

APRIL NEWSLETTER

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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

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring break. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we'll have long, bright sunny days ahead of us!

April is a very busy month... Open House will be held on April 23rd. This is always an exciting and special event. The students are so proud to show off their work and their accomplishments so far this year. It's also an opportunity for you to touch base with the teachers and get an update on how your children are doing. We still have a long way to go before the end of the school year, and we want to make sure that we take advantage of every educational moment.

This year at Open House, there will be many other activities. In addition to our usual book fair, we will have a silent auction to be held in the Multi-Purpose Room, and prior to the classroom visitations, we will hold a live auction and a preview of a Magic Show that will be presented in May as a fundraiser.

The California Standards Test and CAT 6 will begin on May 12 and continue through the 23rd. Our Academic Performance Index is based on the results of these assessments. We, of course, want our students to perform to the best of their ability. You can help by making sure that your children get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast. It is extremely important for the students to be in attendance and on time on those days. We will be penalized if a certain percentage of our students do not take the test.

Our fifth graders will be going to Pali Mountain Institute for an overnight field trip on April 9th through the 11th. Pali Institute is a science-based camp where the children will be investigating science through experiments and nature hikes, and will also be engaged in team building activities.

Just a reminder, please follow our procedures for dropping off and picking up your children. As always, safety is our greatest concern. By following the correct procedures, you will help to make the mornings and afternoons safe and expeditious. Also, please do not walk through the parking lot with your children both before and after school, and for those children who walk to school by themselves, please remind them that they are never to walk through the parking lot. It is very, very dangerous and serious and fatal accidents have occurred at other schools.

On another safety note, please talk to your children about not going to the ice cream truck after school. Vendors are not allowed to be within 500 feet of the school. However, the ice cream man is parking within the 500 feet, around the corner from the school on Kirkcolm where he cannot be seen. Unfortunately, the students are running across the street right after school, when the traffic is at its peak, to buy things from him. In addition to the safety concern, he is selling some items that are really inappropriate for children to buy. We are attempting to monitor him and keep him from parking within 500 feet of the school, but it would very helpful if you would reinforce the message at home.

Thank you again for all your support.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Nancy Feigelson
Spring is here and it is absolutely beautiful outside. Enjoy it!

Our parent evening previously scheduled for April 1st has been cancelled. I am trying to get Ms. Holly Priebe-Diaz to attend and speak to us about bullying at the May 13th PATH meeting. I will keep you posted. Look for a flyer that will come home in your child's backpack. I want to thank all of the parents who were able to attend the other parent evenings.

Our Shake '08 drill will be held on either April 7th or 14th. Details will be sent home for parents. We are asking for parent volunteers for this important committee. The Safety Committee meets after school once monthly in the beginning of the school year, and then every other month beginning in January. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us.

An open forum evening has been arranged and will be held at Granada Hills High School on April 16th at 6:15 p.m. The Assistant Principal in charge of Special Education, and representatives from all of the neighboring middle schools, will be in attendance and be available to speak to parents. Parents will be able to meet with the assistant principals and ask questions regarding your child and their IEP. Please make a note of the date. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me. My door is always open.

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

- The library is open at 8:00 a.m. and stays open after school every day except Tuesday until 3:15 p.m.
- The Book Fair will be held in the library April 18th – 25th.

Students continue to learn library etiquette and are familiarizing themselves with the different sections of the library.

A good tip to help reduce the risk of misplacing a book(s) is to find one safe and consistent place in your home to keep borrowed books. Encourage them to decorate a sign to remind them of this place until it is time to return the books.

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the computer lab. We have been very busy with writing, research, and PowerPoint presentations. This year's 4th grade science project PowerPoint presentations are top notch, and the students are presenting their projects in front of their peers. Fifth graders will be working on biographical research and presentations.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

Third graders are working on Native American pueblos using pastels and making and painting clay bowls designed with a Southwestern motif. Fifth grade classes are studying the artist, M. C. Escher and his tessellations, and will re-create using colored paper. Kindergarten classes will re-create Pablo Picasso's painting, "The 3 Musicians," with tissue paper and glue.

MUSIC UPDATE – Adrienne Brodsky

The music program continues to progress. The reading of rhythms and learning new folk dances help students to improve their musical skills. We are having a wonderful time!

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 10:30 a.m. By purchasing 20 tickets, you will receive 2 extra tickets free of charge!

P.A.T.H. – Thea Carlson

Please get involved with P.A.T.H.! PATH meetings are held monthly, and we are currently accepting PATH board nominations. Please join us.

Just a reminder that our *Shopping for Students* at Simi Valley Town Center will end on April 30th. Extra flyers are available in the office. Also, mark your calendars for a very exciting event coming up on May 31st. Castlebay will be hosting a professional magic show! Tickets will go on sale in April, details to follow.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL – Marilyn Short

The English Learners Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 16th at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. The council will be going over the Language Census for the 2007-2008 school year.

The School Site and Local School Leadership Councils will meet together on Monday, April 21st at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. The SSC will be going over the budget for the 2008 and 2009 school years. The LSLC will be looking at dates for the next school year to plan school events. Please join us for these very important council meetings.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be on **minimum day schedule**: Wednesday, April 23, 2008.

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 YMCA will care for children enrolled in the “Y” program until 6:30 p.m. The after-school playground will be open until 4:10 p.m. **Please make arrangements for your children to be picked up from school promptly at 4:10. No students will be permitted to remain on campus after 4:10 p.m.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

4/4	Orientation Grades 1 – 5 (students new to Castlebay) – 9:00 a.m.
4/4	Color Me Mine Fundraiser Night 3:00 – 10:00 p.m.
4/8	PATH meeting 8:30 a.m.
4/9-11	5 th grade to Pali Mt. Camp
4/15	Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser Night 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.
4/16	ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
4/18	5 th grade panoramic picture 1:00 p.m.
4/18-25	Book Fair
4/21	SSC & LSLC meetings 2:45 p.m.
4/23	Minimum Day
4/23	Open House – information to follow

THIS AND THAT

Please be sure that students are dressed appropriately for school. Now that the weather is getting warmer, we have been seeing an increase in clothing that is not permitted. Spaghetti strap shirts, short shorts, loose fitting sports jerseys, baggy over-sized pants, any pants or jeans with torn knees (or any other area), open toe/heel shoes, slip-ons, jellies, Crocs, sandals, and wheelies (tennis shoes with wheels), are just a few of the items that are not permitted at school. When in doubt, the School Dress Code is a good reference. Every student received a copy and returned a signature page, signed by both the student and parent, acknowledging that the school rules and dress code would be followed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check out our new, improved website! www.castlebaylane.com Everything you need to know is on this site!

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