

OCTOBER 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 Ihuri

We are off to a great start! Thank you so much for your patience and cooperation as our enrollment stabilized.

As we set our goals for the new school year, the academic achievement of our students is paramount. Instruction based on the California State Content Standards is implemented in each classroom. The students are assessed regularly, and the results of those assessments drive the instruction in the classroom.

This year we are particularly focusing on written language as we implement the “Write from the Beginning” writing program. We were fortunate to be able to send a representative from each grade level to be trained as program trainers. They will be providing professional development and serve as a resource for the rest of the staff.

In addition, a new science program has been adopted by the school district. The “Full Action Science System,” FOSS, is aligned with the state content standards and provides the students with a curriculum that is based on hands-on science experiences.

Also of great importance is character development through character education. We will continue to emphasize the “Six Pillars of Character.” These universal values include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The students will be engaged in activities and lessons that focus on these values. We appreciate your support in this area.

There are a few concerns about safety. Please make sure that you and your children are using the crosswalks. Also, please **do not drop off your children in or walk through the parking lot before or after school**. This is quite hazardous. The parking lot is for staff members only. Also, please do not drop off your children before 7:50 in the morning. There is no one on the yard to supervise the students before that time. We really appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

Family Fun Day is coming up on Saturday, Oct. 13. It's always such a fun event. I hope to see you all there!

Thank you for all of your 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.

*All flyers regarding non-school and community activities are available in the school office.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Nancy Feigelson

Our school is off and running. There are so many things happening at the beginning of the year. Flyers go home with all students who have an IEP regarding community resources, meetings, and events. Also, please check the parent bulletin board for information.

The Safety Committee is now active. Any parent interested in joining us should contact me at the school. Traffic is a major issue and is discussed at every meeting, as well as the Safe School Plan, which includes the Earthquake and Shelter in Place Drills. We welcome and encourage all parents to join us. Carpool lane sign-ups will be sent home with students, so please check backpacks. Room parents are in charge of signing up every parent to participate. We thank you in advance.

We are involved in a District Validation Review which occurs every 3 years. Surveys will be sent home with students who have IEPs.

I know that this will be a great year for everyone. Should you have any questions regarding your child, please feel free to contact me, my door is always open to you.

LIBRARY – Laura Wolf

Welcome back to the library! Students are starting to visit the library with their classes this month. All classes come to the library every other week for 40 minutes. Those students who have returned their blue permission slip and bookmark will be able to check out books. Make sure your child has returned these forms.

Part of your child's responsibility is to make sure to return their library books on time and in good shape. Food, liquids, pets and younger siblings can damage books, so please help your child keep the books safe.

Save the date! On Thursday, November 15, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the library is sponsoring a Family Reading Partner Workshop. The workshop is designed to help parents inspire in their children, the love of reading. Parents will learn different strategies to foster excitement and confidence about reading.

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

First of all, I'd like to welcome all the new students and parents to Castlebay. We have a fantastic computer lab, and we are set to have a better than ever year. Last year we added brand new computers and laser printers for students to use in the computer lab. This year we upgraded to the latest edition of the Office 2007 suite. Kindergarten and 1st grades will learn and review the names of the computer parts, learn to use the keyboard and mouse, practice basic typing, and write simple documents. 2nd graders will continue typing, writing documents, and be introduced to Microsoft Powerpoint and Excel. They will also do research. 3rd – 5th graders will do more advanced research, writing, presentations, charts, graphing, and multimedia.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

Art classes will be starting very soon! Students are currently working on the Castlebay Lane fundraiser cards featuring student artwork. Castlebay Lane Students placed very well in the Latino Heritage Month Art Contest. Congratulations to Audrey Kim – 1st place and Best of Show, Christy Drummond – 2nd place, and Samantha Hong – 1st place.

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

We look forward to seeing everyone at Family Fun Day! Thank you for all your support. Your donations through our fundraisers and “*Just Think!*” provide so many of the extras for our children that would otherwise not be provided by the school district.

Get involved with P.A.T.H. We welcome all returning and new parents.

MUSIC UPDATE – Adrienne Brodsky

Please extend a warm welcome to our new music teacher, Mrs. Brodsky. We look forward to starting music classes very soon.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL – Marilyn Short

The first meeting of the school year will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. This will be a joint orientation meeting for both councils. Frida Samayoa, a parent facilitator from District 1 will be running the meeting. This orientation will give you a chance to become familiar with the workings and purpose of both groups.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 8:30 a.m., Mrs. Samayoa will return to conduct the formation of both councils and the election of officers. Both of these groups are very important at Castlebay and we hope you will come to the meetings and become a member of one or both groups.

Both councils normally meet once monthly. The English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) meets at 8:30 a.m., and the School Site Council (SSC) meets at 2:45 p.m. Please join us for these very important council meetings.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

10/2	Minimum Day – Kindergarten dismissed at 12:40 p.m. & grades 1 – 5 dismissed at 12:50 p.m.
10/16	Tuesday early dismissal time begins! Kindergarten dismissed at 1:30 p.m. & grades 1 – 5 dismissed at 1:40 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/2	SSC & ELAC orientation meeting 8:30 a.m. Back to School Night Minimum Day
10/9	SSC & ELAC elections 8:30 a.m.
10/11	Picture Day Gift Wrap fundraiser ends today
10/13	Family Fun Day
10/16	Tuesday early dismissal time begins!
10/31	Halloween Parade – time to be announced

THIS AND THAT

Now that the semester has started, we would like to review a few rules with parents. Please remember that the faculty parking lot is not to be used by parents to park, drop off, or pick up children. **This lot is for Castlebay Lane employee parking only.** There are two carpool lanes available for parents to use in the morning, and again at the end of the school day. These carpool lanes are a much safer option. Please observe all traffic signs and rules, as the school has unscheduled visits by the police during our peak traffic times. Student safety should always be your main concern.

Please be advised that the office is not permitted to disturb the classrooms after the instructional day has begun. Please tell your children if they have forgotten an item (snack, lunch, homework, etc.), to check with the office to see if you have dropped it off for them.

Please remember to follow the dress code. As a reminder, any open toe / open heel shoe, sandals, spaghetti straps, and tennis shoes with wheels (“wheelies”), are not allowed at school. When in doubt, Castlebay Lane t-shirts are always an appropriate clothing choice. Thank you for your consideration and help.