

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

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| Saturday, January 26 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders Open House |
| 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 | 8:30 a.m. | O. Henry Prospective Parent Coffee (O. Henry Middle School) |
| Wednesday, January 30 | | Read Alouds |
| Wednesday, January 30 | | International Festival Begins |
| Wednesday, January 30 | 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. | 4 th & 5 th Grade Book Club (Library) |
| Thursday, January 31 | | International Festival |
| Friday, February 1 | | International Festival |
| Monday, February 4 | | Staff Development/Student Holiday (No School) |
| Tuesday, February 5 | 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. | Chess Club (Library) |
| Wednesday, February 6 | | Casis Cares |
| Thursday, February 7 | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Casis Prospective Parent Open House (Library) |
| Thursday, February 7 | 3:15 p.m. | CAC Meeting (Portable 8) |
| Friday, February 8 | | 100 th Day of School |
| Friday, February 8 | 8:15 – 10:15 a.m. | PTA Executive Board Meeting (Portable 8) |
| Monday, February 11 | 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. | Leadership Casis (Library) |
| Monday, February 15 | 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. | PTA Budget Meeting (Portable 8) |

Author Visit – Thursday, January 24th

Thank you to Michael Buckley for sharing his knowledge and experience with our staff and students. Thank you to all the wonderful parents who were responsible for putting this very important event together: Cami Hawkins, Kristin Brakebill, and Christine Caudle. Thank you to Kathryn Burniston, Evelyn Wiedeman and to all the wonderful volunteers who worked so hard putting together the Author Luncheon. Thank you to Kathy and Claude Benayoun and Vespaio Restaurant for the spectacular food. Special thanks to Mary Sheffield for baking the amazing cakes. Thank you also to Barbara Nichols for all that you do for our literacy events!

Science Fair Congratulations

This year's science fair had so many wonderful projects with thorough experiments. Many students scored very well on their science fair projects. Congratulations to the following 4th and 5th grade students for qualifying for the regional science fair with their high scores: 4th Grade – Caroline Graves (Lindsey), Joseph Estrada (Chauvin), Davison Thompson (Pifer), Nicholas Dezso (Chauvin), Garrett Boes (Morrison), Helen Peck (Noack), and Claire Grosvenor (Noack). 5th Grade – Ellie Roland (Springer), Meredith Morran (Springer), Kinloch Gill (Batiansila), Matthew Listi (Nestle), Eliza Martin (Springer), Zikolos Schriever (Springer), Alia Littles (Springer), Marietta Wise and Elizabeth Bradshaw (Nestle), Kim Griffith (Nestle), Reed Sallans (Batiansila), and Blake Holleran (Batiansila). Primary Grades – Danielle Kessler (Nelson), and Kaylee Westbrook (Ewing). We would also like to recognize Mrs. Sridharan, Pre-K teacher, for being the only class to complete a class project. They have shown great understanding of the scientific process. Thank you to Larry Chauvin, Brandon Batiansila, Martha Olvera, Nichole Abshire, and Jose Martinez for your hard work, organization and leadership with this very important event. Thanks to all who participated!

Casis International Festival / Calling All Parents!

We need your help for the Casis International Festival, which takes place January 30th – 31st and February 1st. This year's theme is "Discoveries & Inventions from Around the World." **We are short staffed and need as much help as you can offer.** It's rewarding, fun, and you don't need to know about specific countries or inventions to help. Volunteer opportunities include: regional booth attendees, donating regional food items, helping with set up and tear down, or lending exhibit items to the presentations. For more information please contact Robbi Cooper at robbicooper@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

Congratulations Baker Jones

Casis would like to extend a huge thank you to Baker Jones, former Casis student, for his Eagle Scout project. Baker designed and built a flagstone path that extends from the existing sidewalk to the forest entrance. Not only is it beautiful; it improves accessibility. Way to go, Baker!

Casis Counselor Award

Congratulations to Jennifer Lyon, who has been selected from across the state of Texas, to receive the CREST Award for her work with the Casis counseling program! The CREST Award for Excellence, (Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas), is awarded by the Texas School Counseling Association each year to school counseling department in Texas. The application process is rigorous and competitive. Only 15 schools in Texas were recognized for this award. Casis Elementary is the first school in AISD to apply for the award. National School Counselors Week, February 4th – 8th, begins its celebration at the Board Meeting on January 28th (during the Presidential update) when counselors will be recognized for their contributions to the students, parents, and community of AISD. Jennifer Lyon will be honored for winning the CREST Award at the Elementary School Counselor Conference on April 14th in Galveston, Texas. We are extremely proud and fortunate to have Jennifer here at Casis. Thanks for all that you do for our students.

Transfer Requests for the 2008-2009 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 2nd. Currently all grade levels at Casis are 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 for priority transfers is February 15th. The final deadline for non-priority transfers is August 11th, 2008.

Volleyball

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 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 will be held on Tuesday, February 5th and Wednesday, February 6th. For details, contact Ms. Samok at 841-5546.

AISD Parent Surveys

In today's Friday folders you will receive an AISD Parent Survey. We encourage you to fill out and return these forms to the main office or to your child's teacher as soon as possible. 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. Thank you for your cooperation in gathering this data.

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. You can always turn them in early! Casis earns 10 cents for each box top. Please trim the edges of your tops along the dashed lines. This saves so much time when counting and bundling. Thank you.

Chess Club

We had eight students from Casis participate in the Mathews Chess Tournament last weekend. Congratulations to Anna Girardeau, Ben Girardeau, Leah Griffith, Ballie Griffith, Kim Griffith, Elan McMinn, Sessa McMinn, and Mathew Tobias for doing such a great job representing the Cougars! We also need volunteers on a rotational basis to help with circle drive pick-up. It only takes 15-20 minutes of your time starting at 3:45 p.m. Please call Diana Graves at 496-3303 with any questions.

O. Henry Middle School Prospective Parent Meeting

The O. Henry PTA invites *all* moms and dads to an informal "Coffee Talk," Wednesday, January 30th at 8:30 a.m. at O. Henry Middle School, which is located at 2610 West 10th Street. Do you have questions about middle school? Are you worried about the transition? Is O. Henry the right place for your child? Come get the scoop from current O. Henry parents or just drop by to say hello. Please contact Amber Elenz at aelenz@austin.rr.com or call 708-1231 with questions.

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 parent-volunteers in Ms. Cavness' and Ms. Downing's classes for monitoring the cafeteria and playground over the past couple of weeks. Thank you in advance to Ms. Ewing's & Ms. Heleniak's parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch, January 28th – February 8th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Sincerely,
Patty Martin