



The Pink Panther

Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. Elementary School

25 South Hill Court | Oakland, CA 94618 | 510.549.4900

School & Community Newsletter

March 3, 2020

KAISER CALENDAR

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GUIKEMA

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: All OUSD: Cesar Chavez Day

** No School: All OUSD: Spring Break

SAVE THE DATE

Hello Kaiser Elementary Families:

It is hard to believe that we are nearly two-thirds of the way through this school year: next Friday our 2nd marking period ends. This time of year we have one foot in the present, making the most of every moment of our school year, while having another in the future, planning for the year ahead. This conference week is a perfect time to reflect on your child’s learning to-date. What can we celebrate? What areas of academic or socio-emotional growth do we want to focus on? What additional challenges, enrichments, or interventions would be best?

One thing we consistently reflect on at Kaiser is safety. This week we focus on two specific areas:

- Our Kinder, 1st and 2nd graders had a dynamic “Pedestrian Safety Rodeo” Monday, hosted by Safe Routes to Schools.
- We reminded all students the importance of good hygiene, specifically washing hands with soap and water after using the restroom and sneezing into their sleeves.

This *Pink Panther* is coming to you on “Super Tuesday” election day. I want to commend all of you who went to the polls today or mailed in your ballots. I also want to let you know about **Schools and Communities First**, a ballot measure qualifying for the polls in November 2020 which is estimated to bring up to \$12 Billion dollars a year of new revenue for schools and community services by requiring the reassessment of business property every 3 years. It is estimated that SCF would generate between \$592 and \$716 million for Alameda County with millions of additional dollars coming annually to OUSD. Oakland Education Association and other community partners have created <http://www.oaklandscf.org/> to keep you informed about this important measure.

In closing, I want to appreciate Kaiser teachers, staff and the army of volunteers who make our school great!

~ Dennis Guikema, Principal





School News



SANKOFA UNITED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our Design Team is excited to share with you the name of the merged Kaiser-Sankofa: **Sankofa United Elementary School**.

In the process of creating this name we solicited ideas from community members through a survey in November; gathered suggestions at our December Design Team report back event with adults from both communities; and generated options through January classroom lessons with students. The Design Team then narrowed the list to 6 possible names. Over two hundred (213) families shared input on these six finalists by voting online, at the February Design Team report back event, or on paper ballots. Two possible names surfaced as clear favorites. *Sankofa Academy* (the previous name) received 45.5% of the vote. *North Oakland United* got 32.7% of the vote.

Given this outcome, the Design Team unanimously agreed to connect the two top votes into the school name **Sankofa United**.

- **Sankofa:** Keeping *Sankofa* in the name honors the legacy and the powerful symbolism of this school name. *Sankofa* is a word in the Twi language of Ghana that translates to "Go back and get it," and represents the importance of learning from the past as we move toward the future
- **United:** Adding *United* reflects the unifying [mission, vision, and values](#) of our community that are in service to ALL of our students.

This school name recommendation will be sent to the OUSD Board of Education for final approval. Once approved, we will begin using this name immediately in reference to our school for next year and beyond.

Once again, thank you to all of the people who shared their thoughts about the name as a part of our journey together.

Sincerely,
The Kaiser-Sankofa Design Team

SPRING AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT STARTS 3/9

The Spring session for After School Enrichment Programs start next week!

SIGN UP TODAY. <http://www.kaiserelementary.org/after-school/>

Ms. Leonardo has confirmed and will be returning for this last session with **SMART ART** on **Wednesdays**. Please be on the lookout for her flyer or find our more online above. **Eli Wise** will also be running a session of **Musical Story Telling on Fridays**. All the classics will be returning such as Chorus, Chess, African Dance, 3 O'clock Rock, Ceramics, Origami, Tennis, Yoga, Fabric Arts, Legos, Toyology, and Beginning Jazz.

