



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court | Oakland, CA 94618 | 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

January 21, 2019

KAISER CALENDAR

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

Thursday, 01.23.20
6:30pm

PTA General Meeting

Saturday, 01.25.20
11:00am – 2:00pm

ArtFest for Ms. Leondaro

Friday, 01.31.20

NO SCHOOL*

Friday, 02.07.20

OUSD Enrollment Window Closes

Wednesday, 02.12.20

SSC Meeting

Saturday, 02.15.20
1:00pm – 4:00pm
Bushrod Rec Center

North Oakland Schools Potluck

Monday, 02.17.20

NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday, 03.03.20 –
Friday 03.06.20

Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm

Friday, 03.27.20

NO SCHOOL***

Monday, 03.30.20 –
Friday 04.03.20

NO SCHOOL****

*No School: Professional Development

** No School: President's Day

*** No School: All OUSD: Cesar Chavez Day

**** No School: All OUSD: Spring Break

SAVE THE DATE

Hello Kaiser Elementary Families:

This Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day I reflected on the spirit of service and justice that Dr. King inspired and thought about the many ways that the Kaiser community emulates these values.

In the challenging time of change we are in, there are Kaiser families who have focused their service and call for justice on stopping school closures and others who have put this energy into the design and community building for the merged Kaiser and Sankofa. Some have gracefully held both of these spaces. The important thing for us to remember is that we ALL want the best for our children and our schools. As we move forward into this new year, I ask that we stay strong as a community united in our commitment to the wellness of our children. My personal commitment to you in this time is to support your choice and agency; supply you with facts; and continue working hard for kids and equity.

I am incredibly grateful to **Kathy Maloney, who is stepping in for me two days a week at Kaiser** so that I can invest the time and energy needed for the design work and preparation for the next school year. Ms. Maloney is a retired principal who was one of a team of three interim principals who led Kaiser in the year before I became your principal. Ms. Maloney knows our community well and understands the complexity of the moment of the change we face.

I also want to welcome a **new staff member and introduce a new program** to Kaiser Elementary. **DeMareon Gipson** will be at Kaiser on Wednesdays and Thursdays. He will be leading **African American Male Achievement (AAMA)** groups for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders and...

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →





School News



MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA (CONTINUED)

will be supporting all students in grades 2nd through 5th grade classrooms. Google “OUSD African American American Male Achievement” to discover more about this impactful program.

Meanwhile, the winter months are filled with exciting events and important deadlines. **THIS Saturday we will celebrate the amazing Bonnie “Ms. Leonardo” Allen with a fundraiser and special art event from 11 AM to 2 PM** in the Kaiser Multipurpose building.

We are now less than 3 weeks away from the close of the OUSD enrollment window. It is important that our 5th grade families complete the enrollment process by February 7th for a better chance at getting your top choice school. More information about enrollment is at ousd.org/enroll, and OUSD has a middle school website that I encourage all to check out: oaklandinthemiddle.org. For kindergarten through 4th grade families who have Kaiser-Sankofa as their first choice, you do *not* need to complete the enrollment process, as this placement will be automatic. **For those who are considering other OUSD schools, it is important to meet the February 7th deadline.** There are three remaining Kaiser-Sankofa enrollment tours. You can find out more and RSVP for any of the three listed below at: tinyurl.com/enroll2020

- Saturday, 1/25. Enrollment tour @ Sankofa
- Wednesday, 1/29. Enrollment tour @ Sankofa
- Tuesday, 2/4. Enrollment tour @ Sankofa

Finally, thanks to those who have been following along with the progress of the Kaiser-Sankofa Design Team. The team has had 5 meetings and a “report back” to date. After each, notes are sent out to families on Konstella. The team will have a 2-day retreat at the end of this month to drill down deeper into this important work. Meanwhile, I am pleased with the support that we have been getting from every department within OUSD. I have met with leaders from Facilities, After School Programs, Curriculum and Instruction, Special Education, Behavioral Health and more to leverage support for next year. This is a huge undertaking, but with the support of many it is going very well.

~ Dennis Guikema, Principal

DROP OFF & MORNING SUPERVISION REMINDERS

Please remember that student supervision begins at 8:30 AM (15 minutes before school starts) and ends at 3:15 PM most days and 1:45 PM on minimum days (15 minutes after school ends). Unless your child is in Adventure Time or an after school enrichment program, they may not be dropped off before or picked up after these times. Thanks for your support with this and your help keeping all of our children safe.





School News



MS. LEONARDO ARTFEST FUNDRAISER: SATURDAY, 1/25

As many of you know, Bonnie Allen (aka “Ms. Leonardo”) had been Kaiser’s beloved art teacher for the past 3 decades, until her stroke this summer. I want to share a few ways that we can give back to Ms. Leonardo for all the joy, inspiration and art that she has given to the Kaiser community for so many years.

1) Come join us for an ArtFest FUNdraiser and invite your friends!

When: Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 11:00am – 2:00pm

Where: Kaiser Multipurpose Room

What: We will sell tickets to a variety of art stations where kids can make paintings, pillows, friendship bracelets, valentines and other cards; get face painting/tattoos; and visit with Ms. Leonardo! We will be selling food, courtesy of the Kaiser Dad’s Club, as well as baked goods. We will also auction off private art parties and a lesson with Ms. Leonardo! All proceeds will go to Ms. Leonardo’s Stroke Recovery Fund.

ArtFest for
Ms. Leonardo



Saturday, Jan 25
11:00am - 2:00pm

Kaiser Elementary
Multipurpose Room

All proceeds will go to Ms. Leonardo’s Stroke Recovery Fund.

1a) **VOLUNTEER!** Volunteers are still needed for the day of the event. Please contact Sarah Isaacs at President@kaiserpta.org or just show up at 10:30am on the day of the event and we’ll put you to work!

1b) **BAKED GOODS!** Baked good donations are appreciated! Please bring them to the event!

1c) **SPREAD THE WORD!** Please also help us by spreading the word to alumni and friends!!

If possible, please RSVP to give us an idea of how much foods and supplies we need. Thank you!

2) Stroke Recovery Fund Contributions

If you cannot make it to the event or just want to get a head-start on giving, you can contribute to her Stroke Recovery Fund set up by her daughter, Kira Allen: <https://tinyurl.com/GoFundBonnie>
Donations of ANY size are deeply appreciated!



PTA News

PTA PRESIDENT'S UPDATE FROM SARAH ISAACS

Dear Kaiser Community,

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable long weekend, and perhaps took time to celebrate or reflect upon the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I know some people also took the streets for the Women's Marches, including Kaiser Girl Scouts that helped lead the march in Oakland and Kaiser parent Saru Jayaraman, who spoke at the march in San Francisco. I also appreciate the ongoing efforts of everyone in our community striving to support students across Oakland, fighting piecemeal school closures throughout the district, and working to improve under-resourced schools, such as Sankofa, that remain open.

As people make their plans for next year, it has been painful to watch our community splinter, for reasons that many of us believe to be senseless and unfair. However, it is my sincere hope that we can also make the most of our time together this semester. To that end, **please join us for the PTA meeting on Thursday evening (1/23) at 6:30 PM** and the **ArtFest in support of Ms. Leonardo's Stroke recovery fund on Saturday (1/25) 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Both events will take place in the Kaiser Multipurpose Room.

In the meantime, our hearts also go out the Elmhurst United Middle School/Korematsu Discovery Academy communities as they mourn the loss of a parent, Miesha Singleton, who was struck and killed in the crosswalk in front of Elmhurst Middle School on Friday as she was going to pick up her child. This is such a heartbreaking loss that I am sure resonates deeply for all us. It also reminds us to hold our loved ones close and be particularly mindful of others when driving near Kaiser and in other school zones.

Thank you and take care,

Sarah Isaacs
Kaiser PTA President

