

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

Happy fall! It's such a pleasure to visit the classrooms and see the students actively engaged in their learning. 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.

I really appreciate your patience and understanding as our enrollment stabilizes. As I stated in my opening letter, we will be reorganizing in order for classes to be within the class size norm limits. It will necessitate the formation of some combined classrooms. The needs of each student will be carefully taken into consideration as we place the students.

On Thursday, October 8, we will be holding Back to School Night. The teachers will present their program, goals, and expectations for the school year. I hope that you will be able to join us.

As always, this year we will be emphasizing character development through character education. It is so important that we as a school community work together to instill core values in our students. We will focus on core ethical values called the "Six Pillars of Character." These universal values include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The first pillar that we address at the beginning of each school year is RESPECT. Each of the teachers will be engaging the students in activities and lessons that focus on the importance of respect. In addition, there will be school-wide activities that will also reinforce this theme. We appreciate your support in this area.

There are a few concerns regarding safety. Please make sure that you and your children are using the crosswalks. Neighbors have reported that individuals who were not in the crosswalks were almost hit by cars. Also, please do not walk through the parking lot before or after school as this is quite hazardous. In addition, please be respectful of our neighbors by not blocking their driveways. For the safety of our children, we really appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

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.

LIBRARY – Kelly Kardos

Welcome back new and returning students! The library opened September 15th with over 300 new books for students to explore! Thanks to you and your generosity for making our book fairs so successful, our collection stays current and rich with new and exciting books to read. Classes are scheduled to come in every other week. Books may be checked out for 2 weeks at a time.

As many of you know, LAUSD budget cuts have been difficult and have forced Library Aides across the valley to make choices they wouldn't have otherwise made. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve your children. Please welcome Ms. Lisette Saenz as your new Library Aide. I know you will welcome her with that warm Castlebay spirit. Please feel free to e-mail me at: iamsasyk@aol.com

COMPUTER LAB UPDATE – Steve Ignacio

Greetings from the computer lab, I hope everyone had a nice summer. We have a lot to do in the lab this year. Kindergarten and first grade will begin with typing and writing words, sentences and short paragraphs throughout the year. Second grade will start by learning how to create simple spreadsheets with charts in Excel. We'll do more advanced Excel spreadsheets and charts in grades 3 – 5 and explore a variety of charts, graphs, simple budgets, and profit and loss spreadsheets. We'll cover work processing, spreadsheets, Powerpoint presentations, multimedia reports using images and voice narration, simple animation, green screen / chroma key image editing, internet research, basic animated computer programming, computer paint programs, and more! We look forward to a very exciting year.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

We are excited to get the students back into weekly art instruction this semester! The 1st graders will begin with a unit on "let's read" and study the artist, Carl Ealy. The 4th grade classes will make an "Elements of Art" book, and 2nd grade will start a unit on sharing stories and study the artist, Jacob Lawrence.

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. When purchasing 20 tickets, you will receive 2 extra tickets free of charge!

P.A.T.H. – Christi Ebenhoch

There are so many things happening at Castlebay! "Just Think!" campaign, Family Fun Day, gift wrap fundraiser, cook's night off family dinner nights, and the list goes on and on! Get involved, be part of the all the great programs at school. Join PATH, be a room parent, volunteer on an event committee. We need help with all the events that make Castlebay so fantastic and fund many of the extras for our children.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – Marylin Short

The first meeting of the School Site Council (SSC) will be on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. This will be an orientation to familiarize everyone of the committee's purpose and the duties of the members. This next meeting of the SSC will be on Thursday, October 8th at 8:30 a.m. to form the Council and to elect the officers. This council is open to all parents or guardians of Castlebay students as well as community members.

Your attendance and ideas are extremely important to us. Please join us for any or all of these important and worthwhile councils.

The first meeting of the Local School Leadership Council (LSLC) will be on Monday October 19th at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. This council oversees the school activities and dates of events. We are looking for new members and would love to have you attend and become part of our council. We meet once monthly on Mondays at 2:45 p.m. in conjunction with the School Site Council. All parents or guardians and community members are encouraged to join us.

ENGLISH LEARNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Marilyn Short

The first meeting of the English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) will be on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. This will be an orientation to familiarize everyone with the committee's purpose as well as the duties of its members. The next meeting of the ELAC will be on Thursday, October 8th at 8:30 a.m. to form the committee and to elect the officers. The committee is open to all Castlebay parents and guardians and community members, however, the majority of the parents must be parents of English learners.

Your attendance and input is very important to us. Please join us.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Don't forget early Tuesday dismissal!

The school will be on minimum day schedule: Thursday, October 8, 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10/1-14 Gift Wrap fundraiser
- 10/1 ELAC & SSC meetings 8:30 a.m.
- 10/2 Last day to pre-order Family Fun Day tickets
- 10/7 Souplantation fundraiser dinner
- 10/8 ELAC & SSC meetings 8:30 a.m.
- Minimum Day**
- Back to School Night**
- 10/10 Family Fun Day 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 10/13 PATH meeting
- 10/15 Earthquake Drill
- 10/16 Picture Day
- 10/19 LSLC meeting 2:45 p.m.
- 10/23 McDonald's fundraiser (DeSoto & Devonshire)
- 10/30 Halloween Parade (details to follow & rain cancels)

THIS AND THAT

Parents: Welcome back to Castlebay! Please remember sandals, crocs, or any slip-on shoe, and spaghetti strap or halter style tops are not allowed at school. This is clearly stated in our school dress code. If you have any question as to whether or not an item is permitted, please refer to the dress code and/or school rules for clarification. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

If your child is out sick, it is not necessary to contact the school. Please send a note explaining the absence when the student returns. Any student out sick for 5 or more days must have a doctor's note to return.

As of October 15, 2009 the office will not be delivering forgotten snacks, lunches, homework, etc. Please let your children know that if they forget an item, to check in the office to see if it has been left there by a parent. It is extremely disruptive to the classroom during the instructional portion of the day to have to call and get a child out to pick up items. Thank you for your assistance with this on-going problem.

*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!