



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 10, 2015

Principal's Message

As our curriculum shifts to align with the California Common Core State Standards, our assessment program has shifted as well. This month students in grades 3-5 will be taking practice assessments online to get them ready for the "Smarter Balanced" state tests. These new state tests are part of The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress or CAASPP. (You know how we love acronyms in education!)

Last year, our 3rd -5th graders participated in the "field test" for these new online assessments, which allowed them to experience computer-based testing and new types of questions that have become a part of our contemporary Common Core aligned classrooms. This year, all students in 3rd-5th grades will participate in the full version of CAASPP and students will receive individual scored reports on their academic progress.

To learn about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at this link: <http://caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>

1. Click on **Student Interface Practice and Training Tests**
2. You are automatically logged in as a Guest. Click on the "Sign In" box
3. Select the **Grade Level** and Click on **Yes**

Following the spring 2015 testing, students will receive individual score reports. Student score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement level for English-language arts, mathematics and other information. It is important to note that these scores cannot be compared to scores that your child previously received on the STAR Program tests because this test is based on the new Common Core State Standards, involves different types of test questions, and will not be reported using the STAR Program reporting categories.

California has set high proficiency levels on the new state assessments. Based on projections from the 2014 Smarter Balanced field tests, it is likely that fewer students will score at the higher achievement levels on the new assessments, especially in the first few years. However, a drop in test scores does not mean students are sliding backwards or learning less. Joseph Willhoft, one of the test project directors, stated that *"...because the new content standards set higher expectations for students and the new tests are designed to assess student performance against these higher expectations, the bar has been raised."*

If you would like more information, please click on the following link: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>. If you have any questions regarding SBAC or your child's participation, please contact me at 510.549-4900 or email me at kathrene.hatzke@ousd.k12.ca.us

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathy Hatzke".

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 3/22, 4/19, and 5/3.

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.

Next donation date: 4/3/15

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
Mar 10 - 12	Parent-Teacher Conferences, early release days 1:25pm
Mar 11	PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
Mar 11	Last Day to Purchase A's Tix (for April 11 game)
Mar 18	SSC Meeting
Mar 24	PTA Board Meeting
Mar 22	Pink Panther Deadline, 12pm
Mar 27	Girl Scouts – Ceremony of Final Tribute, 9:30am-10:30am
Mar 27	Girl Scouts – Ceremony of Retirement of American Flag, 5:30pm-6:30pm

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/

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,

I am sure we are all adjusting to the time change. I have no idea why one hour can make such a big difference. I feel like it takes days to get adjusted to the change. The good news is that it will get dark later. The bad news is that it is dark when we wake up. That will change soon – thank goodness!

Thank you to everyone that responded to my request for help in properly disposing of the tattered American flags we have on campus. In the end, it was decided that the Kaiser Elementary Girl Scout's troop would handle this ceremony. The ceremony is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 27th. I believe details have been provided, but in case you missed them, please reach out to Annie de Jong for details. Thank you Kaiser Girl Scout troop for properly disposing our American flags.

Kaiser Alive has officially kicked off. Thank you, Jessica Forbes and her team, for handling this event. Kaiser Alive is a great event in that it teaches kids about healthy habits as well as being involved with our wonderful Oakland community. Kaiser Alive also symbolizes to me that we are beyond the half-way point in the school year and that we are heading towards the end, which means that May and June will be here before we know it. I often equate May to the end of a firecracker show (Kaiser Alive ends, Kaiser Walk-A-Thon, Teacher Appreciation week, State testing, Memorial weekend...) and then the grand finale of the fireworks hits in June (Kaiser spirit week, Kaiser field day, welcome incoming families for the following school year, last day of school...)

This reminds me, we have our PTA Association meeting this Wednesday, March 11th. Please be sure to make this event so that you can vote on who our Nominating Committee came up with for our 2015-2016 PTA Board. Thank you to Stacey Smith, Melinda Gallagher and Annie de Jong (Nominating Committee) who worked hard and met the deadline of getting this together. OUSD is providing food so that families can taste what they plan on providing our kids in the upcoming years. Don't worry, the food is suppose to be good, not the usual mystery food that we've gotten used to. Plus, childcare will be provided, compliments of OUSD.

Thank you to all the families that have supported Kaiser PTA through your time or finances. Please remember that majority of the PTA's expenses are for our fabulous consultants that all our students benefit from. The second major expense is our classrooms, which varies from supplies to field trips. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

As always, if you have any questions related to the PTA, please feel free to reach out to me.

Go Panthers!

Jennise Mendoza
Kaiser PTA President
KaiserPresident@gmail.com

Kaiser ALIVE

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, this year from March 30 - May 15 (ok 7 weeks this year!). 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!

Kaiser Alive culminates with the year end BBQ hosted by the Dad's club at beautiful Lake Temescal. We give out awards for high participation as well as amazing prizes in a raffle - if your child participates, they can win! Everyone who takes part in KA gets a participation medal too!

Activities for Kaiser Alive actually begin with a Cover Art Contest, which will start Thursday March 5. We'll have an introduction to KA assembly, with details about the cover art for the kids. They'll come home with the KA Booklet Cover template with instructions for completing it. **The deadline for the art submissions is Friday March 20**, and then winners (2-3) will be chosen by Ms. Hatzke.

At the Kaiser Alive kick-off assembly, Monday March 30, 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!

Best,

Jessica Forbes

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.

Kaiser also needs Kleenex. If you can spare a box or more, please do so. We have over 170 students which means we go through a lot of Kleenex. Your donation of Kleenex is greatly appreciated.

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It's time to turn in your BoxTops for Education! Our next submission date is next Monday, March 2nd. Last year we collected more than 4,500 BoxTops (which was more than \$450.00 for our school!)

BoxTops can be placed in the small box on the counter in the office. BoxTops are the little pink coupons found on many items that you already purchase- cereals, bars, paper products, Ziploc bags, cake mixes, etc.



Kaiser A's Day

Kaiser Elementary School is excited to participate in the Oakland A's Step Up to the Plate for Education program for the 2015 season!

There are 2 parts. So read carefully :).

PART 1

We are having Kaiser A's Day on Saturday, April 11th and will tailgate beforehand, details to come. We have purchased 100 tickets, so we can we can all sit together. If you would like to cheer on the A's together, please:

- Write a check (tickets are \$25 each) to Kaiser PTA
- Include your name, number and email, so I know who to give the tickets to
- Put it in the PTA box in the office and put ATTN: Alysia McDonough on the envelope.
- Tickets are first come, first served. Once we have sold the 100 tickets, you can purchase tickets separately online. The deadline to purchase these tickets is next WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11th.

PART 2

Students, parents, and their friends and families have the opportunity to purchase special fundraising tickets for select A's games. Check out the link for dates. A portion of each ticket will go directly back to the school. To purchase tickets and view the available games, please visit our school's personalized link below:

www.athletics.com/kaiser

Tickets for the select games are limited – to participate in this special offer, we recommend purchasing tickets ASAP to reserve the best seats! You can send the link to anyone or post on Facebook. The tickets are \$5 below face value and you will also be saving on fees! It is a win - win for everyone.

The more we sell the better for Kaiser!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

Let's go Oakland and Kaiser!

Alysia McDonough
alysia.mcdonough@gmail.com

WAYS TO DONATE TO THE KAISER PTA



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**)



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**.