

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

Saturday, February 9	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis Garage Sale
Sunday, February 10	3:00 p.m.	African American Heritage Celebration (Delco Activity Center)
Monday, February 11	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, February 12	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Tuesday, February 12	8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Choice Sheet Opportunities (O. Henry Middle School)
Wednesday, February 13		Read Alouds
Thursday, February 14	7:45 – 8:30 a.m.	Parent Appreciation Breakfast (Cafeteria)
Friday, February 15	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	PTA Budget Meeting (Portable 8)
Tuesday, February 19	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, February 20		Read Alouds
Thursday, February 21	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	PTA General Meeting (Portable 8)
Saturday, February 23		Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2008 (Parmer Auditorium)
Saturday, February 23	2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (UT Campus)
Monday, February 25		Student Holiday/Parent-Teacher Conference Day – No School

25th Annual Austin ISD African American Heritage Celebration

The African American Heritage celebration will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 10th, at the Delco Activity Center, located at 4601 Pecan Brook Drive. This is an AISD event honoring African American community leaders and top African American students in grades 6 – 12. All teachers, staff and families are invited to this free event.

Casis International Festival Wrap Up

We have just celebrated “Inventions and Discoveries from Around the World,” this year’s theme for the Casis International Festival. This event would not have been possible without the help of the many parents, teachers and school staff who volunteered and worked hard. Thank you to Barbara Nichols, our time machine inventor; Ana Montoya for her help at the assembly; The Craven Family Foundation, for the wonderful t shirts; the maintenance staff for all their cooperation; Terry Kuzmich (not yet a Casis parent), who edited and produced the videos at no charge; Lynn Boswell for writing the scripts; Dr. Rob Lesser, artist at large, for his beautiful international murals; Tyrex Mfg. for loaning us conveyor systems for the factory; and all the teaching staff for their support. We would like to thank the event chairs/coordinators, Robbi Cooper, Beth Lesser and Anne Veeraghavan for all of their wisdom and dedication to this wonderful event. More amazing volunteers will be thanked in the upcoming newsletter.

2008-2009 PTA Officer Nominations Requested

Nominations for PTA Officers for the 2008 – 2009 school year are now being accepted. Your nominations will help the PTA Nominating Committee prepare a proposed slate of officers for the 2008 – 2009 school year for the offices of President Elect, VP of Ways & Means, VP Communications, VP Services, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary. You may nominate yourself and /or any other individual you believe is qualified for these offices. Extra forms are located by the table outside the office. Please return your completed form to your child’s teacher, email to hawkins2048@sbcglobal.net or mail to Cami Hawkins at 3222 Cherry Lane, Austin, Texas 78703, by Monday, February 25th. Thank you for participating in this important process.

Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2008

The Austin Regional Science Festival will be held February 21st – 24th at the Palmer Events Center, located at 900 Barton Springs Rd. Elementary student projects will be judged on Saturday, February 23rd 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 23rd 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.

Regional Science Fair Volunteers Needed

The Austin Energy Regional Science Festival will be taking place on Saturday, February 23rd at the Palmer Events Center. Elementary schools will be setting up on Friday, February 22nd. We have 21 Casis students who will be competing in the regional science fair. They are in need of volunteer judges as well as volunteers to direct students and help with setup. If you are able to volunteer, please visit www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com and register at the bottom of the page.

Casis Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Colleen Carr, one of our amazing 2nd grade teachers, whom her colleagues have selected as Casis Teacher of the Year for 2007 – 2008. Way to go, Colleen!!

Parent Appreciation Breakfast

We would like to invite all Casis parents and volunteers to our annual Parent Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday, February 14th, in the cafeteria from 7:45 – 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 light breakfast and coffee.

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 12th, at either 8:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. in the O. Henry Middle School cafeteria. The same information will be discussed in both meetings. The counselors and administrators will discuss choice sheet course selections for the coming 2008 – 2009 school year. This is a good opportunity to see what classes O. Henry has to offer and how the process works. Additionally, Mr. Freeman, 6th grade counselor, at O. Henry, visited Casis on Thursday, February 7th, to discuss and distribute Choice Sheets to our 5th graders. All 5th grade students will be asked to fill out a choice sheet even if they are not planning to attend O. Henry next year. Choice sheets will be due back to Casis no later than February 22nd.

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.

Safe Routes To School Survey

In this week's Friday folder you will find a Safe Routes to School Survey. Please review and fill it out and return it your child's teacher or the main office no later than February 15th. Thank you in advance for taking the time to help us collect information regarding the safe transport of our students.

AISD Calendar Task Force 2009-2010

Last week we sent out the Calendar Task Force Selection form. Parents who wish to apply to be on the Calendar Task Force can return the form to the Casis main office or fax it directly to the district office (FAX 414 -0366) by Feb. 13th. If you did not receive this form previously and are interested, please contact Annie Melvin at 841-5541 to obtain further information. Thanks.

A.A.P.E. Volleyball Playday and 5th Grade Volleyball Practice

The Austin Association of Physical Educators is sponsoring a Volleyball Playday on Saturday, March 1st, at the U. T. Recreation Center. The Playday is open to 5th grade boys and girls who attend AISD schools. Practice sessions are being 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, February 5th and Wednesday, February 6th. For details, contact Ms. Samok at 841-5546.

AISD Parent Surveys

If you have not yet filled out and returned your AISD Parent Survey, we encourage you to do so. You may return them to your child's teacher or to the main office. You may also return them directly to AISD's Program Evaluation office. Please remember to fill these forms out in pencil and to put the name of our school in the designated area. Your responses to this survey are completely anonymous. **The deadline to return these forms is February 15th.** If you have any questions you may contact the AISD Department of Program Evaluation at 414-3641.

Box Tops Sweepstakes & Last Collection For This Year

Help us win 1,000 Bonus Box Tops by entering the sweepstakes at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/love> every day in February. Please remember to turn in your box tops by **Friday, February 15th** to the Box Tops Ziploc in your classroom. Casis earns 10 cents for each box top. Please trim the edges of your tops along the dashed lines. Thank you.

Marathon Kids Final Mile Celebration

Saturday, February 23rd, is the Final Mile Celebration for those students who have completed their 26 Marathon Kids miles. The celebration will be held at Austin ISD's Burger Stadium located at 3200 Jones Road. Students who attend will receive medals. All students who registered for Marathon Kids and turned in mileage logs either as a class or as an individual will receive a t-shirt. For more information, please visit www.MarathonKids.com.

Valentine's Treats

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.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to parent-volunteers in Ms. Ewing's & Ms. Heleniak's classes for monitoring the cafeteria and playground over the past couple of weeks. Thank you in advance to Ms. Mangels' & Ms. Christian's parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch, February 11th – February 22nd. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Sincerely, Patty Martin