



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 27, 2015

### Principal's Message January 26, 2015

One of our goals at Kaiser Elementary is to enable “teachers to teach, and kids to learn.” I recently read an article in Phi Delta Kappan about effective reading instruction. This article was about the work done at the National Research Center on English Learning and Achievement. A group of researchers studied teachers who were found to be particularly effective in developing reading and writing proficiency. The teachers studied were able to develop students’ academic proficiencies to score significantly higher on reading and writing achievement tests. One feature that was present in each of the classrooms of the teachers studied was the amount of time that the teachers had the students reading and writing in their classrooms. These teachers had their students reading and writing for as much as half of the school day—this was around a 50/50 ratio of reading and writing to “stuff” (stuff was considered any other activity that students did other than reading and writing). The information in this article really resonated with me. I’ve known that our kids need to read and write more in order to become more proficient and it was an important reminder of the amount of time that our students need to be engaged in purposeful and meaningful reading and writing in order to achieve at high level. If you ask any teacher, we are always struggling to find enough time to fit everything in. Every precious minute we have with our students is important. Here at Kaiser, we are very fortunate that all of our students are able to participate in enrichment classes in addition to the core academics they are expected to master. We don’t want to lose our enrichments and value a well-rounded education for our students. However, we are faced with the reality of wanting to protect our valuable instructional time that we have with our students. In order to accomplish that goal we are always looking for ways we can protect the valuable instructional time in the classroom from unnecessary interruptions. Parent requests to get messages to their child or the teacher during the instructional day can have a significant interruption on the teacher’s ability to keep a concentrated focus on instruction. In an effort to cut down on classroom interruptions, we are asking our parents to help us by making every effort to set your day’s plans with your children before sending them off to school each day.

Every time a request is made for a message to be relayed to a student or teacher in a classroom, Mrs. Loarca or Ms. K must relay the message by calling the classroom and interrupting the class. Since there is no way to determine if it is a time that would not disrupt learning in the classroom, sometimes these calls are made during important lessons or tests, when our teachers are providing small group or one on one instruction, or even when there are guest speakers. These calls are the ones we are trying to eliminate.

Therefore, we are asking you to help eliminate any unnecessary classroom interruptions by:

- Please do not call the office to relay messages to your child unless it is an absolute emergency
- Inform you child, before they leave for school in the morning of any plans for after school that they need to know such as:
  - Who is picking them up after school?
  - Are they getting a ride or walking home?
  - Who are they to go home with?
  - Do they go to the afterschool program today?
  - What are they to do if it rains?
  - Do they have their homework?
- Make sure lunch is taken care of by:
  - Seeing that they take their lunch with them to school.
  - Seeing that they have enough lunch money on file in case of an emergency or forgotten lunch

If you are going to be picking your child up before his or her regular dismissal time during the day or for an appointment, please come to the office and sign your child out. We cannot dismiss a child from class until they have been signed out in the office.

These are a few suggestions that can help us eliminate classroom interruptions. Thanks for your cooperation in helping to preserve valuable instructional time.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Hatzke', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kathy Hatzke

# Getting In The Know

## How to be in the *Pink Panther*

The Pink Panther comes out every other week. Look for it in your child's backpack on or around 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22 and after spring break.

We welcome submissions from everyone in the Kaiser Community. This is your newsletter, so feel free to make it relevant to our community. To include your story or information in your school newsletter: forward your news, questions, or article to the editor by **12 p.m. on Sundays** via e-mail:

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

Please put "Pink Panther" in the subject of your email to ensure that it is not deleted accidentally!

## LOST & FOUND

We will be clearing Lost and Found out on a monthly basis and donating unclaimed items to a local charity.

Don't forget to look for any missing items before items are cleared! The Lost and Found will be cleared next on:

**Tuesday, February 3**

### Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Jennise Mendoza

### Pink Panther Staff

Editor: Jolie McRae & Lily Chien-Davis

Copy editor: Wendy Harcarik

The Pink Panther is also available at  
[www.KaiserElementary.org](http://www.KaiserElementary.org).

## KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Jan 30	School in Session Early Release, 1:25
Feb 3	Lost & Found cleared
Feb 4	Coffee Time, 8:15-9:15am
Feb 5	Spaghetti Dinner & PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
Feb 6	Garden Day
Feb 8	Look for next Pink Panther
Feb 16	No School Presidents' Day
Feb 18	SSC Meeting

### 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/  
kaiserelementaryschool\\_group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kaiserelementaryschool_group/)

**Check out the complete 2014-2015  
school year [calendar](http://www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar) at the back of this  
newsletter or at  
[www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar](http://www.kaiserelementary.org/calendar)**

Hello Kaiser Families,

Thank you Mr. Wise and all the students that performed Thursday night (Jan 19th). You all did a fabulous job. There were a few students that seemed very comfortable on stage. I wonder if we have a few future performers at our school... I also wanted to say thank you to a few of the older kids that helped Mr. Wise during his performance and to Stacey Sundarrajan for supervising these kids to get their tasks done. Mr. Wise is paid through the PTA. Parents were able to see what their children are learning when we have these performances. Thank you to parents that financially support the PTA to help pay for our Consultants. Your continued support helps to keep these resources available for our students.

I wanted to remind families that parking is available on the upper playground during evening events. This helps free up parking for residents near Kaiser Elementary.

For the next few months, we will be pushing pledges towards Kaiser PTA. I know many people ask, why does the PTA need the money. We passed Prop 30. Didn't that give additional funds to schools. The short answer is no. Prop 30 just allowed schools to keep staff versus having to lay people off. At Kaiser Elementary, we want to provide our students more resources to be creative and learn. Therefore, the Kaiser PTA pays for many of the consultants that ALL Kaiser students enjoy:

- Music (Mr Wise and Ms Candy)
- Computer (Aaron Hinde)
- Art (we supplement a small portion that the grant does not pay)(Bonnie Allen aka Ms Leonardo)
- Classroom Supplies and Support (Oscar, Gale, Tatiana and Kristina)
- Classroom Field Trips
- Office Support (Ms Pearl who makes all the copies for the school)

I know times are tough and people think I don't have any money to donate, but ALL donations are appreciated. No amount is too small. We can also accept monthly credit card payments (see a Kaiser membership form for details). See if your employer will donate to our school. Also, you can donate financially to Kaiser through your everyday shopping.... Clip those box tops and turn them into the office, turn in your used ink cartridges, when you shop on Amazon, shop through the Kaiser website Amazon icon. To learn more, please plan on attending the Spaghetti dinner followed by the PTA Association meeting scheduled for **Thursday, February 5th**.

Thank you to Annie de Jong and Mari Ibarra for stepping up to coordinate the Kaiser Spirit Week. Thank you to Chinela Key-Baysinger for stepping up to coordinate the Teacher Appreciation Week. I just need two more Coordinators: Kaiser Alive and Incoming Families Ice-Cream Social and Summer Socials. If you are interested, please email me.

Go Panthers!

Jennise Mendoza  
Kaiser PTA President  
KaiserPresident@gmail.com



Think of Kaiser PTA when you shop online. Go to [www.kaiserelementary.org](http://www.kaiserelementary.org) and click on the Amazon button on our school's home page.



Shop at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or sign up your Safeway and credit cards with eScrip. % of your purchase goes directly to Kaiser PTA. Every year you need to designate Kaiser Elementary School PTA, Oakland, CA as the beneficiary (**ID: 139262109**)



Target debit & credit cards

Sign up for a Target REDcard and designate Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School as the beneficiary. Every time you use your REDcard, 1% goes to Kaiser PTA (**ID:33866**).



Don't throw away your old ink cartridges! Kaiser can use them to raise money. Drop off your old ink cartridges in the school office. **Contact: Lisette Bahamondes (lisettebaha@earthlink.net).**



Please clip & save Box Tops for Education labels and place them in the Box Tops box in the school office. **Contact: Christine Kizziah christinekizziah@yahoo.com).**



Ask your company if they provide a company matching program. Some companies will match your donation, some will match a portion of your donation, some will donate if their employee donates their time to the school. If your company needs confirmation of your donation, have them submit their request to **KaiserTreasurer@gmail.com**.

Dear Kaiser Community,

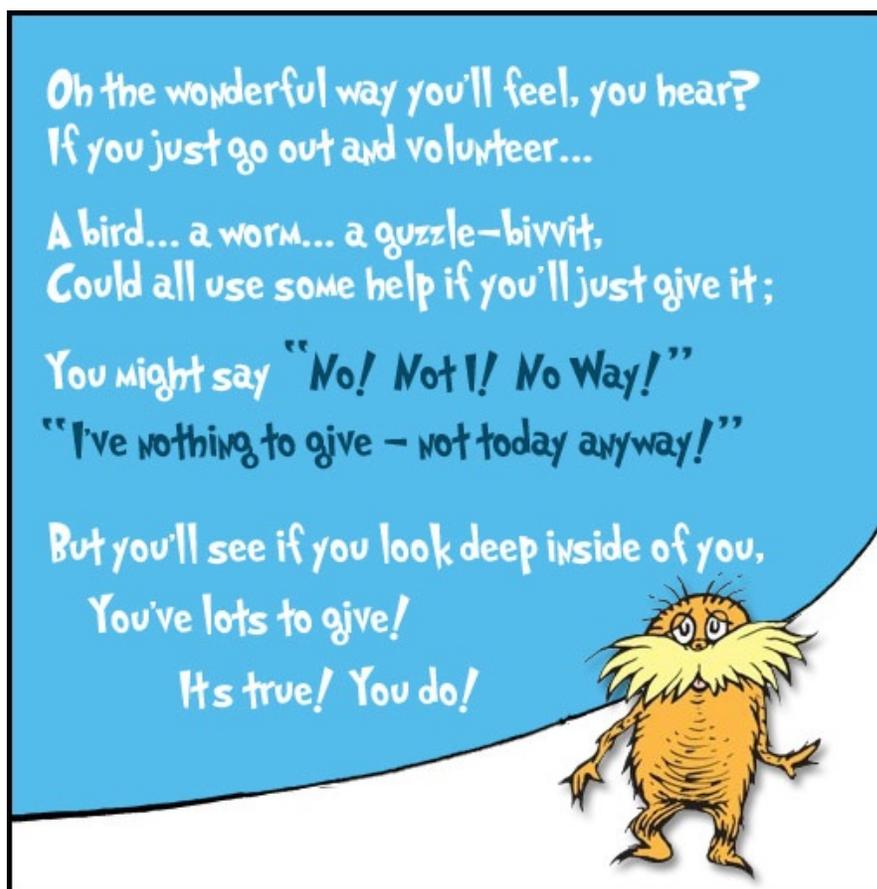
We have been extremely fortunate the past couple of years to have a robust, diverse community of volunteers. Our PTA leadership is amazing (thank you board!), our treasury is in order, and many community events organized by teachers and parent volunteers are bringing us together and enriching our children's experience of their school. I recently reviewed and counted well over 100 volunteer positions (besides the PTA Board) all vital to maintaining the functions of our community (see the attachment for a current list). Most have been filled these past couple of years, resulting in smooth sailing. This is not the status quo. That is, it doesn't just happen—and it hasn't always happened. It has required all of us to take: responsibility, initiative, time, and effort. Once we find the groove—some maintain their positions for several years—becoming experts and adding that much more value to the school.

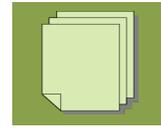
Every year some of our volunteers graduate along with their children—and new volunteers step up to bring their time and talent forward. This is the time of year to begin thinking about how you, personally, can pitch in. Preparations for next school year are around the corner. In February we will elect a search committee to nominate new PTA Board members. Shortly after that we will hold PTA elections and begin the process of putting together our team for next year. Our school is better when we all join in to share whatever time and talent we have. So get ready to roll up your sleeves!

Finally, as you may have seen posted in the Pink--there is one position that remain open and in need of volunteers immediately:

**Kaiser Alive Coordinator** (this event promotes healthy living and supports Oakland)

If this sounds like a role you can take on, please know you would have lots of support! Email me: [anniemekedejong@comcast.net](mailto:anniemekedejong@comcast.net) or Jennise Mendoza [kaiserpresident@gmail.com](mailto:kaiserpresident@gmail.com). Thanks!





## Kaiser Elementary Needs Paper!

Please donate a ream of paper to our school. We love white, but we can take color paper too. We go through a lot of paper... Classroom work, Newsletters, Announcements, etc. I know the district should provide this, but it's not in the budget. Your donation of a ream of paper is greatly appreciated.

### **The Walk-a-thon co-chairs are looking for corporate sponsorship to cover the costs of event t-shirts.**

The cost of the garments along with the printing is becoming too expensive for our little budget, and we want to save money as much as possible and give it back to the PTA and the school programs.

Our event t-shirts with the design contest is a treasured tradition for the event and the kids all look forward to it.

**If anyone** in our community works (or knows someone who works) for either GAP, LEVIS or some other local garment corporate entity, the Walk-a-thon co-chairs would like to talk with you! Or, if you have experience in successfully requesting and obtaining corporate sponsorship because of your contacts please talk to us as well.

Please reach out to:

[Susy Hovland](#) or [Jennifer Sedlacheck](#).

**Dinner brings us together...**



**Kaiser Community**  
**Spaghetti Dinner**  
**& PTA Meeting**

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Questions: Contact Mike Loudon at [micloud66@gmail.com](mailto:micloud66@gmail.com) (510) 384-8135



**Girl Scout Cookies**

also available for sale at the dinner.

**\$5 per box**