

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

Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition, Austin, Texas 78703
January 26, 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, January 26		100 th Day of School Celebration
Saturday, January 27	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders Open House
Monday, January 29		Student Holiday/Staff Development – No School
Tuesday, January 30	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, January 31		International Festival Begins
Wednesday, January 31		Read Alouds
Wednesday, January 31		Gifted & Talented Nomination Process Ends
Thursday, February 1		International Festival
Thursday, February 1	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Meeting (P15)
Thursday, February 1	3:15 p.m.	CAC Meeting (P15)
Friday, February 2		International Festival
Monday, February 5	2:45 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, February 6	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, February 7		Casis Cares
Thursday, February 8	7:00 p.m.	PTA General Meeting (Cafeteria)
Monday, February 12	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	PTA Budget Meeting (P15)
Wednesday – Saturday, February 21 – 24		Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2007

Casis International Festival

We are gearing up for the Casis International Festival, which takes place January 31st through February 2nd. We have many exciting activities planned around this year's theme "Birthdays around the World." Students are learning to say "happy birthday" in different languages. They will also realize after visiting all the regions that birthdays are celebrated in many different ways. Some honor the celebrant like we do in our society, some celebrate it as a nation, and others do not celebrate the individual birthday at all. Festivities begin on Wednesday, January 31st, with two general assemblies in the Cafeteria so that we can accommodate all students. The ceremony will begin with a Lion Dance from Leigh Simmons' Tarrytown Dance featuring our very own Casis students: Rachel and Danielle Kessler, followed with a traditional Korean Dance by the Doss Elementary Korean Dance group, and then a production by One World Theatre's "Voices Around the World" performed by its founders - Illuminada and Hartt Stearns. We hope that you enjoy your celebration around the world.

Service Hour Opportunity For Leadership Casis Students - International Festival

We are offering Leadership Casis Students the opportunity to earn a service hour by helping decorate for International Festival after school on Wednesday, January 31st. We will dismiss volunteer LC students from the circle drive at 4:00 p.m. Email mmedrano@austin.rr.com if your child is coming in order to plan for snacks. Don't forget to turn in your "Service Hour" Tally sheet when you have completed your five service hours.

Gifted & Talented Parent Forum

AISD is presenting a Gifted & Talented Parent Forum entitled "Uneven Development in Your Gifted Child," which will be held on January 31st from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Baker Center, located at 3908 Avenue B. For more information contact the offices of Advanced Academic Services at 414-9986.

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. 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 1st, 2007.

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!

Leadership Casis - Help Keep Austin Warm

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. Thank you!

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 will be held on Tuesday, January 30th, and Wednesday, January 31st. For details, contact Ms. Samok at 841-5546.

Casis Chess Club

Congratulations to Joseph Estrada (3rd) and Elan McMinn (K) for winning a 4th place team trophy at the LBJ chess tournament this last weekend. Elan also won a 5th place personal trophy. Way to go Cougars! The TCA Region VI Championship will be held at Laurel Mountain Elementary school on February 10th. This is a great tournament for beginners to play in the JV section. Please visit www.turbochess.com to register for this event. Flyers and registration forms may also be downloaded at this site. Contact Diana Graves with any questions at 480-0782 or via email at diana-graves@sbcglobal.net.

2007-2008 PTA Officer Nominations Requested

The Nomination forms for PTA Officers for the 2007-2008 school year were in last week's Friday Folders. Your nominations will help the PTA Nominating Committee prepare a proposed slate of officers for the 2007-2008 school year. 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.

Casis Electronic Communication

This Friday many Casis families are receiving this newsletter via email. Please remember that hard copies of the newsletter are always available in the office and on our website at www.casispta.org, should you need one. For those families who have not yet specified their preference for school communications, you should find a form in this Friday Folder. Please return it as soon as possible to your homeroom teacher or the school office. For questions, please contact Tracy Fielder at tracyfielder@sbcglobal.net or 542-0045.

Upcoming Author Visit With Jack Gantos - Friday, February 9th

Jack Gantos will be returning to Casis for another entertaining and enlightening presentation. Jack's books are some of the most popular in our library and we hope you will take the opportunity to purchase a signed book at this event for your collection. A flyer also went out with information about our Parent/Staff book group. We will be reading Jack's newest Young Adult novel entitled The Love Curse of the Rumbaugh's. Please join us for a lively discussion of this hilarious, wacky book on Monday, February 5th from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in the library. Books are available at Book People. For more information, please contact Amy Roberts at 472-3735, or email asraustin@aol.com.

School Report Card

Included in this weeks' Friday folder you will find a copy or an electronic copy of the 2005-2006 School Report Card for Casis Elementary. This is a report required by the Texas Legislature and prepared by the Texas Education Agency. It is to be sent to the parent or guardian of every child enrolled in the public schools. The report provides information concerning student performance as well as information concerning expenditures, average class size, and student/teacher ratios. A more complete report about Casis Elementary, the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report, is available online at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/aeis/index.html>.

Casis Parent Survey

The Casis Parent Surveys are now available. Please complete surveys on line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=290583133991> or through the Casis website at www.mycasis.org. 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 next week in your Friday folders. Please return surveys to your child's teacher or to the main office by February 9th. The purpose of the survey is to gain information on improving campus effectiveness. A similar survey has been administered for the past eight years and will be administered each year to study changes at Casis over time. We appreciate your valuable feedback.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to the parent-volunteers in Ms. Mangel's class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week. Thank you in advance to Ms. Mangel's parent-volunteers who will volunteer January 30th and January 31st and then to Ms. Christian's parent-volunteers who will volunteer from February 1st through February 7th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent. Parents, we also wanted to let you know that the cafeteria/playground monitoring instruction guide is now available at www.casispta.org. You will find the link under "volunteering." Thanks for all your help and support!

Sincerely,