



# CASTLEBAY PATHWAYS

PARENTS AND TEACHERS HELPING

FEBRUARY 2011

Richard Collins



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## Look how much money our fundraiser's are bringing in.....

**Ralphs** - For the period of Sept. 1-Nov. 30, we received a check for \$2,863.20. We now have 274 families signed up. There is always room for more. Our next check should be in the \$4,000's. If anyone would like to sign up, go to [Ralphs.com](http://Ralphs.com) and register your card. Our NPO# is 83520.

**Boxtops** - Our first check this year for the period of March 1st-October 31st came to \$1,789.68. Our next submission is February 28th so if you have boxtops saved up, please turn them in. The incentive for February will be if you turn in 25 boxtops, 20 each if you have more than one child, will be a chip snack in March.

**New participants to boxtops are the following:**  
GM Cinnamon Burst Cheerios, Green Giant Fresh head of iceberg lettuce, GG fresh head of cauliflower, GG fresh bunched broccoli and GG fresh 3 count bag of romaine hearts, Land O Lakes spreadable butter products, Yoplait Light 4 pk, and all Brita products. Be on the lookout for these products with boxtops on them.



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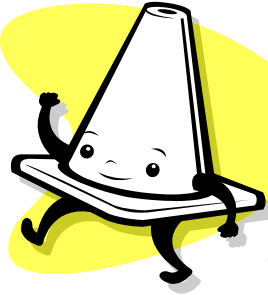
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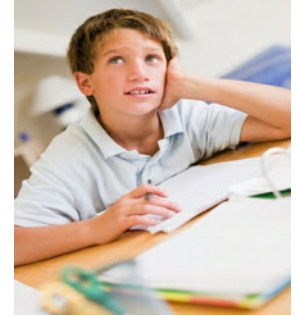


## Traffic Safety

Please follow all traffic signs.

Don't block the carpool lane . Please be considerate of other parents and understand that we are all here to protect the children of Castlebay. Please make sure to sign up for traffic duty. See the list below for which class is next.

**Fishman Educational  
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Who is on Traffic Duty next.....

Week of February 14th Room 25 (Lee)

Week of February 21st Room 21 (Lingard)

Week of February 28th Room 20 (Chang)

Week of March 7th Room 35 (Ashcraft )



## *Tamar Galatzan Speaks In Support Of Castlebay*

*By Wendy L. Moore*

LAUSD Board Member Tamar Galatzan spoke to a full house of Porter Ranch residents and parents at the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Tackling the ever-present budget issue head on, she noted that LAUSD has cut \$1.5 billion in the last two years and can expect to cut another \$1 billion in the next two years. As a fellow LAUSD parent, she lamented that LAUSD is entirely reliant on state and federal dollars.

Galatzan was responsible for requesting and receiving an additional \$85,000 for each non-Title I school during this academic year. Castlebay is a non-Title I school, due to its having less than 40% of its students on the free lunch program, so it doesn't qualify for federal funding that other schools do. Castlebay received and used that \$85,000 to secure an additional teacher this year, which put our fourth and fifth grade ratios at about 30 students per teacher. The maximum allowed in fourth and fifth grade is 36:1. Galatzan has submitted the same request again this year. Let's hope she's successful!

Fielding questions about SAS (Schools for Advanced Studies) and special education, she identified that the district spent \$1.8 billion on special education last year, but only received \$700 million to cover those costs by the federal government. Monies for special education and SAS are being paid for out of funds for all students.

Parents inquired about the status of the new Porter Ranch school. She clarified that the boundaries have not yet been set and the school is on schedule to open on time in the fall of 2012. The school has not yet been named, but the words Porter Ranch will be a part of the school name, as requested by the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, having taken a survey of residents.

PRNC board member Becky Leveque thanked Galatzan for supporting the new school and getting its funding passed unanimously by the LAUSD school board, no small feat, when there are schools proposed for what could be perceived as more needy neighborhoods. Porter Ranch community volunteer Dave Hasson thanked Galatzan and Mitch Englander, Councilman Smith's Chief of Staff, for working together with the PRNC in a unique partnership to design a school that would meet the needs of Porter Ranch.

Under current district rules, the new school would be part of the School Choice process, whereby the district and charter schools can submit a plan to operate the school, residents can participate in an advisory vote, and an operator is selected. "The (advisory vote) process is a complete disaster!" she emphasized. During the recent vote for the new high school on the former Granada Hills Hospital site, voter enticements included bonus points for students who voted, busing to the polls, billboards, phone calls, and more. Galatzan is up for reelection on March 8, 2011, and plans to approach the Superintendent with a suggestion to abolish the advisory vote altogether.

The most immediately impactful information came at the end of the meeting when parent Amy Nairin inquired about the early start school calendar. Galatzan confirmed that earlier that day the Superintendent decided to push it back to its original start date in September for this year, due to budget concerns.



## Cooks Night Out

Please make sure to mention our Cooks Night Out events to any "entering Kindergarten Parents" that you might meet. This is a great way to meet some of our Parents that are already at the school. If we mention it to people as they enter the office or at Kinder orientation (not sure when that occurs). Thanks everyone!!

### Upcoming Cooks Night Out:

WHEN: Thursday, February 17, 2011. All Day Long

WHERE: Bob's Big Boy located at 8876 Corbin Ave., Northridge, CA 91324

NOTE: 50's Day is coming to Castlebay and we've paired up with Bob's Big Boy to make this a fun, spirited Castlebay Event! Yes, we do mean the 1950's! Have the kids ask their family and friends what they remember from the 50's and start planning your attire!

Preorder gift cards through the school (more information and order forms to follow). You can use them to pay for our Cooks Night Out too!!

BUY \$20 gift cards for \$18

BUY \$10 gift cards for \$9

(we make 10% before the fundraiser happens). This is a one time gift card sale so get as many as you want. The more you buy, the more we make! Bob's Gift Cards NEVER EXPIRE!

\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday, March 23rd 5pm to 9pm

*TGIF*

*19855 Rinaldi St*

*Porter Ranch, CA 91326*

(818) 831-2324

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday, April 21, 3pm to 9pm (over Spring Break)

Chuck E. Cheese

16269 San Fernando Mission Bl

Granada Hills, CA 91344-3797

(818) 366-6022

### Look what 5th grade is up to.....

There is so much going on in the fifth grade! Valograms have been a great success. Congratulations to Caroline Cho for winning the 5th grade t-shirt design contest. Our t-shirts are going to be amazing and everyone should have theirs before the Museum of Tolerance Field Trip. A big thank you to Councilman Greig Smith for donating the buses for this field trip. The House of Blues will be our next adventure. Another Skateland event is in the works, so stay tuned. Also, April 1st the 5th graders will be having their first ever bowl-a-thon to raise the balance of the funds we need for Pali Camp. Thanks for continuing to buy pizza and snacks on Fridays and if anyone is interested, we still have beautiful picture frames left.

### \$500 Castlebay Donation

If you haven't already heard, a Castlebay teacher completed a property purchase through me, Dave Friedman at 818MyHouse.com. As promised, for every Castlebay completed sale or purchase I will donate \$500.00 to our school. Just think, what all these \$500.00 donations could do for Castlebay?

I have over 20 years of experience buying and selling real estate and have had two kids attend Castlebay. All referrals will receive 110% of my attention to insure their success. If you are not looking to buy or sell that's fine, refer me to a relative or friend and the \$500 donation still applies. Call me with the referral information or your information at 818-My-House (694-6873). I look forward to helping you and Castlebay.

## “C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-C-E!”

The kids were shouting in the auditorium in unison.

The 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> graders had their bully prevention assembly in early February. Castlebay invited ‘*The Morris Brothers*’ to come and speak to our children about what bullying looks like, and what students can do to prevent it.



The Morris Brothers, Homer and “Rootbeer”, had come all the way from Hollywood just to come and meet with us. They were two young lads with black, thick-rimmed glasses, and dressed in plaid pants held high with suspenders. They sang, danced, made jokes, and even rapped for the students. It wasn’t long, before The Morris Brothers had the kids’ undivided attention.

They put on several short, 30-second skits, reenacting bully situations. Volunteer actors from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade audience were recruited to come up onto the stage and help

by participating in the performance. The brothers mentioned positive ways to deter a bully (such as saying, “Please stop!”), having self-respect and confidence, as well as having respect for others. The culminating message of the 45-minute long assembly was, “To have a friend, you have to BE a friend.” I think the kids got it.

In Dr Fields class, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders also created a “Cereal Box Fiction Book Report”. It was a “winter-break” project that the students were assigned, where the kids designed a cereal box based on a work of fiction of their choice.

Each “cereal” required a new name (like a book title) that had something to do with the story. The kids had to design/draw artwork for the front of the box to make it look interesting (like the front cover of a book). The sides and back were reserved for summaries and games, so that others who were considering the “cereal” might be persuaded to try it. After the class created the cereals, they were put on the wall in neat rows towards the rear of the classroom. Each cereal box was unique and interesting!



### **Volunteer Services**

***PATH is looking for a CPA. For the past 4 or 5 years, Marv Short has been kind enough to file PATH's tax return for a highly reduced price. Unfortunately, he is unable to continue. PATH is looking for a CPA that will file PATH's full 990 form some time after June. If you are interested, or you know someone who is, please contact Marie Pitrat at [MPitrat@socal.rr.com](mailto:MPitrat@socal.rr.com).***

**We also need volunteers for the Traffic Committee if you are interested please email Anne Bierling at [ran-anne@msn.com](mailto:ran-anne@msn.com)**

### **THIRD GRADERS ON THE MOVE**

By Michelle Brekke

Happy New Year! So far 2011 is flying by! In December, the third grade classes took a couple of field trips. One was to see the play, “Charlotte’s Web,” which was performed by middle school student at Los Angeles Baptist Middle/High School. The actors came out to meet the students after the show and each child was given a goody-bag as they left. The other field trip was to the Skirball Center to get a taste of how different cultures celebrate the December Holidays. It was an exciting month, which culminated with vacation!

### **In Kindergarten we are doing.....**

The kindergartners have been busy learning about Black History Month, as well as celebrating the Chinese New Year, and counting down to the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school (most recently celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> day). The kindergartners are looking forward to celebrating Valentine’s day with their 5<sup>th</sup> grade buddies.