

NOVEMBER 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

Traditionally, November is the time of the year when we stop to think about the things for which we are thankful. The recent fires have made me so appreciative of the community in which we live. I am so grateful to the firefighters, the law enforcement officers, and all of the First Responders who worked so tirelessly to save our lives and our homes. They were absolutely remarkable.

Also, at Castlebay, we have so much for which to give thanks. All of our teachers and staff members did an amazing job. Some were asked to jump right into action at our gates and manning the office. Others stayed with the children and made sure that they felt safe and secure, which was crucial and important. So many staff members went to the evacuation center at Canoga Park High School to assist with supervision and to make sure that our children had a friendly, familiar face to greet them when they got off the bus. Whatever job they were asked to do, they did without hesitation! What a team!

Special thanks to all the parents who volunteered to help out! You helped at the gates, retrieved students, assisted in the office; the list goes on and on. Some of you even returned to school to help after picking up your own children. Again, you just did whatever was needed.

Most of all, I give thanks for our unbelievably special children who stayed calm, followed directions, and were the most responsible individuals that they could possibly be. It was touching to see the older children taking the younger ones by the hand and just taking care of them. It was truly the shining moment for the Castlebay Kids!

On November 13, we will be conducting our Fall Emergency Drill. After the fire, we made some revisions to our safety procedures and will be implementing some of them during the drill. We welcome any parents who would like to participate.

Back to School Night was a wonderful evening. I was happy to see so many of you in attendance. I'm sure that you found the teachers' presentations very informative and helpful. We are so fortunate at Castlebay that the teachers, parents, and staff work together as a team to help our students succeed.

I want to thank those of you who have volunteered to help with the traffic in the morning and afternoon. It makes such a difference in keeping the carpool lane flowing. We can all help our volunteers by treating them with respect and following their directions. They're just trying to do the best that they can to help the school.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. It really is a time to appreciate and spend time with friends and family. On a personal note, I am very thankful for having the opportunity to be the principal of such a wonderful school.

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

Maintaining a safe school site is one of my key responsibilities as Assistant Principal at Castlebay, and we can all agree it is an important focus for our school, staff, families and community. Castlebay Lane adheres to LAUSD safety policies, drills and procedures. We maintain and update a detailed Safe School Plan. We have an active Safety Committee comprised of faculty members, parents and administrators. We work diligently to make sure that all students and staff are prepared for an emergency.

Regular drills are part of Castlebay Lane activities. We conduct the following types of drills: Fire Drill, Duck, Cover and Hold Drill, Protected Campus Drill, Take Cover Drill, and Earthquake or Emergency Drill. We ask parents to make sure that their students actively participate and take these drills seriously. These drills help to make our school the safest place for students during an emergency.

In addition to conducting regular drills, we stock emergency supplies including water, food, first aid and search and rescue items. These supplies are checked and inspected regularly. If you are interested in learning more about our Safety Committee, please contact me. Our next Emergency Drill will take place on November 13, 2008. If you are interested in participating in that drill, please complete and return the tear-off on the Emergency Drill letter that was sent home on October 29, 2008.

LIBRARY – Kelly Kardos

We are in full swing with classroom visits. Classrooms visit the library every other week. Students can check books out for 2 weeks and may renew their book anytime to avoid an overdue notice. 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, patience, and using quiet voices. My goal is to create a quiet and pleasant environment for our students.

Mark your calendars! The Book Fair is scheduled for November 17-21.

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the computer lab. We are wrapping up our Excel lessons in grades 2 – 5. The students have learned excel vocabulary, how to enter data and values, how to use merge and center, and how to create bar, line, and pie charts. We have learned how to format charts, add titles, calculate totals and correctly format printing for portrait and landscape. We are going to concentrate on improving typing skills in all grades as we prepare for a season of writing acrostics, poems, and reports.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

1st graders are painting using warm colors and organic shapes. The 2nd grade students are using oil pastels and studying the artist Kelly Reemsten. 4th grade students will be learning about the elements of art.

MUSIC UPDATE – Adrienne Brodsky

The students in music classes have been enjoying songs and activities pertaining to the Halloween season. We have been signing, dancing and having lots of fun!

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

The next PATH meeting will be on November 18th at 8:30 a.m. in the YMCA bungalow, please join us. Plan ahead for the next cook's night out fundraiser on November 20th at Baja Fresh. The Book Fair will be held November 17th – 21st in the library. If you have a child in 5th grade, please volunteer to help with the 5th grade's upcoming activities. Please check "The Pathways" monthly for information.

The Innisbrook Gift Wrap fundraiser is underway. Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000 for our students at Castlebay. Thank you for your on-going participation in school fundraising events!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL – Marilyn Short

The next meeting of the ELAC will be on Wednesday, November 26th at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be talking about the importance of school attendance and receiving an update of Castlebay activities. Please join us!

The next meeting of the School Site Council will be on Monday, November 24th at 2:45 p.m. We will be receiving an update about current and future activities. Please join us for this very important meeting.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 in observance of Veteran's Day.

The school and after-school playground will be closed. The YMCA will be open for students enrolled in the "Y" program.

The school will be on minimum day schedule: Wednesday, November 19, 2008.

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, November 27 and Friday, November 28, 2008 for the

Thanksgiving holiday. The school, after-school playground, and YMCA will be closed both days.

DATES TO REMEMBER

11/2	Daylight Savings Time ends / turn clocks BACK 1 hour Saturday night at bedtime
11/11	Veteran's Day – School closed
11/13	Emergency Drill 10:45 a.m.
11/17-21	Book Fair
11/18	PATH meeting 8:30 a.m.
11/19	Minimum Day
11/20	Baja Fresh fundraiser 11 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
11/21	School picture make-up day
11/24	SSC meeting 2:45 p.m.
11/26	ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
11/27-28	Thanksgiving – School closed

THIS AND THAT

There has been a steady increase in forgotten items being dropped off in the office. Please make sure that your child has everything for school in the morning. This includes snack, lunch, lunch money or tickets, homework, glasses, projects, etc. The office is not able to disrupt the classrooms during the instructional portion of the day. It is the responsibility of the parents and children to see that everything necessary for the day is with the child when they arrive at school. The office will no longer be calling students to pick up forgotten items. Please let your children know that if they forgot anything at home, to check in the office to see if a parent has dropped it off for them.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

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