

NOVEMBER 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

November is here and it's a good time to reflect on things for which we are thankful. At Castlebay, we are so fortunate to have wonderful children, excellent teachers and staff, and caring parents.

Family Fun Day was a huge success. We had a great turn-out, and everyone had so much FUN! A special thanks to all of you who worked so hard planning and working at the event! The booths and activities were so much fun, the silent auction baskets were unbelievably beautiful, and the Haunted House was so creative and scary, too.

I also want to thank PATH for purchasing the shade cover for the lunch area. It has really made a difference in keeping the tables shady, especially on those warm days.

On November 15th we will be holding a Wonder of Reading Parent Workshop. The workshop will focus on giving parents strategies in helping their children with reading. All are welcome to attend. It will be held in the library from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Safety Alert – Please do not drop off children or walk through the parking lot. It is very unsafe. Just two years ago, a child was hit by a car and killed in the parking lot at another school in the valley. For our children's sake and safety, please stay out of the parking lot.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Enjoy your time with friends and family.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Nancy Feigelson

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away. From my home to yours, I wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving. May you share your table with your favorite family members and friends.

Our fall Emergency Drill will be during the week of November 12th. It is a lockdown drill, so once the drill has started, the school will be completely locked, and you may not enter or leave the campus. A letter will be sent home informing you of the date and procedures.

I hope some parents were able to attend Local District 1, Support Unit North's, fall 2007 Special Education Parent Training. I will inform all parents when and where meetings will be held. They are very informative and may answer questions that you have. Please make sure to check your son's / daughter's backpacks daily.

Once again, have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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

Classes are coming to the library every other week. Students are checking out books for reports and recreational reading. If your children bring a book home, please help them keep books in good condition. Food, drink, and pets can damage books.

The Family Reading Partner Workshop presented by The Wonder of Reading will take place in the library on Thursday, November 15th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. If you are interested, please contact the library.

The first Book Fair of the year will take place the week of November 26, 2007, and will be held in the library. You will be receiving more information soon.

Thanks for your support!

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the lab. All grade levels have been busy typing. Kindergarten and 1st grade have a new typing program, "Type to Learn, Jr." The lessons are geared to teach which hand to use on the left and right side of the keyboard. They learn to type letters, numbers, and punctuation. The older grades are using the original "Type to Learn" program which is more suitable for larger hands and teaches proper finger placement while typing. Grades 2-5 are using keyboard covers that obscure the keys to prevent looking at the keys while typing. We have increased weekly computer lab time for grades 3-5 to give the students extra time for more meaningful lab projects. We will begin moving into word processing practice for grades K-2, and doing research and projects for grades 3-5.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

The first graders will be working with tempera paints, studying cool colors and geometric shapes. Second grade students will study the artist, Henri Rousseau and use watercolor paints. Fourth graders will study the artist, Claes Oldenberg and make clay food sculptures.

MUSIC UPDATE – Adrienne Brodsky

The boys and girls in music classes are learning to read rhythms and identify them in song. I look forward to continuing to teach your children to sing and to foster a love of music.

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

Heartfelt thanks to the Family Fun Day volunteers for their countless hours of dedication. Our Family Fun Day was a huge success! Thank you for supporting our school!

The annual food and coat drive is coming up this month. There will be a collection box for coats in the office. More information will be sent home.

Your donations have helped fund our new shade covering for the lunch area. Thank you so much for continuing to support all the extras that help make Castlebay so special.

The November PATH meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 13th at 8:30 a.m. Please join us.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL – Marylin Short

The School Site Council met and elected officers for the 2007-08 school year. They are: Chairperson – Sandy Dorfman, Vice Chairperson – Michael Cascone, Secretary – Marylin Short, and Parliamentarian – Thea Carlson. The next meeting of the council will be on Monday, November 26th at 2:45 p.m. Please join us.

The English Learners Advisory Committee met on Monday, October 9th to form the committee and elect officers for the current school year. The officers are: Chairperson – Nazanin Amiri, Vice Chairperson – Sona Avakian, Secretary – Marylin Short, ELAC Representative – Nazanin Amiri, and Alternate – Naoko Miyanishi. The next meeting of the ELAC will be on Wednesday, November 28th at 8:30 a.m. Please join us.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be closed on Monday, November 12, 2007 in observance of Veteran's Day. The school and after-school playground will be closed. The YMCA will be open for those students enrolled in the YMCA program from 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The school will be on minimum day schedule: Wednesday, November 28, 2007.

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 school will be closed on Thursday, 11/22/07 and Friday, 11/23/07 for the Thanksgiving holiday. The school, after-school playground, and YMCA will be closed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

11/12	Veteran's Day – school closed
11/13	PATH meeting – 8:30 a.m.
11/15	Make up picture day
11/22-23	Thanksgiving – school closed
11/26	SSC meeting – 2:45 p.m.
11/26-30	Book Fair
11/28	ELAC meeting – 8:30 a.m.
11/28	Minimum Day
12/17-1/4/08	Winter Recess – school closed

THIS AND THAT

Please remember to follow all school rules. The faculty parking lot is not to be used by parents at any time, for **any** reason. Please do not use the lot to pick up or drop off students, and it is not to be used during the school day for your personal parking when you are visiting the school. Students should not be walking through the lot. All traffic rules should be obeyed. Please lead by example. When you set a good example for your children by following the rules, you will, in turn, be teaching them to respect the rules.

For your information: The Ralph's community contribution from shopping at Ralph's and using your Ralph's card, has netted Castlebay Lane \$2,800.00 this quarter alone!! Please sign up at Ralph's.

Have a happy Thanksgiving holiday with your families and friends.

*If you need a Parent-Student Handbook in a language other than English, please contact the office.

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