



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court | Oakland, CA 94618 | 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

February 21, 2017

KAISER CALENDAR

Friday, 02.24.17	Donation Matching Campaign Ends
Thursday, 03.09.17	PTA Meeting (ALL)
Friday, 03.10.17	Dad's Club Movie Night
Tuesday, 03.14.17 – Friday, 03.17.17	Early Dismissal
Saturday, 03.25.17 7pm – 10:30pm	Annual Auction

Save the Dates!

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

Dear Kaiser Families:

As one of the newest members of the Kaiser Elementary family, I am regularly amazed at all the wonderful things that our little school does. There are field trips in every grade this month; we welcomed volunteers for our “African American Literature Read In”; and our 3rd graders took 2nd place at a city-wide oratorical festival. That is just the tip of the iceberg. Meanwhile, in both math and reading professional development cycles, Kaiser teachers have been planning and sharing highly engaging and differentiated practices. Pictured here is Ms. Haruyama giving a “participation quiz”, which gives children constructive feedback on their collaboration and teamwork.

Recently there has been a lot of talk about OUSD’s budget. Last week we got the first look at Kaiser’s budget for the 2017-18 academic year. The good news is that we do not have any cuts. The flip side is that there is only a tiny increase. This means, that the support of our families and community is as critical as ever. Without it, we would not have our robust music and arts programs, computer teacher, academic mentors, or field trips. Supporting the Kaiser auction and other fundraisers keeps our school great. Thanks for all you do!

- Dennis Guikema, Principal





School News

SCHOLASTIC READING INVENTORY (SRI)

Each year all students in Oakland Unified District, 3rd grade and up, take the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI). This is a “computer-adaptive assessment designed to measure how well students read literature and expository texts of varying difficulties”. It is “formative” as it gives immediate information to teachers that guides individualized instruction. It also presents a “lexile” or reading level that helps select books that provide the appropriate challenge to students (not too easy... not too hard).

We recently completed our mid year SRI assessment and have some celebrations to share!

- 100% of 3rd - 5th graders completed the SRI.
- **45.1% of Kaiser students are “above grade level”**. This is up from 38.5% this fall, and 4% higher from the same time last year.
- A total of **62.4% of our students are “at” or “above grade level”**.

Of course the data also shows us that we have some gaps that we need to overcome.

- 15.8% are “one year below”.... Considering this is “below” a year-end standard, these students are within striking distance of reaching “at grade level” this year.
- 20.3% of our kids are “multiple years below”. Our staff continues to look at ways that we can support and differentiate. This is critical work, as reading at grade level is a significant indicator for success in middle and high school and beyond.

Most alarming is our achievement gap. While 81.1% of our white students are “at or above”, only 42.9% of African American students are. One third of African American students are “multiple years below.” Families and staff must have a sense of urgency and work together to eliminate this gap.

So what can families do?

- The most impactful thing is to encourage reading! No matter what level your child is, helping them to find books that are at their level and are high interest, then creating reading space and routine, makes a significant impact.
- Talk to your child’s teacher about your child’s reading level. (F & P data and other classroom information will also inform this.)
- Dig into the data yourself. www.ousddata.org is a portal for lots of data on schools and our district.





School News

REMINDER! CALIFORNIA PARENT SCHOOL SURVEY

We are hoping to hear from all Kaiser families in this year's **California Parent School Survey!** This is an opportunity to notice areas of strength in our school community as well as opportunities for growth. All staff and 5th graders take a version of this survey, and this year I am hoping that every child will have a family member responding as well. We will be sharing data from this survey, and it will help guide the decisions of our staff, SSC, and PTA.

Speaking from experience, it will take less than 5 minutes to complete!

ACTION FOR FAMILIES:

Please take the survey! Here is a shortcut link to access the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/KaiserCHKS>

PTA News

KAISER AUCTION - BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!



Our annual auction is fast approaching and **tickets are now ON SALE!** The auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and is always a great time!

When: Saturday, March 25th from 7pm – 10:30pm

Where: Oakland Museum of California

Cost: \$40 / person

Tickets: Purchase online at <https://tinyurl.com/kaiserauction17>

Want to get an early start on bidding? Others have already started bidding! The online bidding marketplace is now open. Visit the same link above to bid today!



PTA News

PTA PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Dear Kaiser Family,

I had a silly talk with a few students in my granddaughter's class, where I volunteer for Mrs. Yang. It was the day the Porta Pottys were being removed and we were on the way to ORFF Music class. The children spoke of the smell, and the inconvenience, and how glad they were that the episode (my word here) was over. In the end, we decided that we would call this school year "The Porta Potty Winter of 2017", giving it a name like they use to do in the bad old days. I alone got to enjoy the giggles here. Now that the Porta Pottys are gone and the ground where they stood has been professionally cleaned and sanitized, not even a whiff of the fragrance remains on the breeze. We should all have a deeper appreciation of Mr. Guikema too. His quick, decisive and creative response to a sewer crisis that would have closed most any school deserves accolades. I view him with renewed awe and respect. So, let's declare that the Porta Potty Winter of 2017 has turned a corner now, and life at Kaiser Elementary can only get better...

SNACK SALES

On a more serious note, snack sales are chugging along very well. My thanks to all of the parents who have made the contributions that ensure that these sales succeed and to the teachers who all contribute energy beyond and above the call of duty. The snack sale schedule for the next few weeks looks like this:



Mr. Neat	March 3
Mrs. Apaydin	March 9
Ms. Piper	March 16
Ms. Vinas	March 23
Mrs. Klapperich	March 30

As a final comment on the snack sales, I need to be a bit grinchy here and reemphasize that **snacks should to be healthy**, avoiding sugary items along with nuts and empty calories. It is important that we keep our student's best interest at heart and model good eating habits for them. We also need to offer them tasty, nutritional choices. My thanks to all.

DONATION MATCHING CAMPAIGN

ENDS FRIDAY!

There is a donation matching campaign that is still ongoing! Here are the details:



Details:

For every \$1 the community donates, a generous family will donate .50 per dollar up to \$1,000.

This means that if the community can bring in \$2,000, this family will donate \$1,000. Just write a check to "Kaiser Elementary PTA" and put it in the PTA box in the front office or go to our website and scroll down to the "donate now" button.

I want to encourage every one to help us take advantage of this opportunity to reach the \$1000 goal. Lets grab those check books and piggy banks and "make it so"!



PTA News

PTA PRESIDENT UPDATE (CONTINUED)

KAISER LISTSERV

Other news around Kaiser involves how things are going with the List Serve. The situation was brought up before the PTA Board and a decision was made to form a committee whose responsibility would be to delineate expectations for this communication tool and sharpen the guidelines surrounding its use.

We will be seeking input from the community on this topic at the March 9th PTA Association meeting. I hope you will be there so that we can hear from you.

KAISER AUCTION – MARCH 25TH

Members of Ms. Yang's second grade class are all a-buzz with their planned contribution to the Kaiser Auction on March 25th at the Oakland Museum. The little sweethearts have set themselves a goal of \$1000.00. They have written compositions outlining the process they are using to make self- portrait pillows. Lizette, Ruthie's generous and active mother has contributed fabric portraits of each student in the class. I got to mix the fabric paint and I've seen the beautiful self-created artistic renditions of themselves that each student has made. The next step will be to use math to measure and design their individual pillows. Ms. Yang is expertly guiding her students through this interdisciplinary project, and she has informed me that the pillows will be offered for sale on a sliding scale. Parents will pay what they find in their heart or in their budgets for this priceless memento so that every pillow goes home. I'm hoping that the students reach their \$1000.00 goal and beyond. Portable B Parents, let's make it so.

Jim Armstrong and Parin Shah are working like little elves preparing for the Kaiser auction as well as securing auction items. Rebecca Mullens is receiving volunteer commitments for the big night. Cynthia Nelson is leading the charge on financial contributions. And Parin, I want you to know, I've lost seven pounds, my appetite is back and I'd love to go tasting for the night's menu. Call me (;-).

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Our Grants committee is working on an exciting \$30,000 proposal at this time.!

The proposal is for a three-year teacher development initiative to pilot a blended learning approach in our third grade with emphasis on the use of technology in the classrooms. Not counting our chickens before they hatch or anything, but if we get the grant, and the program is successful, then the vision is to extend the approach throughout all of the other grades at Kaiser. Wouldn't that be nice. Let's all extend our combined positive energy to **Alexandra Kent and Kera Mitzel** as they complete this grant writing process.

IN CLOSING ...

As the Porta Potty Winter of 2017 begins to really wind down, and we recover from the much-needed rain lets congratulate ourselves on just being here. We've made it this far. In the words of Jimmy Buffett:

Some of it's magic
Some of it's tragic
But we've had a good
time all the way.

- Linda Handy, PTA President

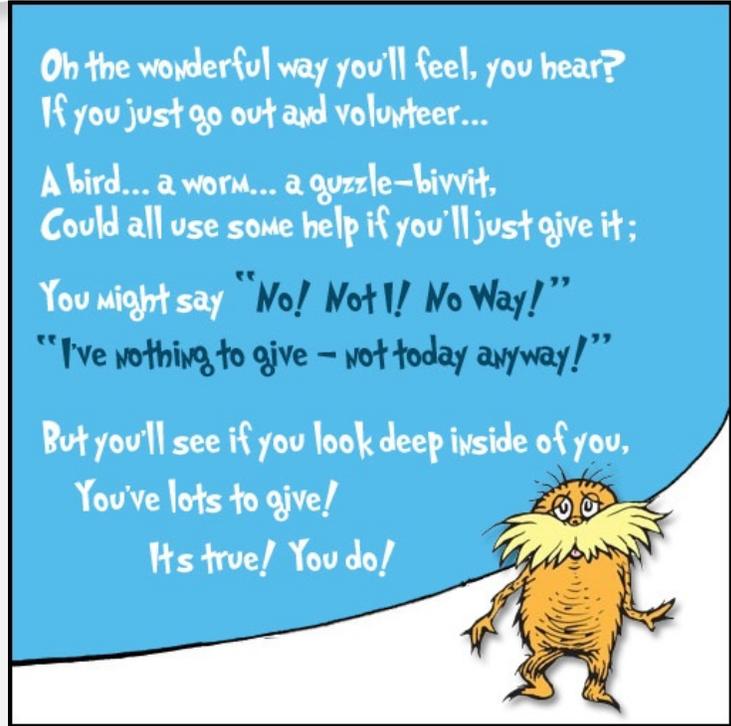


PTA News

CALLING FOR 2017 - 2018 PTA BOARD NOMINEES

Are you looking for a way to make a meaningful contribution to Kaiser? Make it better...be involved?

Think about giving a few hours a month of your busy schedule to be part of our PTA board. Once a month a group of parents/family members, teachers and our school principal gather for a couple of hours to discuss all kinds of interesting school and PTA business-- fundraisers, events for our community, new opportunities for the students, etc. We will need a few new parent voices to represent our community and provide leadership for the year ahead. You will have the pleasure of working closely with our Principal Dennis Guikema, our 1st grade teacher, Ms. Amy Haruyama, our incumbent president Ms. Linda Handy, and several returning board members, Tane Ross and Rebecca Kilkenney.



We are currently accepting nominations for next year's board and hope to provide a slate of nominees to our PTA membership in early March. Here are the positions we'd still like to fill for next school year:

EXECUTIVE VP Provide support to PTA President	VP PROGRAMS Serve as liaison to enrichment staff
TREASURER Provide basic accounting services	VP FUNDRAISING Oversee 2017-18 Fundraisers
FINANCIAL SECRETARY Make bank deposits	DOCUMENTARIAN/HISTORIAN Chronicle PTA activities/achievements

Please contact someone from the Nominating Committee to volunteer or make a recommendation for someone we might reach out to. Thank you!!!

The Kaiser PTA Nominating Committee,

Chimene Sabeh gsabeh13@att.net
Sandra Litchy slitchy@yahoo.com
Annie de Jong annemiekedjong@comcast.net



PTA News

KAISER ALIVE IS COMING SOON!

Get ready for **Kaiser ALIVE!** “**A.L.I.V.E**” stands for being **A**ctive, **L**earning, **I**nitiating, **V**olunteering and **E**nergized!

If you are new to Kaiser this year, Kaiser ALIVE is a 6-week extra-curricular program that the PTA presents in the Spring of each year. Our annual Kaiser ALIVE challenge promotes a healthy, active lifestyle by encouraging students to initiate and participate in all kinds of activities, volunteer and learn new things--while having lots of fun! Each child receives a booklet filled with ideas for all sorts of activities that they can participate in. They will need your help signing off on their accomplishments, and every now and then, in taking them to a new park or helping them accomplish a goal that inspires them. Students accumulate points for each activity over the course of the six-week period. The program culminates in our year-end Kaiser ALIVE picnic at Lake Temescal on Friday, June 2nd. There will be recognition rewards for participating and various incentives for students who accumulate the most points (in each class).

The activities for Kaiser ALIVE (KA) begin with a *Cover Art Contest* which will begin Monday, February 27th. You child/children will be bringing home the KA Booklet Cover template with instructions on how to enter the drawing contest. The deadline for the art submissions is Friday, March 10th, and four winners will be chosen by our principal and PTA president. At the Kaiser ALIVE kick-off assembly on Monday, March 27th the winners of the cover contest will be revealed, the booklets will be distributed and Kaiser ALIVE will officially begin!

Stay tuned for more information--and **Go Panthers!**

Kaiser ALIVE! Time Line:

Monday, Feb. 27th **Cover Art Contest** Entry Forms Distributed to Classrooms

Friday, March 10th **Cover Art Due and Collected**

Friday, March 17th Cover Art Winner(s) selected by Principal Guikema and PTA President Linda Handy

Monday, March 27th **Kaiser Alive Kick Off Assembly** Winners Announced and Booklets Distributed

Monday, May 8th **Kaiser Alive Ends** Booklets collected

June 2nd **Kaiser Alive Picnic** - Lake Temescal 5:30-8pm

*A few of us stepped up last minute to run this annual event. We could really use a couple of parents to chip in collecting booklets/determining winners and ordering/soliciting some prizes.

Please contact Linda Handy kaiserpresident@gmail.com if you will help

Thank you!





**Friday,
April
21st @
7:05 pm**

**Oakland
A's vs.
Seattle
Mariners**



Kaiser Elementary Day at the A's!

GROUP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Enjoy a game with Kaiser Elementary friends & family!
- Discounted tickets in the Field Level seating area
- Portion of every ticket sold goes toward supporting Kaiser Elementary
- Pet Calendar giveaway to first 10,000 fans

Seating Area:
Field Level

Ticket Price:
\$28

***Deadline to purchase tickets:*
Monday, March 27th**

Please make checks payable to
"Kaiser Elementary"
Submit completed order forms and payment to the
front office

For any questions or for more info, please contact
Alysia McDonough at alysia.mcdonough@gmail.com

PARENT
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CHILD'S NAME & TEACHER: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NUMBER OF TIX: _____ x \$28= _____

