



CASTLEBAY PATHWAYS

PARENTS AND TEACHERS HELPING

DECEMBER 2010

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**Richard
Collins**

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Fourth Grade Explores Native Indian Ways at Topanga State Park

Before the Thanksgiving break, the fourth grade went on a field trip to Topanga State Park. After some initial introductions about Native Americans from the region and a rain dance, the attendees were split into smaller groups ably lead by docents, who are trained volunteer naturalists.

We started with a trip to the pond, spotting animal tracks and an white snowy egret looking for lunch. We learned that its long beak is used to stab and grab its prey. Our group then played an Indian stick game, and decorated our own sticks to take home. We learned about pictographs used to tell stories and made our own sand paintings with pictographs on sand paper. We also learned how to prepare acorns for eating in a hands-on exercise with pestle and mortar. Students each got to grind dried out acorns and consider the steps and amount of time required to prepare them for eating.

We visited the Nature Center which had examples of many of the animals found in the park. Our guide recognized bird calls and told us what kinds of birds they were as we proceeded on an easy trail around the area. She identified plants as we hiked and we got to touch and smell them and find out how the Native Americans used them. We had a cool, sunny day and great views of the ocean. At the end of the hike, she showed us the tiny, concealed home of a trap door spider. We enjoyed our lunch in the park and headed home.

You can go visit the park too. Topanga's Trippet Ranch is accessed off Topanga Canyon turning on Entrada. This would make a great outing during winter break. To find out more, go to: <http://www.topangacanyondocents.org/> or <http://www.parks.ca.gov/> and search on Topanga State Park.

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The Spelling Bee has come to Castlebay!

Classroom Bees will held before winter break, and one student will be selected to represent their classroom in a grade-level Spelling Bee. This School-wide Bee will happen after winter break towards the end of January, so there should be plenty of time to drink hot cocoa, snuggle up with grandma or grandpa, and study together.

You can email Kendi, the Spelling Bee coordinator, for tips to help your child study for the Bee at kendi@lightheartentertainment.com



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Cooks Night Out!! We Love It!!!

Applebees located at 9255 Winnetka Ave in Chatsworth. Go on Thursday, **December 16th** from 11am to midnight and 15% will go back to us.

California Pizza Kitchen located at 9301 Tampa in Northridge on Wednesday, **January 19th** from 11am to 9pm. Costco sells \$100 in gift cards at CPK for \$80 (2 cards with \$50 value each). Coupons not accepted.

Baja Fresh located at 19711 Rinaldi St. In Porter Ranch on **Friday, January 28th** from 11am to 10pm. Coupons Accepted.

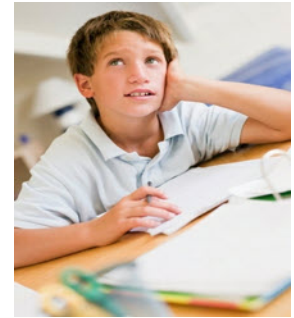
In February the 1950's will be back at Castlebay. Go to **Bob's Big Boy** located at 8876 Corbin Ave in Northridge. on Thursday, **February 17th**. This will also be a 50's spirit day at school.

Not only is Cooks Night Out Fun, but let's not forget how much in "funds" we are raising!!:

- 10/19 & 11/23 Chuck E. Cheese - \$479.63
- 10/27 Souplantation - \$158
- 11/18 Baja Fresh - \$85.59

Fishman Educational Services

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Mrs. Kramer's 1st grade class won a free Yogurt Zone party for highest participation! Congratulations! PATH earned \$187 from the Yogurt Zone Fundraiser, awesome job everyone!

Who is on Traffic duty next.....

- Week of Jan. 10** - Room 9 - Teacher: Nakata
- Week of Jan. 17** - Room 22 - Teacher: Lieber
- Week of Jan. 24** - Room 6 - Teacher: Weintraub
- Week of Jan. 31** - Room 7 - Teacher: Blankenship

