

CASTLEBAY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# 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 Ithori

Happy spring! Hopefully, the March winds that came in like a lion will be leaving us in April!

Castlebay will be very busy during this last quarter of our school year. Open House will be held on April 30th. This is always an exciting and special event. The students are so proud to show off their work and 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. I know that many parents like to visit classrooms for the following grade level. However, please remember that the main purpose of Open House is to give an opportunity for the current students and their parents to visit the classroom. It would be greatly appreciated if you would respect their time with the teacher.

The California Standards Test will begin on May 11th and continue through the 22nd. This year, first grade will not be tested. 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 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.

On April 2, we will be holding our first annual Jog-a-thon. The proceeds from this event will go towards funding our YMCA P.E. program. With the health issues that are facing today's youth, this is a perfect way to get involved in a great physical fitness activity, while at the same time, making sure that we will be promoting healthy lifestyles in the upcoming school year.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, our fifth graders will be going to Pali Mountain Institute for an overnight field trip. They will be returning on the 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 also a Vehicle Code violation to load or unload students in the parking lot. It is very, very dangerous and serious and fatal accidents have occurred at other schools.

I would like to thank our wonderful traffic volunteers who have unselfishly committed to give their time to manning the carpool lane and ensuring the safety of all our students. While the vast majority of our parents are extremely appreciative of their efforts, there are a few who have been verbally abusive when reminded to not cross in the middle of the street and to use the crosswalk, or to follow our carpool rules. Please remember that when you are with your children you are serving as a role model for appropriate behavior. I know that we all want our children to grow up to be responsible, respectful citizens.

Have a wonderful spring break and thank you again for all your support.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE** – Karen Richmond

On Tuesday, April 21, 2009 we will complete the District-wide Earthquake Exercise. This Spring 2009 "SHAKE" Earthquake Exercise will provide an opportunity for a simulated disaster response and an evaluation of our school's emergency procedures plan. The exercise will begin at 10:40 a.m. Parents are welcome to participate as we practice utilizing our new Request Gate and request procedures. If you are interested in participating, please complete and return the tear-off on the flier that will be sent home on April 13<sup>th</sup>. All families are encouraged to put sunscreen on their children and send students with hats on the day of the exercise.

**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

Students continue visiting the library with their classes, before and after school, and at recess.

The spring book fair is set for April 27 – May 1. If you are interested in helping chair or volunteering at this event, please e-mail me at [kak1996@lausd.net](mailto:kak1996@lausd.net) for details. Volunteers are needed to help make the book fair successful by helping with classroom visits, assisting students at recess, lunch, after school, and setting up and tearing down the book fair. All purchases benefit the library. Please stop by the library if you have any questions or are interested in signing up to volunteer. Please visit our school's website for more information.

**ART UPDATE** – Cindy Brenek

Kindergarten students will be finishing their Jasper Johns artwork, which relates to literacy week. They will be learning about horizontal and vertical concepts and primary colors. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will study the artist, Robert Davidson, and work on a northwest coast art project. 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes will create a Mexican tin art project.

The following Castlebay students submitted posters for the Child Abuse Prevention Poster Contest and were selected as finalists: Mayumi Herrera, Mariah York, Marina Hanna, Justin Kim, Sandeep Dubb, and Allison Kuo. Congratulations to everyone for their great work!

**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 mark your calendars for upcoming events in May! Castlebay will be presenting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Magic Show. Also in May, there will be a Poolside Poker-Texas Hold'em Tournament and Poolside Ladies Night hosted at Porter Valley Country Club. Information will be sent home with students soon!

**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL** – Marilyn Short

Both groups will meet on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. The School Site Council will be talking about the budget for next year and the Local School Leadership Council will be finalizing dates for the rest of the school year. Everyone is welcome. Join us!

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS COUNCIL**

The next meeting of the English Learners Advisory Council will be on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be looking over the by-laws and making any revisions necessary. Please join us.

### **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

◦ **The school will be closed for Spring Break from April 6 – 10, 2009.**

The school and after-school playground will be closed. The YMCA will be open. Please check with the “Y” for their holiday program schedule.

**School resumes Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

◦ **The school will be on minimum day schedule: Thursday, April 30, 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**

4/2	Jog-a-thon
4/6-10	Spring Break – school closed
4/6	Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser 3-9 p.m.
4/13	School resumes
4/14	PATH meeting
4/20	Jamba Juice fundraiser 6:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. SSC & LSLC meetings 2:45 p.m.
4/22	ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
4/25	Castlebay’s Got Talent – showtimes 1:30 & 4:30
4/30	Minimum Day Open House

### **THIS AND THAT**

With spring weather coming, please remember to dress children appropriately and in accordance with the school’s dress code. Spaghetti straps, sleeveless jersey shirts, and sandals are not permitted. Thanks for continuing to adhere to and respect the school rules.

As always, please be respectful of our school’s rules. All school rules are made with your children’s safety and well-being in mind.

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

Please check out our new, improved website! [www.castlebaylane.com](http://www.castlebaylane.com) Everything you need to know is on this site!