



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court | Oakland, CA 94618 | 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

January 10, 2017

KAISER CALENDAR

Thursday, 01.12.17	PTA Meeting Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, 01.21.17	Dad's Club Pancake Bkfst
Tuesday, 01.24.17	ORFF Music Performance (K - 3 rd)
Friday, 01.27.2017	NO SCHOOL*

* Teacher Development Day

Save the Dates!

PINK PANTHER ADVERTISING

Did you know that you can advertise in the Pink Panther? For a small fee, Kaiser community members and even members of the greater community may advertise in the Pink Panther.

There are some restrictions, therefore, for further information and guidelines, please visit: <http://www.kaiserelementary.org/advertise-in-the-pink-panther/>

If you have any questions, please contact the Pink Panther Editor, Celia Carter at celiacarter@gmail.com

Next Pink Panther distribution date:
January 24th

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

Dear Kaiser Elementary Families:

I hope that you and your family had a restful and joyous winter break. Now that we are back from our brief hibernation, we have a lot to anticipate in the new year!! I am looking forward to seeing you around campus and at our up-coming Pancake Breakfast (see last page for early registration form) and K - 3rd Grade Music Showcase later this month (details on page 3)

On the academic front, our teachers have completed two professional development cycles this school year, the first focused on school wide community and culture; the second on writing. Our new cycle will be math focused. This collaborative learning time allows us to align our instruction around common core standards, differentiate to meet the needs of all students, and create lessons that are fun and engaging.

While there is much to be excited about at Kaiser Elementary, these are challenging times for public education. The outcome of the presidential election, and Trump's choice of Education Secretary, have many of us concerned about potential impact. Meanwhile, there is uncertainty locally with the departure of our superintendent and recent news about the district's budget crisis. Despite all of this uncertainty, there is no signal that our school will be dramatically impacted.

We are currently at full enrollment and next year's projections keep us fully staffed. Fortunately, we do not need to fight for the existence of our school, but this is a time to broadcast and celebrate the value of Kaiser Elementary and public education in general.

I hope you will take time to read this edition of *The Pink Panther* closely. There is a lot going on this month! Happy New Year!

Dennis Guikema, Principal





School News

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, MINIMUM DAYS & PLANNING DAYS

As we launch into 2017, we want to remind everyone of our school holidays, planning days, and minimum days. Please put these in your calendar and be sure to plan appointments and travel during our school holidays to maximize learning time.

January

- 16. Monday. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. School Holiday. No school.
- 27. Friday. Teacher Professional Development Day. No school.

February

- 20. Monday. Presidents' Day. School Holiday. No school.

March

- 14 – 17. Tuesday – Friday. 1:30 PM minimum day dismissal. Conferences.
- 31. Friday. Cesar Chavez Day. School Holiday. No school.

April

- 3 - 7. Monday – Friday. Spring Break Vacation. No school.

May

- 26. Friday. School Holiday. No school.
- 29. Monday. Memorial Day. School Holiday. No school.

June

- 6 – 9. Tuesday – Friday. 1:30 PM minimum day dismissal. Conferences. Last day of school, June 9th.

*School holidays / vacation dates are for all OUSD schools, however, early release dates are specific to Kaiser.

The 2017-18 calendar will not be available for several months, but if you are making summer plans, do so assuming that school will resume Monday, August 21.



TRAFFIC CONCERNS : NEW UPDATE



As you know, one of our biggest challenges at Kaiser is the congestion during pick up time. I have done several observations and have engaged Kaiser families and neighbors in conversation to get your thoughts about this. Collectively, neighbors and I requested that a city traffic engineer do an audit of the situation. This happened in December, and last week the city made a *recommendation* that:

- **The uphill direction of Hiller Dr. and S Hill Ct. be designated “no parking” during our pick up hours.** This would allow cars to queue at the curb without blocking the traffic lane. The report has been made available to neighbors and **the city is accepting input before making any final decisions.**

Meanwhile, as a school community, there is much we can do to keep our kids and community safe:

- ✓ When queuing at pick-up, do your best to not block the traffic lane and do not block driveways.
- ✓ Do not make a U-Turn: either use the school circle drive or the end of N. Hill Ct. to safely and legally turn around.
- ✓ If possible, carpool (or join the few of us who bike to school!)

The traffic dialog has ruffled the feathers of a few in our neighborhood, so please join me in killing this controversy with kindness. I will be welcoming neighbors to school events and keeping them abreast of the great things we do. You keep smiling and waving.



School News

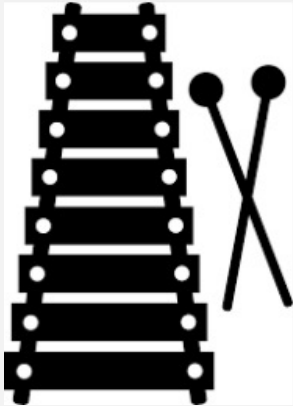
2017 ORFF MUSIC WINTER CONCERT: K – 3RD GRADE

You are invited to watch the Kinder – 3rd Graders take the stage to sing, dance and play!

Tuesday, January 24th

Show at 6:30 pm

The show will be under an hour,
please plan to stay for the whole event to support our students.



Arrival:

Please bring your children to their classroom between 6 and 6:15, and then make your way to the multi-purposes room to reserve your seat. Children will stay in their classrooms while not performing, as there is limited space in the multi-purpose room.

Dress:

Children should wear nice, neat, comfortable clothes that allow for sitting and moving across the floor.

Looking forward to seeing you then,
Mr. Eli and Kaiser Elementary

*If interested, there will also be an open rehearsal, January 24th at 1pm in the multi-purpose room.

MS. VINAS IS EXPECTING TWINS! BABY SHOWER DETAILS!

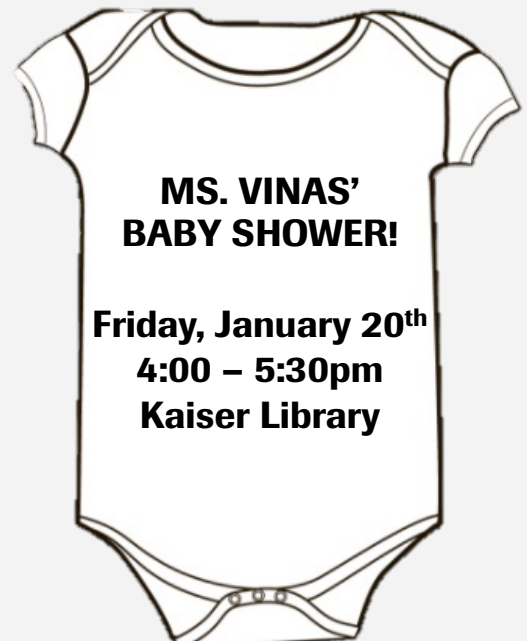
EXCITING NEWS! Our beloved kindergarten teacher Ms. Rebakah Vinas is expecting twins in March!

We'd like to make sure she's sent off to begin this new chapter of her life with the things she needs to be the best mom she can be! As such, we will be throwing her a baby shower this month!

While your presence is the best gift of all, for those interested, Ms. Vinas is registered at Babies R' Us.

If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Klapperich, Ms. Gayle, or Mrs. Bailey.

We hope to see you there!!!





School News

LOST AND FOUND: ITEMS WILL BE DONATED SOON!

Hello Kaiser Families,

I am writing to let you know that I will be picking up and donating all the lost and found items (located on the rack right outside the multipurpose room) on Monday morning, January 23rd.

ACTION FOR FAMILIES: Please make sure to go through the items, including the water bottles and lunch boxes, by the end of the day **on Friday, January 20th.**

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at slitchy@yahoo.com or call at (510) 502-3467.

Thank you,
Sandra Litchy
Parent of 3rd Grader Joaquin Munoz

PTA News

SPAGHETTI DINNER

PTA MEETING

Dinner's On Us This Thursday!

Join us for Kaiser's famous

SPAGHETTI DINNER

and PTA Meeting

January 12, at 6:pm

Kaiser Elementary School Multipurpose Room
25 South Hill Court



Please mark your calendar!

Our January 12th PTA association meeting is this week. This meeting is one of the most important of the year. We will be selecting our nomination committee for 2017-2018. This is the first step in preparation for a seamless transition into our next school year. Also, there is spaghetti for dinner! Thank you Mike Loudon, you are the best! We are all looking forward to the following January events as well. I hope to see you there.



PTA News

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Greetings Kaiser Families and Happy New Year on behalf of the Kaiser Elementary School PTA!

I would like to take this opportunity to direct your attention toward a fascinating young lady. She is first and foremost, a working mom, but in addition, she serves expertly as our **Vice-President of Fundraising**. Her name is **Cynthia Nelson**, and she was the force behind that wonderful November Evening with Anne Lamott. Cynthia continues to guide the PTA's upcoming efforts for keeping our financial goals on track.

A MESSAGE FROM CYNTHIA

My name is Cynthia Nelson. My son is Cameron Breitung and he is in Miss Araki's first grade class. I serve as the Vice President of Fundraising on Kaiser's PTA. This is my second year on the board. Last year I was approached by Jim Armstrong a couple months into the school year. He asked me to fill the role of Historian. I was a little bit hesitant as I had never been involved in such an important organization and knew nothing about the important role that the PTA plays in our community. It was a difficult year to get involved as we lost our principal midway through the term. Luckily this year has been a much brighter and more positive experience all around with the arrival Dennis Guikema.

Fast forward to the 2016-2017 school year. Once again I was asked to fill a role on the board, but this time it was the Vice President of Fundraising. My normal day to day job is in property management and a mom. I can turn on a pilot light or screen an arbor to remove trees, bake a mean loaf of bread or open (and close) Fairyland with four kids....but this new role was an entirely different ballgame and I was completely intimidated.

I started my my role before the new year even began with an email from Katie McClain who let me know that she and Bonnie Allen (Ms. Leonardo) had booked a talk with Anne Lamott as a fundraiser. Organizing the November 5th event was a great way to jump. The \$7k end result of that evening was quite fulfilling. Now we are on to the two biggest projects for the year. The Auction and the Walk-a-thon.

Again its a very intimidating experience to ask people for auction donations, and I tremendously admire our fellow board members Jim Armstrong and Parin Shah for managing this colossal undertaking. These two events are a tremendous way for members of our community to get involved and even the smallest things can help. We are looking for auction donations and many people do not realize that their companies can make contributions. We will need help setting up and taking down for both events. Please visit the Henry J Kaiser home page which is filled with information on how you, too can get involved. Thank you all for reading and here's to an awesome rest of the year.

Thank you Cynthia for introducing yourself to all of us
and sharing a bird's eye view of your heavy lifting skills!

Linda Handy, PTA President





Community News & Opportunities



RUNNING FOR A BETTER OAKLAND (RBO)

DO YOUR FAMILY'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS INCLUDE FITNESS AND FUN?

If so, you will want to be a part of Running for a Better Oakland (RBO). Kaiser Elementary is putting together a team to train for the Oakland Running Festival (ORF) 5K. Practices are every Saturday at 9 AM, from mid February until the end of March. The ORF is Sunday, April 2. \$30 enrollment includes:

- RBO performance running shirt
- Water bottle with RBO logo
- Race entry to ORF 2017 5K (\$35 value! not refundable to RBO if you don't show up at the race!)
- All coached practices
- Volunteer run mentor support
- Healthy snacks
- Information about nutrition, injury prevention, running etiquette and more!

Full scholarships are available to anyone who may need it.
Enroll at www.rboakland.org/enroll



----- Put forms and check in box in the office -----

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: EARLY REGISTRATION FORM



Kaiser Dads Club 2017 Pancake Breakfast & Community Gardening Day

(Gardening Day with Mike Louden right after you finish breakfast)
This is a chance to beautify the campus.

Saturday, January 21st, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Kaiser Elementary School, Oakland, CA

All Proceeds to Benefit
Kaiser Elementary School

Tickets: \$5 Each in Advance/\$7 at Door
(Kids 3 and under and Teachers are free)
Raffle included in ticket price

Please reserve _____ spots for
the pancake breakfast.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks out to: *Kaiser Dads Club*. Put
check and form in envelope in box and seal.

