

CASTLEBAY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 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

The year is just flying by. It is a busy time of the year both at school and at home. All the students have completed their Unit 1 assessment in language arts, their first quarterly assessments in math, and in addition, the fourth and fifth grade students have taken the quarterly science assessment. After each assessment, the teachers meet in grade level teams to identify areas of need and strengths for their grade level, their class as a whole, as well as for individual students. By working together, the teachers are able to collaborate and discuss strategies to address the areas of need. With the talents and abilities of our teachers, they are a great resource for each other.

Thanks to the efforts of our safety committee, the traffic before school and at dismissal time is improving. We really appreciate the volunteers from each classroom who have been assisting with our carpool valet program. It has really made a difference! The safety of our students is one of our greatest concerns. Please remember to use the crosswalks and do not make u-turns. Even with our traffic volunteer program, we have had a few near misses.

On November 16, we held the Wonder of Reading “Family Reading Partner Program” workshop. The workshop was presented by Dr. Danny Brassell, and Associate Professor in the Teacher Education Department of California State University, Dominguez Hills. His presentation was very informative and a lot of fun. I heard nothing but positive comments from the parents who attended. They walked away with lots of strategies and suggestions for helping their children with reading and for developing a love of reading. A special thank you for those of you who joined us!

Have a wonderful holiday season. Enjoy those special moments with your family and friends. Rest and relax, and we will see you in 2008!

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Nancy Feigelson

Our fall Emergency “Campus Protection” Drill was held on November 14th and proceeded smoothly. Our next drill will be an earthquake drill, scheduled to be completed in the springtime. Letters will be sent home regarding the date and time.

Please mark February 21, 2008 on your calendars at 7:00 p.m. for a parent meeting to be held at school. Laura Zeff, a Behavioral Specialist, will be presenting the new Discipline Foundation Policy. Ms. Zeff is a dynamic speaker who is hands-on and welcoming. Her knowledge and techniques are becoming nationally known. I promise that it will be a wonderfully interesting and eye-opening evening. Your questions and concerns will be addressed at this meeting.

We are looking for interested parents to attend and become members of a new committee. It is the “School-Wide Positive Behavior Support” committee. There is a focus on reinforcing positive social behaviors, not dwelling on the negatives. If you are interested, please send me a note and have the office personnel and place it in my mailbox in the main office.

From my family to yours, I wish you a wonderful holiday season. May all of your wishes and dreams come true. Happy Chanukah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanzaa! And most of all, Happy and Safe New Year!

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

It is a very busy time in the library! Many holiday books are on display and ready to check out. Please stop by!

The Wonder of Reading Family Workshop, held on November 15th, was a great success. Strategies to help families read together and individually were creatively presented. It was informative and enjoyable.

The Book Fair visited the library November 26-30 and was also an awesome success. Students visited the Book Fair during the school day with their classes, at recess, and lunch. Thank you to all who supported the Book Fair by volunteering their time to help set up, pack up, and throughout the day when the Book Fair was open.

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

Greetings! Kindergarten through 2nd grade has been practicing typing and working with Microsoft Word to do practical word processing. 2nd grade made pie charts using excel spreadsheets. 3rd grade is doing research on the internet for a long-term multimedia photo story project about city wildlife. 4th and 5th graders have been doing various research projects about technology, astronomy and history.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

4th graders continue to work on the Child Abuse Prevention art contest sponsored by ICAN, and 1st grade will study the artist, William Johnson. 2nd grade will be working with paint to utilize tints and shades, and will paint using monochromatic color schemes.

Congratulations to the Calabasas Recycling Art Contest winner, Castlebay student, Catherine Gronkiewicz!

MUSIC UPDATE – Adrienne Brodsky

Students will be learning seasonal holiday songs this month. Happy Holidays!

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

There will be a PATH meeting on December 11th at 8:30 a.m. Please join us! Our annual food and coat drive will be held in December, collection boxes will be in the office. Please help others in need.

We wish everyone a very happy holiday season! See you in January.

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

Due to winter break in December, all three councils will meet on Monday, December 10th in the staff lunchroom. The ELAC meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. and the SSC and LSLC will meet at 2:45 p.m.

We hope you will attend these important council meetings. Get involved with what happens at Castlebay, become a council member!

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be on minimum day schedule: Friday, December 14, 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 school will be closed from: December 17, 2007 through January 4, 2008.

The school and after-school playground will be closed. The YMCA will be open for those students enrolled in the “Y” holiday camp. Please check with the “Y” for their days and hours.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

12/11	PATH meeting
12/14	Minimum Day Report Cards sent home
12/14/07-1/4/08	Winter Break – school closed

January 2008

1/7	School resumes
1/15	Magazine Drive
1/21	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday observed – school closed

THIS AND THAT

Once again, the office staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those parents who stop by with a kind word and a smile, and to everyone for their generosity throughout the year. We appreciate every one of you.

Best wishes for a holiday season filled with good health, happiness, and peace.

*From your Castlebay Office Staff,
Ripsime, Bea, Mara & Wendy*