

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

Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition, Austin, Texas 78703
February 16, 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

Tuesday, February 20		4 th Grade TAKS Writing Test/3 rd and 5 th Grade TAKS Reading Test
Tuesday, February 20	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, February 21		Read Aloud
Wednesday – Saturday, February 21 – 24		Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2007
Friday, February 23	7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Parent Appreciation Breakfast (Cafeteria)
Saturday, February 24	2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (UT Campus)
Sunday, February 25	3:00 p.m.	African American Heritage Celebration (Toney Burger Center)
Monday, February 26		Student Holiday/Parent-Teacher Conference Day – No School
Tuesday, February 27		Spring Group and Individual Picture Day (Stage)
Tuesday, February 27	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, February 28	6:45 a.m.	Grade 4 Field Trip to the Alamo (San Antonio)
Wednesday, February 28		Read Aloud
Thursday, March 1	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Meeting (Portable 15)
Thursday, March 1	3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	CAC Meeting (Portable 15)

4th Grade TAKS Writing – and 3rd/5th Grade TAKS Reading – Tuesday, February 20th

On the morning of Tuesday, February 20th fourth graders around the State will be taking the writing portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) exam. The same day, 3rd and 5th graders will take the reading portion of the TAKS. We are excited about all of our students' and teachers' efforts in reading and writing across the grade levels. According to the Texas Education Agency, all 3rd graders are expected to pass the reading portion of the TAKS to go on to the 4th grade, and all 5th graders are expected to pass both the reading and math portions of the TAKS to go on to the 6th grade. There will be opportunities to retake the test, if necessary. Visit the Texas Education Agency website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/ssi/index.html> for further information about the Student Success Initiative. Please make sure your child receives a good night's rest, eats a nutritious breakfast and comes to school prepared to do his/her best. On these days, visitors will not be allowed in the 3rd and 4th/5th grade hallways in order to maintain ideal testing conditions. Your support and cooperation is appreciated.

Jack Gantos Author Visit Wrap Up and Thanks

We had an amazing day with Jack! He cracked us up, told us wonderful stories about his life and adventures and taught us valuable lessons about being good writers. Thanks to a huge team of hard-working volunteers and teachers that made the day successful. Susie Matzorkis, Kerri Ann Chambless, Hillary Summers, Lainey Fisher and their committee served Jack and the teachers a fantastic Texas B-BQ. Jo Cornwell and Cindy Holt created magic with their beautiful artwork and brought Rotten Ralph to life on campus. Judy Paul created the posters, flyers and fun bookmarks. Special thanks to Karla Irvin, Christine Caudle, Michelle Dante, Carolyn Ostrom, Angie Larned, Kathy Mauro, Cami Hawkins, Leigh Simmons, Barbara Klitch, Laura Grim, Rena Sehlke, Jana Howden, Kristen Brakebill, Karen Brimble, Suzanne Rosato, Susan Sigmon, Liza Rios, Laura Wieland and Sue Phillips. And thank you to our fabulous teacher committee: Barbara Nichols, Stacey Ross, Larry Chauvin, Jaynelle Nestle, Amy Cavness, Colleen Carr, and Sheri Bryant. And a huge thank you to Amy Roberts who is the behind the scenes organizer for all of our campus-wide author visits. We appreciate you, Amy!

Parent Appreciation Breakfast – Friday, February 23rd

We would like to invite all Casis parents and volunteers to our annual Parent Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, February 23rd from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. The Casis faculty would like to take this opportunity to show you how much we appreciate your support, so please stop by the cafeteria for a light breakfast and coffee.

PTA Slate of Officers 2007 - 2008

We would like to congratulate the following PTA members who have been elected to serve on the PTA Executive Board for the 2007 – 2008 school year: Julie Ballard - President Elect; Tracy Fielder - Vice President of Communications; Karen Brimble - Vice President of Ways and Means; Suzanne Bell - Vice President of Services; Julie Pastor – Secretary; Amy Allen – Treasurer; and Jay Foster - Assistant Treasurer. We would also like to thank the Nominating Committee: Suzanne Rosato – Chairman, Cami Hawkins, Barbara Carlson, Tiffany Brumley, Thresa Nasi, and Jeannette Williams, Alternate.

24th Annual Austin ISD African American Heritage Celebration

The African American Heritage celebration will be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, February 25th, at the Toney Burger Activity Center, 3200 Jones Road. This is an AISD event honoring African American community leaders and top African American students in grades 6 – 12. This event is free. All teachers, staff and families are invited.

Toys at School

Toys, electronic games, CD players, POKEMON cards, etc., are not appropriate for school and should be left at home unless approved by your child's teacher for a specific school activity.

Leadership Casis Make-A-Wish Drive

Leadership Casis is still collecting money now through Friday, February 23rd to make Megan's wish come true. Megan is recovering from a heart transplant and her wish is to take a trip to Australia to surf and see the animals in the zoo. We did the math and if each student donates approximately \$8, we'll reach our \$5000 goal. Please join us in making Megan's wish come true and help our students understand charity and experience the feeling of giving. Leadership Casis kids will collect donations each morning during the announcements. Thanks in advance for your child's contribution.

Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2007

The Austin Regional Science Festival will be held February 21st – 24th at Palmer Events Center, located at 900 Barton Springs Rd. Elementary student projects will be judged on Saturday, February 24th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and can be viewed from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. The Elementary Awards Ceremony will be held Saturday, February 24th from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. There will be a variety of fun events and demonstrations for children to participate in throughout the morning. Parking is complimentary. For more info, email or call Pierrette Tyson at sciencefest@austinenergy.com or 972-9539.

Box Tops

Casis could win \$1,000 and we need your help! Please sign up at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/love> to support our school. Each new person that signs up at this site has a chance to win 10,000 boxtops for Casis. A new winner is picked each day in February. Sign up today as the promotion ends on February 28th.

AT & T Marathon this Sunday, February 18th

Mayor Will Wynn will be participating in the AT&T Marathon on Sunday, February 18th. He is running to raise funds for Marathon Kids. Mayor Wynn has been incredibly supportive of the 10-year program founded by Kay Morris. Students are invited to make posters that say, "Casis supports Marathon Kids," or "Go Mayor Wynn." Come cheer him on and show your support for Marathon Kids as the AT&T course goes by Casis at mile 10. If any parent is willing to set up a water stop in front of Casis or just help organize a group to cheer for all the marathon runners this weekend, please contact Cindy Samok at 841-5546. Casis students, remember to wear a Marathon Kids or Casis P.E. Dept. shirt from years past. First runners will pass by Casis around 8:00 a.m. To make a donation, please visit www.marathonkids.com.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day will be held at UT on Saturday, February 24th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Girls in 1st through 8th grade are invited. There will be fun, grade-specific, hands-on engineering activities. Students will meet professors and engineers from the industry to learn what it's like to be an engineer. Registration is required. For further info, visit <http://www.engr.utexas.edu/wep/precollege/girladay.cfm>.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, February 26th. Students will not attend school this day. The goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss students' academic progress, and to set and review goals for the rest of the school year. Our teachers are eager to meet with you, and welcome your questions and input. Please prepare for your conference by thinking about specific questions or topics you may want to share with your child's teacher to help him or her better know and assist your child. This conference is just one of the many opportunities for communication between you and your child's teacher. We are excited about working with you to help your children be successful.

Spring Picture Day – Tuesday, February 27th

Individual spring photos and class pictures will be taken on Tuesday, February 27th. Order envelopes were sent in this week's Friday folders. If you have already given your payment to your child's teacher you do not need to send another envelope or payment. As a reminder, class group pictures will be taken on a pre-pay basis and individual spring portraits will be taken on a proof basis. Proofs will be sent home shortly after Spring Break with payment deadlines listed. Please contact the office at 414-2062 with any questions.

Fun Run is coming

Fun Run will be held on April 15th. We are looking forward to another great event. We are also looking for a few great volunteers to be on the Fun Run Committee. If this is something that interests you, please call or email Cami Hawkins at hawkins2048@sbcglobal.net, 478-0552, or Suzanne Plummer at suzanne.plummer@amd.com.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to the parent-volunteers in Ms. Cornwell's and Ms. Hudgin's classes for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week. Thank you in advance to Ms. Hudgin's parent-volunteers who volunteer February 19th – 21st and to parent-volunteers in Ms. Olvera's who will volunteer February 22nd through March 1st. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent. Thanks for all your help and support!

Sincerely,