

# FEBRUARY 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 New Year! It's 2008 and it seems like only yesterday that we were ringing in the new millennium. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend time with friends and family.

As we start the New Year, I would like to remind you about the importance of regular attendance and arriving to school on time. Research shows that there is a high correlation between excellent attendance and student achievement. When students arrive late, not only are they losing instructional time, but it is also disruptive to the flow of the class. In addition, good attendance and being on time establish excellent habits for life. Kindergarten begins at 8:11 a.m. and grades 1 – 5 begin at 8:21 a.m. A reminder for kindergarten parents, please make sure to accompany your children to the kindergarten yard and wait with them until their teachers pick them up.

We have a couple of special events planned for parents during the month of February. On February 4, Jaque Kampschroer, our literacy coach, will be presenting a Reading Workshop for first grade parents. Two sessions will be held, one at 8:30 a.m. and one at 3:00 p.m. In addition, on February 21, we will be holding a Parent Night focused on the District's discipline policy. It will be presented by Laura Zeff, an expert on child behavior and creating positive learning environments. More information is forthcoming.

As some of you may have already heard, Mrs. Fernandes, one of our first grade teachers, has been on a medical leave since our return from the winter break. She is an extremely dedicated teacher and misses all the children greatly. She would love to hear from both present and past students and their families. There will be a box in the office for you to drop off any cards and letters, and we'll make sure to deliver them to her. I know that this will help to keep her spirits up.

Have a wonderful and healthy new year!

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

Happy New Year and many thanks to all the parents for the wonderful holiday gifts! You are so thoughtful and generous, and I am very appreciative.

We have three very exciting "Parent Nights" planned for you. The first will be on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Laura Zeff will be the speaker. Ms. Zeff is a District Behavior Specialist. The second night will be Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Bob Spears, from the Office of Environmental Health & Safety, will speak to our school community on safety and how we can prepare our homes in the event of an emergency. The 3<sup>rd</sup> night is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The speaker will be Ms. Holly Priebe-Diaz from the Office of Human Relations, Diversity & Equity. Her lecture is titled, Bullying Problems, Prevention and Interventions. Ms. Priebe-Diaz will cover everything from simple complaints to hate-motivated crimes. She is a licensed social worker and has perfected techniques for teachers, parents and students on how to handle the issues that come along with bullying.

The featured guests are all experts in their respective fields, and are dynamic speakers. They each bring expertise and experience to share with parents. All lectures will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Multi-purpose Room. Refreshments will be served. Please join us!

### **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** – Kelly Kardos

Happy New Year and welcome back! My name is Kelly Kardos, and I am the new Library Aide at Castlebay. My main goal is to get the library up and running as soon as possible so students will be able to visit the library and check out books. Thank you for your patience during this transition period. Please stop by, say hello, and introduce yourselves! I look forward to seeing you at the library!

Just a reminder: When checking out library books, please don't "loan" them to friends. The books are checked out in your name and are your responsibility. Please take good care of all books you check out from the library.

### **COMPUTER LAB UPDATE** – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the lab. All grades will be moving into greater challenges. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are writing in Microsoft Word in addition to regular typing practice. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are making PowerPoint slides for their camouflage unit. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been working diligently on a long term (2 months) research/multimedia project about city wildlife using Photo Story. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are working on various PowerPoint projects involving earth science, astronomy and heritage.

### **ART UPDATE** – Cindy Brenek

Once again, Castlebay Lane students have placed very well in a number of art contests! Winners from the Lead Poisoning Contest are: Audrey Kim, Alana Joldersma, Hannah Choe, Tessa Weinberg, Blake Mann, and Carleton Zhao. The Recycling Contest winner is: Catherine Gronkiewicz. The Boating Safety Contest winner is Joshua Kim and the finalists are: Courtney Holl, Gianna Katurich, and Claire Koziol. Congratulations to all participants!

This month, 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will be studying Monet's *Garden*. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in Mrs. Fischer's class will be making urns and Mr. Cascone's class will be studying impressionist artists.

### **MUSIC UPDATE** – Adrienne Brodsky

Welcome back! It is hard to believe that one semester is over and another is ready to begin. The fall semester music classes will end the week of January 28<sup>th</sup> and the spring semester classes will begin the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February. Classes who have not had music in the fall semester will receive music instruction in the spring. I look forward to sharing the joy of music with your children.

### **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

Thank you to everyone for participating in the Magazine Drive! Please sign up for the Ralph's Community Partner program. Castlebay has several fund raising programs in place that require no extra time or purchases! We recycle cell phones and printer cartridges, collect Box Tops, and participate in Ralph's Community Partner program.

**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL** – Marylin Short

The English Learners Advisory Committee met in January and, in anticipation of writing our new school plan, discussed our Needs Assessment. The next ELAC meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. Everyone is welcome.

The School Site Council and Local Leadership Councils met in January and discussed upcoming events and plans for writing our new School Plan. The joint meeting of the SSC and LSLC will be on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. Please join us! Get involved with the decision-making process at your child's school!

**SCHEDULE CHANGES**

The school will be closed on: Monday, February 18, 2008 in observance of President's Day. The school, after school playground, and YMCA will be closed.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

1/30-2/12	Valograms on sale
2/4	Parent meeting w/ Literacy Coach, Jaque Kampschroer – <b>1<sup>st</sup> graders only</b> 8:30 a.m. (1 hour) or 3:00 p.m. (1 hour)
2/12	PATH meeting – 8:30 a.m.
2/12	Valogram sale ends
2/14	Valograms delivered
2/18	School closed – President's Day
2/21	Parent Night with Laura Zeff – New Discipline Policy 7:00 p.m.
3/4	Parent Night with Bob Spears – Emergency Preparedness 7:00 p.m.
3/26	New student orientation 9:00 a.m. – Kindergarten
4/1	Parent Night with Holly Priebe-Diaz – Bullying 7:00 p.m.
4/4	New student orientation 9:00 a.m. – Grades 1 – 5

**THIS AND THAT**

Thank you to all the parents volunteering to help with traffic control before and after school. Our children's safety should always be of the utmost concern. Volunteers are such a vitally important part of our school community. Thank you for all you do!

Please be sure to follow the school's rules and dress code policies. We have been seeing an increasing number of students coming to school dressed in clothing that violates the dress code. Remember, "wheelies," jeans with torn knees (or any other area), spaghetti strap shirts, and pants that are over-sized for the size of the student, are not allowed at school. This is just a few of the items that have been seen on campus lately. Please dress your children appropriately for school. If you are unsure about what to wear, a good (and always appropriate) choice would be nice fitting pants and a Castlebay logo t-shirt! Thank you for your help.

Students who are sick should not be coming to school. If your child has a fever, is sneezing, coughing, etc., please keep him/her at home. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours, without the help of fever-reducing medication (Tylenol, aspirin, Advil, etc.), before they return to school. Any child missing 5 days of school due to illness must have a doctor's note to return.

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