kaiser Families -

As many of you know, Kaiser Elementary hosts an awesome activity period for the kids each spring called Kaiser ALIVE. Kaiser ALIVE stands for being ACTIVE, LEARNING, INITIATING (and inspiring!), VOLUNTEERING and ENERGIZING (and engaging!).

During the Kaiser ALIVE period, the kids have approximately 6 weeks to participate in activities that encourage the above themes. The activities can be as simple as going for a walk, selling lemonade, drawing a picture, or helping a sibling - or as big as playing in a team sport, volunteering for Save the Bay or donating to a shelter. The idea is for kids to take positive action, have a great time - and get credit for it! At the end of the activity period, there's a school-wide picnic with prizes at Lake Temescal!

This project was brought to Kaiser by a former parent (from a similar project in Chicago public schools) and has been in place here for several years. I was fortunate to take over 3 years ago, and it has been a joy to organize, support and be involved with the kids and the Kaiser Community through this exciting and inspiring event. This year however, I need to turn my attention toward other responsibilities and hand this project over to other enthusiastic leader/cheerleader(s)!

If you have ever been interested in having greater participation in Kaiser ALIVE, or in the Kaiser Community itself, this is a wonderful way to do this. The kids (and families) love this project, and it's a fun and very rewarding experience!

KA can be coordinated by one or several people depending on your availability and interests. There are several ways and places to get involved - the booklet cover art "competition" for the kids, the kick off assembly, or the year-end picnic can all use your creativity and enthusiasm. You can be behind the scenes, or a school-wide cheerleader, whatever suits you! Any participation you can offer will help ensure that Kaiser ALIVE can occur this year, and will be much appreciated by everyone here at Kaiser. If you're a new parent, this is a great way to get involved and get to know the kids, teachers and parents - this is truly an awesome and inspiring event!

While the activity period typically runs in April and May, planning and scheduling for it begins now, so if you have any interest in participating in or leading this project, please contact me at [jsforbes@earthlink.net](mailto:jsforbes@earthlink.net) or Jennise Mendoza as soon as possible.