

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

Thursday, December 20		End of Nine Weeks
Friday, December 21-Monday, January 7		Winter Break—No School
Monday, January 7		No School/Staff Development for Teachers
Tuesday, January 8		Classes Resume
Tuesday, January 8	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library/ Portable 8)
Wednesday, January 9		Vision/Hearing Screenings
Wednesday, January 9		Report Cards Distributed
Wednesday, January 9		Casis Cares
Thursday, January 10		Vision/Hearing Screenings
Thursday, January 10	3:15 p.m.	CAC Meeting (Portable 8)
Friday, January 11	8:15 – 10:15 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Meeting (Portable 8)
Monday, January 14	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, January 15	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library/ Portable 8)
Wednesday, January 16		Read Alouds
Thursday, January 17	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Prospective Parent Open House (Library)
Friday, January 18		Spring Picture Day (Cafeteria/Stage)
Friday, January 18	7:45 – 8:45 a.m.	PTA General Meeting (Portable 8)
Monday, January 21		No School/Student Holiday

Canned Food Drive

The 4th grade team successfully collected a total of 2,978 cans! The donations will benefit the Capital Area Food Bank. Ms. Hilgers class was the front-runner collecting 270 cans. Congratulations to the Hilgers! Thanks to all who participated; your sharing is appreciated by many. Thank you to Larry Chauvin for organizing this very important event.

Author Visit

Michael Buckley, author of *The Sister's Grimm*, will visit our school on January 24th. Please complete the order forms that were sent home in the Friday folders and return them no later than **December 20th**. We are so fortunate to have this author share his knowledge and experience with our students.

Vision & Hearing Screenings

Vision and hearing screenings will be given on Wednesday, January 9th and Thursday, January 10th for students in 1st, 3rd and 5th grade. Teachers will refer students new to AISD who are in other grades. Some students may be screened due to previous referrals. If a student does not pass one or more of these screenings, the school health team will re-screen in 2 – 3 weeks. At that time, parents will be notified if their child fails either of the screenings. Vision and hearing screenings are a service of the Austin Independent School District and are conducted annually throughout the school year. Only parents of students who fail the vision and/or hearing screening will receive notification letters by mail. Please remind your children to wear or bring their glasses to school on January 9th and 10th. They will need to wear their glasses while being screened. Thank you.

Casis Science Fair – Wednesday, January 23rd & Thursday, January 24th

All 4th and 5th grade students participate in the Casis Science Fair. 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 – Wednesday January 23rd

Casis needs YOU, parent volunteers, to judge our Science Fair projects on Wednesday, January 23rd from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. No experience is necessary. It is a great opportunity to see young scientists in action and provide an invaluable service to Casis – we could never pull off this event without you! If you are interested, please contact Nichole Abshire at nabshire@austinisd.org or by phone at 841-5605.

Spring Picture Day

Group and individual picture day will be on Friday, January 18th. Payment envelopes will be sent in Friday folders the week we return from the holiday break. Class group pictures will be taken on a pre-pay basis and individual spring portraits will be taken on a proof basis. Please contact the office at 414-2062 with any questions.

Casis Chess Club

The Chess Club will meet again on Tuesday, January 8th, the day we return from winter break.

Book Fair – Special Thanks

A very special thank you goes out to our amazing 5th grade author, David De La Garza and his family, and also to Lynn Baldrige for her help in organizing this important part of Book Fair. Having David sign copies of his book, *The Great, Great, Great Chicken War*, was a wonderful treat for the Casis Community. We would also like to thank Nada Technologies, Inc. and Southwest Strategies Group for underwriting this year.

Open House for Prospective Casis Parents

The first Open House for parents of prospective Casis students who will be in grades K – 5 will be held on Thursday, January 17th from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. in the library. Administrators, PTA representatives and the school counselor will be available at the Open House to share information, answer questions and conduct tours of the school. Please let your neighbors with young children know about this opportunity to learn more about Casis.

Principal Interview Process

Save the date – Thursday, January 24th, Claudia Tousek, Associate Superintendent, will meet with Casis parents from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the library. The purpose of this meeting is to give parents the opportunity to give input into developing a principal profile. Applicants for the principal position will be screened based on information gathered at this meeting.

Lunch Monitors

We wanted to take a minute to introduce our lunch monitors: Chris Daniels, Joseph Daywood, Veloria Mitchell, Charles Tilghman, Linda Baylor and Gloria Scroggins. They work hard to look out for our children in the cafeteria and on the playground during lunch. Please take a minute to thank them for their efforts.

Lost and Found Items – LAST CHANCE TO CLAIM 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 delivered to Allen Elementary, our sister school, on Friday, December 21st at 12:00 p.m.

Lock Down/Safety Drills

Our campus regularly conducts safety drills that include instruction as to what to do in case of intruders as well as fire and tornado alerts. We want our campus to be well prepared in the case of any type of emergency that might occur. Our students have been extremely cooperative and our drills have been successful. We work hard to practice as well as improve District procedures. If you have any questions please contact the Casis office at 414-2062.

Staff Development on January 7th, 2008

On Monday, January 8th, 2007, while students are still on vacation, the staff will return to school to prepare for the new semester and to learn about teaching science through inquiry. Science Coordinator, Dr. Barbara TenBrink will discuss curriculum coordination and instructional strategies in Science. Behavior Specialist, Lynn Lavelle will also meet with our faculty to talk about discipline management strategies. We appreciate our community's commitment to ongoing learning and continuous improvement.

Weekly Health Tip

With many illnesses going around and seasonal allergies upon us, it's a good time to work on strengthening your immune system. Here are some suggestions to enhance your immune system: make sure you are eating your B-vitamins (potato skins, broccoli, prunes and lentils) and carotenes (beets, sweet potatoes, squash, apricots); spend at least 15 minutes outside during the day; eat lots of garlic as it prevents infection; walk a mile at least four times a week, and get adequate rest.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to parent-volunteers in Ms. Underwood's and Ms. Abshire's classes for monitoring the cafeteria and playground over the past couple of weeks. Thank you in advance to Ms. Carr's & Ms. Cavness' parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch, January 8th – December 18th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Wishing you and your family a joyous holiday and relaxing vacation.

Sincerely,