

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

Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition, Austin, Texas 78703
March 23, 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

Monday, March 26	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, March 27	2:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, March 28	12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	Casis Cares/Read Aloud Brown Bag Luncheon (P15)
Wednesday, March 28		Report Cards Distributed
Wednesday, March 28		Read Aloud
Thursday, March 29	8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	5 th Grade Parent Meeting (Library)
Monday, April 2	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, April 3		5 th Grade Math TAKS
Tuesday, April 3	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, April 4		Casis Cares
Wednesday, April 4	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Dyslexic Presentation (Scottish Rite Learning Center)
Thursday, April 5	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Meeting (P-15)
Thursday, April 5	3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	CAC Meeting (P-15)
Friday, April 6		1 st Grade Field Trip to Inner Space Caverns
Saturday, April 14		2007 Safeplace Walk (Waterloo Park)
Sunday, April 15	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Casis Fun Run (O. Henry Track)

Casis Cares/Read Aloud Volunteers

Our counselor, Jennifer Lyon, and Casis Cares committee would like to invite all Casis Cares and Read Aloud volunteers to a brown bag lunch on Wednesday, March 28th from 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. in Portable 15. We will be discussing what has worked well this year and what changes to think about for next year. Also, thank you to Rebecca Kepley for pulling books in the library for the Casis Cares Read Alouds. If you would like to help, contact Jennifer Lyon. Please join us!

Austin Independent School District 2007 Student Art Show

Congratulations to Casis artists, Jordan Keig, Erica Barlin, Ben West, Zoe Dobson, Curran Abell, Caroline Phillips, Ben Winter, Jude Verrill, and Morgan Navarro for having their artwork chosen to represent Casis Elementary in the AISD 2007 Student Art Show. This exhibit will be held March 23rd through April 17th at One Congress Plaza located at 111 Congress Ave. Family and friends of participating artists are invited to join us for the exhibit opening reception, which will be held Sunday, March 25th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Regular viewing hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Casis Poet

This year we are happy to announce that Madeline Hawkins has been chosen to appear in the Austin International Poetry Festival's Youth Anthology, *Diverse Youth 2007* for her poem "Follow Me." The youth anthology reading will be held at the Westlake Barnes & Noble bookstore located at 701 Capitol of Texas Highway on the last day of the festival, Sunday, April 15th at 1:00 p.m. Way to go Madeline!

Spring Portrait Orders Due on Thursday, March 29th

Proofs for the spring portraits were sent home with your child this week. Students wishing to order pictures should return the proof envelope and payment to their teacher by Thursday, March 29th. Students who do not wish to order pictures do not need to return their proofs. As a reminder, the proof must be attached to the envelope to correctly process the order. Please call the office at 414-2062 with questions.

Casis Fun Run

Walk, run, just have fun! The Casis Fun Run is Sunday, April 15th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the O. Henry Middle School track. Distance Runs for each grade level, shuttle relays and the popular family & friends relay are back! Help support Casis and the fifth graders' study trip to Port Aransas by participating in Fun Run. Look for registration and sponsorship information in your Friday Folder. If you would like to help, or have questions, please contact Cami Hawkins at hawkins2048@sbcglobal.net or Suzanne Plummer at suzanne.plummer@amd.com.

Casis Chess Club

We just finished the first week of our in-house chess tournament and it was very exciting because the red team and the blue team are tied with 25 wins each. Come support a team next week even if you didn't attend the first week. We'll celebrate at the end of the tournament with a treat. See you there! Call Diana Graves with any questions at 480-0782 or via email at diana-graves@sbcglobal.net.

Leadership Casis

Leadership Casis will meet Monday, March 26th immediately after school in the library. Please wear your Leadership Casis t-shirt to school on Monday. Parents please pick students up in the circle driveway at 4:00 pm. Thank you.

5th Grade Port Aransas Field Trip and Graduation Informational Meeting – Thursday, March 29th, 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

All interested 5th grade parents are invited to attend an informational meeting on Thursday, March 29th from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m. in the library to discuss the 5th grade field trip to the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) in Port Aransas. This field trip will tie in with our lessons on habitats, adaptations, and the MARE (Marine Activities and Resources in Education) unit we'll be studying. Students will visit mudflats, sea grass beds (the Texas version of kelp forests), barrier islands, take a 2-hour voyage on a UT research vessel into Corpus Christi Bay, and participate in activities in the Pier Lab. The 5th graders and their chaperones will be staying in dormitories and eating some of their meals at UTMSI. Because of limited accommodations classes will be divided between two trips: the Nestle and Springer classes will go May 2nd and 3rd; the Deiterman and Batiansila classes will go May 3rd and 4th. Students will leave Casis at 6:00 a.m. and will return the following day between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. We will also discuss 5th grade graduation and other topics.

2007 SafePlace Walk

The 20th Annual SafePlace Walk will take place at Waterloo Park on Saturday, April 14th. This event serves as a way to honor the memories of those who have been lost to violence, and as a way for survivors to celebrate life without violence. This walk is one of the largest awareness and fundraising events for issues of domestic and sexual violence. Please become a part of the 2007 SafePlace Walk by going to the website www.austin-safeplace.org or by calling 481-WALK.

Discover Nature!

The Texas Natural Science Center is pleased to invite all Austin ISD families to their newest FREE event, Discover Nature! This program will be held on March 24th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Texas Memorial Museum on The University of Texas at Austin campus. Discover Nature! is designed to encourage appreciation and understanding of nature by offering opportunities for the public to participate in fun and informative science activities with University of Texas at Austin scientists and other experts. For more information, please visit www.discovernatureaustin.org.

Reading Strategies for Parents

Many parents have asked for tips on improving their children's reading skills to help them become independent, fluent readers. The most important thing you can do for your children is to read aloud to them, to read with them, and to read things your children are interested in. Stop and talk with your children about what you are reading, and discuss the parts you thought were funny or particularly descriptive, or informative, and encourage your child to do the same. When adults model reading for enjoyment or information, it serves as a powerful demonstration for young readers. One parent recently shared another great idea about encouraging children to read: copy an interesting article or two from a newspaper or magazine and place it strategically on the table or cereal box so the children can see it while eating breakfast. Children will be encouraged to read and discuss the article since it's right in front of them. These are great skills for students to practice.

Calling All Books

Since we are nearing the end of the school year, please check your house, car and child's backpack to see if you have any text books, library books or books from the Literacy Library to turn in. Thank you.

Dyslexic Presentation

"Update on the Status of Dyslexia in Texas," will be presented by Geraldine "Tincy" Miller, Chair of the Texas State Board of Education, on April 4th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin located at 1622 East Riverside Dr. 78741. Registration is \$15 per person. The workshop is limited to 75 people, so please register early. For more information, please call 472-1231 or email dbroadway@scottishritelearningcenter.org.

Traffic Safety Request

Recently parents have been dropping off students in the teacher parking lot. Please refrain from doing this as it backs up incoming staff traffic, congests the parking lot, and is not safe for students entering from Northwood. Thank you for following our traffic safety guidelines.

Weekly Health Tip

It's important to recognize that not all fats are "bad." Fats that are considered "good" are naturally occurring and have not been altered by high heat, refining or processing. These fats can be found in fish, nuts, avocados, seeds, extra virgin olive oil and fresh butter (in small doses). Our bodies need these fats for fuel and to transport vitamins. On the other hand, "bad" fats include the following items: partially hydrogenated foods (found in margarine, shortening, frozen entrees, microwave popcorn, crackers, prepared meats, etc.), refined oils like cottonseed and palm kernel oil and not surprisingly, the fats found in anything fried. These foods are linked to high cholesterol, diabetes and heart disease.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to the parent-volunteers in Ms. Porter's class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week. Thank you in advance to parent-volunteers in Ms. Ross' class who will monitor March 26th through March 30th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent. Thanks for all your help and support!

Sincerely,