



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Principal's Message

"To keep the body in good health is a duty, otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear." --Buddha

It's hard to believe we've already passed our hundredth day of school and this year is more than half way over. Thank you to everyone who came out and made our last PTA Association meeting and Spaghetti Dinner such a huge success. It was wonderful to see so many members of our community come together over a meal as well as share their support for our amazing school.

The health and wellness of our students has been on my mind a lot recently. Proper nutrition and physical activity have significant impacts on our students' ability to be successful in school. As a parent of three kids, I struggle to find ways to make sure that my own kids are getting healthy food to eat as well as engaging in regular exercise. With the hustle and bustle of being a working parent as well as juggling all of their activities, I can honestly admit that I don't do a good of a job as I could at making this happen. We order out way more than we should but I rationalize it by telling myself that they spend hours at practice and games so it all balances out. I try to make sure that their lunches are well balanced when they take them to school and hope that they eat the healthy stuff I pack and don't just throw it out at the end of lunch. We also talk a lot about the importance of nutrition and making healthy choices about what goes into their bodies.

Two different things this week helped to reinforce just how important school lunch is to all of us as parents. I met with some of our lunch time volunteers to brainstorm some ways that we can make the lunch experience more positive for all of our students. We also had an informational meeting about the kitchen renovation project that we will be having at Kaiser and how it will eventually improve the quality of lunch that we are able to provide our students. Students at Kaiser have lunch and recess daily from 12:00-12:45. Half of our students go to recess while the other half is in the cafeteria eating. Midway through this period of time, we switch and the group who was eating goes out to recess and our students who were playing comes in to eat. Timing and transitions are tight but each group gets roughly 20 minutes to eat and 20 minutes to play. Oscar Campos is currently our only "official" noon supervisor. When Suzanne left last year, this left a vacancy in noon supervision, which has been filled in by a cadre of volunteers as well as myself. We have been looking for a candidate to fill the vacancy and I am happy to report that we have finally been able to find a wonderful candidate to fill it. Gayle Peterson has stepped up and will be joining us as our other noon supervisor as soon as she is cleared and processed by HR. Even with me, Oscar, Gayle, and our parent volunteers, we still need more help.

Each lunch period has between 120-150 kids either on the yard or in the cafeteria and we need more adult bodies to help encourage our kids to eat, help open those hard to open containers and packages, and make sure that our kids are safe both on the yard and in the cafeteria. If every parent or guardian came in for just one day of the school year, we'd have extra adult supervision and support on the yard and cafeteria, which would benefit all of our kids immensely. Even if you can't commit to helping out regularly, we still need your help. Lunchtime is a great time to see our kids in action and make a difference.

Oakland Unified is committed to improving school lunches and many of our school facilities do not currently have the capacity or ability to be able to provide healthier options. As you may have heard, Kaiser will be getting a finishing kitchen. This kitchen is being funded centrally through grants and bond money that is earmarked for healthy eating. We recently had a presentation as well as the opportunity to sample what the lunches will be like and are very excited about what the changes will bring to our school. We are looking for a few volunteers to serve on a committee that will work closely with the District as we embark on the kitchen-finishing project. This committee will meet regularly before the actual construction and remodeling which is scheduled to begin in June 2016. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please let me know. If you can't commit to being at all of the meetings, please don't let it stop you from joining and letting your voice be heard. Even if you can only make one or two meetings, we still want your input.

Having more supervision and improved kitchen facilities are just two things that we will be working on to improve our lunch experience for our students. I look forward to working with all of you as we work towards making our lunch period better for all of our students.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Hatzke', with a long horizontal line 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 2/22, 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!

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.

KAISER CALENDAR

DATE / DAY	EVENT
Feb 13	Kaiser Spirit Day (Wear Green + Gold!)
Feb 13	Gardening Day (3pm to 4pm): Lend a hand!
Feb 16	No School Presidents' Day
Feb 18	SSC Meeting
Feb 20	Kaiser Dance (Fundraiser) 6:30 – 8:00pm
Feb 22	Submit to Pink Panther by 12pm noon
Feb 23	Look for next Pink Panther
Feb 24	PTA Board 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**

Hello Kaiser Families,

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Spaghetti Night dinner and those that stayed for the PTA Association meeting. Thank you to Mike Loudon for coordinating this event and to all the parents that helped out with shopping, preparing the food and serving the masses. All of your efforts helped to make this event successful. I am happy to report that we were able to form our Nominating Committee that consists of:

- ❖ Annie de Jong
- ❖ Stacey Smith
- ❖ Melinda Gallagher
- ❖ Jennifer Hammock (alternate)

These ladies will be meeting together and reaching out to the Kaiser Elementary community to form our 2015 – 2016 PTA Board. The Nominating Committee will present their nominees during our next PTA Association meeting. Please note that they will narrow down the nominees to one person per category. Thank you ladies for taking on this very important role!

Thank you to everyone that has donated reams of paper. Keep it coming since we still have 4 more months of school. Reams of paper can be dropped off in the school office or in front of Ms. Pearl's office located to the right of the school office. You can't miss it. She has boxes of paper outside her office and we go through it.

I also heard that we are low on Kleenex. Please be sure to donate Kleenex to your child's classroom or Kaiser front office.

Thank you to everyone (families and companies) that has donated to Kaiser Elementary. Every penny counts. It really touches my heart when families donate their change to us as well. We have had many generous donations (\$1,000 - \$2,500) too. Please remember that every dollar (and cent) goes towards our consultants, classroom supplies, classroom field trips plus more. If you pay online for anything or write a check, it is helpful if you put it in the memo line what your payment is for so we categorize is correctly.

One last item... OUSD is planning on construction for the Kaiser Elementary warming kitchen to start summer 2016. What does this mean? It means better food for our kids. OUSD has offered to provide free samples during our next 2 PTA Association meetings. Please be sure to attend so you can taste the food. Don't worry – it isn't the usual mystery food we have been seeing over the past several years. It actually looks like food and rumor has it that it tastes good too.

Go Panthers!

Jennise Mendoza
Kaiser PTA President
KaiserPresident@gmail.com

Hello Kaiser Community,

We have raised more money towards our goal. We are now up to \$16,921!

We are getting closer to our goal of \$45,000 but we need more donors.

Please go here <http://www.kaiserelementary.org/> and scroll down to the "donate now" button. Help save Kaiser's amazing PTA funded programs.

AND...until February 12, 2015, for every dollar donated the Kaiser community donates, a generous family will donate \$0.50 up to \$1,000. So if the community can bring in \$2,000 this family will donate \$1,000!

So please take this opportunity to help Kaiser and help OUR kids.

Thanks to recent donors:

Melody Kearney

Bhupendra Sheoran

Stacey Base

Amelia and Paul Bailey

Lisa and Charlie Cartalano

Gina Kwun

Elizabeth Lyons and Jeff Thompson

Tamiko Lake

Bridget and Nate Davies

Mary Goodell

Kelly Martin and Brad Griebenow

Susan Harding

Thank you!

Lisa Cartalano and Molly Glockler



KAISER DANCE PARTY!!!

Friday, February 20, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, will be the first Kaiser dance. Everyone is invited. All families, all grades. There will be a fog machine, lights, and even a disco ball. **Come dance to raise money for Kaiser!**

Thanks,
Hilary Jackson



Hi Kaiser Families!

This year, our Kaiser A's Day is **April 11th**. The game is at 1:05pm vs Seattle Mariners.

Please mark your calendar. We will tailgate beforehand and we will be seated together at the game.

More details to come, but please mark your calendar. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to email me.

You don't have to be an A's Fan to come out and join the fun!

Let's go Oakland,

Alysia McDonough
(Kylie (4th) and Elan (2nd) McDonough's Mom)



Think of Kaiser PTA when you shop online. Go to www.kaiserelementary.org and click on the Amazon button on our school's home page.



Shop at 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**)

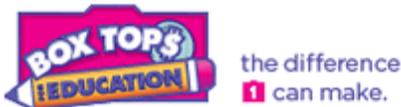


Target debit & credit cards

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 Families,

We are still looking for our new Kaiser Alive Team! Jessica is moving on (see her letter below) but we do not want to have our kids lose this amazing Spring program. I spoke to Jess the other day and she will strongly mentor and provide leadership to any new volunteers. There are a few major pieces--so we can break it down--and if you can step up to help with just one (or two) this year that would make a huge difference.

- 1. Coordinate Cover Design Contest (Feb/Mar)**
- 2. Edit, Order (from Jim Moxon) and Distribute (existing) Kaiser Alive Booklets to the students (Feb/Mar)**
- 3. Plan and run a weekday morning Kaiser Alive Assembly to motivate our kids (March)**
- 4. Order medals/work on prize donations**
- 5. Collect Booklets, review points, select outstanding performers for each grade**
- 6. Help Coordinate Kaiser Alive BBQ and awards ceremony at Temescal (w/ Dad's Club in June)**

From Jessica:

As many of you know, this is our last year at Kaiser. (It has been wonderful 6 years!)

Also, many of you know about our program in the spring, Kaiser Alive. For anyone who's new to Kaiser, this a great program that I "inherited" from a previous Kaiser parent, and have enjoyed chairing for the last 5 years. The intent is to engage the kids in positive activities such as volunteering, physical activity, reading (!), healthy eating, learning new things - and as I always like to say, giving kids credit for all the healthy and positive things they already do! The activity period culminates in prizes and drawings, and the year end picnic at Lake Temescal.

Since we are moving on, it is important to hand over the reigns For Kaiser Alive. Last year, Annie DeJong, Celeste Stanley and Lisette Picasso helped out with key items and activities, and it was a great help.

However, to make sure Kaiser alive can continue in the future, it is key that one or more people are willing to jump in a receive training and the outline for how Kaiser Alive works. If people and or/the community want to do something different with the event, that is entirely up to you. However, since I took on the project in it's original

form, I feel an obligation to share those details - especially since the kids know what to expect, and they love to participate!

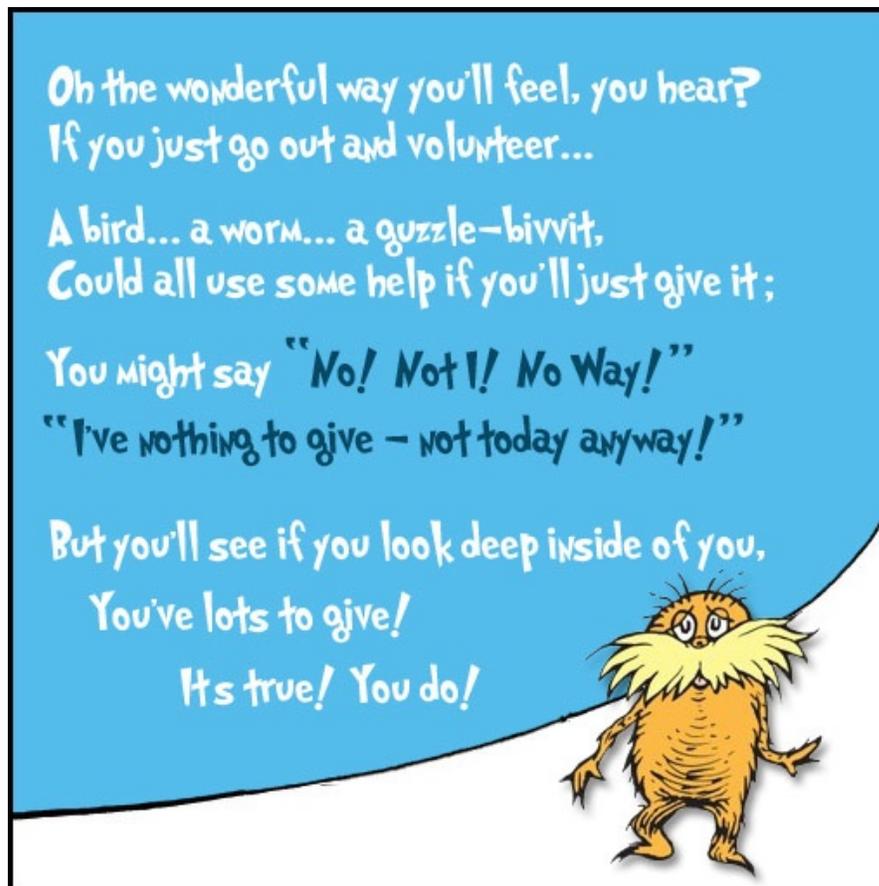
If the Kaiser Community would like to see Kaiser Alive continue, it is key that one or more volunteers are willing to participate, if not actually chair the event while I take a more peripheral role this year. Also, I hope to have more work commitments this spring, which will also make it harder for me to chair this event.

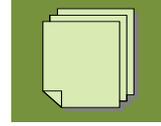
While the end of the year seems far away at this point, Kaiser Alive actually begins in February, so I need to start rounding up enthusiastic volunteers sooner than later.

I hope Kaiser Alive can continue! Please consider being a part of this wonderful project - it's so loved and valued, it's SO worth the commitment!

Best,

Jessica





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](#).