

## CASTLEBAY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# MAY 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

April was a great month at Castlebay. It was wonderful to see the excellent turn-out for Open House. The rooms were beautiful and reflected all the learning and instruction that is taking place at our school. The children were so excited and proud to share their rooms and their work. Thank you for joining us!

We're heading into the home stretch and testing is just around the corner! Testing will begin on May 7<sup>th</sup> and continue through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Here are a few suggestions on how you can help your children do their best. Please make sure that they:

- Get a good night's sleep and plenty of rest.
- Eat a good breakfast each day.
- Get to school on time. Try to leave a little early so that the students don't feel rushed in the morning.

Also, although it is always important for the students to be at school each day, it is especially important during testing. Please schedule family trips, outings, and appointments so they do not interfere with your child's attendance at school. Your assistance and support is truly appreciated.

I am attaching an article entitled "How to Read With Your Child." I found that there were many excellent suggestions on how to help your children with reading at home. They might be particularly helpful during the summer break.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Castlebay Golf Tournament was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. What a fabulous event! The participants had such a great time and were so generous in contributing to our Castlebay fund. This allows us to provide so much for our students. Special thanks go to Gus Gougas, Brian and Kristy Friedman, and their entire team for coordinating and putting on this wonderful fundraiser. They spent countless hours planning and preparing not to mention all their hard work on the actual day of the event.

On a safety note, I am concerned about students who leave the campus after school to go to the ice cream truck. This presents a danger because some of the students are running across the street to go to the truck. In addition, the students are not supervised when they are off campus. According to Los Angeles Municipal Code, vendors, including ice cream trucks, are prohibited from selling within 500 feet of the school property line. The ice cream truck driver has been reminded of this and asked to move several times, however, he continues to station himself on Kirkcoln, within the 500 feet of the school. Unfortunately, he parks out of sight of the school. It would be very helpful if you would tell your children not to leave campus to go to get ice cream and also not give them money to purchase items.

Thank you again for your continued support!

### **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.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE** – Nancy Feigelson

Our "Shake '07" drill was completed on Tuesday, April 17, 2007. It was well executed and ran smoothly. Much appreciation to the parent volunteers, Lori Conlan and Anne Bierling; we would not survive without your continuous dedication to this incredibly important Safety Committee. Rest assured that we are prepared for any emergency.

Parents of students with IEPs are invited to the "Parents' Council." They meet every second Monday of the month from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Mosely-Salvatori Conference Center next to Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles. Transportation, child care, and interpreters are available. For more information on membership or to request an application, please visit the Office of the Independent Monitor website at [www.oimla.com](http://www.oimla.com) or call 213/241-1797.

***\*\* The Parents' Council is seeking parents of children eligible with Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and/or Speech and Language Impairment (SLI) to reflect the diversity of the District.***

The next Complaint Response Unit/Parent Resource Network (CRU/PRN) meeting will be held on May 9, 2007. It will be from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Grand Plaza PCBS Auditorium, 701 W. Cesar Chavez Ave., L.A. 90012. The topic will be "Family Literacy & Increasing Language & Comprehension Skills."

On May 5, 2007, Mary Mulcahey, AP from Frost Middle School, will be here at 7:00 p.m. to discuss moving from elementary school to middle school, also, how the resource specialist program and speech and language programs are conducted and collaborated at the middle school level. **This meeting is for all parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who are matriculating to middle school.** It will be held in the Multi Purpose Room at 7:00 p.m.

**LIBRARY** – Laura Wolf

The library is open from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Come in and check out books for your children. Please remind your children to take good care of their books and to return them promptly and undamaged.

The Book Fair was a great success! Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for their time and dedication.

Castlebay Lane students took part in reading books that will be awarded the California Young Reader Medal, and then chose their favorites. When classes visited the library, we read each book together. Kindergarten through third grade classes read five picture books. They chose "My Lucky Day" by Keiko Kasza as the winner. Fourth and fifth grade classes read three picture books for older readers and chose "The Cats in Krasinski Square" as their favorite. Student votes from all over California are being tallied. Stay tuned for the winner!

**COMPUTER LAB UPDATE** – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the lab. We have had a busy month with the entire 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Students have been giving oral PowerPoint presentations in front of their classmates. The students are really sharp this year, doing research, finding and downloading pictures from the internet, and adding audio to the visuals. We have started Microsoft Excel in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. They are entering data to create bar, column, and pie charts, and adding colors and pictures for more effect. K – 1<sup>st</sup> graders are continuing their typing in Microsoft Word. They are typing better and faster than ever before, moving from a few simple sentences to complete paragraphs. They are also changing font colors, font sizes, and adding clipart. Lower grades will continue typing, writing and practicing Excel, while the older students will be moving into Multimedia. We'll be editing pictures, using screen capture tools, and adding audio narration to create movie slide shows.

**ART UPDATE** – Cindy Brenek

Kindergarten students will be drawing farm animals, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be studying and making totem poles and using wood, cardboard, and glue. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be studying Van Gogh's, *Starry Night*.

**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

Teacher Appreciation Week is April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you to the Golf Tournament Committee for all the hard work, commitment, and dedication. Your efforts help to provide so many extras for our children!

The next PATH meeting will be on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:20 p.m. We will be voting on PATH Board Member positions. Please join us.

**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL** – Marylin Short

Both councils will meet on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be discussing the Single School Plan and the English Learners Advisory Committee budget. Please join us for this important meeting. Everyone is welcome; please join us and get involved in the decision-making process for our school.

**ENGLISH LEARNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The next ELAC meeting will be on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:45 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be discussing the Single School Plan and what budget recommendations to make to the School Site Council. Everyone is welcome at the meeting.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES**

The school will be closed on: Monday, May 28, 2007 in observance of Memorial Day. The school, after-school playground, and YMCA will be closed.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

4/30-5/4	Teacher Appreciation Week
5/2	ELAC meeting 8:45 a.m.
5/4	PATH meeting 1:20 p.m.
5/7-18	STAR Testing – please arrive to school on time
5/7	SSC & LSLC meetings 2:45 p.m.
5/28	School closed – Memorial Day observed

**THIS AND THAT**

Parents, with the warm weather approaching, please follow the school's dress code. Open toe/heel shoes, sandals, spaghetti strap or halter shirts, baggy jersey style shirts, short shorts, etc., are not allowed. Also, students are not allowed to wear baggy, oversized jeans that hang too low on the hips and drag on the ground, or jeans with rips, tears, or holes in them, at any time. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Please follow all traffic rules! Double parking, jaywalking, parking in the faculty parking lot, and walking through the lot, is not allowed. Please understand that the traffic rules are in place for the safety of all children, including yours. For those parents following and respecting the rules, Thank You! Thank you to all of our parent volunteers doing traffic control. We appreciate you!**