



# The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court | Oakland, CA 94618 | 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

October 24, 2017

## KAISER CALENDAR

Friday, 10.27.17	Shoo the Flu
Tuesday, 10.31.17	Halloween Parade
Saturday, 11.04.17	Kaiser Walk-A-Thon
Thursday, 11.9.17	PTA Meeting
Friday, 11.10.17	NO SCHOOL*

\*All OUSD - Veteran's Day

Save the Dates!

## THANK YOU MR. ELI, WELCOME DIANA!

Kaiser Elementary has been very fortunate to have **Eli Wise** as a part of our community for years. "Mr. Eli" has been teaching our Kinder, 1st, and 2nd grade Orff music classes. Recently an opportunity became available for Eli to take a full time position at Melrose Leadership Academy. We are happy for Eli and hugely appreciative of how mindful he has been in this transition, ensuring that there has been no gap in our music education at Kaiser. He even introduced us to a candidate for his replacement, who I am happy to announce, we have hired!

Meet Diana on next page... →

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

Hello Kaiser Families:

Our annual walkathon is approaching, and while there has been a lot of encouragement to participate and to help raise money, I want to take the opportunity in this edition of The Pink Panther to talk about why this is so important.

### Education funding in California

In my lifetime, California has plummeted from the top five states in per pupil spending to the bottom 10. If you want to know more about this, check out this Ed100 lesson: <https://ed100.org/lessons/californiaskimps>

### OUSD financial crisis

Although there are varying perspectives on the amount of debt our district has or where to point the finger of blame, the fact is that OUSD made over \$22 million of cuts in the past academic year and will need to make millions more in order to avoid "state receivership", something all agree is not good for Oakland schools. (We are still paying off debt from being in receivership from 2003 - 2009.)

### Kaiser Elementary's financial realities

We have several strikes against us when it comes to funding for Kaiser Elementary:

1. Our strength is our weakness: We love Kaiser because it is a small learning community, but since our budget is based on student enrollment, we get dinged. Our enrollment has crept upward over the past two years, but at 275 students, we are at capacity and still considerably smaller than most other elementary schools.
2. A significant source of funding for most Oakland schools is Title One funding. Although Kaiser is diverse in every way, including socio-economically, we do not meet the threshold of need to qualify for Title One.
3. Only about 25% of Kaiser students qualify for LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) funds. This modest percentage, along with our small school size, results in fewer funds.

Continued on next page... →





# School News

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA (CONTINUED)

After the district pays for our facility costs and payroll for classroom teachers, custodians, food service, special education, and a small office team, the “discretionary funds” that we are left with are very small. With these, we pay for Ms. Jackson’s contract and our STIP sub position. There is a very modest stipend for 3 teachers to do instructional leadership, and we have a small supplies and operations budget. That is it... nothing more.

This is why our PTA supported activities, including our walkathon, are critical... and your support for them is essential. When you and your children participate in the walkathon, you help to support our arts and music programs (Ms. Leonardo, Mr. Diana, Ms. Candy); computer (Mr. O); Academic mentors (Oscar, Krista & Nathalie); and safety, supervision, and conflict resolution (Issere & Samantha). You also make possible field trips, assemblies, class funds, and more. Imagine Kaiser without these people, services, and activities: It would not be the same.

While we realize that due to time and financial realities, not everyone will be able to contribute to the PTA in the same way. However, there is a way for every family to be involved. Considering this, it sure would be great to see 100% participation in this year’s walkathon!

Dennis Guikema, Principal  
dennis.guikema@ousd.org

## WELCOME DIANA! (CONTINUED)

**Diana Strong** recently substituted for Eli, giving Kaiser teachers a chance to see her in action. Unanimously, we agreed that she is a great fit for Kaiser and will continue the high level of quality, engagement, and joy that our music program offers. Diana comes to us with the highest level of Orff certification and years of experience as a music educator.

Want to see her in action? Check out the video of her with a kindergarten class posted at [Facebook.com/KaiserElementary](https://www.facebook.com/KaiserElementary). Welcome Ms. Diana!





# School News

## SHOO THE FLU THIS FRIDAY, 10/27 @ KAISER!



### FREE Flu shot available at Kaiser on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>!

Kaiser Elementary students who have turned in a signed permission slip will be given the flu vaccine on Friday. The vaccine is administered by trained nurses during school hours. The vaccine is free to all students, plus Kaiser teachers and staff are also able to receive the vaccine at no cost.

For more information or to print out a permission slip visit <https://www.ousd.org/shootheflu>

## KAISER HALLOWEEN & COSTUME PARADE, 10/31

**When:** Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

**Where:** Kaiser Elementary Upper Yard

Our annual Halloween Parade is fast approaching. To ensure that this is a fun and safe event, please review the information below.

### Guidelines:

- Costumes must be brought to school in a bag (not worn throughout the day)
- No weapons or imitation weapons are allowed
- Students may not bring candy.
- Families are encouraged and welcome to participate. (In costume if you like!)

There will be an alternative space with non-Halloween activities for the children of any families that would not like their child to participate. Please notify your child's teacher in advance to request this.

It is very important that Halloween candy received while Trick or Treating does not come to school later in the week. Thanks for your support!



# PTA News

## PTA PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Greeting Kaiser Family:

I'd like to suggest that we all take a moment to congratulate ourselves on the amazing balance we have all managed to maintain over the last few weeks. No need to say more, except thank you to each other. I appreciate every face I see. I appreciate the conscious parenting I witness daily, as students are brought to school and picked up. I deeply appreciate those who sacrifice an hour or two from busy schedules to help out in so many ways. I appreciate those of you who are investing many, many hours doing what you do to keep creating Kaiser Elementary School as a place where our children can develop a strong social and educational foundation that will serve them well in life and hopefully serve our world. We are all dreaming big and making it happen. Let's keep it up.

*"First star to the right, and straight on til' June"! - Tinkerbell (sort of...)*

Linda Handy  
Kaiser PTA President ([kaiserpresident@gmail.com](mailto:kaiserpresident@gmail.com))

## JOIN THE KAISER PTA TODAY!!

Thanks to all of you who have already joined the PTA! Our membership drive runs for 2 more weeks; **Until Friday, November 3rd.**

The class with the most PTA members will enjoy an Ice Cream Social and a \$75 gift card to Lakeshore Learning for the teacher. Kindly consider joining today, our PTA provides much needed support to our Kaiser teachers and students!

It's only **\$10** to become a member. Membership envelopes are available on top of the donation box in the office. Our goal is two members per child (grandparents and caregivers welcomed) or 200% MEMBERSHIP!

Here are the Membership Totals by Class (data as of 10.15)

Klapperich	79%
Vinas	72%
Hunter	64%
Araki	57%
Neat	57%
Yang	57%

Bailey	52%
McGhee	48%
Haruyama	45%
Piper	43%
Apaydin	38%

## VIEW FROM THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE

Hello Kaiser Families!

What fun it has been to meet and greet your students in the morning! We have had a good start to the group of parents who are helping with the traffic circle at drop-off.

The Kaiser Safety Team would like to thank each of you for your patience and assistance, in the mad rush of the morning as we try and work out the kinks in the program. The safety of our students and families is critical. And, if you are on campus in the mornings, please consider helping out during drop off. It's a quick 30 minute volunteer opportunity.

Please remember:

1. No parking in the circle from 8:15 – 9:00am.
2. Pull forward to the front of the circle
3. Kids should exit curbside, if possible.

It is working together that we continue to shine as one of OUSD's best school communities.

Sincerely,  
Lisette Bahamondes



# PTA News

## THE BOOK FAIR IS NOT OVER, BUT...

**It ends THIS Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm!**

Thanks to all of our volunteers and shoppers who helped to make our Kaiser Book Fair such a success last week! We couldn't have done it without you!

**If you missed out, the Book Fair is STILL HAPPENING ONLINE** until Friday, October 27 at 5 pm, through our local sponsor Laurel Bookstore: <http://www.laurelbookstore.com>. A portion of the proceeds from all the sales will help fund books for our classrooms and library. The more we buy, the more we'll benefit!



Please include "Kaiser Book Fair", your child's name and their teacher in the comments section when you check out and their books will be delivered to their classroom.

Please also consider buying books to donate to the school. If you do, you can note in the comments section if it is for the library or a particular classroom.

Special offer:

If you would like a book signed by Kathryn Otoshi, the wonderful author of *Zero, One, Two, Beautiful Hands* and *Draw the Line*, who visited our school, please note that in the comments section at check-out.

Thank you!

Sarah Isaacs and Carolyn Sacramento  
Book Fair Co-Organizers

## CHARLESTON GIFTWRAP SALE FUNDRAISER!

PTA VP of Fundraising, Kara Mitzel is spearheading our Charleston Giftwrap sale this year. You should have already received the catalogue of gift wrap, kitchenware and home accessories. You can start your holiday shopping without having to "go" shopping, while also supporting Kaiser students. This fundraiser will only last a few weeks.

**All orders must be submitted by November 3<sup>rd</sup>** to ensure that your purchases are in your hands in time for winter break.

To Register Your Student & Order:

1. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/giftwrapkaiser17>
2. Enter our School ID z-13054



· Post to social media, invite friends and family to shop and support our students.



# PTA News

## KAISER WALKATHON! RAISE \$ FOR KAISER!

44.8%



\$8,950 of \$20,000 Goal Raised To Date

As you know, the **Kaiser Walk-a-thon** will take place on **Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

NOW is the time to raise money for our school! We have less than 2 weeks to go until Kaiser's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Walkathon.

In order to ensure the success of our school's important fundraiser, we need everyone to participate! To date, 49 of our 276 students have setup their online donation page. To reach our goal **each student needs to raise at least \$100** in donations. All donations are tax deductible!

### To sign up:

- 1) Be sure your student turns in their permission slip
- 2) Setup your student's Walkathon Fundraising Page. To do this, go to [kaiser.walkstarter.org](http://kaiser.walkstarter.org), click on "My Walkstarter" and follow the directions.
- 3) Let the world know! Email the link to your friends and family. Post to Facebook and other social media. Don't be shy! You never know who (and will be surprised to find many) want to donate to public schools and support things that make your child's school great!

### Volunteers

Another way to support the event is to volunteer to sign up to help on the day of the Walkathon. We need lots of families to support all of the exciting surprises we have in store. This is the link for volunteers to sign up: <http://tinyurl.com/ybedprab>

Thank you!

Walkathon Co-Chairs

## THAT WAS A LOT! CAN YOU RECAP WHAT I NEED TO DO??

To contribute to all of the ongoing fundraisers just be sure to check all these boxes:

- Kids need books, and books make great gifts! By **Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** logon to the online **Book Fair** and order some books from the Laurel Bookstore / Kaiser Elementary link.
- Kids love the Walkathon! Starting NOW, but no later than **Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**, setup your child's **Walkathon** page and raise at least \$100 in donations! Post the link on social media and send via email to family members!
- Kids like ice cream and parties. By **Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** join the **PTA** for \$10 and you may win your child's classroom an ice cream party! Tip: sign the grandparents up too!
- Kids love presents (and so do adults). By **Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** order **Charleston Wrap** for yourself, family members and friends. The catalogue is not limited to wrapping paper! Share with friends and family too!





# Community News and Opportunities

## SPRING 2018 NOLL/SOLL BASEBALL REGISTRATION



### Spring 2018 Registration opens for all divisions is now open!

An early bird registration discount of \$25 off is available through November 13<sup>th</sup>. Registration will close on December 18<sup>th</sup> for players age 9 to 14. Registration for TBall and Farm divisions will close on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

You can find more information and register now at <http://www.nollsoll.com/registration-information/>. We are open to boys and girls age 5 thru 16 in Oakland, Piedmont, Emeryville and Berkeley (south of Virginia St.).

### CHALLENGER DIVISION

If you know someone with kids age 7-20 with disabilities, let them know that we have an active Challenger Division and would love to have their player and family participate. Find out more at <http://www.nollsoll.com/noll/challenger.asp>.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

NOLL/SOLL offers scholarships to families in need. If someone you know or families at your school have a financial need which prevents them from signing up, please encourage them to use our scholarship form at <http://www.nollsoll.com/registration-information/>.



## SEND YOUR 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENT TO JAPAN!

I am writing to you on behalf of the Oakland-Fukuoka Sister City Association (OFSCA) to inform you of an intercultural exchange program for the 5th grade school students at your school.

Each year OFSCA selects four 5th grade Oakland students to attend the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan. This program is a 14-day, fully-funded event on approximately July 12 - 24, 2018 that promotes the APCC mission to assist children become global citizens of an OMOIYARI (respectful and understanding) spirit who help to create a more peaceful world.

I am confident that your 5th graders could benefit from this amazing opportunity so please consider distributing the attached information sheet and application to all eligible students (date of birth between September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007). The application deadline is Friday, December 15, 2017 and includes a mutual agreement, questions for the family, questions for the student, a short essay, and two letters of recommendation.

Please let me know if you, or your teachers or parents have any additional questions regarding the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention or the Oakland-Fukuoka Sister City Association. The APCC website is <http://www.apcc.gr.jp/e/> and the OFSCA website is <https://sites.google.com/site/ofsca1/home/about-us>. The program application may be more directly accessed at <https://sites.google.com/site/ofsca1/home/programs/asian-pacific-children-s-conference>.

