



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court | Oakland, CA 94618 | 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

December 19, 2017

KAISER CALENDAR

Wednesday, 12.20.17 | 4th/5th Winter Music Program
6:40pm

Friday, 12.22.17 | Lost & Found Pickup

Monday, 12.25.17 – Friday, 01.05.17 | NO SCHOOL*

* All OUSD – Winter Break

ENJOY YOUR WINTER BREAK!



MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

Happy Holidays Kaiser Families!

I am sure I am not the only one who feels as though 2017 has flown by. Looking back at the year, we have a lot to celebrate. Kaiser’s math scores took a giant leap while we narrowed our achievement gap. Our enrollment has climbed to a point where we now have a waitlist. Family and community volunteering has never been more engaged, and our PTA fundraisers have exceeded projections.

Yet it has also been a difficult year. Many of us faced personal losses and challenges. The national political situation has been difficult. It seems almost daily the media presents a new leader behaving in ways that are the opposite of how we are raising our children to act. Add to this a budget crisis that directly impacts our school, and it really has been a doozy of a year!

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TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MS. JANAN APAYDIN

Kaiser Elementary students are fortunate to be served by teachers with tremendous levels of teaching experience. Our longest serving teacher is Ms. Janan Apaydin who began working at Kaiser in 1996.

In her 21 years at Kaiser, Ms. Apaydin has taught every grade except Kindergarten! And lately, in addition to teaching a 4th and 5th combination class, she has applied her love of science as Kaiser’s science lead teacher.

Recently, Ms. Apaydin has announced to our community her plans to retire at the end of this academic year. However, she will certainly be keeping busy as she looks forward to spending more time with family and friends, traveling, volunteering for the Friends of Sausal Creek, and doing political work, especially around climate change.

In her 21 years at Kaiser, Ms. Apaydin has enriched the lives and learning of hundreds of students. She has also been a great colleague and family advocate. While we will miss Janan’s daily presence next school year, we know she will remain a strong part of the Kaiser community.

Thanks, Ms. Apaydin, for your exceptional support of our children!





School News

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA (CONTINUED)

But despite these hurdles, this final week of school for 2017 is one of celebration. Our 4th and 5th graders will showcase their musical talent, and all classes will take time to reflect on the learning and hard work of the year.

As the days start to get longer and we crest a new year, I hope you will resolve to continue to make Kaiser Elementary, Oakland, our nation, and our planet a better place. As someone who is only weeks away from becoming a dad, it is clearer to me than ever before how important it is that we partner to make our community all it can be.

Onward to a New Year!

~ Dennis Guikema, Principal

KAISER 4TH & 5TH GRADE WINTER PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, December 20th, 2017

6:40 p.m.

Strings report for tuning at 6:20 p.m. / Band 6:30 p.m.

THE PROGRAM:

- Kaiser Band and Orchestra
- 5th Grade Play
- *Note to Parents / Guardians of Participating Students:* Concert participation is mandatory. Students should dress to impress in concert attire.

PARKING:

- Parking will be available on the upper field beginning at 6:15 PM
- To access the upper field, turn left at the top of Hill Ct. Continue around the back of the Multi Purpose Room and up the drive to the field. Once there, follow Dads' Club members instructions for parking. Please walk back to the Multi Purpose via the stairs and through the main building, NOT on the driveway that will have vehicle traffic.
- It will be dark before and after the show, and the upper field is not lit. I recommend everyone either bring a flashlight or a cell phone with a flashlight app (and a full battery to take pictures of the show!)





School News

WINTER SESSION ENRICHMENT

Dear Parents,

The Fall session of the After School Enrichment Classes have come to a close and the new Winter session will begin the week we get back from winter break.

On Monday of this week, your child should have brought home the Winter 2018 Enrichment Program Packet with a full listing of programs that will be offered. I am excited to announce three new classes added to the Winter session:

- 1) Fabric Arts
- 2) 3 O'clock Rock Music Program
- 3) Go Girls!

Also, Hip-Hop dance will be returning.

For more information or to download a flyer, log on to the school's website at www.kaiserelementary.org/after-school/

You may start registering today!

~ Oscar



LOST & FOUND PICKUP: FRIDAY, 12/22

Hello Kaiser Families,

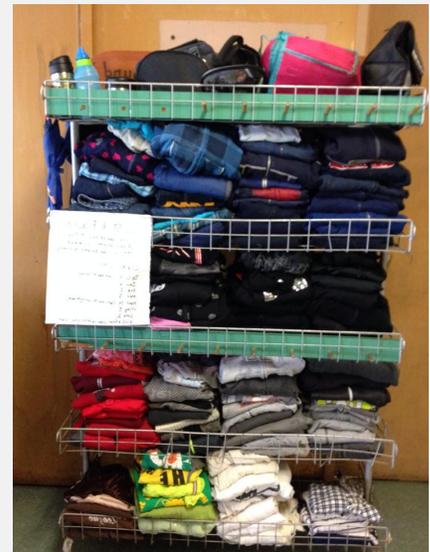
The lost and found items (located on the rack right outside the multi-purpose room) will be picked up and donated on **Friday, December 22nd between 4:00 - 5:00pm.**

Please make sure to go through the items, including the water bottles and lunch boxes, **before the end of the day that Friday, December 22nd.**

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email or call Shai-El Andrews at shaiel.andrews@gmail.com or (510) 459-6150 and/or Sandra Litchy at slitchy@yahoo.com or (510) 502-3467.

Thank you,

Shai-El Andrews
Parent of Kindergartner Samuel Andrews



PTA News

PTA PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Dear Kaiser Family,

With the holidays fast approaching we are all appreciative of the wonderful turnout for our Dec 7th Association meeting. **Thanks to Jim Armstrong and Tena Ross** for arranging dinner and child care, and most of all, thanks to the many parents and teachers who attended. I think we all found the meeting informative in that questions were addressed and feelings were shared. As we continue in light of the uncertainty that OUSD schools are all facing, it is important that we stay informed and take the necessary steps to assure that Kaiser has a voice in decisions that will be affecting all Oakland students.

The Winter Ball was a quite the success! Students had a great time, playing, dancing, and socializing with each other. Many parents expressed their enjoyment at seeing the students having such fun. I personally enjoyed visiting and just hanging out while the little ones partied. The dance committee deserves all the praise for this pleasant Holiday evening. **Tane Ross** took the lead organizing the event and joined by **Jim Armstrong, Nicole Gray, Dedra Hunt, Sarah Isaccs, Alexandra Kent, Kara Mitzel and Nick Wood**, we had a team that functioned like a well oiled machine. For decorations, snacks, music and the cleanup afterward, we thank you Team, and we also thank **Dani Marchman and Allegra Madsen for their sweet little photo booth** of lasting memories. And I cannot forget the parents out front who helped with keeping students in the authorized areas. Things just got a little wild. It was a blast!

In closing I want to wish every one a wonderful Holiday Season. We are all looking forward to some rest and recreation. We are also looking forward to a wonderful New Year. Be safe and and be Happy.

~ Linda Handy, PTA President

AUCTION VOLUNTEERS!

The Kaiser Auction is one of our top fundraising activities of the school year. Please consider contributing to this integral fundraiser any way you can!

Drum-up Local Donations:

If you have a lead on a particular donation, wonderful! Please reach out to Auction Donations Chair, Jennie Redwitz at jredwitz22@gmail.com so that we can verify our donations team isn't already contacting that person/organization and to obtain the donation letter and form.

Assist with the General Donation Solicitation Effort and/or Wine Vault:

You can email Jennie for this, too! We are especially in need of someone(s) to manage the solicitation and receipt of wine for the Wine Vault auction item.

Drum-up Sponsorships for the Event:

Help us secure sponsorship for our event. Service providers like real estate agents, insurance agents, doctors, and dentists are excellent possible sponsors. Please contact Jennie Redwitz at jredwitz22@gmail.com if you can help with this effort and for the appropriate forms.

More Opportunities to Come:

More information about class baskets and other auction items plus live event volunteer needs will be sent out in the new year.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to kaiserauction@gmail.com with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

