

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

Saturday, March 31	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	African American Women & Girls Forum (McCallum High)
Tuesday, April 3		5 th Grade Math TAKS
Tuesday, April 3	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, April 4	9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	2 nd Grade Field Trip to Austin Zoo
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
Monday, April 9		Vision & Hearing Screenings (P-15)
Tuesday, April 10		Vision & Hearing Screenings (P-15)
Tuesday, April 10	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, April 11		Read Aloud
Thursday, April 12	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	PTA General Meeting Led By Leadership Casis (Cafeteria)
Saturday, April 14		2007 Safeplace Walk (Waterloo Park)
Sunday, April 15	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Casis Fun Run (O. Henry Track)

5th Grade Math TAKS, Tuesday, April 3rd

On the morning of Tuesday, April 3rd, all Texas fifth graders will take the math portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) exam. We are excited about our students' and teachers' efforts in math across all grade levels and acknowledge the extra efforts of 5th grade students and teachers. Please make sure your child receives a good night's rest, eats a nutritious breakfast and comes to school prepared to do his/her best. On these days, visitors will not be allowed in the 4th/5th grade hallway so that ideal testing conditions can be maintained. Your support and cooperation is appreciated!

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Many thanks to the following parents who contributed their time and talents to this month's teacher appreciation luncheon: Diana Dobson, Cari Ezell, Sara Marler, Allison Dwyer, Shannon Ryan Cameron, Sarah McHaney, Lauri Perry, Leisa McLelland, Linda Plummer, Robin Gulley Crow, and Amanda Friedman. The staff enjoyed wonderful Italian fare featuring delicious menu items. Thanks also to Lisa Terrell, Sharon Hornfischer, and Diana Patterson for their beautiful presentation and organization. We appreciate all you all do for us!

PTA Officers for the 2007-2008 School Year

We want to extend congratulations to the following officers elected at the March 8th PTA meeting. President-Elect, Julie Ballard; Vice-President of Communications, Tracy Fielder; Vice-President of Ways & Means, Karen Brimble; Vice-President of Services, Suzanne Bell; Secretary, Julie Pastor; Treasurer, Amy Allen; and Assistant Treasurer, Jay Foster. The elected officers will serve on the 2007-2008 PTA Executive Board, along with next year's President, Wendy Thompson, Principal Barry Aidman, a teacher representative, and the following appointed members: Historian, Parliamentarian, Volunteer Coordinator and AC-PTA Representative. We will install all of the aforementioned officers at the last PTA meeting on May 10th. We want to extend a huge thanks to these individuals who have offered their time and talents for the benefit of the Casis community. Thanks also to the Nominating Committee for all their hard work.

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.

Austin Independent School District 2007 Student Art Show

This exhibit will be held March 23rd through April 17th 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.

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.

Casis Book Donation Box

A collection box is now located by the school's front door for donations of new or gently used children's books. Donations will be accepted for the remaining school year. All books will be distributed throughout the Casis campus as needed. When cleaning out your children's rooms, remember the collection box.

African American Women & Girls Forum "Leaving No Girl Behind"

On Saturday, March 31st, AISD, in conjunction with the African American Men and Boys Conference, is presenting an open forum for African American women and girls to come, and share their experiences in an effort to eliminate the African American academic achievement gap in AISD. This event will be held at McCallum High located at 5600 Sunshine Dr. 78756 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Casis Chess Club

We had a tremendous turnout for the second week of our in-house chess tournament. Congratulations to the Blue Team for breaking the tie with 38 wins. Everyone did a great job of supporting his or her teams and we all had a lot of fun. It's not too late to join the chess club. Flyers are posted outside of the office. All 2nd – 5th graders are welcome and parents of any interested K–1st graders can call Diana Graves at 480-0782 or via email at diana-graves@sbcglobal.net.

Campus Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting on April 5th & CAC Membership 2007–2008

At our upcoming meeting on April 5th, the CAC will review and discuss campus planning for the 2007–2008 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 13th.

Congratulations to Sarah Lindsey, 4th Grade Teacher

Congratulations to Sarah Lindsey for being recognized as an AISD Teacher of Promise for the 2006-2007 school year. She is recognized by the school district for demonstrating excellent teaching skills during her first year. Congratulations, Sarah!

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 come and be a part of the 2007 SafePlace Walk by going to the website www.austin-safeplace.org or by calling 481-WALK.

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.

Summer Camp Flyers

As you may have noticed, summer camp brochures have begun to appear in Friday folders. We are not recommending these camps, only forwarding the information. Many different organizations offer summer camp programs, but we don't always send flyers home due to the sheer volume we receive. However, brochures for additional summer camps can be found outside the office near the sign-in table. Feel free to pick one up at any time.

Tardiness at Casis

Please remember to have your students to school on time each day. Class officially begins at 7:45 a.m. Excessive tardiness causes your student to lose valuable class time and can be disruptive to their fellow students. Also, please remember to send your children to the cafeteria when arriving earlier than 7:40 a.m. Thanks for your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Weekly Health Tip

According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, chemical additives are present in many of the foods we eat and are linked to several diseases and illnesses. They can also negatively affect mental awareness, immune system responses and behavior. Food additives are essentially a source of toxins, and eliminating toxins from our diet helps maintain good physical and mental health. While it can be difficult to cut them out of our diets completely, it is worthwhile to be wary of buying foods that contain them. Some suggested additives to avoid are: hydrogenated fats, artificial food colors, MSG, sulfites, artificial sweeteners (aspartame, saccharin), refined flour, artificial flavors, preservatives (BHA, BHT, EDTA), and nitrates.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to the parent-volunteers in Ms. Ross' class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week. Thank you in advance to parent-volunteers in Ms. Abshire's class who will monitor April 2nd through April 9th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent. Thanks for all your help and support!

Sincerely,