

OCTOBER 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

It's October and we've been back to school for a month already! We've gotten off to a great start and students haven't skipped a beat. 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, school wide, we will continue focusing on written language through the "Write from the Beginning" writing program that we began implementing last year. Already, we have noticed the strides that students made last year by how well they are prepared to write this year. We were fortunate to have been able to send one representative from each grade level to be trained as program trainers. They have and will continue to provide on-going professional development and serve as a resource for the rest of the staff.

We will also continue to emphasize the importance of character development through character education and 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.

Back to School Night will be held on October 7. This is an adult evening when the teachers will be explaining the standards based curriculum in all subject areas as well as the academic and behavioral expectations for their students.

Family Fun Day is coming up on Saturday, Oct. 11. This is a great fundraiser for our school as well as a wonderful opportunity to have fun with your family! 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.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Karen Richmond

I am delighted to join the Castlebay Lane community. I have been an LAUSD educator for 20 years serving as teacher, instructional coach, and assistant principal. I will give 110% to focus on education, safety, communication and positive environments for our Castlebay Lane students, staff members and families. I look forward to a wonderful school year filled with learning, friendship and lots of smiles. I have met many terrific people here at Castlebay Lane and I want to thank everyone for giving me such a warm welcome.

LIBRARY – Kelly Kardos

Welcome new and returning students! I hope your summer was full of fun and exciting adventures!

Students are enjoying the library before and after school and at recess. We continue to practice our very best library behavior with emphasis on respect for our friends, teachers and for the books in our rich library collection. My goal is to create a quiet and pleasant environment for our students.

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the lab. Typing practice leads off the year in all grades. During the year we will cover a variety of computer topics including Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Internet Explorer, PhotoStory, MovieMaker, and more. The curriculum is designed to develop a broad knowledge of computing skills. We will do internet research, write poems, letters and essays, create charts, graphs and presentations, and have fun combining these skills.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

1st grade students are studying the artist Carl Ealy and will be making a dragonfly illustration. 2nd grade is studying the artist Jacob Lawrence and working on a unit involving sharing stories. The 4th graders will study the artist Wayne Theibaud and his bakery art.

MUSIC UPDATE – Adrienne Brodsky

Music classes are just beginning for kindergarten and 5th grade. We look forward to a very successful year, filled with 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 10:30 a.m. By purchasing 20 tickets, you will receive 2 extra tickets free of charge!

P.A.T.H. – Christi Ebenhoch

Save the date! Family Fun Day will be on October 11th from 11:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. Take a look at our new Corporate Sponsorships for Castlebay. This is a great way to help with our *Just Think!* campaign. New Castlebay Spirit Wear is now available. Place your orders! Forms are available in the school office.

PATH meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the YMCA bungalow. Please get involved and join us!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL – Marilyn Short

The first meeting of the School Site Council and the English Learners Advisory Committee will be on Wednesday, October 1st at 8:30 a.m. This will be a joint council orientation meeting to inform everyone of the purpose and workings of both groups.

The second meeting of the two groups will be on Tuesday, October 7th to form the council and committee and elect officers for each group.

Please join us at both meetings and help us continue the work of both groups.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

***The school will be on early dismissal time most Tuesdays from October 14, 2008 through June 2, 2009.** Tuesdays are the only early dismissal day on a weekly basis.

Kindergarten will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. and grades 1 – 5 will be dismissed at 1:40 p.m. Please mark your calendars and make any necessary carpool and transportation arrangements.

A notice has been sent home with all students listing every early Tuesday early dismissal date.

***The school will be closed on Thursday, October 9, 2008.** The school and after-school playground will be closed. The YMCA will be open for those students enrolled in the “Y” program.

***The school will be on Minimum Day schedule: Tuesday, October 7, 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.

Reminder: Tonight is Back to School Night. This is a parents-only program. Please refer to the Back to School Night flyer for details.

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/1	SSC & ELAC meetings 8:30 a.m.
10/7	Minimum Day Back to School Night (parents only)
10/9	School closed
10/11	Family Fun Day – 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
10/14	PATH meeting 8:30 a.m. – YMCA bungalow
10/14	Early Tuesday dismissal begins
10/16	Picture Day
10/29-11/13	Gift Wrap sale

THIS AND THAT

Please do not use the faculty parking lot to drop off children, pick up children, or for any other reason during the day. If you are coming onto the school grounds during the day, please find parking on the street. The parking lot is not to be used at any time, for any reason. It is for staff parking only.

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

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