

APRIL 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

Happy spring! This year our weather doesn't seem to know what is appropriate for each season.

Castlebay will be very busy during this last quarter of our school year. Open House will be held on April 26th. This is always an exciting and special event. The students are so proud to show off their work and their accomplishments so far this year. It's also an opportunity for you to touch base with the teachers and get an update on how your children are doing. We still have a long way to go before the end of the school year, and we want to make sure that we take advantage of every educational moment.

The California Standards Test and CAT 6 will begin on May 7th and continue through the 18th. Our Academic Performance Index is based on the results of these assessments. We, of course, want our students to perform to the best of their ability. You can help by making sure that your children get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast. It is extremely important for the students be in attendance and on time on those days. We will be penalized if a certain percentage of our students do not take the test.

Our fifth graders will be going to the Pali Mountain Institute for an overnight field trip. The Pali Institute is a science-based camp where the children will be investigating science through experiments and nature hikes, and will also be engaged in team building activities.

Also coming up is our Golf Tournament, 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 day. It's an opportunity for our parents and friends to have fun, and at the same time raise money to support the incredible extras that PATH provides for our school, such as, the computer lab, computer teacher, art teacher, and the list goes on and on. So, join us on **Monday, April 16**, for all the fun and excitement!

Just a reminder, please follow our procedures for dropping off and picking up your children. As always, safety is our greatest concern. By following the correct procedures, you will help to make the mornings and afternoons safe and expeditious. Also, please do not walk through the parking lot with your children both before and after school, and for those children who walk to school by themselves, please remind them that they are never to walk through the parking lot, as it is very, very dangerous. Serious and fatal accidents have occurred at other schools.

Thank you again for all your support.

"With children, there is sometimes no substitute for parental time – periods of unhurried, undivided attention. Often, even the best parents forget that need, or develop life-styles which provide no room for it. We find ourselves so problem-oriented as parents that we spend most of our time with our children as troubleshooters. When our child needs our help, whether to tie his shoe or to get a driver's license, we address the problem, help as best we can, and move on. But often there is no particular thing our children need from us; what they need is just for us to be there."
...Dr. Charles Paul Conn

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Nancy Feigelson

Happy Passover and Happy Easter, enjoy your break with your children and extended families.

Our Shake '07 drill will be April 17th at 10:45 a.m. Our Safety Committee has been working very diligently to make sure that our supplies are up to date. We are continuously replenishing and replacing supplies. A letter will come home one week before the drill to inform you of the proceedings.

We are trying to set up a parent evening with two Assistant Principals from Frost Middle School. The tentative date is April 17th in the library. A final confirmation notice will be sent home in your child's backpack.

The next Complaint Response Unit/Parent Resource Network meeting will be April 18th at the PCBS Auditorium at 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. The topic will be "IEP Workshop II." On April 18th from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at Stephen S. Wise Temple, the BJE will conduct a seminar titled "Autism and the Family." The speaker is Ziba Nassab, C.E.O. of Holding Hands Therapy & Diagnostics. All information regarding seminars is on the office hallway parent bulletin board.

LIBRARY – Laura Wolf

Did you know that the library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every day except Tuesday? Stop by and borrow books for your children.

The First Annual Pajama Night in the library was a great success. More than 145 people participated in this event. Parents and children snacked on cookies and milk then read together. Our principal, Mrs. Ihori, read the Dr. Seuss book "The Sneetches" to the children. Thanks to all who attended this wonderful event!

Since October, the students of Castlebay have been reading books nominated for the California Young Reader Medal. Kindergarten through third grade students have read 5 nominees in the "Primary Picture Books" category. Students in grades 4 and 5 have read three nominees in the "Picture Books for Older Readers" category. Voting is now concluding and the results will be published in the next newsletter.

Thanks for your continued support!

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the computer lab! It's been a very busy month. Kindergarten and first grade have been typing words, sentences, and short paragraphs on Microsoft word. They have also been practicing proper finger placement on the typing program. Second grade is doing introductory internet research about dinosaurs. 3rd grade is researching facts about money, and 4th grade has been researching rocks and minerals and integrating the information, images, and sounds into Powerpoint presentations. 5th grade has been researching the Revolutionary War period and creating Powerpoint presentations. 4th and 5th grade will give presentations in front of their peers starting in late March, early April.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

After Spring Break, Kindergarten, 3rd and 5th grades will be in art classes. Kindergarten will study Picasso's 3 musicians, and discuss and practice teamwork. 3rd graders will be introduced to Native American Indian Pueblo Art and 5th grade will work on cooperation and study the works of artist, Doran Gazit.

Our students entered a "Six Pillars of Character" art contest sponsored by the Woodland Hills Rotary Club and local District 1. Castlebay is proud to announce winners: Mallika Sabnani 2nd place, Lucy Eprem 3rd place, and Harry Harutyunyan, 2nd place. Winners receive a U.S. Savings Bond and a certificate from the City of Los Angeles. Congratulations to all and thank you to every student participant!

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 shop at Whole Foods on Wednesday, April 11th! They have generously volunteered to donate 5% of the store's net sales for the day to Castlebay! Please support the neighborhood businesses that help support Castlebay.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Golf Tournament!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL, LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL – Marylin Short

The next meeting of the SSC and LSLC will be on Monday, April 9th at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. This is a week later than usual due to Spring Break. We will be talking about the school budget for next year and our single plan. Please get involved and have a chance to be part of the decision-making process for the school. Join us!

The ELAC meeting will be on Wednesday, April 11th at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. This is a week later than usual due to Spring Break. We will be discussing the EL budget for next year and forming our recommendations to the School Site Council. Please become a member of our friendly group. Your input directly impacts decisions made concerning your children's school.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school and after-school playground will be closed April 2 – 6, 2007 for Spring Break. Please check with the YMCA for their holiday schedule.

The school will be on minimum day schedule: Thursday, April 26, 2007.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

4/2-6 Spring Break – school closed

4/13 PATH meeting 1:20 p.m.

4/16 Golf Tournament

4/17 Earthquake Drill – 10:45 a.m.

4/26 Minimum Day

Open House

THIS AND THAT

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

Parents: Please do not park in front of our neighbor's driveways and mailboxes, and on trash pick-up day, do not move trashcans. Please be considerate of our friends and neighbors living around the school.