



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court |Oakland, CA 94618| 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

August 15, 2019

KAISER CALENDAR

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

Monday, 08.12.19 –
Friday, 08.16.19

MINIMUM DAYS
1:30PM Dismissal

Wednesday, 08.21.19
6pm

Back to School
Night

Monday, 09.02.19

NO SCHOOL*

Tuesday, 9.03.18 –
Friday, 9.06.18

MINIMUM DAYS
1:30PM Dismissal

*Labor Day Holiday: All OUSD

Save the Dates!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Wednesday,
August 21st 2019
6:00pm

Please secure childcare. This event is for **ADULTS ONLY**.

Happy New (School) Year Kaiser Elementary Families!

It was wonderful seeing your beautiful faces back on the Kaiser Elementary campus and welcoming new students, families and staff this week.

We are excited to have Tamila Jackson join us as our new 2nd grade teacher! She brings to us a wealth of experience in early childhood education as well as a contagious positive energy. Isa Estrada will be rejoining our staff. She is the mother of one former and two current Kaiser students and will be Kaiser's STIP sub this year. We also welcome a gifted art teacher, Sharon Virtue, to Kaiser.

I want to give a huge appreciation to Kaiser teachers, staff, and family volunteers who worked so hard to start our school year off in a welcoming, organized, and beautiful way. Kaiser Elementary serves our kids so well *because* you all go the extra mile for them.

As we look back on the last school year, we have a lot to celebrate about Kaiser's *culture of success*. We had some of the most significant academic gains in our district in both math and English. I'm very excited that we also saw narrowing of an historic achievement gap, with Kaiser African American students academic growth outpacing the overall growth of the school in both English and math! Last week our staff looked closely at what contributes to our *culture of success* and what additional steps we can take to continue to enrich our teaching and service.

I will share more details about these gains, and you will hear directly from teachers about the year ahead, at our Back to School Night, next Wednesday, August 21st. I hope to see ALL Kaiser families in attendance.

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School News

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA (CONTINUED)

All of this positivity continues despite the challenging uncertainty that Kaiser Elementary faces. I want to thank everyone for your engagement and voice in this process. While this situation has the potential to divide us, I want to appreciate the commitment that our community has to work through challenges, keeping our children's education and well being as our shared commitment.

Finally, I want to update you all about the health of our beloved art teacher, Bonnie Allen, "Ms. Leonardo." Ms. Leonardo had a stroke this summer. Many Kaiser staff and families reached out in support through a GoFundMe page that her family established. Periodic updates are posted there, and on-going support is needed. You can find the page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/1msic5fqeo>

Onward with a great new school year!

~Dennis Guikema, Principal

Kaiser Advocacy Committee (KAC)

HELP CANVAS THE NW HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD!

Note: This message is being sent on behalf of the Kaiser Advocacy Committee (KAC).

Kaiser parents will be canvassing the NW Hills Neighborhood to let our neighbors know the plans the District has for Kaiser's future. Please join us!

Saturday, August 17th and 18th 8:45am

Meet at Kaiser. We will return to Kaiser at noon for a pizza lunch (provided) and go back out around 12:30. If you have a morning commitment, please join in the afternoon either day. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a snack and water.

Contact Alicia Johnson at aliciajohnson214@gmail.com or on Konstella with questions.



PTA News

PTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome Kaiser Families!

I hope everyone had a lovely summer and your first week of school is off to a great start! It was such a pleasure greeting so many new and returning families at registration. I look forward to getting to know you more and watching your kids grow throughout the school year. Please mark your calendars for **Back to School Night** on **August 21** at **6 PM**. This will also be our first PTA meeting of the year.

For those new families that may not be familiar, the Pink Panther is our school newsletter, which is usually placed in your child's backpack every other Tuesday. (This is a special edition.) The kiddos may not always remember to give to you, so it helps to know when to look for it. It contains news about people and activities of interest to the Kaiser community and important dates of upcoming events.

Konstella is another way for our school to stay connected. It is a secure and private online communications platform that you can access via their website or by downloading the iPhone or Android app. It includes: PTA and school-wide announcements; classroom updates; event reminders; volunteer

sign-ups and more. To register, you can log on to the website at <https://www.konstella.com>, select 'Find Your School' in the upper right hand corner and start to type out the first few letters of Kaiser Elementary and our school will automatically populate and you may proceed with the registration from there.

Finally, happy Eid al-Adha to those families who were celebrating the holiday this past weekend. One of the things that makes our community so special is the wide range of backgrounds that we all come from. Throughout the year we try create opportunities to learn about and celebrate each other. We always welcome your suggestions and ideas. Please feel free to contact me via email president@kaiserpta.org or Konstella.

Here's to a great school year!

Sarah Isaacs
PTA President

JOIN THE PTA

Calling all parents, guardians and extended family members to join the PTA!

How to join the PTA:

1. **Pay \$15** fee for each family member/guardian who would like to join.
2. **PayPal** via the Kaiser Elementary website (look under donation tab).

Please be sure to put "PTA membership, your full name and your child's full name + teacher" in the notes section.

Donation envelopes available in the office on top of the black PTA box. Please write in your full name, email and phone number. Please write on the bottom the name of your child(ren) + teacher in the available spaces.





PTA News

PTA VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

We have a few more volunteer slots to fill for very important activities at Kaiser. Being a small school, we rely on parent volunteers to help our events and extra activities run smoothly. Here are some volunteer opportunities:

Librarian and Library Aide: Our library is run 100% by volunteers. If you love books and organizing them, this job is for you!

Room Parent Coordinator: Each room has a room parent and we are looking for a coordinator to manage communications for that group.

Spring Carnival Chair(s): This is the last fundraiser of the year and a really fun event that welcomes our Kaiser community and new families. You do not have to recreate the wheel but oversee that things are in place and running smoothly for the big day!

Garden Coordinator: Each classroom runs a small garden plot near the portables. We need someone to coordinate volunteers and make sure our plants are healthy and growing.

Auction Donations Team: This job is SUPER easy and SUPER important. We have all the email addresses and physical addresses for businesses that have donated in the past. All you have to do is email or send out letters. If you're extra outgoing and have the desire, you can seek out new donations for our auction but this is not required. The bigger the team, the better!

Pink Panther Co-Editor: This is a great job for someone who cannot be on campus frequently, but is looking for a way to contribute. In this role you will collate content from the Kaiser community, and draft the bi-weekly newsletter. You will have support from and tag-team with our current editor.

Other Talents: Please let us know what you are good at and we will put your skills to good use: art, tech, photography, juggling, you name it!

Please contact Alicia Johnson at fundraising@kaiserpta.org or on Konstella if you'd like to sign up. Please also keep an eye on Konstella for ongoing opportunities.

