

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

It seems there is a great chance that this March we will not only be blown about by our usual winds, but we'll also be getting a little wet as well. It makes life a bit more challenging, but by the same token, we really need the rain.

Now that we are more than half way through the school year, you can really help reinforce skills taught earlier in the year by helping your children practice at home. One of the best ways to build fluency is to have your children read aloud to you, and by asking them questions about what they have read, you are building comprehension skills. By asking questions, you can have the child point out where the answer is in the book.

We've also found that in math, the students in grades 1 – 5 are having difficulty remembering their basic math facts; first and second graders need to practice addition and subtraction. Third through fifth grade students need to review addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. In order to get correct answers, students must compute accurately. You can really have a lot of fun and practice math skills by playing math games. This can be as simple as putting down two playing cards and having your children add, subtract, or multiply the numbers. Practicing number fact families is another great activity to reinforce computation skills. For example, an addition / subtraction fact family is 8, 6, and 14: $8+6=14$, $6+8=14$, $14-8=6$, and $14-6=8$. An example of a multiplication / division fact family is 7, 8, and 56: $7\times 8=56$, $8\times 7=56$, $56\div 8=7$, $56\div 7=8$. Daily review of fact families like these will help your children to compute accurately. In an effort to help the students maintain their skills, every Friday morning, each class will give a 5 minute quiz on basic math facts. Thanks for your help!

On Thursday, March 25th, we will be holding our 2nd Annual Jog-a-thon. The money raised will go towards supporting our supplemental P.E. program. Give your children the gift of health! Special thanks to our Jog-a-thon organizing team!

Spring break is March 29 through April 2. School will resume on April 5. Have a wonderful vacation!

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

Castlebay Lane students, have you heard? Another book is becoming a movie! “Percy Jackson & the Olympians,” a 5 book series, should arrive in our library by March. Come in and check out these new books, it’s a great way to learn about Greek mythology.

MUSIC UPDATE – Kyung Lee

The 1st and 4th graders will be receiving music instruction this semester. We welcomed each other in the music lesson by singing the “hello” song and learning a Valentine dance for the 1st graders. We will be working on beats and rhythm in March, but we can’t miss St. Patrick’s Day and spring sounds. The month of March will be full of rhythm and orchestral music.

ART UPDATE – Cindy Brenek

Kindergarten students will be working on a project helping to learn about the four different seasons. Third graders will be working on Inuit carvings and 5th grade students will be creating Mexican tin art projects.

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. & CASTLEBAY FUN INFO

Pacific Theater tickets are always available for purchase during the school year. They are \$7.00 per ticket and never expire. Order forms are available in the office. (This is a great birthday party idea!)

Scrip orders are due by March 5th and scrip will be delivered on March 12th. All movie ticket and scrip orders are available for pick-up in the office.

Watch for “cook’s night out” fliers. There are Castlebay dinner nights coming up soon! Join us at Chuck E. Cheese on March 31st during Spring Break!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL & LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – Marilyn Short

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

ENGLISH LEARNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of ELAC will be on Wednesday, March 24th at 8:30 a.m. in the staff lunchroom. We will be reviewing the budget and upcoming activities. Castlebay is in the process of hiring a bilingual TA to work with English learners in grades 3 – 5. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend this important meeting, please join us.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be closed: March 29 – April 2, 2010 for Spring Break. The school and after-school playground will be closed. The YMCA will be open. Please check with the “Y” for their holiday program schedule.

DATES TO REMEMBER

3/2	Regular dismissal schedule – 2:30 Kindergarten & 2:40 grades 1 – 5
3/3	Jog-a-thon T-shirt orders due
3/4	Orientation – Kindergarten 9:00 a.m.
3/5	Orientation – Grades 1 – 5 (for students <u>new</u> to Castlebay) 9:00 a.m.
3/5	Scrip orders due
3/12	Scrip orders delivered
3/22	SSC & LSLC meetings 2:45 p.m.
3/24	ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
3/25	Jog-a-thon
3/29-4/2	School closed – Spring Break
3/31	Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser dinner night
4/5	School resumes

THIS AND THAT – PLEASE READ!

Parents: Please do not send any medications to school with your children. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, and natural (holistic) remedies, i.e.; Tylenol or any other brand of pain / fever reducing medication in any form (liquid, tablet, melt-a-way, etc.), and cough drops of any type. If your child needs to take medication (prescription or over-the-counter) during school hours, please contact the office for information.

Parents: On rainy days, before school, **all** students are to wait in the multi-purpose room until their teachers arrive to open classrooms. Some students are finding it fun to stay outside and play in the rain, then go to class completely soaked and cold. Please remind students that they are to go directly to the multi-purpose room until the announcement is made that the classrooms are open.

Also, on rainy days, after school, students in grades 1 – 5 not picked up on time, are to wait in the multi-purpose room with the after-school coach until picked up by a parent. They are not to wait in the front of the school or out in the rain. On days when it is not raining, students in grades 1 – 5 are to stay on the yard with the coach until a parent comes to pick them up. Kindergarten students are to wait in the office.

Telephones are available in the office for student use when their after school ride is late, or other emergencies, such as cancelled enrichment classes, etc. Phones are not allowed to be used to make last minute play dates or just to check to see if their ride is on the way. If you are running late, please call the office and we will contact the teacher to let your child know. Children in grades 1 – 5 are able to wait on the yard with the after school coach until their ride arrives, kindergarten children will wait in the office.

For safety reasons, after 3:00 p.m., all students are to be inside the school gates to wait for parents.

Please do not bring pets (dogs, puppies, birds, cats, rabbits, etc.) onto the school grounds. This includes inside the school gates, the main entrance, and grass areas around the school.

*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!