



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

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

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

### Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that we've already finished one month of the school year. As we enter the second month of the school year, I wanted to share a little bit of information about our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum, the Toolbox. Here at Kaiser, the Toolbox is giving our children, teachers, and parents a common language and the tools necessary to create a collaborative, non-violent, and caring community. SEL standards are embedded in the Common Core and are valuable life skills that will help all of our students become College and Career ready when they leave our schools.

So far, our teachers have introduced all of the 12 Tools to our students and are practicing and reinforcing the message to our students that they have the tools inside of them to use when they need them. This is a learning year for all of us here at Kaiser. During one of our recent professional development sessions, we all acknowledged that although we are happy with the implementation of the Toolbox so far, we are still learning the tools ourselves. It will take some time for us to generalize them. When this happens, the modeling of how to use the tools will come more naturally to us and we will start to see more changes to how we all solve problems here at Kaiser. SEL takes time and is a process. We are confident that once we become more familiar and comfortable with all of the Tools, we will be able to help empower all of our students here at Kaiser to resolve conflicts in a peaceful way that enables all students to get their needs met.

I frequently get questions from parents about how we handle various conflicts or disruptions to the learning environment. Minor disruptions and/or misbehaviors are handled by the classroom teacher or staff member in charge (noon supervisor, etc.). Major disruptions and/or misbehaviors are handled outside of the classroom environment. Consequences for student misbehaviors can include the following:

- Opportunity given to student to redirect him/herself
- Redirection by the teacher
- One-on-one conference as necessary (One-on-one conferences should always be private)
- Time out for reflection
- Phone call home
- Parent conference
- Recommendation to intervention team (SST/COST)
- Time out for reflection
- Conflict mediation
- Restorative Justice
- Suspension (if warranted)

*(continue on page 3)*

# 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 10/11 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 10/13!*

All volunteers at Kaiser will now need to be fingerprinted and take a TB test. It's common practice when working with children, and is a step in the right direction to ensure their safety.

We just found out that OUSD is offering TB and fingerprinting for free! It's paid for by two donors. You can read more here:

<http://www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org/volunteer/training>.

(There is more info later in this newsletter.)

Obtaining a TB test and fingerprints will have to be done in order to work with our children. This includes driving on field trips. Notify the office staff, and your child's teacher, when you're all cleared please.

## Pink Panther's PTA Sponsors

PTA President: Jim Armstrong

## Pink Panther Staff

Editor: Jolie McRae & Lily Chien-Davis

## KAISER CALENDAR

Sept. 30	Volunteer Training, 3-4pm
Sept. 30	SSC Meeting, 4-5pm
Oct. 2	Garden Club, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Oct. 5	Chinook Book Sale Starts
Oct. 10	Harvest Fair, 11am - 2pm
Oct. 16	NO SCHOOL — Prof. Dev.
Oct 19 - 23	Parent-Teacher Conferences, Early Release all week
Oct 30	Halloween Parade Minimum Day
Nov. 6	Chinook Book Sale Ends
Nov 10	PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
Nov 11	NO SCHOOL – Veterans Day

***Check out the complete 2015-2016 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)***

## 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/>

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

***(Principal's Message — continued from page 1)***

Suspensions are used minimally. We will use all other avenues before we suspend a child. Additionally, new laws and policies prohibit the suspension of elementary school aged children for willful defiance and disruptive behaviors. At Kaiser, we strive to find ways to redirect student misbehaviors in ways that do not demonize or criminalize students. We believe that the most effective interventions happen before there is problem behavior. The Toolbox is one method we are using to help intervene with problem behaviors on campus. In addition to the Toolbox, all of our students with the exception of those who are new to Kaiser this year have been taught the Second Step curriculum which also helps students solve problems and conflicts peacefully. We are also in the process of starting our Safe School Ambassador program for the current school year, which will help our students, stand up to misbehavior and bullying and learn how to advocate for themselves and their peers. Finally, we will also be starting our Junior Coaching program with Coach Kenny, Mr. J, Ms. Ilene, and or noon supervisors that will help provide leadership opportunities for our students as well as give them more tools to use to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Even with all of the interventions that we have in place, there are times when students need additional support to help correct their behavior. As a parent myself, I know how frustrating it can be when your children come home daily and talk about what “Kermit” did in class every day. I can assure you that we are all working together to support the “Kermits” on campus to manage their behaviors as well as making sure that each and every child here has the opportunity to be in an optimal learning environment which is free of disruptions and distractions. Due to student confidentiality, teachers and administration cannot share specific things that are being done to support an individual child. I wanted to share a blog article I saw on Facebook a few months ago that resonated with me. I cannot share the article in its entirety without the permission of the author but can share the link to the actual post itself: <http://missnightmutter.com/2014/11/dear-parent-about-that-kid.html>

One of the things that drew me to Kaiser was the fact that Kaiser is a place where many families and children have come after they have felt they didn't belong in a different environment. We pride ourselves on being a safe haven for all children and for being inclusive and welcoming to all. I want us all to remember these things, which are at the core of what makes our school such a special place.

In Partnership,

Kathy Hatzke





## PTA President's Report

PTA President's Report  
September 27, 2015

Often messages from the PTA focus on monetary donations. While this is a very important, we also need volunteers! Just as we cannot function without donations, we also cannot provide our services without volunteers. We understand that many families cannot volunteer during school hours. We have many volunteer opportunities that take little time and occur outside of school hours. You can add your name to one of the programs or fundraisers on the board outside the school office.

Despite multiple requests, we still do not have a chair or any volunteers for our Safety Committee. Drop off and pick up times are the times where our students are most at risk of accident. If you have any time at drop off and pick up and would be willing to help keep our kids safe, please contact Ms Hatzke.

We also continue to need a Parliamentarian and Historian for the Executive Board. These 2 positions are voting members of the Executive Board and do not require a large time commitment. If you would like to help determine the direction of the PTA and school, please contact Jim Armstrong ([kaiserpresident@gmail.com](mailto:kaiserpresident@gmail.com)) or Nadia Bari ([kaiservicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:kaiservicepresident@gmail.com)).

For those of you who have not yet joined the PTA, I invite you to fill out a membership envelope found just outside the office door. Dues are \$10 for each adult member. Membership gives you voting privileges at association meetings, access to association documents such as meeting minutes and the PTA budget, an opportunity to complete a user survey of the programs the PTA supports and the knowledge that you are actively supporting the art, music, garden, computer, enrichment, and student support programs that help to make Kaiser an outstanding school.

Finally, the PTA is sponsoring a Chinook Book sale, the local sustainable coupon book, with the goal of raising at least \$1200 for school activities. We are asking families to help out by trying to sell 1 or more Chinook Book Combo-Packs. If every family sells just one book, Kaiser PTA will earn more than \$2600.

*(continue on page 5)*

***(PTA President's Report — continued from page 4)***

Each envelope package will contain 1 print book + 1 mobile app subscription (aka the "Combo-Pack"), and you sell the Combos for \$20 each (usually a Combo-Pack costs \$25 at Whole Foods). That's double the coupons and double the value, so we're getting a really great deal! \$10 out of each Combo Pack you sell will go towards the school.

You can easily make back your \$20 and more with tons of great savings nearby:

- \$5 off \$50 at Village Market.
- \$5 off \$40 at Farmer Joe's.
- \$5 off \$25 at Piedmont Grocery.
- \$10 off \$50 at Pharmaca.
- \$5 off \$25 at Ace Hardware.
- 20% off at Broadway Terrace Nursery.
- Buy one get one FREE pint of soup at Whole Foods (\$10 value).
- \$10 off \$25 at Cole Hardware.
- \$5 off \$20 at Montclair Baking.
- \$5 off \$30 at Savemore Market.
- \$5 off \$25 at Oaklandish.
- Buy one get one FREE at Fentons Creamery.

And many, many more!

Thank you,

Jim Armstrong

**REMINDER:**

Please be sure to take all valuables with you when you park your car in the neighborhood. We have had multiple car break-ins over the last two years. Drop off and pick up are especially risky because we often leave our computers or other valuables in the car thinking that we will only be gone for a few minutes.

# Oakland Literacy Coalition – VOLUNTEER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Join us as we kick off the new school year with the OLC Volunteer Training series! This community event gives you the opportunity to make an impact as a volunteer by helping you learn the skills you need to support students and teachers. Attendees also have the option to receive TB testing and Live Scan Fingerprinting on site and for free, with sliding scale contributions accepted to ensure that this resource remains available to future volunteers.

- TB testing requires advanced registration, attendance on both days between 3:00-4:00, and no prior history of positive results of a TB skin test. TB testing services are donated by UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital.
- Fingerprinting is a one-day process that can be done on either day. Photo ID required. Funding for Live Scan fingerprinting services is provided by the Rogers Family Foundation.

## EVENT DETAILS

Monday, September 28 and Wednesday, September 30, 2015  
East Bay Community Foundation Conference Center  
353 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor

### MONDAY SCHEDULE

3:00-4:00 TB Testing Part 1

3:00-5:30 Live Scan Fingerprinting and Volunteering 101 Workshops

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

3:00-4:00 TB Testing Part 2, Live Scan Fingerprinting, Resources and information for volunteers

Anyone who wants to receive TB testing must register in advance no later than Thursday, September 24. Please read below carefully for other eligibility requirements. Contact [Christina@oaklandliteracycoalition.org](mailto:Christina@oaklandliteracycoalition.org) if you have any questions.

## LIVE SCAN FINGERPRINTING AND TB TESTING INFORMATION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

TB and Live Scan fingerprinting clearances are often required for volunteers working in schools or with children. The OLC wants to make volunteering accessible for everyone by providing affordable and convenient TB testing and Live Scan Fingerprinting. These services are available on site and for free at the Training Series, with sliding scale contributions accepted to ensure that this resource is available to future volunteers.

*Before you come, be sure to talk to your volunteer program coordinator to determine which clearances you will need before starting your volunteer work. OLC staff members are not able to answer questions about specific organizations' policies. Please come prepared! We hate to turn away volunteers when they show up without adequate information about the clearances they need.*

The process is slightly different for volunteers working directly with an OUSD school rather than an independent program operating at a school. For more info about the registration process and requirements for volunteering directly with an OUSD school, please visit the [Volunteer Registration page](#). If you plan to volunteer directly with an OUSD school (rather than through an independent program), you must complete an OUSD Volunteer Profile prior to completing your fingerprinting and TB testing.

# KAISER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S FIFTH ANNUAL

# Harvest Fair

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2015  
11AM-2PM**

A fun community celebration with music, carnival booths, entertaining games, arts & crafts, a toy sale, a bake sale, and delicious BBQ.

**The Harvest Fair** is also a fundraiser to support the arts and other important enrichment activities at our school, this year incorporating more innovation and creative booth activities – think “Mini-Maker Fair.”

## **You can get involved!**

- Begin generating ideas in your class for hosting a booth -- see the booth ideas list.
- Invite family, friends and neighbors and plan to attend the **Harvest Fair**
- Be a volunteer to run a booth or help in general. Sign up in the front office/hallway.
- Donate gently used toys and costumes – see collection bin in hallway.
- Solicit vendors to pay for a booth at the carnival. Flyers to be posted....
- Volunteer to help with Book Fair

## **What we need!**

- Toy and costume donations
- Face Painters
- Coordinators for Toy, Costume, and other booths
- Tents for shade

Contact Your Harvest Fair Coordination Team for more info or to donate!

Jessie Jaeger at: [yeyewawa@yahoo.com](mailto:yeyewawa@yahoo.com)

Anna Gruver at: [anna.gruver@gmail.com](mailto:anna.gruver@gmail.com)

## **Update from the Upcoming SSC Election (From SSC Chair, Liza Jo Lyons)**

Dear Kaiser Community:

We're thrilled to announce we have two nominations for the School Site Council. 1<sup>st</sup> grade parent Samantha Blanchard and Kindergarten parent Tane Ross.

The election will be held at the first SSC meeting Wednesday 9/30/2015 at 4:00PM in the library. Come cast your vote and see what the SSC is all about!

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Here is a little about Samantha and Tane:

My name is Samantha Blanchard and I am the Mom of a 1st grader at Kaiser. I am also a Dance Teaching Artist. Last year as a volunteer, I taught a pilot dance program as arts integrated curriculum during the day here at Kaiser for K-1 and 4-5. The students loved it and have been asking when I will teach again; some 5th graders actually volunteered to help with K's and 1's for this year. They want to be dance educators. Unfortunately, dance as a core subject is not a priority with Kaiser and I would like a chance to educate and learn the process of including dance into the arts integrated curriculum. Please check out this link and see how NYC has pushed to include dance in all of the public schools, making dance available to ALL children.

[http:// www.thirteen.org/programs/thirteen-specials/](http://www.thirteen.org/programs/thirteen-specials/)

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My name is Tane Ross, I'm the mom of a kindergartner in Mr. Krasner's class. We are thrilled to be sending Kaya to Kaiser and look forward to meeting the families and faculty who make up this vibrant community.

I have been involved with education for a number of years, but in a round about way. As a film maker, I created animated online experiences for kids that merged technology, entertainment and education in unique ways. I created experiences that engage children in learning music (Carnegie Hall, SF Symphony), learning about health and hospital visits (Lucile Packard Children's Hospital) and art (De Young Museum). Currently I am working part time in two realms, first I am the Director of Animation on a show for PBS called Injunity that has been incorporated into classroom curriculums from middle school through college. I also work as a user experience designer at an education tech company in San Francisco where I speak with teachers, coaches and administrators fairly often about how to support teacher professional development in implementing proven practices. On the home front, I enjoy finding new ways of engaging my daughter Kaya in extended projects that are sparked by her interests. My intent with her is to inspire a love of learning and to empower her with the skills to learn just about anything. Ultimately, there are many ways to teach children and there are many ways in which they learn, I'm interested in witnessing both processes. My hope is that working on the School Site Committee will give me the opportunity to affect an educational environment where I have a stake.



# W A N T E D: Artist, Crafters, Builders, Bakers!

It is time we put our talents together for a **Winter Bazaar**. I have been to a few at another school, and this is what I learned. Tables “rent” from \$75 to \$100. Kaiser families get the discount. The school sets up 15-20 tables and you rent that table/spot. You are responsible for your set up (bring tablecloth) and clean up. You place your items on the table, and sell your items. You keep all proceeds.

In fairs I have been to, you donate one item and they are put together in baskets and raffled. All this money goes to the school. If we have at least 10 Kaiser people, that is already \$750!!!! for the school. A great time to do this in the first or second weekend in December for holiday presents.

Please let me know if you are interested. If we have enough people to make it a real money maker, we can take the next steps!! Please also indicate which date you would prefer December 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,  
Hilary Jackson  
hilajackson@gmail.com



Hi Kaiser Families-

Please be sure to keep on clipping and collecting BoxTops for Education. These are the little pink coupons found on many products you already purchase- cereals, granola bars, Ziploc bags, cake mixes, canned goods, etc..

Last year we collected more than 3,000 BoxTops (that's more than \$300 to help pay for the programs that our kids love).

Our next submission date is at the end of October. BoxTops can be dropped in the specially marked box in the school office.

Thanks!  
Christine (Bea's mom)

## TOOLBOX Tool of the Week: The Breathing Tool

*I calm myself and check in*

We call the Breathing Tool the gateway to the TOOLBOX, because it creates in us the perfect state for using all the other tools. Breathing is something we do all the time, naturally and without thought. It is hard-wired to automatically speed up or slow down in response to levels of physical and emotional activity; however, the relationship between breathing and our bodies and emotions isn't just a one way street. Besides responding to changes in our bodies and emotions, our breathing can cause changes within us as well. When we breathe purposefully, it calms and slows us down and brings our attention inward. We become more self-aware and self-reflective about our bodies, minds, emotions and impulses and more likely to have the insight to respond more appropriately in stressful situations—in the best interest of ourselves and others.

To begin using your Breathing Tool, put one hand over your heart and one hand on your belly. Breathe in slowly through your nose. Focus on the sensation of fresh air coming into your lungs and how it feels inside your body as your diaphragm begins to drop and your belly expands. Pause briefly, relax, then exhale through your mouth as you release old air, counting slowly to five. This is one intentional breath.

Did you know using the Breathing Tool will make you not just calmer, but also smarter and healthier? The vagus nerve is a nerve that comes from the brain through the spine, and controls the relaxation response in our nervous system by releasing the neurotransmitter, acetylcholine. In addition to calming and relaxing the body, acetylcholine repairs brain tissue and body organs, reduces inflammation, and regulates heart rhythms. It is also responsible for learning and memory. Deep belly breathing activates the vagus nerve, and triggers the release of acetylcholine, leading to better overall health, reduced anxiety and depression, and improved learning and memory!

In community,

Ms. Ilene

### **Five ways families can help support TOOLBOX learning:**

1. Display the list of twelve tools at home. (Download a copy at <https://dovetaillearning.org/toolbox/the-12-tools/>)
2. Watch for Home Connections – letters and family activities to come home with your student for each unit.
3. Practice and model the tools for your children
4. In moments of challenge, ask your children: what three tools could you use right now? Or what three tools could you have used and how might that have changes things?
5. Notice and appreciate when you see them using their tools

# **Montera invites prospective families to the Montera Information Night, Nov. 12**

Please join Principal Avent, Montera teachers, and students on **Thursday, November 12, 7:00-8:30 pm**, for the Montera Information Night. You will have the opportunity to tour the campus before the meeting (please meet at the main office at 6:15 pm) and then learn about the academic programs that engage and challenge the Montera students as well as about the many electives, clubs, and sports programs available at Montera.

Please plan to meet in the Montera Multipurpose Room (“MUR”).  
No need to RSVP, just plan to attend and learn more about all Montera has to offer!

## **Parent-led Tours:**

Montera is also offering parent-led tours during the school day from 9:10-10:00 am. No RSVP is required unless you are planning to attend as a large group from a particular school. We will want to make sure we have enough parent tour guides for larger groups if possible.

- this Friday, October 2, 2015
- Tuesday, October 13, 2015
- Friday, November 6, 2015
- Tuesday, November 17, 2015
- Friday, December 4, 2015
- Tuesday, December 8, 2015
- Friday, January 8, 2016

If you would like more information about prospective family tours, please check [www.monteramiddleschool.org](http://www.monteramiddleschool.org) or [outreach@monterapto.com](mailto:outreach@monterapto.com)

**Prospective Parent Mixer, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 7:30-9 pm**  
10 Bishop Court, Oakland 94611

Please join current Montera Parents and Principal Mr. Avent at John and Marni Hunter’s house in the Montclair District of Oakland for coffee and dessert and the chance for prospective families to meet casually with current families and ask questions, share concerns, or just get to know other parents considering becoming Toros next year.