

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

Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition, Austin, Texas 78703
February 2, 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

Friday, February 2		International Festival
Monday, February 5	1:15 p.m.	O. Henry Counselor Freeman Visits Grade 5 (Cafeteria)
Monday, February 5	2:45 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, February 6	8:15 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Meeting (P15)
Tuesday, February 6	8:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.	O. Henry Choice Sheet Meetings (O. Henry Middle School)
Tuesday, February 6	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, February 7		Casis Cares
Thursday, February 8	9:00 a.m.	Open House for Prospective Casis Parents (Library)
Thursday, February 8	7:00 p.m.	PTA General Meeting (Cafeteria)
Monday, February 12	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	PTA Budget Meeting (P15)
Tuesday, February 13	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Tuesday, February 20		4 th Grade TAKS Writing Test/3 rd and 5 th Grade TAKS Reading Test
Wednesday – Saturday, February 21 – 24		Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2007

Casis Parent Survey – Please Respond

So far 17 parent surveys have been completed. We are hoping to have at least 250 more completed during the next week. If you have not yet completed your parent surveys on line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=290583133991> or through the Casis website at www.mycasis.org, please do so as soon as possible. Completing the surveys online reduces the amount of tallying required to compile survey results. Copies are also available at the sign-in table and in the office. Those of you who have requested paper copies of Casis communications will receive them this week in your Friday folders. Please return surveys to your child's teacher or to the main office by February 9th.

PTA General Meeting, "Cyber Safety" presentation

The next PTA General Meeting will be held on February 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. We are pleased to have Sgt. Paul Aleman, from the Cyber Crimes Unit of the Office of the Attorney General, present information on keeping the Internet safe for our children. His presentation is called "Cyber Safety Parent Presentation." Because of the mature content and graphic details, this is a parent only presentation. Please join us for this important topic.

Open Houses for Prospective Casis Parents

On February 8th and March 22nd from 9:00 -10:30 a.m., Casis will host Open Houses for prospective parents with children who will be in grades K-5 next year. There is no need to attend both meetings, as the information will be the same. Administrators, PTA representatives and the school counselor will be available at the Open Houses to share information, answer questions and conduct tours of the school. Please share information about the Open House with your neighbors and friends who may be interested in sending their children to Casis.

O. Henry Choice Sheet Selection Opportunities

If you have a 5th grader, please plan on attending one of O. Henry's Choice Sheet Selection meetings. They will be held on Tuesday, February 6th, at either 8:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. in the O. Henry Middle School cafeteria. The counselors and administrators will discuss choice sheet course selections for the coming 2007-2008 school year. This is a good opportunity to see what classes O. Henry has to offer and how the process works. The same information will be discussed in both morning and evening meetings.

6th Grade Options

In addition to O. Henry Middle School and Kealing and Fulmore magnet schools being options for incoming 6th graders, there are also other nearby public school choices: Mathews Elementary located at 906 West Lynn (414-4406); and Bryker Woods Elementary located at 3309 Kerbey Lane (414-2054). If these schools are not in your attendance zone, a transfer request is required. Please call these campuses for more information.

Transfer Requests for the 2007-2008 School Year

If your child has attended Casis on a transfer, he or she must obtain another transfer to go to O. Henry (or any other middle school within AISD) if you live outside of the regular attendance area. Transfer request forms can be obtained from Annie Johnson in the main office. AISD begins accepting transfers on Saturday, February 3rd. At Casis, Grades 1 and 4 are currently frozen to new transfers that are not considered priority. If you have any questions regarding AISD transfer policies, please call Student Services at 414-1726. The final deadline to turn in transfer requests for the upcoming school year is August 1, 2007.

Leadership Casis - Help Keep Austin Warm & Upcoming Meeting

Leadership Casis is collecting blankets and clothing for Manos de Cristo to help Austin families. Please clean out your closets, all sizes needed (children or adult). Boxes are located at the front entrance. We are collecting now through February 5th. Our next meeting is Monday, February 5th in the library. Pick up will be in the circle driveway at 4:00 p.m. Please wear your Leadership Casis t-shirt to school on Monday.

Make A Wish Drive

Leadership Casis will be collecting money for the Make A Wish Foundation from Monday, February 12th through Friday, February 23rd to make a local girl's wish come true. Michelle, an 8-year-old with epilepsy, would like to have a seizure dog to assist her when she has a seizure. We did the math and if each student donates approximately \$8, we'll reach our goal of collecting \$5,000. Please help us make Michelle's wish come true by sending money with your child to be collected each morning during announcements by Leadership Casis kids. Thanks in advance for your child's contribution to our worthy cause.

Box Tops

To celebrate Valentine's Day, every *new* person who signs up to support our school on the Box Tops website will be entered for a chance to win 10,000 Bonus Box Tops in the "I Love My School Sweepstakes"! For each day in February - that's 28 days and 28 prizes - they'll give away 10,000 Bonus Box Tops to a *newly* registered school supporter. They won't share your information, and you can opt out of receiving any emails from them. Please remember to turn your box tops in by Friday, February 16th to the Box Tops Ziploc bag in your classroom. Casis earns 10 cents for each box top. Visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/super> to enter the sweepstakes!

2007-2008 PTA Officer Nominations Requested

The Nomination forms for PTA Officers for the 2007-2008 school year went out in the Friday folders. You may nominate yourself and /or any other individual that you believe is qualified for the offices listed on the form. Extra forms are located by the table outside the office. Please return your completed Nomination forms to your child's teacher or mail it to Julia Howry, 2401 Sweetbrush Drive, Austin, Texas 78703, by Monday, February 5th. Thank you for participating in this important process. The Nomination forms can also be accessed via the PTA website at www.casispta.org.

Volleyball

The Austin Association of Physical Educators is sponsoring a Volleyball Playday on Saturday, March 3rd, at the U. T. Recreation Center. The Playday is open to 5th grade boys and girls who attend AISD schools. Practice sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. in the gym. Students may choose which day works for them. Our first practice sessions began on Tuesday, January 30th, and Wednesday, January 31st. For details, contact Ms. Samok at 841-5546.

Author Visit With Jack Gantos - Next Friday, February 9th!

Please join us for a day filled with humor, stories, and learning with award winning author Jack Gantos. Jack will be giving three presentations throughout the day in the cafeteria: Kinder-1st: 8:15 - 9:15 a.m.; 4th and 5th: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.; 2nd and 3rd: 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Jack will also be having lunch with our teachers in the library and signing books through out the day. Books will be available for purchase in the library on Friday. Please come and be a part of this special day. For more information contact Amy Roberts, 472-3735, asraustin@aol.com.

Valentine's Treats

Due to AISD's Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV) policy, many parents are wondering what kind of food is appropriate for classroom Valentine's parties. The district has restricted the following: chewing gum, hard candy, jellied candies, marshmallow candy, licorice, and caramel popcorn. Healthy treat options include: fruit, string cheese, pretzels, beef jerky, juices and yogurts. There is a more in-depth list of good foods to choose from on the following AISD website: <http://www.austinisd.org/schools/health/nutrition.phtml>. We ask that you follow the district policy and try to provide healthy snacks for holiday parties. **Also, please be sensitive to students who may have food allergies by avoiding foods that include nuts or nut ingredients.** Thank you.

Weekly Health Tip

Creative activity causes our brain cells to release endorphins. Endorphins can reduce our sensation of pain and help boost our immune systems. These neurochemicals are released when we translate our images into action through dancing, singing, drawing/painting, making music, working on crafts, performing certain forms of exercise, gardening or any other creative activity. Researchers equate the type of brain wave pattern that is produced during creative activity with those that are produced during meditation.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to the parent-volunteers in Ms. Mangel's and Ms. Christian's classes for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week. Thank you in advance to Ms. Christian's parent-volunteers who will volunteer February 5th - 7th and then to Ms. Cornwell's parent-volunteers who will volunteer from February 8th - February 14th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent. Thanks for all your help and support!

Sincerely,