

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, March 28		End of the Nine Weeks
Sunday, March 30	10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts Pack 20 Pinewood Derby (Cafeteria)
Tuesday, April 1		Walk or Bike to School Day
Tuesday, April 1	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, April 2		Read Alouds
Wednesday, April 2		Report Cards Distributed
Thursday, April 3		Grade 4 Field Trip to San Antonio (Alamo/IMAX)
Thursday, April 3	3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	CAC Meeting (P – 8)
Saturday, April 5	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Scout Troop 399 Casis Forest Conservation Project
Tuesday, April 8		5 th Grade Math TAKS
Tuesday, April 8	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, April 9		Casis Cares
Friday, April 11	8:15 – 10:15 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Mtg. (P – 8)
Sunday, April 13	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Fun Run (O. Henry Track)
Friday, April 18	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	General PTA Mtg. (P – 8)

4th Grade TAKS Writing – and 3rd/5th Grade TAKS Reading

Congratulations to everyone on campus for the strong performance in reading. Student performance increased overall with 100% of 5th grade passing and having last year's commended rate go from 58% to this year's 62%. 98% of 3rd grade passed with 82% earning commended ratings from last year's to 62%. We will receive the writing scores in late May, along with the 3rd and 4th grade math scores and 5th grade science scores.

Leadership Casis- Cobe's Make-A-Wish Coin Drive

As you all know Leadership Casis is sponsoring a coin drive for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We have chosen to sponsor Cobe, a 5-year-old boy from Central Texas who has Leukemia. Cobe's wish is to go to Disney World with his family for a week. In order to send Cobe and his family to Disney World we need to raise \$5,000. This vacation gives Cobe, a chance to just be a kid for a week. I know we can reach this goal together. So far we have raised \$ 3,238.74, but we still have a way to go. Many thanks to all the families who have already donated to this wonderful cause and thank you to Allison Laughlin and Beth Durrett for putting together this very special fundraiser.

Casis Elementary Walk/Bike to School Day Tuesday, April 1st – Do Your Body Good!

Walking and biking is good for your body. The Casis Wellness Committee wants everyone at Casis to think about how good and practical getting to school without our cars can be. Some Casis students already walk or bike to school everyday. Give it a try on April 1st, then consider everyday, once a week or just once in awhile. Remember be SAFE and SMART! Buddy up with a friend or come with a parent. Whole Foods Market will provide bottled water and Jack and Adams Bike Shop will provide extra bike racks. If you have questions, please contact Mickie Plaisance at mickiep@austin.rr.com or Michelle Kinney at michelle@kinneyfamily.net.

Career Day

Casis Career Day was a great success! Our students enjoyed hearing about the various careers presented. Thank you to the following outstanding speakers: Helen Gilbert, Lance Armstrong, Cesar Ocampo, Dominic Longi, Elizabeth Crook, Debra Patt, Melissa Zaplatar, Brian Goldberg, Betsy Foster, Suzanne Plummer, Kathy Keig, Bob Hamilton, Marilyn Schultz, Shea Baker, Jim Moy, Harry Goss, Linda Balagia, Shannon Windham, Steven Crider, Awad Abdelgadir, David Ansel, Renee Wimbish, Mike Ward, Nick von Kreisler, Robert Jones, Karen Jacobs-Bradley, Karen Carlander, Will Wynn, Cody Carlson, Mark Seiler, Mike Rosenthal, Sheryl Draker, John Marler, Michael Hall, and Lori Holleran. Many thanks to the wonderful parent volunteers who recruited them.

Congratulations to Courtney Ewing, 2nd Grade Teacher

Congratulations to Courtney Ewing for being recognized as an AISD Teacher of Promise for the 2007-2008 school year. She is recognized by the school district for demonstrating excellent teaching skills during her first year. Congratulations, Courtney!

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Thank You

Our staff enjoyed a wonderful lunch for the month of March from the PTA Teacher Appreciation Committee. We wanted to thank parent-volunteers: Jan Barfield, Judy Pape, Lisa Terrill, Rita Stewart, Ashley Putman, and Ashley Fowler along with Committee Chairs: Haden Spencer, Shannon Cameron and Mary Koch for organizing these luncheons each month. Thank you so much!

Safety Program

The City of Austin offers the Safety Program for Children. Students will participate in this program during their regular P. E. class time on April 4th, 7th, and 11th. The program focuses on pedestrian and bicycle safety. Thanks to Cindy Samok her organization.

AISD UpClose

The purpose of AISD UpClose is to cultivate parent and community leaders who are informed about the District's infrastructure, programs and services. Applications for the next two AISD UpClose classes are available in the office, but are due Tuesday, April 1st. Please contact Annie Melvin at 841-5541 if you are interested.

PTA Slate of Officers 2008 – 2009 Installation PTA Meeting – April 18th

The nominating committee would like to announce the slate of new officers for the PTA executive board for the 2008-2009 school year. This slate of officers will be voted on at the April 18th general PTA meeting. They are as follows: President- elect- Sara Marler, VP of Ways and Means- Ashley Putman, VP of Communications- Ann Phipps, VP of Services- Suzanne Bell, Treasurer- Carol Kern, Asst. Treasurer- Janet Harris, Secretary- Martha DeGrasse. We would also like to thank the nominating committee members, Jeannette Williams, Mickie Plaisance, Ann Phipps, Tracy Fielder, Blanche Gill and Tiffany Brumley (alternate). Thank you also to all of the parents who sent in nomination forms for these offices.

Casis Fun Run – Sunday, April 13th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Do your body good and register for the Casis Fun Run! It will take place on Sunday April 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 at the O. Henry Middle School Track. As we approach the Fun Run, plan to come to both of the free upcoming after school clinics which will take place in the Casis Gym: Running clinic with Bernard- Wed. April 2nd -3:00 p.m. Austin Kula Yoga Clinic –Wed. April 9th- 3:00 p.m. For more information on the Fun Run, clinics, sponsorships or volunteer opportunities, please contact: Tracy Anderson Tanderson@availmedia.com, Lisa Christian lisajchristian@sbcglobal.net, or Amanda Ogden Amanda@austinfineproperties.com.

Campus Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting on April 3rd & CAC Membership 2008 – 2009

At our upcoming meeting on April 5th, the CAC will review and discuss campus planning for the 2008–2009 school year, including budget and staffing allocations. Casis Cares and Read Alouds will also be discussed. If you are interested in serving on the Campus Advisory Council, please pick up a membership application in the main office or visit <http://www.austinisd.org/inside/cac/resources.phtml> to obtain one online. Applications are due back to the office by April 14th.

Parent Information Forms

This Friday in you will receive a Parent Information Form for each of your Casis students for the upcoming school year. This is the vehicle in which you have to communicate to the placement staff your concerns and comments for your child's upcoming school year. Please refrain from mentioning teachers or students by name. Careful thought and consideration is put into each child's placement, but please understand not all requests can possibly be addressed. Please turn these forms into your child's teacher or to the main office no later than April 14th.

Scout Troop 399 Casis Forest Conservation Project

On Saturday, April 5th, from 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. join members of Venture Crew 399, for a conservation project at the Casis Forest. They will be removing some of the non-native invasive plants in order to provide better habitat and food for native animals and birds. Each volunteer will bring their own tools, including work gloves, shovels, hoes, etc. The scouts will provide drinks and pizza. Call Seung yeon Lee 479-8510 for more info. Thanks to Nancy Hurd for her leadership and organization.

Casis Chess Club

The Canyon Creek tournament on March 29th and the Austin City Scholastic Chess Championships at Kealing Middle School on May 3rd are the last two tournaments before the end of the school year. Details are at <http://www.austinesstournaments.com/Upcoming.aspx>. All 2nd thru 5th graders are invited to attend chess club. Parents of Kindergarten-1st graders, please call Diana Graves @ 480-0782 or via email at diana-graves@sbcglobal.net. All ability levels are welcome and it's not too late to join. Parent volunteers are needed.

Austin Independent School District 2008 Student Art Show

This exhibit will be held April 4th – 21st at One Congress Plaza located at 111 Congress Ave. and features many of our own Casis artists. Regular viewing hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A public reception will be held on Sunday, April 6th, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Congratulations to the following Casis students who have had their art work selected to be included in this annual presentation: Kevin Kern, Audrey Peterson, David De La Garza, Marietta Wise, Ian O'Brien, Kim Griffith, Grace Radebaugh, Molly Kress, Owen Summers, McKinzey Torrance, Alex Estrada, Ashley Zeober, Elizabeth Foster, Hunter Koch, Morgan Cumby, Maddy Odom, Madison Roy, Sarah Wells, Rachel Kessler, and Patrick Dowell.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to parent volunteers in Ms. Olvera's class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground over the past couple of weeks. Thank you in advance to Ms. Porter & Ms. Ross' parent volunteers, who will be here to volunteer during lunch, March 31st – April 11th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Sincerely,