

### **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

Thursday, March 6	4:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Stage Song Rehearsal/Performance (Cafeteria)
Friday, March 7	8:15 – 10:15 a.m.	PTA Executive Board Meeting (Portable 8)
Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 14		Spring Break ( <b>No School</b> )
Monday, March 17	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Monday, March 17	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Mad Science Spring Semester Begins
Tuesday, March 18	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, March 19		Read Alouds
Thursday, March 20	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Career Day
Thursday, March 20	6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Pack 20 Cub Scout Meeting
Friday, March 21		Student/Staff Holiday ( <b>No School</b> )
Tuesday, March 25	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Friday, March 28		End of the Nine Weeks

#### Regional Science Fair Results—Congratulations Casis Scientists!

Congratulations to our school's winners in last Saturday's Austin Energy Regional Science Festival. Please congratulate the following 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who took 1<sup>st</sup> place: Caroline Graves, Davison Thompson, Garrett Boes, Joseph Estrada, Nicholas Dezso, and Helen Peck. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place 4<sup>th</sup> grade winner was Claire Grosvenor. The following 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place: Reed Sallans, Kinloch Gill, Blake Holleran, Eliza Martin, Kim Griffith, Zikolos Schriever, Alia Littles, Matthew Listi, Marietta Wise and Elizabeth Bradshaw (group project), and Ellie Rolland and Meredith Morran (group project). We also included two primary projects in regional science fair. Please congratulate Kaylee Westbrook (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) for winning 1<sup>st</sup> place and Danielle Kessler (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) for her 3<sup>rd</sup> place win. We are proud of your outstanding projects and commitment to learning!

#### Parent Teacher Conferences

Parents and teachers, thank you for your preparation and communication during parent-teacher conferences. Working together helps to ensure student success.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade TAKS Writing – and 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade TAKS Reading

Thanks to all the staff and students for providing a quiet test environment for our TAKS test takers. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, thank you for preparing your students so well. We witnessed incredible dedication from our students who worked so hard with great detail and attention. A huge thank you to Jennifer Lyon, Ana Montoya, Jaynelle Nestle and Sheri Bryant for your outstanding organization.

#### Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Thank You

Our staff enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the month of February. We wanted to thank parent-volunteers: Sue Phillips, Lilia Davis, Diana Graves and Committee Chairs: Haden Spencer, Shannon Cameron and Mary Koch for all their delicious menu ideas, creativity and hard work that they put into each appreciation luncheon. Thank you all!

#### Open House for Prospective Casis Parents

On Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 -10:30 a.m., Casis will host its final Open House for parents of prospective K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Administrators, PTA representatives and the school counselor will be available at the Open House to share information, answer questions and conduct tours of the school. Please share information about the Open House with your neighbors and friends who may be interested in sending their children to Casis.

#### Career Day

Career Day will be from 8:00 –10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Each class will host two presentations from distinguished community members. Students will learn about careers ranging from Pilates instructors and engineers to rocket scientists and professional athletes. Many thanks in advance to the incredible speakers and to the wonderful parent volunteers who recruited them: Rita Stewart, Jeannette Williams, Julie Kocurek, Dawn Goetzel, Anne Veeraraghavan, and Kathryn Burniston.

#### Tennis Ball Request

If you or anyone you know has extra tennis balls to donate to Casis to use on the bottom of student chairs to protect our floors, please drop them in the box located in our main entrance. Thank you.

### Lost & Found

Please remind your children to check the Lost & Found **before Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**. Remaining items will be donated to charity. A huge thank you to Susie Matzorkis for her help managing and transporting these items.

### Importance of Attendance

Our attendance rate has a huge impact on our TEA campus rating. In order to maintain our exemplary status our campus must maintain an overall attendance rate of 97% or better. Our current attendance rate is 96.4%. Please, if at all possible, plan vacations during regular school breaks. We realize that illnesses have been prevalent this past semester, but want to stress the importance of being here to ensure our students academic success. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

### Thoughts About Responsibility

Student responsibility is key to development and learning. Being responsible in one's civic and personal life can help a person be successful and maintain integrity throughout life. We can help our children learn this life long skill by reminding them when they should take responsibility for themselves and by teaching them how to do so.

### Casis Chess Club

Congratulations to Ben and Sarah Ballard, Owen Graves, Sesha and Elan McMinn and Marley Schiesz for competing in the Regional VI Chess Tournament at Laurel Mountain Elementary school on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Owen Graves won a 6<sup>th</sup> place trophy for winning five out of six games. Way to go Cougars! We are having an in-house chess tournament that will end next week. The Red Team has 19 wins and the Green Team has 15 wins. We will celebrate with a special treat at the end of the tournament. Come support a team.

### Leadership Casis

The Leadership Casis students met Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to prepare for our Make-A-Wish coin drive. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a worldwide program that grants the wishes of eligible children between the ages of 2 and 18 who have been diagnosed with a life threatening disease. This year the Leadership Casis students would like to grant the wish of Cobe, a 5-year-old boy, who has leukemia and would like to go to Disney World. Therefore with the help of all Casis students, Leadership Casis will sponsor a coin drive March 17<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> in order to raise the needed \$5,000 to send Cobe and his family on a weeklong Disney vacation. The grade with the highest amount of change donated will be treated to 10 extra minutes of recess and an ice cream sandwich. Thank you all in advance for your support in our Leadership Casis community outreach program.

### Crossing Guard Opportunity

If you or anyone you know might be interested in working as a Casis afternoon crossing guard from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., please call Mary Prams at 219-1056. Thanks!

### 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.

### Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Please do not drop your child(ren) off in the teacher parking lot, fire zone, the handicap parking spaces, on Exposition in front of the Circle Drive, or the Casis Village parking lot. Also, please do not make u-turns in the pick-up or drop-off areas on Hillview or Northwood. Our traffic safety rules must be followed by *all* parents/guardians so that every single one of our students is protected. Following these guidelines is even more crucial on rainy days as visibility is limited. Please follow our school's traffic rules as you would those of the city and your own workplace. Also, parents please note: Chess Club ends at 3:45 p.m. and Leadership Casis ends at 4:00 p.m. Prompt pickup is important for all after-school programs. Most of these organizations are led by volunteers who must remain at Casis with any unattended students until parents arrive. The Casis office closes at 4:00 p.m. Students cannot be left alone on campus. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to parent-volunteers in Ms. Cornwell's & Ms. Hudgins' classes for monitoring the cafeteria and playground over the past couple of weeks. Thank you in advance to Ms. Olvera's parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch, March 17<sup>th</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Spring Break is ahead of us and almost three-fourths of the school year is behind. Enjoy this time outdoors and with your family. We are fortunate to have such wonderful young learners at our campus. It is truly rewarding work.

Sincerely,