

# MARCH 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

It's March already! 2007 is really flying by, particularly here with our wonderful Porter Ranch winds!

Our Casino Night was a great success. A special thank you goes to the Casino Night committee and to everyone that helped out for putting together this wonderful event. Each year, I look forward to this evening. It is always such great fun, and the school benefits so much from the funds that are raised. More fun and excitement is in store for us at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Castlebay Lane Golf Tournament to be held on Monday, April 16. Golfers, get ready for a great time. It is through these events, and the "Just Think" campaign, that we are able to provide our students with the extras like the computer lab, Mr. Ignacio, our computer teacher, Miss Cindy, our art teacher, and the PE program. Thanks for your support!

We are so fortunate at Castlebay to not only have parents to support our programs, but we also have a wonderful partnership with the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council. In the past, they have purchased computers, monitors, 38 new CPUs for our computer lab, a DLP projector, and the list goes on and on. In addition, when they heard that an integral component of our new social studies program are DVDs and that our classrooms did not have DVD / VCR players, they purchased players for each of our classrooms and twenty television sets. They have truly made the support of Castlebay a priority. Words cannot express how grateful we are!

We have another special event coming up. In celebration of The Cat in the Hat's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, we will be having a Pajama Night for kindergarten through third grade on Thursday, March 1 at 6:00 pm in the library. Flyers have been sent home. It promises to be a fun evening; I hope you can join us!

Have a great March! Hang on to your hats, and don't let the wind blow you away!

### ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Nancy Feigelson

The school year is really starting to fly. Our Shake'07 Drill will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45 a.m., testing will begin the first week of May, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade culmination is on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to read flyers that come home. Information regarding anything happening at school is sent home to parents via a flyer.

Mrs. Cecelia Rando, the Assistant Principal at Frost Middle School, will come and meet with all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents about the transition to middle school. This was so well received last year that we are giving Mrs. Rando an entire evening. We know that you all have many questions. Please watch for information sent home regarding this important meeting.

The next meeting of the Complaint Response Unit/Parent Resource Network will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Grand Plaza PCSB Auditorium. The topic will be IDEA Update. IDEA is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that governs all IEPs and is the law. Write down your questions and get them answered by the experts.

The BJE's next meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. The topic is Non-Drug Approaches to Behavior and Learning Problems in Children. The speaker is Cathie-Ann Lippman, Ph.D., a psychiatrist who has been practicing alternative medicine for the past 20 years. This seminar will be held at Stephen S. Wise Temple. Please contact me regarding any of the seminars and I will provide additional information and locations, as needed. Also, check the parent bulletin board, all information is posted there.

Have a great March!

### **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

Did you know that the library is open from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. every day except Tuesday? Please stop by. Parents may borrow books to read to their children.

Classes continue to visit the library every other week. They check out books for projects, reports, and recreational reading. While in the library, many classes use the encyclopedias, both book and internet forms, to research their projects.

We hope to see you at the ***PAJAMA NIGHT IN THE LIBRARY*** on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This event is being held to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Cat in the Hat. Come read a book with your children and have some cookies and hot chocolate!

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

Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> graders have been writing words, sentences, and short paragraphs on Microsoft Word. They have also been practicing typing on the typing program to help them learn proper finger placement on the keyboard. They will be introduced to Powerpoint by opening and playing slideshows. Grades 2 – 5 have been creating Powerpoint slides using text, images, and video. They have been learning to find and use images from files on the fileserver, internet, and CD's. Students will begin moving into internet research and using online resources such as Google, Wikipedia, World Almanac, and others.

### **MUSIC UPDATE** – Erik Koskela

I'm very pleased to be at Castlebay, it's a wonderful school, and I'm excited to work with such motivated students! My program has an emphasis on good singing and rhythm. I believe that developing the internal sense of steady beat is essential to making good music at any age or skill level.

### **ART UPDATE** – Cindy Brenek

There is an annual student art show, sponsored by Arts in Education Aid Council, on Sunday, March 4, 2007. Student artists from Castlebay are: Lisa Shigenaga, Natalie Aivazian, Adrienne Moon, Rebecca Speyer, Liliana Magnanimo, Hosaam Gawad, Ryan Gluck, Liza Hoffman, Siedra Akhtar, and Tessa Magnanimo.

The art show will be held at the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center at 7222 Remmet, (818) 346-7099. The show starts at 12:30 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> grade students will be studying the artist Matisse and doing a collage with cut paper. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will study the artistic style of Mary Cassatt and learn to draw portraits realistically. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in Mrs. Fischer's and Ms. Harvey's classes will be drawing Greek urns in scratch art. Mr. Cascone's class will work on manuscripts, and Ms. Yoon's class will learn about warm and cool colors. Check the office hallway during the year to view student artwork!

**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

The PATH meeting will be on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:20 p.m. Please join us!

We hope everyone had a great time at Casino Night; your participation helps to fund so many of the extras for our children. Thank you to all the Casino Night committee members and volunteers! Your endless hard work and dedication is an inspiration to us all.

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

The next meeting of the ELAC will be on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be reviewing the requirements for reclassification from program. Join us and get your questions answered.

Both the SSC and LSLC will be meeting on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 p.m. in the lunchroom. There will be an update on school dates and activities. Please join us and be informed about what is going on at Castlebay. Please join us, everyone is always welcome!

**SCHEDULE CHANGES**

No changes scheduled this month.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

3/2	PATH meeting 1:20 p.m.
3/5	SSC & LSLC meetings 2:45 p.m.
3/7	ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
3/8	5 <sup>th</sup> grade panoramic picture
3/11	Daylight Savings Time begins (set your clocks <i>ahead</i> 1 hour at bedtime Sat. night)
3/23	Jump Rope for Heart event
3/28	Kindergarten orientation – 9:00 a.m. MPR (for parents of new enrolling students)
3/29	Grades 1 – 5 orientation – 9:00 a.m. MPR (for parents of new enrolling students only)
4/2-6	Spring Break – school closed

**THIS AND THAT**

Please obey all traffic rules. The rules and laws are in effect to protect not only other children, but **your children** as well. **The staff parking lot is not to be used to drop off or pick up children.** We have carpool lanes on Castlebay Lane and on Bowmore for your convenience. These are a much safer way to drop off children.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteer to do traffic control before and after school. You are greatly appreciated!

All information regarding school events is sent home with students via flyer, and is available in the school office.