



Just Think

Campaign to Support Castlebay Lane Elementary School

Dear Parents,

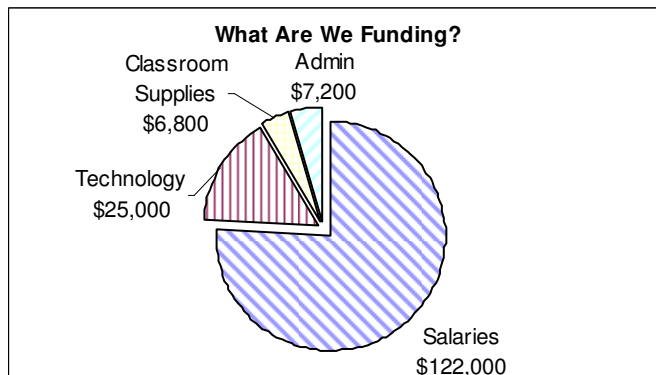
We hope you are having a great summer. We hate to do it, but we need to talk about money for our children's programs at Castlebay, because it is important and we need your help!

Castlebay Lane Elementary, a California Distinguished School, offers an excellent education for our children with experienced teachers and staff, committed parents, and bright children. In addition supplemental enrichment classroom opportunities are funded by parents through the P.A.T.H. (Parents And Teachers Helping) organization. All of this resulted in an extraordinary API of 920 in 2008, **putting our school in the top 15 of LAUSD elementary schools.**

It is no surprise to anyone that the current economic recession has affected every level of our State, trickling all the way to Castlebay. Compared to last year's budget, we are faced with an additional significant shortfall that we, the parents and community, *must* provide if we want the quality and variety of our children's educational experience to continue.

We parents, through our financial contributions to P.A.T.H., provide our children with the following educational opportunities, **not otherwise provided by LAUSD:**

- Art once a week for half the year
- Music once a week for half the year
- Computer class once a week
- Supplemental YMCA PE once a week
- Library access before and after school



The salaries for these staff members plus classroom and workroom aides are \$122,000.

The total P.A.T.H. budget, paid for by us, is \$161,000.

How will we pay for it? Historically we have conducted the Just Think Campaign, as in Just Think what we could do with our funding! **But this program has not been sufficient to raise the needed**

funds. Last year parents gave \$54,000 through this initial campaign. That means that **we had to conduct 12 other fundraisers to make up the difference.** The Just Think Campaign is a better use of volunteer time and your total contribution goes to the children of Castlebay.

This year we need 100% participation. If we can raise this money during the initial campaign, we will not need all 12 of the fundraisers we historically have held, including: gift wrap sales, poker night, art fundraiser, the magic show and more. This would allow us to **focus our volunteer efforts directly on our children in the classroom, rather than on fundraisers.**



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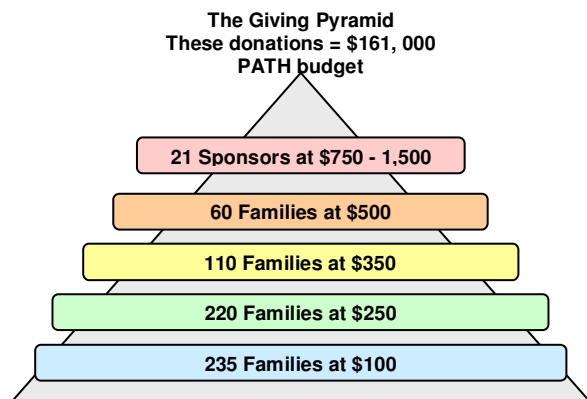
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We know that times are tough. But, **we all need to participate**, as best we can, to provide these excellent education opportunities for our kids. Castlebay provides an educational experience equivalent or superior to the best private schools, including Hillcrest Christian and Sierra Canyon, which range in tuition from \$6,750 - \$19,545 per year. In comparison, **Castlebay provides incredible bang for your buck!**

We realize that Castlebay is a public school providing a free public education; however, due to the extreme cuts in the state budget for public education, **we need your 100% participation in order to sustain our school's tradition of educational excellence.**

Are music, art and computer education essential components of a quality education? Is physical education essential to your child's well being? These programs are the primary funding goals of our Just Think Campaign.

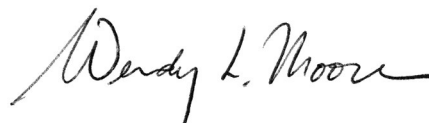
This year as part of our 100% Just Think Campaign, **we are asking for parents to consider a Family Sponsorship of \$500.** You may invite friends and family to support Castlebay in your child's name. You may also be interested in a corporate sponsorship to advertise your business to Castlebay families. Remember, some employers will match your gift. We are looking for 100% participation with a donation that is "meaningful to you" to show that you are with us!



Because P.A.T.H. is not a PTA, all funds that are raised stay at Castlebay. All monies donated to P.A.T.H. go **directly to our kids.** And **your gift is tax deductible!**

For a complete budget, please see: www.CastlebayLane.com/budget2009.pdf

Please complete the attached form and return it in the enclosed envelope by September 1. **Just Think what we could do if we raised all this money in this campaign!**



For Your Just Think Committee,
Mike & Amy Dobry, Sandy Dorfman, Kevin & Christi Ebenhoch, Gayle Grech, Lori Kalman,
Kate Kelly, Anjali Londhi, Jeff & Wendy Moore, Dawn Pattison, Suzanne Snowden