

**Casis Elementary  
Website**  
[www.mycasis.org](http://www.mycasis.org)  
[www.casispta.org](http://www.casispta.org)

*Casis Elementary*  
2710 Exposition, Austin, Texas 78703  
May 18, 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

Friday, May 18		Yearbooks Distributed
Monday, May 21	3:15 p.m.	Patti Hirsh's Retirement Party (Library)
Tuesday, May 22	2:45 p.m.	Chess Club Final Meeting (Gym)
Thursday, May 24	8:30 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
Thursday, May 24		Report Cards Distributed—LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

#### Yearbooks Distributed Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

Yearbooks will be sent home today with children who have pre-ordered yearbooks. There is still a limited supply available for sale at \$25.00 per copy. If you would like to purchase one, please contact Leslie Winter at 479-0075. We appreciate everyone who took pictures throughout the year. Thank you to Leslie Winter for organizing the sale of yearbooks and for putting the yearbook together from beginning to end. What an amazing feat!

#### Casis Track and Field Days 2007 – Thank You!

Special thanks to Track and Field Co-Chairs, Alison Laughlin, Carlotta McLean, Dena Lewis, and to Casis P.E. teachers, Cindy Samok and Mary Waguespack. Thanks also to Mr. Dunn for helping with music and sound. Your hard work, expert planning, and flexibility allowed our students two days of great fun and fitness! Also, a huge thanks to parent-volunteers for donating your valuable time. We couldn't have made it happen without you!

#### 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 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information on the Path of Excellence, or to download an order form, please visit [www.casispta.org](http://www.casispta.org). Order forms are also available in the main office.

#### Casis Chess Club

Our last chess club meeting will be next Tuesday 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 30<sup>th</sup> and they will also host a summer chess camp from June 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.turbochess.com](http://www.turbochess.com) for additional information or call Diana Graves at 480-0782.

#### TAKS Results

Parents of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, please check your child's backpack for an envelope addressed to you for your child's latest TAKS results.

#### 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.

#### AISD UpClose

This week the District is launching a new program called AISD UpClose. The purpose of this new program is to cultivate a corps of parent and community leaders who are informed about the District's infrastructure, programs, and services, and understand the District's challenges and opportunities. Each month, from August through May, AISD UpClose classes will meet at various district sites to have an "inside look" at key programs, services, and areas of the District. AISD UpClose graduates will be challenged to become leaders and advocates for the District, to volunteer for service on committees and task forces, to speak up when misinformation is circulating, and to encourage other parents and community members to get informed and involved. Individuals interested in the program will need to complete an application, and a selection committee will choose the first class of thirty in July. The information and application for this program is on the AISD website at [www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org).

#### Special Mentions

Thank you to Susan and Jim Sigmon for all the wonderful staff directory pictures you have taken for us over the years, and for producing the 5<sup>th</sup> grade slide show and DVD for graduation. We'll miss you!

#### Congratulations Casis Poet

Congratulations to Cyrus Turner for his poem, Minosaurs, which was chosen for publication by the judges of the Austin International Poetry Festival's Youth Anthology, Diverse Youth 2007. Way to go, Cyrus!

#### Retirement Celebration For Patti Hirsh

Come join us to celebrate Patti Hirsh's retirement on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, in the library. We wish her the best and we'll miss her.

#### Staffing Changes

We would like to congratulate Betty Bunce and Patti Hirsh on their retirement and would also like to honor and thank departing staff members for their hard work and dedication: Silas Lowe, Dina Proffer and JR Medina. We wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors.

### Casis Anthologies

The 2007 Casis Anthologies will be distributed the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to teacher volunteers, Jaynelle Nestle, Beth Deiterman, Larry Chauvin, Dina Proffer, Colleen Carr, Stacey Ross and Sheri Bryant. Thank you also to parent volunteers, Montse de Muller, Julie Baselice, and Julia Howry for their organization and leadership in ensuring another successful publication of the 2007 Cougar Tales Casis Anthology. We are proud of our students for their hard work and creativity. Enjoy!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation and Celebration

Next Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be graduating from Casis. There is a huge amount of coordination and hard work that go into this special event. Thanks to participating 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent-volunteers who have spent the entire year overseeing and coordinating 5<sup>th</sup> grade activities, such as the Port A trip, Fun Run, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade gift and all of the activities surrounding Graduation. Special thanks to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade coordinators, Diana Dobson and Linda Richards for their hard work, dedication and creativity to ensure a wonderful send off for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

### O. Henry Middle School Transition Camp

The registration form for the upcoming O. Henry Transition Camp, for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, went home today in the Friday folders. The camp runs from August 15<sup>th</sup> through August 17<sup>th</sup>. Tuition is \$30.00, and scholarships are available. If you have questions regarding the camp please contact O. Henry Middle School at 414-3229.

### Thank You Casis Library Volunteers

Special thanks to the following library volunteers for their service for the 2006 – 2007 school year. Their dedication to the library program at Casis positively impacts all of our students and staff. This year Casis' circulation exceeded 30,000. Volunteer service is invaluable to maintain our library programming. Special thanks to our library assistant and library volunteer coordinator, Ms. Karla Irvin. Thanks go to: Katherine Allen, Martha Carapetyan, Laura Corman, Mary Estrada, Connie Golson, Jana Howden, Rebecca Kepley, Barbara Klitch, Karen Kocher, Liza Layne, Lori McClure, Tish Miller, Peggy O'Shaughnessy, Kay Planting, Mayumi Walton, Thu Zar, and all the classroom volunteers who assisted our kindergarten and first grade classes each week. Also, please note: The story-time schedule Summer Reading List for the Austin Public Library (Faulk/Central Branch) which is posted in our library, will be modified beginning in June. Call 974-7302 for times.

### Future Cougar Academy Needs

Please keep the Casis Daycare in mind when cleaning out your garages this summer. With the influx of babies this upcoming year (four from Casis employees!), the daycare is in need of two rocking/glider chairs as well as one port-a-crib. We are also in search of outdoor toys, a baby swing, and a small microwave oven. If you would like to donate any of these items (or anything else you think we might need), please contact Erin Stangland, Director, at emariesta@gmail.com or 586-6081. We can arrange to pick up items throughout the summer. Thank you.

### To the Parent Volunteers for Casis Cares and Read Alouds

We greatly appreciate the time and energy you gave to our program this year and wish to acknowledge your dedication to Casis. Your commitment helped our students learn important social skills and enabled our faculty to plan as teams and work together to improve classroom instruction. The children loved having you visit their classrooms! Thank you again and again! As we plan our social skills program for the 2007-2008 school year, we're looking for parents to serve in the Kinder through 4th grade classrooms as either Casis Cares or Read-Aloud volunteers. The 5th grade classrooms will need Read-Aloud volunteers only. The time commitment is approximately 1½ hours per month for either position, and a training session will be conducted in the fall before volunteers go into the classrooms. Also, we are looking for volunteers to serve on the Casis Cares committee as well. This involves preparing the boxes and materials for the classrooms, preparing/presenting at the training, and meeting once a month or so to monitor and adjust our program as needed. If you are interested in being a part of this great group, please contact Leisa McLelland at [leisamcl@yahoo.com](mailto:leisamcl@yahoo.com) or Jennifer Lyon at [jlyon@austinisd.org](mailto:jlyon@austinisd.org). Also, if you have a Casis Cares notebook from this year, please return it to Jennifer Lyon's mailbox or the office. Thank you.

### Lost and Found Items

Please check the Lost and Found located in the hallway between the cafeteria and the 200-wing for items you are missing. All unclaimed items will be sent to charity on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your children check the Lost and Found as we expect each child to take responsibility for his/her property.

### Medications to be Sent Home

Medications will be sent home on the last day of school only if you have given the health office prior written permission. Please check your children's backpacks! Please contact the Casis Health Office at 414-7169 if you have any questions.

### End-of-Year Reminder

You can help us a great deal by reminding your children that although we have only a few days of school left, we still expect students to focus on learning, behave appropriately and follow school rules at all times.

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

Thank you to the parent-volunteers in Ms. Ramchandran's class for monitoring the cafeteria and playground this week and again on May 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks for all your help and support!

Sincerely,