

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

*Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition, Austin, Texas 78703
May 11, 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

Saturday, May 12		Joint General and Special Elections
Tuesday, May 15		Opening Ceremony/Track & Field for Grades K – 2
Tuesday, May 15	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, May 16		Closing Ceremony / Track & Field for Grades 3 – 5
Friday, May 18		Yearbooks Distributed
Tuesday, May 22	2:45 p.m.	Chess Club Final Meeting (Library)
Thursday, May 24	8:30 a.m.	5 th Grade Graduation
Thursday, May 24		Report Cards Distributed—LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Track and Field Days 2007 – Volunteers Are Still Needed!

You are invited to the Casis Track and Field Days scheduled for Tuesday, May 15th and Wednesday, May 16th. This year our theme is the “Six Flags of Texas.” Your children will participate in activities that represent the six nations that have flown their flags over Texas. Concessions will be on sale both days. Please mark your calendars now so you can come watch your child, and plan to volunteer as an event official or at the concession stands. All proceeds will benefit the Casis PTA. Don’t forget to send your kids to school with tennis shoes and sunscreen. Contact Allison Laughlin at 472-2717, or Carlotta McLean at 473-0814 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Congratulations Casis Elementary PTA of the Year!

Congratulations to Casis Cares and Leadership Casis for being nominated in the special awards category. Special congratulations to our own Casis PTA for being selected the 2007 Elementary PTA of the Year by Austin Partners in Education. What a well-deserved honor!

PTA Reading Presentation

Thank you to Barbara Nichols, Librarian, and Cheryl Swanson, Reading Specialist, for putting together a wonderful, informative presentation at our last PTA meeting of the year. Their discussion concerning improved ways to read to and with your children was appreciated and well received. Way to go Barb and Cheryl!

PTA Spring 2007 Contribution Form/T-Shirt & School Supply Orders

Please continue to turn in the PTA Spring Contribution forms that were sent home. Please make sure to complete one form per child. All forms are **due May 18th**. The deadline for all school supply orders is **May 18th, 2007**. *No orders will be accepted after that date.* Checks can be made payable to Casis PTA. Additional forms can be found at www.casispta.org and are also located in the main office.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon For National Teacher Appreciation Week

The staff thoroughly enjoyed the delicious New England style luncheon provided by the PTA Teacher Appreciation volunteers: Mary Beth Kiser, Kolynn Listi, Laura Covert, Cari Ezell, Sarah McHaney, Lisa Radebaugh, Linda Plummer, Molly Benson, Sara Marler Julie Kocurek, Wendy Griessen, Tish Miller, Laura Wieland, and Tiffany Brumley. Thank you also to event organizers, Lainey Fisher, Kerri Ann Chambless, Susie Matzorkis and Hillary Summers. It was an amazing spread of delicious foods!

Path of Excellence

The PTA is accepting orders for brick pavers on the Path of Excellence. The Path of Excellence is a great way to remember students, family members, and friends, express thanks to Casis teachers and staff, or show appreciation for someone who volunteers at Casis. If you would like to purchase an engraved brick paver, please submit your order form **by May 21st**. For more information on the Path of Excellence, or to download an order form, please visit www.casispta.org. Order forms are also available in the main office.

Port Aransas Thank You

Thank you to Brandon Batiansila, Derek Springer, Jaynelle Nestle and Beth Deiterman for another amazing trip to Port A. It was well orchestrated and our children greatly benefited from it. We appreciate all who helped make this year’s trip possible. Thanks to all the wonderful parent chaperones and volunteers. Special thank you to Montse de Muller for the extra time and effort she put into making the trip a success.

Campus Advisory Council (CAC)

We had our final meeting of the CAC last week. Many thanks to those who served on the CAC this year and best wishes to the following members whose term of service ends at the conclusion of this school year: Mia Roldan, Patrick Lessner, Bonnie Carter, Martha Olvera, Larry Chauvin, Cheryl Swanson, Anne Wynne Ellis, Karen Brimble, and Charlotte Smith. Thank you for your service.

Read Aloud

Read Aloud will be cancelled on May 16th so that everyone can attend the Track & Field closing ceremonies.

Technology & Spanish Open Houses

We had approximately 500 visitors during the past two weeks for these events. The children had the opportunity to show their parents various projects they created and to demonstrate their computer and Spanish skills. Thank you to our wonderful teachers, Cindy Sanders and Rebecca Jobe for all of their hard work and dedication. Your technology and Spanish contributions have provided the means to support all of these important learning opportunities for our students.

Casis Chess Club

Our last chess club meeting will be on May 22nd and we will meet in the gym. We are going to celebrate another successful year with a big party and refreshments. If you've ever attended a chess club meeting, you are invited to join in on the fun. Many thanks to all of the parent volunteers: Kathy Cox, Mayumi Walton, Lilia Davis and Diana Graves. There will be a chess tournament this summer at St. Andrews on June 30th and they will also host a summer chess camp from June 25 – 29th. Go to www.turbochess.com for additional information or call Diana Graves at 480-0782.

Leadership Casis Ecology Challenge Coupon Results

In response to LC's Ecology project, one gas station, Balcones Exxon Automotive at 5400 Balcones Drive has placed our "Check your tire pressure" poster on each of their fuel dispensers. 20 Casis families returned their challenge coupons. Can you figure out how much these families will save if they check their tire pressure each month for a year? Do the math. Congratulations to Nathan Pjecha in Mrs. Abshire's kindergarten class for changing the most compact florescent light bulbs, 53. Congratulations to Mr. Springer's class. Seven families participated, changing to 64 CF light bulbs & checking the tire pressure in 9 cars. Every little bit helps.

Participants	Bulbs Changed	\$\$ saved	Lbs. CO2 prevented	# Cars – tire pressure	\$\$ saved	Lbs. CO2 prevented
20 families	170	\$3,400.00/y	17,000/y	23	\$745.00/mo*	5520/mo
Individual	1	\$ 20.00/y	100/y	1	\$ 32.00/mo*	240/mo

* @ \$2.70/gallon

Leadership Casis Members Shine in Service to Community

Leadership Casis 2007 has 78 members, about 3/4th of the 5th grade class. All year the students worked on service projects at our meetings after school and put in service hours on their own. Here is a list of what these students have participated in and accomplished: hosted new student reception; Coats for Kids Drive; student mentoring; Absentee Prevention Hand Washing Campaign; Cards for Troops; Doll making & positioning pillows for Children's Hospital; blanket and clothing collection for Manos de Cristo; Wish for Wish Kids - Make a Wish Foundation – collected over \$4,000; Radio-a-thon for Wish for Wish Kids; decorating for the International Festival; organic & butterfly garden weeding; Carnival soft drink collection; Book Fair dinner; Author visit banner; Snack bags for Allen Elementary 5th graders TAKs tests; Healthy Snack Campaign; Scrapbook; PA announcements thought for the day; PTA general meeting; Kindergarten Round Up; Fun Run; and the Ecology Project CO2 Prevention Campaign.

LC members were expected to perform five extra service hours outside of LC meetings. Many students did this in conjunction with their families, churches, scouts and civic groups. Services they provided included: helping meals on wheels; coaching younger students in basketball; Komen Breast Cancer run; Crop Walk for World Hunger Relief; helping at Sunday school; preparing gifts for needy families and Blue Santa; packing school supplies and hygiene kits for Honduran children; helping with Children's Hospital Gala; helping at farmers market sustainable food center; trash pick up at the Texas Wildlife Expo; park, church & cemetery clean up; helping with the WAYA "Champs" disabled league; collected warm clothes, passed out food, bought groceries, made sandwiches, and made quilts for needy families and the homeless; prepared supplies for church ministries; and helped with Marathon Kids and fan drive for the elderly. It was our privilege to work with these outstanding young people. Thanks to LC committee chairs, Margie Medrano and Marcia Millikin, for everything!

Career Day Thank You

Casis Career Day was a huge success! Thank you to the following volunteers who donated their morning to present information about their professions: David Green, Louise Harpman, Justin Poe, Lindsey Rosenthal, Katherine Sanchez, Fernando Saralegui, Bob Askew, Lewis Talbert, Cody Carlson, Dr. Buddy Fletcher, Amy Saralegui, Susan Dozier, Rob Kepple, Patrick Laughlin, Marshall Durrett, Peter Pfeiffer, Dr. Reg Martin, Betsy Foster, Chas Golson, Matt Trevena, Jody Voss, Bob Howden, Randy Howry and John Hawkins. We are fortunate to have such a supportive parent community.

Cafeteria Account Information

Remaining balances on your cafeteria account will be forwarded to next year, even if your child moves on to middle school or another school within AISD. If you are moving out of the district, you must request a refund. If you wish to request a refund, please do so as soon as possible as the cafeteria does not have the resources to refund large amounts of money during the last week of school. The cafeteria would also appreciate payment of negative balances, as they will also be forwarded to next year. Please contact the cafeteria at 841-5548 with questions.

Casis Library Book and Literacy Library Book Round Up Reminder

Please round up any library books or literacy library books and return them to school as soon as possible.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Thank you to the parent-volunteers in Ms. Robertson's class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week and again on May 14th & 15th. Thank you in advance to parent-volunteers in Ms. Ramchandran's class who will monitor May 16th through May 22nd. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent. Thanks for all your help and support!

Sincerely,
Barry Aidman