



# Castlebay Lane Elementary School

## NEWSLETTER

[www.castlebaylane.com](http://www.castlebaylane.com) Log on! See what's happening at Castlebay!

### 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 – *Victoria Littlejohn*



Well it's official- we are half way through the 2011-2012 school year and things are in full swing! I am in awe of how many people take the initiative to bring ideas to fruition, to make Castlebay Lane even better- educationally, physically, and emotionally- for our children.

-The hours upon hours of time a core group of parents spent on organizing Donorschoose.org resulted in \$20,000 of classroom materials for our school in just six weeks.

-In an effort to increase the awareness of the importance of daily attendance, teachers are designing a wonderful bulletin board recognizing students with perfect attendance for the first reporting period, and our dear Mrs. Woo has taken pictures of all 328 of these students!

-Our Safety Shed has been completely cleaned out and inventoried, as have our classroom emergency supplies. Many of our teachers will go for (re)certification in First Aid and CPR within the next month. We feel more prepared than ever should an emergency occur.

-Students continue to get better each week about recycling and keeping our campus clean. One teacher has initiated the Sanitation Workers organization (which is catching on like wildfire) to help with this effort and to teach students about responsibility to their school and community. Soon we will partner with a local food bank to donate uneaten school lunches at the end of each day.

-Children come to me daily to share their ideas for peace keeping on the yard, and holding fundraisers to help those less fortunate than themselves.

-And our teachers spend long hours planning together and problem solving, to bring each of your children the very best education possible. As I write this, our first Student Newspaper is in the works.

The list could go on for pages and pages, as you well know. What warms my heart the most is that no one does these things for any type of recognition. This is truly a tribute to how committed we all are- parents, staff, students, and community- to making Castlebay Lane Elementary a very special and unique place. I am so proud to be a part of something so wonderful.

I encourage all of you to continue to "think outside the box" and offer up your ideas to carry along this path, especially in light of the tough financial times that lay ahead. Your devotion inspires me and I am quickly realizing how fast the second half of our school year is going to pass.

## 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.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

January 25 - February 14  
February 7 - 10  
February 14  
February 20  
February 23

Magazine Drive  
Val-o-grams Sale  
Val-o-grams delivered to classrooms  
No School - President's Day  
Super Seller Pizza Party



Our School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is available to download on-line. We also have a few hard copies available in the office.

Please remember we will no longer be printing monthly menus or newsletters. These will be available on our website. They will go "electronic" as we continue to make changes to conserve our resources.

We are pleased to announce a former Castlebay Lane student, is taking up a collection of gently used books for women and children's shelter, Haven Hills. If you have any donations, please drop them off in the office.

In an effort to increase school safety, starting Monday, February 13, the farthest gate on Castlebay Lane, near the kindergarten yard will be closed. This gate will only be unlocked at 2:30 to dismiss students who are in rooms 1 and 2, kindergarten. Also, the hallway doors to the kindergarten classrooms will be locked until 8:25 a.m.



**ALL FLYERS REGARDING NON-SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY  
ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**