

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

Monday, January 14	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, January 15	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Tuesday, January 15	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Gifted & Talented Parent Information Night (Library)
Wednesday, January 16		Read Alouds
Thursday, January 17	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Prospective Parent Open House (Library)
Friday, January 18		Spring Individual & Group Picture Day (Café/Stage)
Friday, January 18	7:45 – 8:45 a.m.	PTA General Meeting (Gym)
Monday, January 21		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School
Tuesday, January 22	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, January 23		Read Alouds
Thursday, January 24		Author Visit (Michael Buckley Visits Casis)
Friday, January 25	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	PTA Budget Meeting (Portable 8)
Monday, January 28	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, January 29	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, January 30		Read Alouds
Wednesday, January 30		International Festival Begins

Author Visit – Thursday, January 24th

Michael Buckley, author of *The Sister's Grimm* series, will visit with our students and staff on Thursday, January 24th. Final book orders for autographed copies will be sent home in the Friday folder. **This is your last chance to order a signed book.** Please return orders to school by Monday January 24th.

Casis Science Fair/Volunteer Judges – 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 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. If you are interested in being a volunteer judge on Wednesday, January 23rd from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., please contact Nichole Abshire at nabshire@austinisd.org or by phone at 841-5605. No experience is necessary. This is a great opportunity to see young scientists in action and provide an invaluable service to Casis.

Class Group Pictures and Individual Spring Photos on Friday, January 18th

Class group pictures and individual spring photos will be taken on **Friday, January 18th**. **Class group pictures will be taken on a pre-pay basis.** Order envelopes can be found in the January 11th Friday folder. Please return the order envelope and payment to your child's teacher by picture day. Please remember to indicate size on the order form if you are ordering a t-shirt. **Individual spring photos will be taken on a proof basis.** The background will be a whitewashed fence accented with foliage and wrought iron metalwork (suggested clothing: jeans with a solid-colored shirt). Students do not need to bring money on this day for individual pictures. Approximately two to three weeks after pictures have been taken, your child will receive a proof, which will include pricing, and ordering information. Please contact the office at 414-2062 with any questions.

Vision & Hearing Volunteers – Thank You

Thank you to Brooks Franklin, Abbe Oden, and Carol McRoberts who helped us make the vision & hearing screenings run smoothly. We couldn't have done it without you!

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 Tuesday, January 15th 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 15th and lasts through January 23rd. G/T parent nominations are due to the office or your child's teacher by Wednesday, January 23rd. If you have questions, please consult with your child's teacher or call Ana Montoya, Assistant Principal, at 414-2062.

Custodians

We wanted to take a minute to introduce our amazing custodians: Paulo Torres, Nicolasa Torres, Marcella Andrade, and our wonderful head custodian, Marco Medrano. They work hard to keep our school clean and safe for our students, staff members and parents. Please take a minute to thank them for their efforts.

Adequate Yearly Progress/School Report Card

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, a campus is rated each year on standards related to performance, student participation on test day, and attendance. In the next week you will receive a copy of the Adequate Yearly Progress campus data table provided by the Texas Education Agency along with our School Report Card. We are required to send you this information. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please call 414-2062.

No School –January 21st

Remember that Monday, January 21st is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There will be no school for students or staff.

PTA Volunteer Spring Forms

In this week's Friday folder you will receive the PTA volunteer spring form for 2008. Please review all the volunteer options and check as many opportunities that suit you. We would love to have as many parents involved as possible. Everyone is welcome! Please turn in these forms to your child's teacher no later than January 25th. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

PTA General Meeting – Friday, January 18th

Join us on Friday, January 18th in the gym for coffee and guest speaker, Kathy Wilson, M.Ed. who will present, "Are you parenting for the 21st century"? We will gather in the gym at 7:45 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. Hope to see you there.

2008 PTA Nominating Committee Elections

The PTA will be electing the 2008 Nominating Committee at the January 18th General Meeting. The Nominating Committee is responsible for presenting the slate of officers for the 2008 – 2009 PTA Executive Board positions: President Elect, Vice President of Ways & Means, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Services, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary. Five people will serve on this committee with one alternate. Please join us at the general meeting on Friday, January 18th at 8:00 a.m. in the gym.

Casis International Festival

This year's Casis International Festival will take place January 30th – 31st and February 1st. We are busy planning activities around this year's theme, "Discoveries & Inventions from Around the World." We welcome all volunteers who want to be a part of this fun event. You don't have to know about other customs or countries to help. Volunteer opportunities include regional booth attendees, donating regional food items, helping with set up and tear down or by lending exhibit items to the presentations. For more information please contact Robbi Cooper at robbicooper@sbcglobal.net.

A Note About International Festival Food Items

Please be mindful that we do have students on campus with life-threatening food allergies. We ask that when selecting and preparing dishes for the International Festival to please select recipes or menu items that do not include nut products. We appreciate your consideration and care with this matter.

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.

Save Your Holiday Cards

Please don't throw away your holiday cards. The art teachers, Ms. Bond and Ms. Reed would like your recycled holiday cards to utilize for future art projects. Please turn your holiday cards in addressed to the art class to your teacher or to the office. Thank you.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to parent-volunteers in Ms. Carr's class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground over the last week. Thank you in advance to Ms. Cavness' and Ms. Downing's parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch from January 14th through January 25th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Sincerely,