

MARCH 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

March is “marching” in with a little push from our Porter Ranch winds! This year has provided a great connection for our first graders and their weather unit. We've had rain, wind, snow, hail, and some sunny days thrown in as well.

As we review our students' progress in math throughout the grade levels, we've noticed that in general many of our students need to strengthen their knowledge of basic math skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. It is imperative that the students have a strong foundation, because all of the math concepts are built on these skills. To master them takes time and repetition. You can really help by practicing these basic facts at home and can play card games like 21 or practice fact families.

Examples of Fact Families:

Addition and Subtraction

$$7 + 8 = 15$$

$$8 + 7 = 15$$

$$15 - 7 = 8$$

$$15 - 8 = 7$$

Multiplication and Division

4, 6, and 24

$$4 \times 6 = 24$$

$$6 \times 4 = 24$$

$$24 \div 4 = 6$$

$$24 \div 6 = 4$$

Two very special events are coming up in April. We will have a Jog-a-Thon on April 2. All the proceeds from the event will go towards our YMCA PE program. Also, on Saturday, April 25 we will be presenting our first Castlebay Talent Show. Save the dates.

These are difficult times for many in our Castlebay family. Often children display their insecurities through a change in their behavior. Please let us know if your children are having difficulties so that we can provide support for them.

Have a good month and thank you for your continued 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

Providing engaging and rigorous instruction in a safe environment for **all** students is a key focus for our learning community at Castlebay Lane Elementary School. Many people work together in our school to ensure that our students with Individualized Education Programs fully access the curriculum and participate in all school activities. Classroom teachers, resource program teachers, paraprofessionals (aides), administrators and all Designated Instructional Service providers collaborate and dedicate their work to benefit our students. We appreciate all their hard work and the support they give our students every day.

LIBRARY – Kelly Kardos

- Students continue visiting the library with their classes, before and after school and at recess.
- The spring book fair is slated for the end of April. If you are interested in coordinating this event please e-mail me for details. kak1996@lausd.net Volunteers are needed to make it a successful event by helping with classroom visits, assisting students at recess, lunch and after school. Please stop by the library if you are interested in signing up to help.
- March 9-13 is Literacy Week. Remember, reading is a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

The kindergarten students will create artwork depicting the four seasons. 3rd graders will study the artist, Lichtenstein, and create artwork tying into a unit on imagination. The 5th grade students will be studying a unit on health and working on a child abuse prevention poster contest.

I'm proud to announce the winners of the annual "What I like best about my school" poster contest. The entries were students from kindergarten through 2nd grade. The winners are:

- 1st place – Abigail Endler
- 2nd place – Jonathan Ro
- 3rd place – Joyce Li

Congratulation to all!

MUSIC UPDATE – Adrienne Brodsky

New classes for music have just begun. Students will be learning songs and dances to celebrate spring.

COMPUTER LAB – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the computer lab. Lots of things are happening in the lab; rocks and minerals Powerpoint, space science research, money and banking research, camouflage and, of course, typing practice.

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!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – Marilyn Short

The next meeting of the SSC and LSLC will be on Monday, March 23rd at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. The SSC will be discussing the school Improvement budget for next year and the LSLC will be reviewing dates for school activities. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

ENGLISH LEARNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the ELAC will be on Wednesday, March 25th at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be discussing our school plan. Please join us.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

On Tuesday, March 3rd the school will not be dismissed early. We will be on a regular bell schedule, kindergarten dismissed at 2:30 and grades 1-5 dismissed at 2:40.

The school will be on minimum day schedule: Wednesday, March 18, 2009.

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 5:30 p.m. Please make arrangements for your children to be picked up from school promptly by 5:30. No students will be permitted to remain on campus after 5:30 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

3/3 **Regular dismissal time – Kindergarten @ 2:30 and Grades 1-5 @ 2:40**

3/5 Ameci Pizza fundraiser – all day

3/9-13 Literacy Week

3/18 **Minimum Day**

3/18 Souplantation fundraiser 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

3/21 Community Awareness project – Graffiti removal @ Limekiln Cyn. 8 a.m. – 12 noon

3/24 “Castlebay’s Got Talent” auditions at lunch and after school

3/26 Kindergarten Orientation 9:00 a.m.

3/27 Grades 1 – 5 Orientation 9:00 a.m. (students new to Castlebay only)

April

4/2 Jog-A-Thon

4/6-10 Spring Break – school closed

4/15-17 Pali Camp

4/25 “Castlebay’s Got Talent” show at 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

4/30 Open House

THIS AND THAT

Parents: There are several items of which parents need to be reminded:

- Please be advised that parents may not arrive after 2:10 p.m. to volunteer in classrooms.
- No hot beverages are allowed on campus. Please do not bring hot beverages with you to be consumed in classrooms either for yourselves or for teachers.
- Please make sure students are dressed appropriately for school in accordance with the school’s dress code.
- Lastly, please **do not use the faculty parking lot** at any time, for any reason.

Our safety committee has noticed parents leaving cars unlocked with purses and other personal items sitting on the car seat, and young children left unattended in the car while picking up children at school. Please be aware, although this is a safe neighborhood and we have very few problems, this is never a good idea and we discourage this practice.

*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!