



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court | Oakland, CA 94618 | 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

September 13, 2016

THE PINK PANTHER

The Pink Panther has a new look, but it is still your community newsletter that is distributed every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month!

If you would like to submit feedback or request to have content published in the Pink Panther, please contact, Editor Celia Carter at celiacarter@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

Hello Kaiser Families:

What a joy this first month of school has been! Even before the bell rang to signal the start of our academic year, families, kids, and staff made me feel extremely welcome in our Kaiser Elementary community.

On August 22nd everyone was ready to hit the ground running. Pictures of the first day of school were snapped, old friends were reunited, and new ones were made. High expectations, rigorous learning, community building, creativity, and fun were all on deck for the year ahead.

Kids also noticed something new: The Kaiser staff, in our beginning of the year professional development, had shaped a clear and positive set of school wide expectations. At Kaiser we began a conversation about being Safe, Mindful, & Responsible in our classes and around the campus. In recognition of this, the positive incentives of Panther Paws have become a huge hit!

(continued on next page...)

KAISER CALENDAR

Thursday, 9.15	Back To School Night
Friday, 9.16	Emergency Packets Due
Saturday, 10.22	Harvest Fair and Bazaar

Save the Dates!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH



This evening we will celebrate the start of the school year and have an opportunity to visit your scholar's class to see what learning lies ahead!

6:00 – 7:15 PM : Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade Families – Meet in your child's classroom

6:30 – 8:00 PM : 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Families – Meet in the auditorium

TIMING: Event will start and end on time. Please arrive early.

PARKING: The upper yard will be open and available for parking. Pull into the parking lot to the **left** of the building as you arrive to be guided to the upper yard parking.

ATTENDEES: Back-to-school night is intended for adult family members (no kids).

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL!

(see next page for detailed agenda)





School News

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA (CONTINUED)

...During the first two weeks, teachers probed deeply into each student's academic skills and readiness, allowing us to differentiate and provide the additional challenges or supports that will ensure each student thrives.

In week three, the sound of singing and instruments began to waft across the campus. Our young artists engaged their creative expression. We welcomed a new computer teacher to connect our kids to technology that will enrich academics and arts at Kaiser.

Meanwhile, as we look ahead to the Autumn, I hope to see you all at our upcoming events: Back to School Night, Harvest Fair, and the Anne Lamott reading, just to name a few. I also look forward to seeing you all on campus, whether volunteering in the classrooms, cafeteria or yard, or just saying a friendly "hello" at the morning drop off. Of course if you have any questions or concerns, you can email, call or stop by.

I encourage everyone to stay in touch via the PTA's Yahoo Group listserv and/or Kaiser's Facebook page. Both are linked at our website: www.KaiserElementary.org

Onward toward a year of creativity, growth, and learning! Thanks for all you do to make our school great!

Dennis Guikema, Principal
dennis.guikema@ousd.org

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT AGENDA: THURSDAY, SEPT. 15TH

6:00PM – 6:30PM	K, 1 ST and 2 ND Grade Families Arrive Directly to Student's Classroom
6:30PM	K, 1 ST and 2 ND Families Transition to Auditorium 3 RD , 4 TH and 5 TH Grade Families Arrive Directly to Auditorium
6:35PM – 6:45PM	Principal Guikema's Welcome
6:45PM – 7:05PM	PTA Meeting: Budget Approval, Calendar Approval and Membership Report
7:05PM – 7:15PM	Principal Guikema's Appreciations and Other Announcements
7:15PM	K, 1 ST and 2 ND Grade Families Depart 3 RD , 4 TH and 5 TH Grade Families Transition to Student's Classroom
7:20PM – 8:00PM	3 RD , 4 TH and 5 TH Grade Families in Student's Classroom





School News

** NEW ** RECYCLING & COMPOST AT KAISER

Kaiser Elementary, with the help of all kids, families and staff, can significantly reduce our waste this year. We are excited to have a new green waste dumpster on campus for both cafeteria food waste and garden waste. In our classrooms, kids sort their trash by "recyclable" and "landfill". In the cafeteria they have the added bin for "compost".

ACTION FOR FAMILIES

Will you take time to talk about this with your kids at home? The pictures below help identify which is which. At school teachers and staff are always available to help kids think about which bin to use. Thanks for helping Kaiser be environmentally conscious!



Examples:

- Cans and Bottles
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Containers
- Paper (not soiled)



Examples:

- Plastic / Garbage Bags
- Plastic Utensils
- Chip Bags



Examples:

- Food
- Paper plates, food containers, cups
- Napkins, Paper Towels

VOLUNTEER CLEARANCE AT KAISER

Family and Community volunteers are an important part of what makes Kaiser great! All volunteers at OUSD schools, including Kaiser must be registered and cleared as volunteers through the Oakland Ed Fund, Oakland Schools Volunteers.

Please visit <http://www.oaklandedfund.org/parent-volunteers> to register. Following registration you will need to receive the appropriate level of clearance based on your volunteer type. For the safety of our children, and for legal compliance, volunteers who are working "unsupervised" must be fingerprinted and cleared by Oakland Public Education Fund. (This includes anyone driving students on field trips)

Please visit the link for detailed requirements and other information.



PTA News



PTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PTA MEMBERSHIP

JOINING THE PTA IS SUPPORTING...

Do you know what your **\$10.00 PTA membership** does for Kaiser Elementary School?

- Gives you a **voting voice** in decisions that directly affect the quality of our students' educational experiences.
- **Supports our student's classrooms** with books, supplies, materials and field trips.
- **Supports teaching staff** with instructional aids, support staffing and resource teachers.
- Provides **musical, P.E. and emergency equipment**.
- Supports the **school library, computer instruction and the garden**.
- Encourages **student excellence** through rewarding student success.
- Provides you with **access to state and national resources** and discounts.

HOW TO SIGN UP & BECOME A MEMBER

A membership form and envelope will be arriving soon in your student's backpack. Forms and envelopes are also available in the office.

The class with the most members by October 7th wins an ICE CREAM or PIZZA PARTY for the whole class!

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

On behalf of the Kaiser PTA, I am inviting you to join us for Back to School Night on September 15th and I am looking forward, with excitement, to seeing everyone there for the start of a great new school year.

Linda Handy
PTA President
kaiserpresident@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PTA efforts depend on donations of time as well as money. Our goal is to raise \$633 per student, but your time is just as valuable to us.

Here at Kaiser we rely heavily on family volunteers to make fundraisers, events and all the day-to-day things running. Please consider donating your time to one or some of the many areas we need help with, such as our **Harvest Fair and Bazaar on Saturday, October 22nd**.

HOW TO SIGN UP

If you would like to volunteer at this event or at any of the other wonderful events we have planned through out the school year:

1. **Sign Up Board:** Located in the entryway of the school. Look for opportunities and sign up directly on the board.
2. **Online Sign Up:** Go to the Kaiser website >>Get Involved>>Volunteer. Or visit the URL directly at **tinyurl.com/kaiservols20162017**

If there are ways you feel you can help that are not listed, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Rebecca Mullins at rebeccakilkenny@gmail.com



Chinook Book Fundraiser

Chinook Book

BUY AND SELL BOOKS FOR KAISER

The **Chinook Book** is back! There are even more discounts this year and along with the book of coupons, you get the app **FOR FREE**. For those of you who have smart phones and are tech savvy, this is a great value—**both for only \$20!**

DID YOU KNOW?

- The coupons are good through October 31, 2017.
- The app follows you wherever you go! Chinook has markets in Portland, Seattle, Denver and Minneapolis, which means the electronic coupons via the app will work in those cities.
- You can set reminders in the app with your favorite coupons and it can alert you when there are coupons for the area you are currently in.
- The book pays for itself with 2 – 3 coupons (hint: the Dining & Entertainment coupons!).
- The grocery product coupons (at the back of the book) are good at any store which carries those products.
- Community coupons for: Safeway, Ben & Jerry's, Children's Fairyland, Whole Foods, local hardware stores (Ace, Orchard & Cole), Chabot Space & Science Center, Oakland Museum, Aquarium of the Bay and many more!!
- Kaiser will receive 50% of the proceeds from the fundraiser! That means you buy a book for \$20 (getting the app for FREE), Kaiser gets to keep \$10 for the school.

HOW DO I PURCHASE A BOOK FOR MYSELF OR OTHERS?

We would like for each family to buy/sell at least two books. Ask your neighbors, co-workers, family and friends to help with this great fundraiser!

1. On Thursday, September 15th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm during Back to School Night, there will be a table setup to purchase and pickup Chinook books.
2. If you are unable to make that date, but are interested, please contact the Chinook Book parent organizer, Sandra Litchy to arrange an alternative pickup day / time.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Families that sell the most books by October 31, 2016, have a chance to win a \$100 or \$50 gift card for Sports Basement, a free Chinook Book, or movie tickets!

Questions?

Contact: Sandra Litchy
slitchy@yahoo.com
510-502-3467 (cell)





Community News and Opportunities

INTEGRATION & EQUITY IN OAKLAND SCHOOLS

In the past several weeks, KQED radio has had some very probing reporting on segregation in Oakland public schools. In light of this, we are proud of Kaiser's diversity and commitment to equity. This conversation also reminds us that we need to work to ensure that we remain racially and socio-economically diverse, and that we continue to be a safe space for LGBTQ and all families.

We have made some short cut links to these radio pieces if you would like to listen to them:
<http://tinyurl.com/Integration101> (One hour discussion on Forum)
<http://tinyurl.com/integration102> (1st of a 3-part series on KQED news. 7 minutes)
<http://tinyurl.com/integration103> (2nd part of this series)
<http://tinyurl.com/integration104> (3rd part)



RUNNING FOR A BETTER OAKLAND (RBO)

FUN! HEALTHLY! ENGAGEMENT! W/ KAISER STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Running for a Better Oakland (RBO) had their first Saturday practice of the fall last week, and 10 Kaiser students and their families were there!

Next Saturday, Sept 17th, is the last chance for new runners to join.

- RBO differentiates for ALL ages and abilities, from K - high school. No running experience needed.
- Cost is only \$30 for the whole season, and no one is turned away for lack of funds.
- Registration costs include Saturday practices, a running shirt, and entry in a 5K next month!

Sign up at www.rboakland.org

4th & 5th Graders: Oakland Symphony Muse Program

Tuition-Free After-School Program

Orchestra Instrumental Players

For 4th-6th Graders

Wednesdays 2-3:30pm

First Session: October 5, 2016

Program runs through May 2017

Franklin Elementary · 915 Foothill Blvd, Oakland

Music for Excellence!

For more information:

Beth Vandervennet

bvandervennet@oaklandsymphony.org

510-444-0801 x 302

Registration link: oaksym.org/museorch2016

