

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

Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition, Austin, Texas 78703
December 15, 2006

**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

Friday, December 15	8:45 - 11:00 a.m.	5 th Grade Visit to O. Henry Middle School
Friday, December 15		4 th Grade Field Trip to McKinney Roughts State Park
Tuesday, December 19-Wednesday, December 20		Casis Science Fair
Tuesday, December 19	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, December 20		Read Aloud (Optional)
Thursday, December 21		End of Nine Weeks
Friday, December 22-Monday, January 8		Winter Break—No School
Monday, January 8		Staff Development Day for Teachers/No School for Students
Tuesday, January 9		Classes Resume
Tuesday, January 9	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, January 10		Report Cards Distributed
Wednesday, January 10		Casis Cares
Thursday, January 11	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Meeting (Portable 15)
Thursday, January 11	3:15 p.m.	CAC Meeting (Portable 15)

Canned Food Drive

The 4th grade team is sponsoring a canned food drive that will benefit the Capital Area Food Bank. Please remember to send canned food items and non-perishables to your child's classroom. Friday, December 15th is the last day for collections.

Butterfly Garden Weeding

Thanks to digging divas Ann Phipps, Wendy Thompson, Dawn Goetzel, Kay Planting and Sara Marler for digging and weeding the Ledbetter Butterfly Garden on a cold morning. Also, many thanks to Casis Leadership students: Sydney Forte, William Morris, Zoe Dobson, Olivia Reynolds, Kendall Brewer, Shelby Forte and Tanner Mauro for planting the flowers. Thank you to Marcia Millikin and Suzanne Plummer for providing their leadership.

Leadership Casis Says: Share Ideas Not Germs

We want to stop the spread of flues and colds. A few simple but healthy habits can stop the spread of germs at home, work and school. Wash your hands often. Wash for 20 seconds or the time it takes to sing the "birthday song" twice. You can also use an alcohol based antibacterial gel. Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze. Use a tissue and through it away or sneeze into your upper sleeve. See our hand out in an upcoming Friday folder and review these habits with the whole family. Healthy Holidays!

Campus Precautions During Bad Weather

If you are concerned about keeping your child warm and dry during cold or rainy weather, please send your child with the appropriate protective clothing (jackets, rain coats, or ponchos with hoods, etc.) Also, when walking around campus during inclement weather, please be sure to watch your step especially on steps, sidewalks, wooden walkways and parking lot areas. Thank you.

Healthy Treats

Please remember to provide healthy treats for any upcoming holiday celebrations. Providing foods with the highest nutritional value keeps kids alert, feeling good and promotes healthy eating habits for children.

Nominating Committee

The nomination process to select the PTA Nominating Committee began on November 27th and will end on December 21st. This committee is responsible for recommending a slate of officers for the 2007-2008 school year. The Nominating Committee will be elected at the general meeting of the PTA on January 18th, 2007. You will find nomination forms and box at the sign-in desk. If you have any questions, call or email Julia Howry at 474-6006 or jhowry@austin.rr.com.

Cougar Book Fund

The Casis Library and the Cougar Book Fund chair, Linda Wendlant, plan to have the books that were donated to the Casis Library through the Cougar Book fund on display in the library on Thursday, December 21st. Please drop by and see the difference your donation has made to the Casis Library collection. We thank you.

Read Aloud/Casis Cares Volunteers

Read Aloud volunteers should communicate directly with their classroom teachers regarding whether or not Read Alouds will occur this week before the winter holiday. Thanks for your contributions.

Casis Science Fair

All 4th and 5th grade students participate in the Casis Science Fair on Tuesday, December 19th and Wednesday, December 20th. Students in the younger grades may participate on a voluntary basis. The goal is for students to apply their knowledge of the scientific process to an actual experiment that answers a question they are curious about. The steps of the scientific process are taught at school and students are expected to complete their project at home. Teachers have distributed packets of information to students with due dates for completing each step of the process. We appreciate parents' appropriate involvement in the Casis Science Fair and encourage you to talk with your child's teacher if you have questions.

Volunteer Judges Needed for Casis Science Fair – Tuesday, December 19th

We are still looking for volunteer judges to help with this year's Science Fair. No experience is necessary. This is a great opportunity to appreciate our students' scientific proficiency. The judging will take place on Tuesday, December 19th, and your help is needed between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Please contact Casis teacher, Martha Olvera, at 841-5577 or via e-mail at molvera@austinisd.org if you are interested.

Casis International Festival

This year's Casis International Festival will take place on January 31st and February 1st & 2nd, 2006. We are busy planning activities around this year's theme, "Birthdays Around the World." We welcome all volunteers who want to be a part of this fun event. You don't have to know about other customs or countries to help. Volunteer opportunities include regional booth attendees, donating regional food items, helping with set up and tear down or by lending items or artifacts to the presentations. For more information please contact Tsina Napoliello at cheena@kw.com or Azita Mokhtari at azita@mail.utexas.edu.

Holiday Gift Idea

To further enhance the Spanish program at Casis, we have a matching grant to send two teachers to our sister school in Honduras to train their teachers in English, Math and classroom management techniques. The Spanish club will be reading books in English and taping them as part of the training so that the Honduran teachers will learn the appropriate English pronunciations. Please consider a donation to help fund this training in a loved one's name (makes a thoughtful holiday gift). For more information go to www.AustinHelpsHonduras.org or contact Chas Studor at cstudor@austin.rr.com or call 478-6351.

Austin Past and Present

Austin Past and Present is a multimedia digital history produced by Austin documentary filmmaker and Casis parent, Karen Kocher. When complete, Austin Past and Present will be distributed to schools in AISD to be integrated into their state and local history curriculum, be available for public viewing in kiosks at the Austin History Center and other public buildings in Austin, and sold as a DVD through the Austin History Center Association's Waterloo Press. For more information, **please note correct website** www.austinpastandpresent.org.

Parking

During the upcoming week, many of you will be visiting our campus for holiday celebrations. As a courtesy to our neighbors, please do not park in the Casis Village parking lot or surrounding business parking lots. Please do not park in the fire lane or teacher's parking lot at anytime or in the drop off/pick up lines during those times. You may park on the side streets near the campus. Also, please do not drop off your children in the teacher parking lot in the morning as this creates a safety hazard. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Lost and Found Items

Please check the Lost and Found located in the hallway between the cafeteria and the 200-wing for items you are missing. All unclaimed items will be sent to charity on December 21st. Please encourage your child to check the Lost and Found for any of their missing items, as we expect each child to take responsibility for his/her property.

Parent Information for Gifted and Talented

The AISD Gifted and Talented Program serves students in grades K–12. If you are interested in learning about the Gifted and Talented Program and the process for identification, please attend the parent meeting on Wednesday, January 17th from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the library. Nomination forms and a brochure about the G/T program will be distributed at the meeting and will also be available in the office. The spring nomination process begins January 17th and lasts through January 26th. If you have questions, please consult with your child's teacher or call the Assistant Principal at 414-2062.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to the parent-volunteers in Ms. Carr's class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week. Thank you in advance to Ms. Cavness' parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch December 18th through December 21st. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Sincerely,