

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

Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition, Austin, Texas 78703
December 21, 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

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)
Friday, January 12	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Prospective Parent Open House (Library)
Monday, January 22		Leadership Casis

Food Drive

Thank you for your donations of non-perishable food items for the Capital Area Food Bank. 3,913 food items were collected! Your generosity will benefit many families.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Thank-You

Thank you to Lisa Terrill, Sharon Hornfischer, and Diana Patterson for coordinating a delicious teacher appreciation luncheon. Our staff wishes to thank all the parents who contributed: Suzanne Bell, Shannon Cameron, Sarah Marler, Mary Beth Kiser, Joanne Willis, Sarah McHaney, Barbara Klitch, Chanta Cost, Dinny Peterson, Stephanie Morrison, Karen Alexander, Marla Kiger, Laura Covert, Carol Kern, Tish Miller, Kay Planting, Joni Guerrero, Carol Kern, Tasha Cline, Linda Plummer, Lauri Perry, Diane Dobson, Linda Beaty, Leisa McLelland, Mary Ames, Allison Dwyer, and Anne Long. We truly enjoyed the wonderful holiday spread. What a great way to kick off winter break!

Science Fair Congratulations

Congratulations to all Casis students who participated in this year's science fair. Special congratulations to 4th Graders: Kim Griffith, Tommy Matson, Noelle Brimble, Elisabeth Foster, Andrew Bell, Johnny Chambless, Matthew Listi, Chris Bowser, and Danielle Johnson. 5th Graders: Zach Jones, Kim Rogers, Samantha Richards, Jack Hawkins and Wyatt Simmons, Chas Golson, Joseph Voss, Lia Irvin, Zoe Dobson/Caroline Phillips/Megan Nater, Cosmo Nixon, and Tanner Mauro and Ben Mauro. These students have been selected to participate in the 2007 Regional Science Festival at the Palmer Events Center on February 23rd & 24th.

Science Fair-Thank You

What a vast and impressive array of science projects we had this year! We would like to thank the students for all of their hard work and recognize their teachers and parents for their guidance. Special thanks to the expert team of volunteer judges! Thank you also to Martha Olvera, Larry Chauvin, Nicole Abshire, and the Science team for organizing and directing the Science Fair. Your contributions of time, energy and attention to detail are greatly appreciated!

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. See our hand out in this weeks' Friday folder and review these habits with the whole family. Healthy Holidays!

Please Encourage Hand Washing

According to the Center for Disease Control, the most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands and encourage your children to do the same. We all spread germs directly to others or onto surfaces that other people touch. And before you know it, everybody around us is getting sick. Always wash your hands before you eat, if your hands feel dirty, or if you can't remember the last time you washed them. Please remind your children to wash their hands after they use the restroom as well.

Casis Chess Club

The Chess Club will meet again on Tuesday, January 9th, the day we return from winter break.

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](mailto: cstudor@austin.rr.com) or call 478-6351.

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 Patty Martin, Assistant Principal, at 414-2062.

Lunch Monitors

We wanted to take a minute to introduce our lunch monitors: Maria Briones, Gloria Brite, Chris Daniels, Joseph Daywood, Mary Herrera, Veloria Mitchell, Taytanill Shed, Charles Tilghman, Delores Rangel, Gloria Scroggins, Jeannie White, and Maylin Gonzalez. 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.

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 Friday, January 12th from 1:00-2:30 p.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 or with children attending private schools know about this opportunity to learn more about Casis.

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 the parent-volunteers in Ms. Cavness' class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week. Thank you in advance to Ms. Downing's parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch January 9th through January 16th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Casis Resource teacher, Mia Roldan, for becoming National Board Certified. Way to go Mia!

Staff Development on January 8th, 2007

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. UT Professor, Karen Ostlund, will be presenting to our faculty about curriculum coordination and instructional strategies in Science. We appreciate our community's commitment to ongoing learning and continuous improvement.

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

Sincerely,