

**Casis Elementary
Website
www.mycasis.org**

*Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition Blvd., Austin, Texas 78703
August 31, 2007*

**Casis Elementary
Attendance Line
414-0003**

Mission Statement

Our **mission** is to provide a learning environment that will enable each student to work to potential in his/her quest to be a life-long learner and a productive member of society.

Calendar Items

Monday, September 3		Labor Day Holiday—NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 4	8:00 a.m.	Casis Cares Committee Breakfast Meeting/Work Day
Thursday, September 6	6:00 p.m.	New Parent Orientation, Grades EC - 2, (Cafeteria)
Thursday, September 6	7:00 p.m.	Parent Information Night, Grades EC - 2, (Cafeteria)
Friday, September 7 – 28		Gift Wrap Sale Dates
Monday, September 10	6:00 p.m.	New Parent Orientation, Grades 3 - 5, (Library)
Monday, September 10	7:00 p.m.	Parent Information Night, Grades 3 - 5, (Cafeteria)
Tuesday, September 11	2:45-3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, September 12 & Thursday, September 13		Vision/Hearing Screenings (Literacy Library)
Thursday, September 13	3:15 p.m.	CAC Meeting (Portable 7/8)
Thursday, September 13	6:30 p.m.	Future Cub Scouts Pack 20 Night (Cafeteria)
Friday, September 14	8:00 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Meeting (Portable 7/8)

Friday Folders

Each week's Friday folder contains important information; please review the contents of the Friday folder carefully. During the first several weeks, Friday folders may contain less student work than later in the year because new routines and procedures are being taught and students are being assessed so that their needs will be met. Regarding Friday folder distribution: if you have more than one child attending Casis, you will only receive one copy of the Friday folder items. They will be sent home in your youngest child's (or one of a set of twins) backpack. If the item needs to be sent with "each" child you will receive a copy for each one. Also, if you have elected to receive information electronically, know that we are currently working to update our email lists and hope to have them completed over the next couple of weeks. Some items that are not distributed electronically will be sent in hard-copy form. Your understanding is appreciated.

Parent Nights

New Casis parents are invited to **New Parent Orientation** to learn about our school. The PTA president, principal and assistant principal will be available at 6:00 p.m. to provide information and answer questions. For the parents of Kindergarten students, this may be a repeat of things you heard last spring during Open House or Kindergarten Round-Up. All parents are invited to attend **Parent Information Night**. We will meet briefly in the cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. as a large group (please be flexible, it will be crowded) to meet faculty members, special area teachers, and hear from the principal and PTA president. Parents will then visit their child's classroom. Please make alternative child care arrangements as these evenings are dedicated to parents, and are not designed for individual parent/teacher conferences.

Gift Wrap Sale

Casis PTA and Innisbrook Wraps present the 2007 "Kick Up Your Heels!" fundraiser with a great line of products from Innisbrook. This is the second largest fundraiser for Casis, which helps fund our reading specialist, technology lab, Spanish program, and much more. With every dollar sold of Innisbrook wraps, Casis receives \$0.53 cents. Catalogs will be sent home with your children on Friday, September 7th. If you have any questions please contact Ashley Crider at 477-6416, Julie Kocurek at vote4julie@aol.com, or Ellen Miura at 469-9626.

Traffic Safety and Fire Lane Parking

Help us make student drop-off and pick-up times smooth and safe for everyone by following the "Traffic and Safety Rules" that were included in your child's back-to-school packet. Please take a moment to review these guidelines and share them with any other family members who may be transporting your child to and from school. Please do not use the teacher parking lot or the Casis Village parking lot as a drop-off or pick-up zone or any of the neighboring business parking lots. Please do use the Circle Drive, Hillview or Northwood, as appropriate. Please do not park in fire lanes, even for brief periods of time. KINDERGARTEN PARENTS: We have two disabled parking spots in the front circle drive that are utilized at drop off and pick up times. Please do not park in or in front of these spots before or after school, as there are parents who need to use them to pick up their children with special needs. You *may* park in designated places on Hillview or neighborhood streets near the school. Finally, please do not make U-turns in or around school zones. Your cooperation is appreciated.

PTA Volunteer Interest Form for Fall 2007

In your back-to-school packets you received the PTA Volunteer Interest Form for the fall semester. As you know, Casis relies on parent assistance in many ways and we encourage every parent at Casis to get involved. Please check as many volunteer opportunities, as you are interested in and return the form to your child's teacher by **Monday, September 10th**. For more information call Brooks Franklin, Volunteer Coordinator, at 657-7531 or email ebf@grandecom.net. **Please note:** Bookfair set-up and take down dates on the Volunteer Interest Form are incorrect. The correct date for set-up is Monday, November 12th and take down is Wednesday, November 14th. Thank you for supporting volunteer efforts at Casis!

Casis Cares Committee

The Casis Cares committee will meet for a workday on Tuesday, September 4th in the main teacher's lounge at 8:00 a.m. for a brief meeting and breakfast. We will then prepare the materials and notebooks for the year in the Literacy Library. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact Jennifer Lyon at 414-7167 or JLyon@austinisd.org, or just show up Tuesday morning!

Casis Campus Improvements

As many of you know we have been busy all summer with District Bond improvements. Some of the summer projects should wrap-up during these first few weeks of school. We have worked hard to get our school ready and our playgrounds safe for the students return. It is an ongoing process and your patience and care is appreciated while on campus.

Casis Cares and Read Aloud Volunteers

Sign-up sheets for Casis Cares and Read Aloud volunteers will be available at Parent Information Night in your child's classroom. You will be able to sign up for specific dates at that time. Second grade will continue to have CC/RA at 1:15 on Wednesdays and all other grades will be at 2:00. Training for all volunteers will be on Wednesday, September 19th from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria and a make up session will be held on Thursday, September 20th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the library. We encourage all new volunteers to attend the Wednesday morning training, as more details will be included about the program at that time. Contact Jennifer Lyon at jlyon@austinisd.org, or 414-7167.

School Supplies

The PTA pre-ordered 753 school supply kits and distributed 725 before and during Open House. Pre-ordering school supplies is a convenient service the PTA offers the parents each spring. We hope you will continue pre-ordering your supplies and apologize if there were any glitches. There are a few K, 1st and 2nd kits available. Many thanks to all of the teachers, 4th and 5th grade Boy Scouts, and to the volunteers who helped this year: Amy Allen, Ann Phipps, Anne Hagen, Barbara Hadley, Barry Aidman, Brooks Franklin, Caress Booth, Dawn Goetzel, Ginger Voss, Janet Harris-Babb, Jay Foster, John Marler, Julie Ballard, Kay Planting, Kaysie Sallans, Laura Grim, Leah Goetzel, Lori McClure, Martha DeGrasse, Mary Gilbreath, Ralph Hadley, Rebecca McKee, Rosie Hagan, Sara Jamison, Sara Marler, Tish Miller, Wendy Griessen, Wendy Thompson and Nick von Kriesler. To buy an available kit, please contact Sara Marler, saramarler@sbcglobal.net, 452-4814.

Casis Chess Club

The Casis Chess Club will meet every Tuesday in the library from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. beginning September 11th. All 2nd - 5th graders are invited to attend. Parents of interested K - 1st graders can call Diana Graves at 480-0782. All ability levels are welcome. You don't even have to know how to play. Please look for the application in your Friday folder and return it to your child's teacher or the office by September 8th.

Leadership Casis

Leadership Casis is inviting all 5th graders to join for the 2007 – 2008 school year. We have lots of fun and service oriented activities planned throughout the year. The first meeting will be Monday, September 17th after school in the library. Parent volunteers are still needed to help. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions please contact Allison Laughlin at 472-2717 or Beth Durrett at 517-0217.

Cub Scout Pack 20 Meeting

Cub Scout Pack 20's first meeting will be held Thursday, September 13th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. All prospective scouts and their parents are invited. In addition to all the fun activities and friendships you and your son will enjoy as part of your den, there are great character-building experiences, as well as trips that form lifetime memories. Contact Nick von Kreisler at 320-0075 or nvk@lawdsw.com for more information.

A Few Procedural Reminders

PHONE CALLS – In general, most teachers do not answer their telephones during instructional time. Please communicate after-school plans, doctor visits, special lunch plans, or other arrangements with your child before they leave for school in the morning. You can help the office by using teachers' direct lines when leaving a message. **CHECK OUT PROCEDURES** – Please sign out your child in the office when leaving campus during school hours, and send a note to the teacher that morning so they can send the student to the office to meet you. **ABSENCES** – Please send a signed and dated note with your child's name, teacher, and the reason for the absence upon your child's return to ensure the absence is coded correctly. You may also send an email to acjohnso@austinisd.org. The teachers also appreciate it if you call and leave a message on the classroom phone or send them an email. **TARDIES** – If your child arrives late, please have them check in at the office prior to going to the classroom. Students arriving before 7:40 a.m. should wait in the cafeteria for the first bell. The tardy bell rings at 7:45 a.m. Being prompt not only prevents interruption to valuable class time, it teaches your child the importance of being on time, demonstrates respect for others, and maximizes their instructional time by allowing the class to run smoothly.

Girl Scouts Clean Up Casis Service Project

On Saturday, Aug. 25th, Casis Girl Scouts filled up over a dozen trash bags with garbage during their "Clean Up Casis" service project. Thanks to girls: Georgia Peyton, Astrid Torres-Johnson, Kennedy Schuelke, Sarah Beaman, Anne Marie Marler, Arina Moin, Erin Morrison, Maura Goetzel, Helena Pfluger, Marcella Cannatti, Ellen Hagen, Ella Carlander, Claire Carlander, Marina Monsivais, Marybeth Glasheen, Julia Bradley, Sarah Bell, Maggie Listi, Caitlin Babb, Elinor Layne, Elizabeth Courtney, Lilly Hagen, Claire Cannatti, Sarah Ballard, Chloe Carlander, Christina Beck, and Sophia Amstuz. Many thanks to all of the mothers and aunts who also joined and Keep Austin Beautiful for supplying the bags, gloves and other items!

Thank you Casis Volunteers

Thanks to Allison Laughlin and her team, for organizing the back-to-school packets. A huge thank you to Sara Marler and her team for coordinating school supplies this year. Thanks go to Donna Campbell and Carol Fancher for a delicious first day of school parent breakfast. We would also like to

thank Kathryn Burniston and Evelyn Wiedeman and their parent volunteer contributors for all the wonderful breakfast, lunch and dessert items the staff has enjoyed throughout our first week of school. We appreciate all of your dedication and hard work.

Good Beginning

Thank you parents, staff and students for helping us have a smooth-running first week. The efforts of many people helped make this year start on a strong, positive note. Your assistance and contributions to our community are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Patty Martin