

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 Ihori

Happy New Year! It seems like only yesterday that we rang in the 21st century. I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend time with friends and family. It's great to see the children again. Many of them have grown so much during the break.

I'm pleased to announce that Elizabeth Hagopian was the winner of the 4th and 5th grade spelling bee, and will represent Castlebay at the regional spelling bee. It was a wonderful competition and all of our classroom representatives did a wonderful job. They showed such poise and were able to spell extremely difficult words. Congratulations to all of them. I am so proud!

Some parents have asked me how they can help their children with written language at home. These are some suggestions from the book, "107 Ways to Improve Children's Reading."

- You can tell or write a story and have your child make up an ending. This is a fun and easy way to practice vocabulary and use your imagination.
- Have your child write a letter to an author or to a character in a book.
- Write letters to friends and family.
- Write stories on the computer and illustrate the pages.

I hope you find these suggestions helpful!

As we start the New Year, 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 am and grades 1 – 5 begin at 8:21 am. 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.

Please remember our traffic rules. Make sure to pull up all the way in the carpool lane. This will help in keeping the traffic moving. Also, do not walk through the parking lot. Please enter through the main gate at the front of the school, or use the entrance located at the staircase on Bowmore.

Have a wonderful and healthy new year!

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.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The school will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2011 in observance of Presidents' Day. The school, after school playground, and YMCA will be closed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2/8 Last day of Magazine Drive
2/9 ELAC meeting 8:30 a.m.
2/10 Valogram sale ends
2/14 PATH meeting 8:30 a.m. in the lunchroom
2/14 Valograms delivered
2/17 Bob's Big Boy Dinner Night fundraiser
2/18 Skateland fundraiser 3:15 – 5:15 pm
2/21 School closed - Presidents' Day observed
2/25 Top Sellers Magazine Drive pizza party
2/28 Consolidated Council meeting 3:00 p.m.

THIS AND THAT

Parents, please remember that the faculty parking lot is not to be used at any time, for any reason. This means, do not use to drop off students before school, pick them up during school hours, or use to pick up after school. Please use the carpool lanes. We thank you for placing the safety of our children first.

When students are absent, it is not necessary to call the office. Please send a note with the student upon their return explaining why they were absent and the dates of the absence. Students running a fever must stay home until their fever has subsided without the help of any fever-reducing medications.

Please be sure to send students to school dressed appropriately. If you have any questions, please refer to the school's dress code. It clearly outlines appropriate clothing choices for Castlebay students to wear at school. Students not in compliance with the dress code will have to call parents to bring a change of clothing. If you are unable to locate the dress code (sent home with all students the first week of school), please contact the office to obtain a copy.

Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, our library will not be open after 11:30 a.m. The new library hours are 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Monday – Friday. If you would like to return or exchange any library books other than at your scheduled class time, please come to the library before school. Please do not come during recess.

*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!