

FEBRUARY 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

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend time with friends and family. I was able to rest and relax and have returned to school rejuvenated and ready to go. It's great to see the children again. Many of them have grown so much during the break.

I'm often asked by parents how they can help their children at home. One of the best ways to help them in reading is to set up a time each night to read with them. You can have your children read to you or you can take turns reading. Children love to be read to, however, you also want to make sure that they have an opportunity to read aloud as well. This helps them to build fluency. Having conversations about what you've read helps with comprehension. Just make sure that this is a stress-free and relaxing time where you can enjoy reading with your children. It is special, quality time that you can spend with your children, and it helps them to develop a love of reading. I am attaching a list of suggestions for parents on helping your children with reading.

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 to go to the classroom.

Please remember our traffic rules. We had a very near miss recently. One of our parents was crossing in the middle of the street with his child after school and was actually hit by a car. Fortunately, the car was going very slowly, and they were not injured. However, it could have been quite disastrous. Please do not cross in the middle of the street or through the parking lot.

Thank you very much for your support in our recent campaign to save the P.E. program. Thanks to your generosity, we should be able to continue the YMCA P.E. program through June. A special thank you to the parents who coordinated the campaign!

Have a wonderful and healthy 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.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – Karen Richmond

Please join me in welcoming Shauna Bolick to Castlebay Lane. Ms. Bolick will work with our students as a speech and language pathologist. She is a graduate of CSUN and the proud mother of 4 children. Ms. Bolick has seen the benefits speech pathology can provide children and is looking forward to making a positive difference with our Castlebay Lane students. If any family would like to donate gently used toys or games (Jenga, Spill the Beans, Connect Four, etc.) to our speech and language program it would be greatly appreciated. Just send them to our main office and we will put them to an educational use.

LIBRARY – Kelly Kardos

The library is experiencing a very high volume of lost and damaged books. I would like to remind every parent and student the importance of returning your books in a timely manner. Please keep your books in a safe place away from younger siblings and away from any liquid that can damage them. Parents and students have all signed a textbook/library book responsibility form at the beginning of the school year and are responsible for paying the replacement cost of damaged or lost books. Any student needing to pay replacement fees will lose the privilege of checking out library books until the replacement charge has been paid. All books need to be valued so they are available for every student to enjoy. Thank you for your help.

The library will be hosting events in celebration of Literacy Week in conjunction with ***Read Across America*** the week of March 2 – 6.

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

The students are very busy in the computer lab. Kindergarten and 1st grade students will continue with their typing practice. The 2nd graders are working on a PowerPoint presentation using camouflage and adding videos. 3rd grade is finishing a unit on city wildlife using pictures and voice narration for a slideshow presentation. The 4th graders are learning to use an animation program and the 5th grade students are continuing their astronomy PowerPoint presentations.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

The first graders will be studying the artist William Johnson. Artwork will tie into an Open Court unit on games. Second grade students will study the artist Georgia O'Keefe and will tie artwork into the Open Court unit on fossils. The fourth graders will be making Greek urns and become involved in an upcoming art contest.

MUSIC UPDATE – Adrienne Brodsky

Beginning the second week of February, music teachers will be seeing students who did not receive music instruction last semester. We look forward to meeting our new group of students!

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

Please join us for the PATH meeting on Tuesday, 2/10 at 8:30 a.m. All Castlebay parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend. Get involved!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – Marylin Short

The next meeting of the SSC and LSLC will take place on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be discussing the budget for the remainder of the current school year and reviewing dates for upcoming activities. Please join us.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the ELAC will take place on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be discussing the Needs Assessment for the 2009-2010 school year. Please join us.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2009 in observance of Presidents' Day. The school, after school playground, and YMCA will be closed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2/10 PATH meeting 8:30 a.m.
2/12 Creative Leap fundraiser 5-7 p.m.
2/16 Presidents' Day – school closed
2/18 ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
2/23 SSC & LSLC meetings 2:45 p.m.
2/24 Maria's Italian Kitchen fundraiser 5-7 p.m.

THIS AND THAT

With the cold and flu season upon us, please remember that students with fevers need to be fever-free for 24 hours without the help of fever-reducing medications before returning to school. Students returning to school need to bring a note to their teacher explaining the absence.

If you have not returned your emergency cards, please do so ASAP.

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

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