

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

Castlebay Lane is a suburban elementary school dedicated, through its curriculum programs and educational opportunities, to educate, challenge, and inspire our students to reach their full potential. This is accomplished through our unique community-based partnership.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Vivian Ithori

The holidays are upon us! It is a busy time of the year both at school and at home. All the students have just completed their first quarterly assessments in math, and, in addition, the fourth and fifth grade students have taken the quarterly science assessment. After each assessment, the teachers meet in grade level teams to identify areas of need and strengths for their grade level, their class as a whole, as well as for individual students. By working together, the teachers are able to collaborate and discuss strategies to address the areas of need. With the talents and abilities of our teachers, they are a great resource for each other.

Our Family Fun Day was a huge success. We had so many families attending and everyone had a great time. All of this would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our Family Fun Day and Haunted House committees. Everything was so well organized. Hours and hours were spent planning as well as physically setting up the booths the night before, and tearing them down and cleaning up after the event. Thank you so much for all your hard work. You are the best!

The traffic before school and at dismissal time is improving. We really appreciate the volunteers from each classroom who have been assisting with our carpool valet program. It has really made a difference! The safety of our students is one of our greatest concerns. Please remember to use the crosswalks and do not make u-turns. Even with our traffic volunteer program, we have had a few near misses.

Have a wonderful holiday. Enjoy the time with your family and friends. Rest and relax, and we will see you in 2007.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Nancy Feigelson

From my home to yours, I wish you a very happy and healthy holiday season. May the joys and love of friends and family be in abundance at this special time of year.

The next CPU/PRN (Complaint Response Unit/Parent Resource Network) will be on Wednesday, December 13th at the Grand Plaza PCSB Auditorium. The topic will be IEP Workshop 1. The next BJE Seminar for Parents and Professionals will be on January 17th. The topic is "Legal Updates You Need to Know before Your Child's next IEP." The speaker is Arlene Bell, M.A., J.D. Please save the following dates for upcoming seminars: 2/14/07, 3/14/07, 4/18/07, and 5/2/07. I will have seminar information available in the monthly newsletters. If you need further information, please see me.

Our "Shelter in Place" drill on November 14th was a success. The next safety drill will be held in the spring, 2007. This will be an earthquake preparedness drill. Thank you to Anne Bierling and Lori Conlan for their tremendous help with this. New members to our Safety Team, Jim and Kristy Asanuma, will be helping with our classroom emergency supplies. Thank you just does not seem enough to say to our wonderful volunteers.

Again, enjoy your holidays.

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER CARDS

It is very important that you notify the school office when there is **any** change of information on the emergency and disaster cards.

LIBRARY – Laura Wolf

The Book Fair was a great success! Thank you to all who supported the library by buying books at the fair.

The Adopt-A-Book program is in full swing. A list of adoptable books will be coming home this month. Simply choose a book from the list and return the tear-off form along with your donation to the library. Adopted books become part of the Castlebay Lane library. Your child will receive a Certificate of Adoption. A book plate, noting that the book has been adopted by your child, will be placed in the front of the book.

Volunteer reading partners are still needed for the Wonder of Reading Program. Volunteers read once a week for an hour with a Castlebay student. If you are interested, please contact the library or go online and visit the Wonder of Reading Program at www.wonderofreading.org.

Happy Holidays!

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

It is great to be back at Castlebay and we are off to a running start. Kindergartners and first graders are learning and reviewing the names of the computer parts, such as the monitor, keyboard and mouse. Using computer learning software, they will cover topics that include drawing and coloring, letters (matching, letter sounds, upper/lower case), sorting by size, shape and color, telling time to the hour, alphabet order and sentence structure. 2nd – 5th grades will use Microsoft Office word processing programs to create reports that include title pages, table of contents, bullet points, images, word art and clip art. They will also learn to save and retrieve their documents on the fileserver. All grades will use the printers to print documents.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

Thank you for all the beautiful artwork submitted for our note cards fundraiser. We look forward to getting the cards. Please check the office hallway for student artwork. Kindergarten students will be working on shadows, 1st grade is doing a unit on symmetry, and 2nd graders will study artist, Jacob Laurence, and do a stories unit. The 3rd grade classes will be drawing animals and studying city wildlife, while the 4th graders will be weaving. 5th grade will study the art style of Charles Burchfield, and do a unit on astronomy.

CAFETERIA – Juliana Loya

The cafeteria has tickets on sale daily from 7:50 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. If you purchase 20 tickets, you will receive 22! Please do not send large bills with students to purchase breakfast and/or lunch. The cafeteria is not able to make change for large bills. Thank you for your cooperation.

P.A.T.H. – Thea Carlson

Thank you to all who have donated to the “Just Think!” campaign. If you haven’t already done so, please send in your donations. We are still way off from meeting our goal. These funds pay for many of the enrichment programs your children receive at Castlebay; computer class, music, and art, to name just a few. Please don’t let these classes fade away due to lack of funds. The District does not provide these “extras” for our students. Thank you!

Have a wonderful holiday season.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL – Marylin Short

The next meeting of the ELAC will be on Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. Karen Menzie, our Literacy Coach, will be speaking to us about the power of the sound spelling cards that are used in our reading program. Come and learn what you can do to help your child become a better reader. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join the meeting.

There will be a joint meeting of the School Site Council and the Local School Leadership Councils on Monday, December 4th at 2:45 p.m. Both councils will be receiving an update of school activities, and the Leadership Council will be setting the Professional Development calendar for the rest of the school year. Please join us.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be on minimum day schedule: Friday, December 15, 2006.

Our minimum day schedule is as follows:

All Kindergarten students attend school from 8:11 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Grades 1 – 5 attend school from 8:21 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

The YMCA will care for children enrolled in the “Y” program until 6:30 p.m. The after-school playground will be open until 4:10 p.m. Please make arrangements for your children to be picked up from school promptly at 4:10. No students will be permitted to remain on campus after 4:10 p.m.

The school will be closed Monday, December 18, 2006 thru Friday, January 5, 2007.

The school and after-school playground will be closed. Please check with the YMCA for their holiday schedule and winter camp enrollment fees.

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/1	PATH meeting 1:20 p.m.
12/4-15	Toy and Coat drive
12/4	SSC and LSLC meeting 2:45 p.m.
12/6	ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
12/15	Minimum Day
12/18-1/5	Winter Break
1/8/07	School resumes
1/07	Magazine Drive coming in January

THIS AND THAT

Please make certain that all items needed by students (homework, lunch, snacks, projects, after school items, musical instruments, etc.) are sent in the morning. The office will not be calling classrooms to deliver forgotten items. Let your children know that they should check with the office to see if forgotten items have been delivered by parents. Anything delivered to the office will be placed in the teacher’s mailbox and delivered to the student by his/her teacher after recess. **Please make sure any forgotten items are delivered to the office before 9:45 a.m.**

Parents, there are copies of all notices and fliers for community events available in the office.

The office staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those parents who stop by with a kind word and a smile, and to everyone for their generosity throughout the year. We appreciate every one of you.

Best wishes for a holiday season filled with good health, happiness, and peace.

*From your Castlebay Office Staff,
Ripsime, Bea, Mara & Wendy*