

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 Ithori

Happy New Year! It's 2010, and we are starting a new decade. I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend time with friends and family.

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.

On a safety note, please remember that the parking lot is for staff members only. It is extremely dangerous for students to be dropped off or picked up in the parking lot. It is also a traffic violation. I know that when it is raining, it is tempting to use the parking lot, but for the safety of the children, please follow the rules.

As we begin a new semester, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents who have put in countless hours with our fundraising events, Family Fun Day, the After School Enrichment program, traffic and safety, fifth grade activities, and the list goes on and on. And, of course, what would we do without our classroom volunteers! Thanks so much for all that you do for Castlebay!

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

The library has just received a new shipment of books. We have a wonderful selection of library books from which to choose, so come in and check them out! Also, the library is open daily after school until 3:30 p.m., and is a quiet place to do homework.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

Grades K, 3, and 5 will be receiving art instruction this semester. All classes will begin working on a picture for an upcoming fund raiser.

MUSIC UPDATE – Kyung Lee

We are closing the semester with a unit on “harmony.” Students have learned that there are different ways of creating harmony; singing partner songs and rounds, and also adding instrumental accompaniment to a song. We’ve been continuing to review beats and tone colors of different music.

I’m looking forward to the second semester at Castlebay!

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.

Donations for “*Just Think!*” are always appreciated throughout the school year. Your generous donations provide so many vital extra programs not provided by the district. Thank you for your participation in our children’s education.

Please remember that Subway will donate 15% back to Castlebay for the month of February. Just let them know that you are from Castlebay!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – Marilyn Short

Both meetings will take place on Monday, February 22, 2010 at 2:45 p.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be discussing future activities, dates, and the budget. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join us.

ENGLISH LEARNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the ELAC will be on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. The discussion will include the budget and upcoming activities. Please join us; we look forward to meeting new council members.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be closed on: **Monday, February 15, 2010.**
The school, after-school playground, and YMCA will be closed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2/8	Scrip orders due
2/15	Closed – Presidents' Day
2/16	Scrip orders delivered
2/22	SSC & LSLC – 2:45 p.m.
2/24	ELAC – 8:30 a.m.

THIS AND THAT

Parents, please remind your children that bicycles, scooters, skates, skateboards, etc., are not allowed on the school campus at any time, including the front entrance area, grass areas, and parking lot.

There has been an increase in students coming to the office regarding their lost cell phones. If it is absolutely necessary for a student to bring a cell phone to school, it is to be kept turned OFF during the school day and must remain in a backpack at all times. The students have access to a telephone in the office during the school day, as well as after school, and do not need to bring cell phones to school. Any cell phones ringing in class will be confiscated and must be retrieved by a parent.

Please be sure to review the school rules and dress code notices that were given to students at the beginning of the school year, and acknowledged by a parent signature. We have been seeing an increase in violations of the school's guidelines. Remember that sandals (including "CROCS"), slip-on, sling-back, backless, or open-toe shoes are not allowed at school.

Parents will be receiving an automated call regarding attendance if your child is absent or arrives to school late. The attendance is taken on the computer and the calls are generated based on the student's status at the time attendance is taken. Please bring your children to school with enough time to get to the line-up area and classroom.

*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!