



CASTLEBAY PATHWAYS

PARENTS AND TEACHERS HELPING
NOVEMBER 2010



Please read the posted signs regarding restricted parking & U-turns.

Violators will be ticketed.

In the holiday spirit, please be kind to our volunteers who are trying to protect the children.

Rude and uncooperative adults make it harder for all of us to run a safe traffic program.

A SPECIAL THANKS to the parents who are volunteering, abiding by the signs, and following the safety rules!

You make our job enjoyable & easy!

FAMILY FUN DAY

Family Fun Day was a huge success thanks to our many volunteers.

Without Devoted

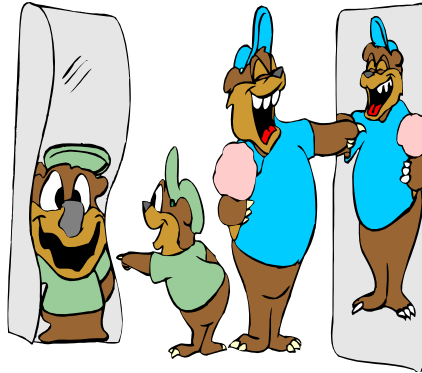
parents this would not

be possible. A big thank you to all of the room

parents that put together those beautiful baskets.

An enormous thank you to Lisa Gilder for

coordinating and getting donations for our fun day.



Rebecca Lee Pair
D.D.S.
Pediatric Dentist

(818) 831-8252

Member of the Board of Directors for the CA Society of Pediatric Dentistry

Member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

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Ste. 108, Northridge

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Jonathan B. Daks*



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VENTURA COUNTY RESIDENT SUPPORTS CASTLEBAY

Ms. Ceclia Potempa heard about our school and all the academic achievements of the students in spite of recent budget cuts. She decided that our kids work hard and deserve everyone's support.



We want to Thank you Ms. Potempa for your extremely generous contribution to our school.



Ken Sampson

11280 Corbin, Suite A Northridge, CA 91326

(818) 725-2500 Phone (818) 366-4900 Fax

info@valleystates.com

5th Grade Dr. Field's November News:

One of the highlights of this month was the traditional "Haunted House" that the 5th Graders put together, for the annual Family Fun Day Event hosted by Castlebay Lane's P.A.T.H. 5th Grade students get to volunteer/audition for various "spook" parts, and basically their job is to scare the living daylight out of those brave individuals who dare to pass through. It's lots of fun to finally be on the "other side" of things.

Getting to be a spook isn't easy. First of all, you have to pass 4 Grade levels before you can even apply! Also, in order to be a great spook, you probably should have some experience in getting spooked yourself. Then, once you get chosen as a spook, you have to take directions on how to play your part, and meet in the auditorium after-school to practice your part before the big day. You are given props and sometimes costumes, so that you look like a real "professional" spook. Finally, you have to be responsible enough to show up on time to your assigned spook "shift", and just perform your best so you can give people the kind of scare that they expect.

In the classroom: Instead of serving coffee to the kids, Dr. Fields likes to do this quick, fun, and engaging activity with his class to get their *natural brain juices flowing* in the morning. It's called "*Hocus Focus*" and it is a worksheet activity where the goal is to *compare and contrast* the between the two images presented and find all the differences between the images. See if you can find all 20. You might discover it's not all that easy as it looks...



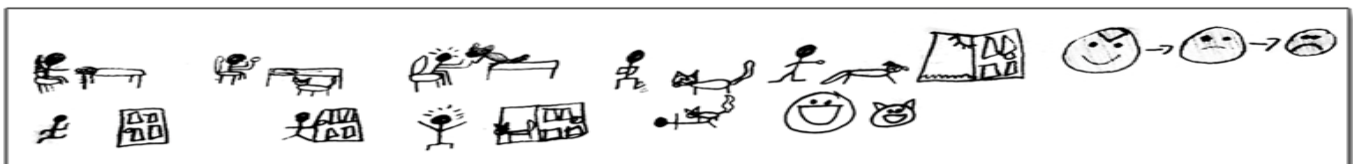
Because it uses *non-verbal visual imagery* rather than linguistic information, it requires the use of the alternate hemisphere of the brain for a change, and induces *creative thinking* processes in the brain. It also requires the students to practice their *critical thinking skills*, which is important for reading comprehension skills, analyzing raw data, and of course, coming up with those very difficult (*and wonderful!*) questions that kids ask. Also, did I mention that the kids think it's fun?

These worksheets are more than just mindless "ditto-sheets" of "busy work" for kids to do to patch up holes of time in the day. Getting lots of fresh and interesting opportunities through challenging mini-games like these, to run through those analytical neural pathways again and again and at the same time opening new neural pathways through creative thinking, allows our children's developing brains to get faster and faster at these processes – for the human brain, the maxim is quite literally, "*Use it, or Lose it!*" The end result, is a *smarter, faster* thinker, who is well-prepared and ready to go the mental distance when the time comes...

Finally, during October, our classroom was able to work with the Art Teacher Miss Cindy to work on some more *non-verbal methods of expression* through the artistic experimentation and use of *symbolic representation* in communication. (Perhaps now we can finally learn the secret to how human language began all those thousands or millions of years ago!)

First – and this is usually the hardest part – each student considered the various interesting and intriguing stories that they might weave together to share with others, and then chose to put ONE of those ideas into action. Restricted to the use of only symbolic and simple-type images, the students then *mentally organized* their ideas into a *meaningful sequence* that would convey their idea. Next, the students had to critically assess *what ideas were central* to their story, and also what types of imagery *would contribute to their main thesis* in a meaningful and coherent way. Now, this description might kind of sound like they were practicing or learning how to structure a *multiple paragraph essay* for an English class, but in reality they were just having a *great time* working on an Art project, and maybe learning a new and healthy way to express all those complicated emotions that 5th graders get!

Take a look with me, at this beautiful artwork created by 5th Grader Christy Drummond, and see if you can gain some insight into her hieroglyphic tale. Here is a hint: Christy has a cat.



If it made you smile to learn of the touching story of one kitty's redemption and the emotional journey of a cat lover, then you are not alone. Storytelling is a wonderful way for children to glimpse into each others' lives!



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Just Think

Campaign to Support Castlebay Lane Elementary School

Just Think Campaign Breaks Through With 58% Participation

By Wendy Moore, Just Think Campaign Chair


The Just Think Campaign 2010 has been a resounding success! The campaign enjoyed 58% participation from the families of 467 students, raising \$91,945!!! We wrapped up the campaign with a matching gift challenge that resulted in \$5,800 through 27 gifts. Thank you to our matching sponsor! To encourage early participation, donors who gave \$350 or more by September 17, 2010 were entered in a raffle to win 4 Pacific Theater movie tickets. Our winner is Katherine Song. Those who gave \$500 or more were entered in a raffle to win a year's family membership to the YMCA. Our winner is Andrea Rhu. Congratulations!

We also will be awarding popsicle parties to the classrooms at each grade level with the highest percent participation. Those winners are:

| Grade | Teacher | % |
|-------|------------------------|----|
| K | Takeuchi | 83 |
| 3 | Blankenship | 81 |
| 1 | Kramer | 76 |
| 2 | Nguyen | 67 |
| 5 | Fields & Jung in a tie | 60 |
| 4 | Cascone | 57 |

Overall the Kindergarten grade had the highest participation in the school at 72%. This has been our most successful campaign ever, so wear your green Just Think shirts proudly on school spirit days! If you would like to order a Just Think shirt, we can place an order for \$8.99 per shirt when we have 12 requests. See Marie Pitrat at MPitrat@socal.rr.com to place your order.

But wait there's more! We are also pleased to announce that John Lee, our Corporate Sponsor campaign chair and his team have raised \$14,450 in corporate sponsor gifts! Our combined total is about \$106,000. Only \$36,000 more to go via the gift wrap, family fun, magazine drive, etc. Thank you to all who participated. Well Done!



Amadeus School of Art and Music

10727 White Oak Ave., #124
Granada Hills, CA 91344

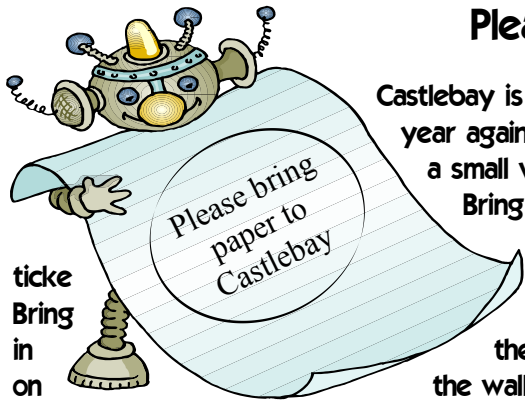
www.Amadeusmusicschool.com (818) 366-2400



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Please Bring Paper.....

Castlebay is having a Paper Drive! It's that time of year again, when we need our parents to help in a small way.

ticket
Bring
in
on

Bring in 1 ream of paper and you'll be entered into a drawing for 2 movie tickets! Here's how it works: in a 20# ream of paper, drop it off the front office under the "tree" painted the wall in the donation box. There are labels outside of the box, please place the "numbered" label on the ream of paper and write your child's name, room number and grade level and you will be entered into a drawing for 2 movie tickets! The deadline for the raffle is December 10th. A winner will be drawn before winter break. Good Luck!!

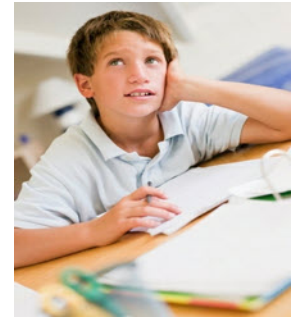
If you don't care about being in the drawing, feel free to just donate the paper, it will get distributed.

We need the paper to be white, 20# (normal copy paper), from any store (Walmart, Staples, Target, Office Depot, Office Max, etc.).

Thanks!
P.A.T.H.

Fishman Educational Services

P.O. Box 8448
Northridge, California
91327



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Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving!!!!

From P.A.T.H.



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strong families,
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Y.M.C.A. Supports
Castlebay.**

Who is on Traffic duty next.....

Week of Dec. 6 - Room 15 - Teacher: Lague

Week of Dec. 13 - Room 10 - Teacher: Buchanan

Week of Jan. 10 - Room 9 - Teacher: Nakata

Week of Jan. 17 - Room 22 - Teacher: Lieber

Week of Jan. 24 - Room - 6 - Teacher: Weintraub

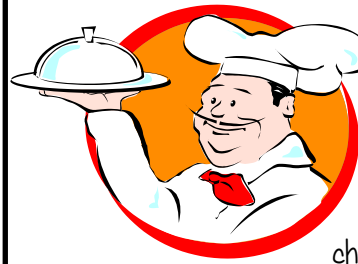


Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Holiday Party

We invite you to join us at this year's holiday party which will be held at the Musashi Restaurant in the Porter Ranch Towne Center near Ralphs at 6pm on Tuesday, December 7, 2010. This is a great opportunity to meet your board members and neighbors. We had a great turnout last year and are expected a good crowd this year, so come early! Appetizers and Desserts will be served.



The PRNC: Helping
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to Live, Work and
Grow. Find out more at
www.PRNC.org.



Thank you so much to all the families who have attended our recent "Cooks Night Out" fundraisers. I hope you are all meeting more of the parents in your children's classroom and

enjoying a night off from cooking! I like to call "Cooks Night Out" a "crockpot" fundraiser, because it requires set up, but then you walk away (no volunteers are needed to make it successful), and we receive a nice check at the end of fundraiser. Thanks so much for attending these events. They wouldn't be successful without your attendance, so thank you for helping out our school. Look for some more fun and exciting "Cooks Night Out" events throughout the year and know that the money raised goes directly to PATH.

Our checks will be:

\$382 Chuck E. Cheese (Oct 19th)
\$158 Souplantation (Oct 27th)
\$246 California Pizza Kitchen (Nov 4th)

Here are some upcoming Cooks Night Out:

Chuck E. Cheese 11/23 (Tuesday) over spring break
TGIF 12/7
Applebees 12/16
CPK 1/19/11



What's up in Kindergarten

This month, the kindergartners are learning all about Native Americans and the Pilgrims for social studies. They even had the opportunity to play traditional Native American games, such as seeing who can throw the most sticks into a circle. The kindergartners are also wrapping up a science and language arts unit about shadows. On November 3, the kindergartners (and first graders) enjoyed a night of stories read to them by Ms. Ihori. The children (and Ms. Ihori) wore their pajamas to the story time and got to visit the Book Fair.

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Richard
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