

# FEBRUARY 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 Ihori

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend time with friends and family. I've returned to school rejuvenated and ready to take on 2007!

I'm often asked by parents how they can help their children at home. Playing cards can be used to reinforce and practice a variety of math skills such as adding and subtracting, multiplication, number sense, and greater than and less than in the primary grades. Card games can also provide the students with opportunities to develop problem solving strategies and practice with probability. It is a fun way to interact with your children, have some quality time, and practice math at the same time!

As we start the New Year, I would like to remind you about the importance of regular attendance and arriving to school on time. Research shows that there is a high correlation between excellent attendance and student achievement. When students arrive late, not only are they losing instructional time, but it is also disruptive to the flow of the class. In addition, good attendance and being on time establish excellent habits for life. Kindergarten begins at 8:11 a.m. and grades 1 – 5 begin at 8:21 a.m. A reminder for kindergarten parents, please make sure to accompany your children to the kindergarten yard and wait with them until their teachers pick them up.

Casino Night is coming up on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, sponsored and supported by PATH. It is one of the major fundraising events of the year. The planning committee has spent hours and hours preparing for this special evening. It's an opportunity for our parents and friends to have fun, relax, unwind, and at the same time, raise money to support the incredible extras that PATH provides for our school, such as the computer lab, art teacher, additional music teacher, and the list goes on and on. So, join us on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> for all the fun and excitement!

We are pleased to announce the addition of a new music teacher to our staff. Please give a warm Castlebay welcome to Erik Koskela. We look forward to having the gift of music once again at our school.

Have a wonderful and healthy new year!

### ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Nancy Feigelson

We are having another parent evening workshop in the near future. I will inform everyone of the date and subject when I have it. If you are interested in a particular topic, please e-mail me or leave me a note in my school mailbox. My e-mail is [nkf2587@lausd.k12.ca.us](mailto:nkf2587@lausd.k12.ca.us).

Two important seminars are coming up. The first one is in Anaheim at the convention center. The topic is "Aspergers Syndrome and High Functioning Autism." It is open to the public and is a 2-day seminar, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. I am attending Sat., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> only. If you are interested, call me at the school. The next seminar will be held in Pasadena at the Sheraton-Pasadena Hotel on E. Colorado Blvd. on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The topic is similar, but includes other eligibilities such as OCD and PDD. Both seminars are for parents as well as professionals.

The Safety Committee is updating our water supply in case of an emergency. All the 50-gallon barrels are updated and ready to be used if necessary. If you are interested in volunteering on the Safety Committee, please contact me. I could not do this without the dedicated teachers and parents on this committee. Thank you to Judy Goldstein, Susie Kimmel, Posie Kramer, Janie Nakata, and particularly, Anne Bierling and Lori Conlan; your dedication never ceases to amaze me.

Make sure to check the parent board. I am always placing information about community sponsored evenings for parents with children who have special needs. Have a great month.

### **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

Do you know that the library opens in the morning at 8:00 a.m. and remains open until 3:30 p.m. each day with the exception of Tuesday? Children and parents are invited to stop in. Parents are welcome to check out books for their children.

Classes visit the library every other week. Students are able to check out books for projects, reports and recreational reading. Please encourage your children to take care of their books and return them promptly.

A monthly flyer comes home with each student listing the many books available for adoption. This is a great way to support the Castlebay Lane Library. Thank you to the Castlebay community for their help and support.

Adult volunteers are needed to become reading partners here at Castlebay. As part of the Wonder of Reading program, volunteers are trained to work one on one with a student who needs assistance in improving their reading. If you are interested, please contact the library.

### **COMPUTER LAB UPDATE** – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the computer lab! Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade have been practicing typing using Microsoft Word to write their high frequency words. They know how to open Microsoft Word, use the shift key to make capital letters, use the backspace key to correct mistakes, and use the enter key to move to the next line. Excellent progress is being made by these little wonders. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been typing, learning to cut, copy, paste, and create basic documents. They are developing slide shows using titles, text, images, and videos in Microsoft PowerPoint. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is typing and learning how to use Microsoft Word in more advanced ways with drawing toolbars, clipart and images. They are exploring Google Earth to examine our planet's topology and geography. They will use that information to create PowerPoint presentations. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades are engaged in developing research skills and techniques for quickly finding information on the internet for a wide variety of topics. They will collect and integrate this information to make PowerPoint presentations. All of our Castlebay kids are on the leading edge of educational technology, and their future success in the increasingly technological world looks extremely bright!

### **ART UPDATE** – Cindy Brenek

Congratulations to our Castlebay Lane student finalists in the Safe & Wise Water Ways poster contest. The finalists are: Gianna Lowe, Katrina An, Brandon Lim, Kayla Ige, Ashley Pak, Eugene Park, Joel Kim, Rachel Duffy, Davis Yoshino, and Hanaa Akhtar. Thank you to everyone for participating, and congratulations!

### **CAFETERIA** – Juliana Loya

The cafeteria serves breakfast before school and again at recess times. Please do not send large bills to school with children to buy meals as the cafeteria is unable to make change. If you would like to purchase meal tickets, please stop by the cafeteria from 7:45 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. By purchasing 20 tickets, you will receive 2 extra tickets free of charge!

**P.A.T.H.** – Thea Carlson

Please join us for the next PATH meeting on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone is invited to join PATH.

“*Just Think!*” on-going throughout the school year. Your generous contributions fund ALL the extras for our students. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Mark your calendars for the *Casino Night Dinner Dance* coming up on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This promises to be a fun night. Hope to see everyone there!

**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL** – Marilyn Short

The next meeting of the Local School Leadership and the School Site Councils will be on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 p.m. We will be updating information on school activities and reviewing the School Improvement and English Learners budgets. Please join us!

The ELAC met on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Intervention program for English Learners. On January 11<sup>th</sup> the committee visited a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom and observed a writing lesson taught by our Literacy Coach, Karen Menzie.

The next meeting of the committee will be on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the needs of English Learners. We would love to see some new faces at the meetings. Everyone in the Castlebay community is welcome and encouraged to join us at the meetings!

**SCHEDULE CHANGES**

The school will be closed Monday, February 19, 2007 to observe President’s Day. The school, after school playground, and YMCA will be closed.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

2/2	PATH meeting 1:20 p.m. Library
2/5	LSLC & SSC meetings 2:45 p.m.
2/7	ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
1/29-2/9	“Valograms” on sale
2/14	“Valograms” delivered
2/19	School closed – President’s Day
2/23	“ <i>Casino Night</i> ” Dinner Dance

**THIS AND THAT**

Parents: **PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF STUDENTS AT SCHOOL BEFORE 7:50 A.M.** The school provides supervision beginning at 7:50 a.m. until school starts at 8:21 a.m. It is unsafe to leave your children at school before 7:50. Also, **the blue and red apparatus (bars) are not available for student use at any time before or after school.** Even if parents are on the yard with students, this equipment is not to be used at any time before or after school. Recess and lunch times are the only times students are permitted to use the bars. Thank you for your cooperation and help with respecting and enforcing Castlebay Lane school rules.