



# The Pink Panther

## Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court | Oakland, CA 94618 | 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

January 29, 2019

### KAISER CALENDAR

### MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

Thursday, 01.31.19 6:30pm	K -3rd ORFF Music Concert
Friday, 02.01.19	University Spirit Wear Day
Thursday, 02.07.19 6:30pm	Kaiser Advocacy Follow Up Meeting
Wednesday, 02.20.19	Kaiser Move Proposal to OUSD Board

Save the Dates!

Hello Kaiser Elementary Families:

Last week was a very hard week for our community, yet despite this, the strength and spirit of Kaiser Elementary is as strong as ever. I appreciate the standing-room-only turnout on Thursday.

I am sure that all have heard the news: **A proposal was presented by district leadership to move Kaiser Elementary to the Sankofa Elementary campus, merging the two communities.** According to this proposal, next school year (2019-20) would be a "planning year" and the following school year (2020-21) the move would happen.

This proposal will be presented to the OUSD Board of Education on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, however, a vote is not scheduled to approve or reject this proposal until Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. During this time, I encourage all families to stay tuned in and engaged.

While this is a hard time for Kaiser families and staff, we also want to be very mindful of how we share this news with our children. It is important that they know that we will all work to make sure they continue to have a great school!

On a much lighter note, I am looking forward to seeing our Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade families this Thursday night at our ORFF winter concert! Dianna and Eli have been working hard with our youngest kiddos. I'll see you there in support and celebration of our children.

~ Dennis Guikema, Principal

### ORFF THIS THURSDAY!

Please join us,  
**Thursday, January 31st**  
**at 6:30pm,**

for a performance by our K-3 students led by teachers Diana Strong and Eli Wise. Our young musicians in the Orff Music program are playing, singing and dancing with ever-growing skills, and we can't wait to show you!



# PTA News

## LET'S MOBILIZE! KAISER ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (KAC)

Dear Kaiser Families,

Thank you to everyone who turned out for the General PTA meeting last Thursday. The support from our community including former Kaiser families, faculty and staff was incredible.

For those of you who were unable to attend, OUSD (Oakland Unified School District) representatives shared their plan for reducing OUSD's "footprint" or the number of schools currently being operated by OUSD, in order to address budget shortfalls. This also included making excellent, equitable schools across the district. As such, they developed a "Blueprint for Quality Schools" per advice of consultants. They plan to make their proposal to the OUSD Board on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and the board will make a final vote on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. They acknowledge that Kaiser is a model school in many ways, including the amazing strides we have made in terms of academic achievement over the last several years. They would like to see the Kaiser model expanded so more children will have an opportunity to attend our school. Their proposal would be to merge Kaiser with Sankofa Academy and move our school to their campus.

After asking many questions we learned the the following: 1) the current Kaiser facility would closed; 2) some of our faculty could go to Sankofa but no guarantee they all will; 3) we may or may not be able to keep Mr. Guikema as principal; 4) our non-faculty staff such as Gail, Oscar, and Ms. Pearl would not have the assurance of a position; 5) Adventure Time staff and program would not necessarily be able to go either!

**While we recognize and appreciate the need for equity across our district, breaking Kaiser is not the way to fix the problem!**

We welcome everyone's input, ideas and passion during this process AND we want to present a united front on behalf of Kaiser. To that end, we respectfully request that individuals/groups hold off speaking on behalf of Kaiser until we get on the same page about messaging and approach. We'll keep everyone up-to-date through Konstella, the website and class emails. In the meantime, please feel free to express your opinions on behalf of yourself and your family to local board members.

Feel free to contact Sarah Isaacs (KAC chair at [vicepresident@kaiserpta.org](mailto:vicepresident@kaiserpta.org)) or Celeste Stanley ([president@kaiserpta.org](mailto:president@kaiserpta.org)) with any questions, ideas and concerns.

We look forward to collaborating with you all!

~ *Celeste Stanley & Sarah Isaacs*

PTA President and PTA Vice President

**PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR HOW WE MOBILIZE AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED!**



# PTA News

## KAISER ACTION COMMITTEE (KAC) (CONTINUED...)

### So what's next?! LET'S MOBILIZE!

- ❑ Contact your local board to let them know your personal stories and what their proposal would mean to you and your family. Here's a link so you can figure out who your board member is, just type in your address in the box on the top left: <http://gisapps1.mapoakland.com/ousd> Once you do, click on this page for their contact information.: <http://www.ousd.org/find/yourdirector>
- ❑ Research the issues; talk to families who fought this fight already the last time(s); talk to folks at other schools to see what they are up to, etc.
- ❑ Join the Kaiser Action Committee (KAC) on Konstella.
- ❑ Connect with one or more of the following sub-committees. Please reach out to a sub-committee point person for more information. Sub committees sign-ups will be available soon on Konstella.
  - **Data:** Responsible for collecting concrete information, evidence and quantitative data that supports our goal, research, etc.  
Contact: Scott Sportsman - scottsportsman@gmail.com
  - **Advocacy:** Responsible for coordinating protests/marches, phone/letter writing campaigns, visible presence at board meetings, speaking out, bringing the noise!  
Contact: Steve Young - stephen.young76@gmail.com
  - **Legal:** Responsible for exploring possible legal options to support our goal, public records act requests, injunction, persuasive briefing, etc.  
Contact: Jason Allen - allen.jason.m@gmail.com
  - **Finance:** Responsible for driving fundraising support for our organizing efforts  
Contact: Nick Wood - nick@wewood.org
  - **Legislative:** Responsible for engaging our state and local legislators/politicians for our cause, connecting with other school/groups in Oakland who are already taking action.  
Contact: Clarence Hunt - cahuntjr@sbcglobal.net
  - **Marketing & Communications:** Responsible for developing our unified message, creating social media campaign, providing external and internal communications, press releases, creating a compelling film/video clips, and graphic and image design.  
Contact: Jeanna Penn – Jeanna@icuart.com

### KEY DATES

Thursday, 02.07.19 6:30pm	<b>Kaiser Advocacy Follow Up Meeting @</b> The Johnson's Home: 6976 Buckingham Blvd. Berkeley CA
Wednesday, 02.20.19	<b>Kaiser Move Proposal to OUSD Board</b>
Thursday, 02.21.19	<b>OUSD Follow Up Meeting @ Kaiser</b>
Wednesday, 04.24.19	<b>OUSD Board Decision</b>

