

DECEMBER 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

The holidays are upon us. It is a busy time of the year both at school and at home. All the students have completed their Unit 1 assessment in language arts, their first quarterly assessments in math and, in addition to these tests, the fourth and fifth grade students have taken the quarterly science assessment. After each assessment, the teachers meet in grade level teams to identify areas of need and strengths for their grade level, their class as a whole, as well as for individual students. By working together, the teachers are able to collaborate and discuss strategies to address the areas of need. With the talents and abilities of our teachers, they are a great resource for each other.

Thanks to the efforts of our safety committee, the traffic before school and at dismissal time is improving. We really appreciate the volunteers from each classroom who have been assisting with our carpool valet program. It has really made a difference! The safety of our students is one of our greatest concerns. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- There is no parking in the carpool lanes between 1:30 and 3:00. It is a parking violation for which you can receive a ticket.
- If you are waiting in the carpool for your child, you must remain in the car.
- Kindergarten parents may not park their cars in the carpool lane.
- Remember that you may not double park as this is extremely dangerous.
- Do not park across the street and summon your children to walk across the street.
- Use the crosswalks. Do not cross in the middle of the street.
- Be considerate of our neighbors. Do not block their driveways.
- No U-Turns.

Also, please remember that you may not drop off your children in the parking lot. Also, students and parents are not allowed to walk through the parking lot. Accidents have occurred at other schools in their parking lots which have resulted in fatalities.

As you may have heard, our school was broken into at around 1:00 am on Sunday, Nov. 8. They broke in through the library and took Document Reader / LCD projectors, laptop computers, digital cameras, as well as other items. School Police as well as LAPD are investigating the incident. I know that this is a sad thing to report, particularly at this time of the year.

On a brighter note, our Book Fair was a huge success. I enjoyed reading to the kindergarten and first graders at Pajama Night. Thank you very much to the entire team of volunteers who put the event together!

Have a wonderful holiday season. Enjoy those special moments with your family and friends. Rest and relax and we will see you in 2010!

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – David Perez-Esquenazi

Best wishes to all our students and their families for a wonderful winter break!

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 – Lizette Saenz

Thank you to everyone who volunteered in the book fair. It was a huge success! Thank you to all Castlebay students, parents, and community members who help our students by supporting the book fair.

Have a wonderful winter break.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

The 1st graders will be studying the style of artist Simon Rodia and doing a project on the Watts Towers. The 4th grade classes are working on their Kahlo project completion. 2nd grade will study the style of artist Van Gogh and work on an “Irises”oil pastel.

MUSIC UPDATE – Kyung Lee

Students are shifting gears from the rhythm unit to melody and tone color. In December we will be concentrating on tone color using music from “The Nutcracker” for the sounds of the holidays. Happy holidays to everyone!

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!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – Marylin Short

The SSC and LSLC will meet on Monday, December 14th at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be getting an update on school activities, discussing upcoming dates and the budget.

ENGLISH LEARNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next ELAC meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16th at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. There will be an update from the principal on school activities and we will discuss our Single School Plan.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be on minimum day schedule: Wednesday, December 2, 2009 and Friday, December 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 at 5:30 p.m. No students will be permitted to remain on campus after 5:30 p.m.**

The school will be closed for Winter Break from Monday, December 21, 2009 through Friday, January 8, 2010. The school and after-school playground will be closed. The YMCA will be open for students enrolled in their Winter Camp Program. Please check with the “Y” for their fee and camp schedule.

School resumes Monday, January 11, 2010.

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/2	Minimum Day
12/8	PATH meeting 8:30 a.m
12/18	Minimum Day
12/21-1/8/10	Winter Break
12/29	Chuck E. Cheese dinner night
1/11/10	School resumes
1/18/10	School closed – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. b'day observed

THIS AND THAT

Parents, please be aware that dogs are never allowed on campus at any time. Please do not bring them with you to school. Also, the faculty parking lot is not to be used for parent parking at any time during the day, for any reason. If you are not a school employee, you should not be in the parking lot.

The office would like to extend an extra special thanks to parents who have come by to say hello, smile and wave, and to those who have so kindly dropped off food and presents during the school year and at the holiday time. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Have a wonderful holiday season, filled with happiness, joy, love, and peace.

*With love from your Castlebay Lane Office Staff,
Ripsime, Bea, Mara, and Wendy*

*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!