



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 14, 2016

Principals' Message

Dear Kaiser Community,

Don't forget, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are **minimum days** set aside for conferencing. Report cards will be distributed on Thursday, March 17th. Be sure to check in with your child's teacher if you have any questions about your child's progress.

Giant thanks to all of our parents who replied to the **California Healthy Kids Survey**. Kaiser had the highest percentage of parent responses of any school in our district- 94%! You are the best!! The results of the survey are vital to planning for any changes that we need to make to better serve our students and our Kaiser community.

Lots of exciting things happening at Kaiser! We just received a list of our 49 incoming families for **Kindergarten** and have begun the process of welcoming them and we are planning to invite them to our events this Spring. Thanks to Mary Young who will head the welcome committee, and to Annie deJong who comes in to lead tours when families want to visit again.

The library at Kaiser is humming with activity! **The Library Committee**, comprised of 20-plus volunteers, is busy getting more than 100 new books onto our shelves. These amazing volunteers supervise weekly library visits, maintain the shelves, and are working towards empowering kids to search the catalog themselves. Much hard work was done in the past to get this library functional, and we are so fortunate to have a committed group to carry this forward! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sierra North at sierranorth@gmail.com or (415) 531-8309. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity.

Speaking of volunteers, **the PTA just elected their new officers** last week, and our hats are off to the wonderful folks who willingly offered to submit their names to the nominating committee. Thanks to Jim Armstrong for his continued leadership of the PTA this year and we love seeing a wonderful grandparent, Linda Handy, offering to be the PTA President next year. The other elected members are Jim Armstrong (VP), Nadia Bari (Treasurer), Tamarind Fleischman (Financial Secretary), Rebecca Mullins (Membership Coordinator), Noal Brooks (Secretary), Cynthia Nelson (Fundraising Chair), Tane Russ (Chair of Assemblies) and Raphael Coffey (Parliamentarian and Chair of the Nominating Committee).

Coming up in April for grades 3-5 are the **SBAC tests**. The Smarter Balanced Assessment System utilizes computer-adaptive tests and performance tasks that allow students to show what they know and are able to do. This system is based on the Common Core State Standards for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. This is very different from the bubble-in tests that all of us had in school and we are hoping that our students will be ready with the technology part. We know that they are good thinkers. It is important to remember that these assessment results are only one of several tools used to measure a student's academic performance in ELA/Literacy and mathematics. SBAC results are most appropriately interpreted alongside other available information about a student's academic achievement, including such measures as classroom assignments and grades, classroom tests, report cards and teacher feedback.

Our best to you,
Maureen Hartney, Kathy Maloney and Katie McLane

Getting In The Know

How to be in the Pink Panther

The Pink Panther is your community newsletter! It comes home usually every other Tuesday. All community members can submit information to the newsletter. Submissions for the next newsletter are due to both editors by **SUNDAY 4/3/16 at noon**.

joliem29@yahoo.com – Jolie McRae
clily@mac.com – Lily Chien-Davis

Look for the next Pink in your child's backpack on Tuesday 4/5/16!

All cash or check donations should be placed in an envelope and dropped in the black PTA box just inside the office door. Please do not place donations anywhere else.

Spring Teacher-Parent Conferences are from March 14-16. Look for a notice from your child's teacher if they feel a conference is necessary.

The Pink Panther is also available at www.KaiserElementary.org.

Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Jim Armstrong

Pink Panther Staff

Editor: Jolie McRae & Lily Chien-Davis

KAISER CALENDAR

Mar. 14	Minimum Day - (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
Mar. 15	Minimum Day - (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
Mar. 16	Minimum Day - (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
Mar. 1 - Mar.31	Kaiser Pledge Drive - Please donate!
Mar. 16	PTA Board Meeting
Mar. 18	Kaiser ALIVE Cover Art Contest submissions deadline
Mar. 25	No School — Holiday
Mar. 28 - Apr. 3	No School — Spring Break
Apr. 4	Kaiser Alive Kick-Off
Apr. 8	Garden Club, 3-5pm
Apr. 16	Kaiser A's Day, 1:05 pm
Apr. 20	PTA Board Meeting
Apr.(TBD)	Kaiser Showcase and Dinner

Check out the complete 2015-2016 school year [calendar](#) at the back of this newsletter or at www.kaiserelementary.org/events

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/>

Hello Kaiser Families!

Well it's that time of year again - here comes **Kaiser ALIVE!** If you are new to Kaiser this year, Kaiser ALIVE is a 6-week program that runs in the Spring. Kaiser ALIVE promotes healthy living, nutrition, exercise, outdoor activities, community participation, volunteerism and learning - and general fun! "ALIVE" stands for Activity, Learning, Initiative, Volunteerism and getting Energized! It's filled with all sorts of activities that your kids participate in and accumulate points for each activity. There are various incentives for those who accumulate the most points at the end of the program.

Activities for Kaiser ALIVE actually begin with a Cover Art Contest which started Monday March 7. You child/children should've have brought home the KA Booklet Cover template with instructions for completing it. **The deadline for the art submissions is Friday March 18**, and the 4 winners will be chosen by our interim principals. At the Kaiser ALIVE kick-off assembly, tentatively scheduled for Monday April 4th , the booklet and the winners will be revealed and Kaiser ALIVE will officially begin!

In the booklet you'll find lots of activities for your child to participate in. They need your help to sign off on items, and every now and then - to drive them to a new park, the library, or other fun activities. Also, the kids will learn what they are already doing right! There will be plenty of emails and reminders to come - Stay tuned - and Go Panthers!

Jim Armstrong
PTA President



**Kaiser A's Day
on Saturday, April 16, 2016
at 1:05 PM**

Hi Kaiser Families!

Our Kaiser A's Day is coming up and we will be selling tickets for the next 2 weeks for the game on April 16th. The A's will be playing the Royals and Field Level tickets and if you get there earlier enough you can get a free Steven Vogt jersey. The tickets are \$25 and \$10 will go to Kaiser! You are saving approximately \$10 on each ticket (\$5 below face value and no fees).

We have 100 seats together and will be tailgating beforehand (details to come).

If you would like to purchase your seats, shoot me an email with how many tickets you would like (we only have 80 left). I will let you know how to pay.

Alysia (Mom of Kylie 5th and Elan 3rd)
510.910.5917

Hello Kaiser Community!

The first of March starts our **March for Donations Campaign**. We are kicking it off with a matching donation from a very generous family. They will give \$1 for every \$2 donated up to \$1,000 for a total of \$3,000. We need to raise \$560 per student to continue our current PTA programming. Consider asking the company you work for if they give matching donations!

Companies we have received matching donations from in the past:

- Wells Fargo
- PG&E
- Disney (for employees who work for Pixar)
- Kaiser Permanente
- ExxonMobile
- Salesforce.com
- Working Assets
- Genentech
- CSAA
- Morgan Stanley

We have raised almost \$21,000 so far but need to get to \$35,000 to meet our goal. We need to meet our goal to continue funding programs such as music, art, computer, academic support, assemblies, and administrative support. Thank you for supporting Kaiser Elementary!!

Campaign Update from Molly Glockler:

Hello Kaiser community!

In our first week of our March into Donations Campaign we have received a grand total of \$120. Remember we have a matching donation up to \$1,000. Please consider donating today.

Thank you!!

Professional Development at Kaiser

What is professional development? Professional development is defined as activities that develop an individual's skills, knowledge, expertise and other characteristics as a teacher.

At Kaiser we have embarked on consistent professional development (PD), led by of our Instructional Leadership Team and one of our acting principals, Kathy Maloney. Powerful PD is based on student work. It is focused, ongoing, led by teachers, and uses a variety of strategies.

Implementing New Curriculum and Strategies

Research has shown that the most effective professional development supports teachers in the implementation of curriculum, especially new curriculum. We are unpacking our curriculum by reading, discussing what we read and applying it to our practice. We support teachers in implementing new strategies by practicing the strategies during our PD. Teachers share what they are doing in class. After implementing the strategies teachers are asked to reflect on the effectiveness of the lesson and share their reflections at PD.

Coaching

Coaching is also an important part of this process. Our teachers are observing other teachers who are successfully using these the new curriculum and strategies. Here at Kaiser, grade level teams are observing together and then debriefing. Each team is released for one day to observe another teacher and then debrief, discussing what they saw and how they can use it in their classrooms. Another coaching model is to have an experienced, effective teacher observe and give feedback. To do this teachers need time to discuss what they are going to see and after observing discuss what they saw.

Collaboration

Sharing ideas and strategies results in more powerful instruction. Our teachers are released at grade levels for a full day of planning. They plan for the upcoming six weeks with an eye to student needs and strategies which meet the needs.

Studies have found that student achievement is higher in schools with strong professional communities, where collective responsibility, collaboration and collegiality among teachers are fostered.