



# CASIS PTA

Issue 46

www.casispta.org

September 2006

## Casis Celebrates Its Annual Innisbrook Gift Wrap and Helen Grace Chocolates Fundraiser

Let's celebrate one of Casis' largest fundraisers: Innisbrook Gift Wrap/Helen Grace Chocolate. You'll be proud to share the high quality wrapping paper and gifts with your family and friends. Take a look at the wrapped boxes around the school and the gift display next to the library. The new collection is tasteful, fashionable and will truly be appreciated by everyone who purchases it. Helen Grace Chocolates is a premium line of true "chocolate shop" candies from California. Hopefully you had a chance to sample it at Parent Information Night. You'll agree these are the ultimate chocolates! Take a look at the catalogs that went home in your child's Friday folder. You'll find great gifts for the holidays, birthdays, neighbors, grandparents, teachers, corporate gifts, etc. There is something for everyone!

Have your kids checked out the prize catalog? The more they sell, the more they receive. Also, the top seller in each grade will win a Barton Creek Mall gift card. If 75% of Casis students participate, we will host a party to celebrate the close of gift wrap sales. If they are unable to sell, they can return a signed order form to their teacher.

Let your out-of-town family and friends show their support to Casis by ordering on-line at [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com), school number **119069**. Students should return money and order forms to their teachers no later than Friday, September 15. So let's celebrate and get those orders moving! Feel free to contact Paula Duke, 482-8545, Frances Thompson, 542-9262 or Ashley Crider, 477-6416 if you have any questions.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE VOLUNTEERS!

Karen Brimble and Gayle Velayos, Cafeteria Beautification  
Wendy Thompson, Hillview Play Area  
Beth Durrett, Path of Excellence  
Tracy Fielder and Judy Paul, Casis PTA website  
Bill Patterson, QuickBooks on-line  
Amy Allen and Lisa Green, Assistance to Treasurer  
Laura Wieland and Connie Golson, T-shirts  
Barbara Hadley, School Supply Kits  
Paula Duke, Ashley Crider and Frances Thompson, Gift Wrap  
Kathryn Burniston, Abbe Oden and Kelly Talbert, Carnival  
Ann Phipps, Directory  
Allison Laughlin and her collating team, Back to School Packets  
Robin Shepherd, Marquee  
Anne Hagen and Marianne Seiler, Homeroom Parent Coord.  
Mary Beth Kiser and Mike Baselice, Surveys  
Charles Golson, LCD projectors, new campus server  
Donna Campbell and Carol Fancher, Hospitality  
Kerri Ann Chambless, Lainey Fisher, and Hillary Summers, Teacher Appreciation  
Sara Marler, Debbie Hanna, Rebecca Hardeman and Steve Saunders, Grounds  
Melinda Longtain and her orange-vested team, Safety  
Julia Howry, Allan Elementary  
Suzanne Freid-Clark, Hall Displays  
Montse de Muller, Office Staffing & Health Aides  
Karla Irvin and Mary Estrada, Library Liasons  
Julie Pastor and Julie Baselice, Literacy Library  
Brooks Franklin, Volunteer Coordinator  
Margie Medrano and Marcia Millikin, Leadership Casis  
Cami Hawkins and team, Wellness

To all those not mentioned here who have given their time—THANK YOU!!

### **Volunteers Needed!!**

Cindy Sanders is looking for help cleaning classroom computers on campus. Please e-mail Brooks Franklin at [ebf@grandecom.net](mailto:ebf@grandecom.net) if you're interested.

## The Prez Sez....

On behalf of the Casis PTA welcome back to school! Thanks to the faculty and staff for getting our children off to such a great start this school year. School Supply Kit distribution was the easiest distribution ever! Please remember to pre-order your child's school supplies on the Spring form for next year. It sure makes for an easy start of school!

The Casis PTA is also off to a great start. We are very fortunate to have the resources that we do, and to have the infrastructure for our high value programs that utilize both money and talented volunteers.

The Casis PTA supports five positions on campus: our Technology teacher, Technology assistant, Spanish teacher, Reading Specialist (1/2 time) and our library assistant. The PTA directly reimburses AISD for salary plus benefits (\$146,000) for these positions, and salary reimbursement is one-half of our 2006-07 budget.

Did you know that with 735 students at Casis this year, the Casis PTA is budgeted to spend over \$400 per student? The cost per student is a direct infusion of funds from the PTA and does not reflect the value of volunteer time.

On PIN night, Barry Aidman announced that 12,500 volunteer hours were logged at Casis last year. The value placed on this contribution is \$228,750. So, including the value of volunteer time, the total "value" that the PTA brings to Casis Elementary is \$720 per student.

Thank you for committing to the future success of Casis Elementary by supporting the PTA through your donations of time and money.

"Knowledge is love and light and vision."  
~ Helen Keller

### Special Recognition of a Casis Parent

For the third year in a row, Kathy Girling Odom has donated \$6,000/year to the Casis PTA, specifically so the Casis faculty will have educational resources & opportunities not available to them through AISD. Over these three years, teachers have been able to attend important workshops (on their own time) paid for by the Casis PTA because of Kathy Odom's passion for academic excellence. Once again, this example demonstrates the unique educational environment Casis enjoys because of generous parents!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

9/13 Picture Day  
9/14 General PTA meeting (details below)  
9/25 Gift Wrap Sales end  
10/9 Conference Day, no school  
10/12 General PTA meeting, noon  
10/27 Casis Carnival, 5:30 - 8:30 pm  
\*\*\*General PTA Meeting\*\*\*  
September 14, 8 am in Portable 15

More news continued on page 2....

### Kids Eating Healthy

The Nutrition and Wellness Committee is very excited about this year's theme of promoting "Kids Eating Healthy". Over the summer, the Casis Cafeteria was beautified with fresh paint and photographs displaying children with healthy fruits and vegetables. The committee is developing plans to continue this theme of teaching our children about healthy food choices. Our goals include offering more nutritious food and drink items in the cafeteria as well as expanding our organic gardens and providing a healthy snack list to each classroom. Another goal is to feature the harvest from the kid's Casis gardens into lunch specials and farmers market fundraisers. We are fortunate to have both talented Casis parents and the Whole Foods Market dedicated to educating our children, parents, and faculty on healthy choices and habits. Please watch for the healthy snack list in your child's classroom and see how you can get involved with our school-wide goal to empower our kids to make healthy food decisions.

### Confused About Forms?

Twice a year, the PTA requests direct contributions via forms sent home in Friday Folders. Technology and Spanish contributions are separated between Spring and Fall, with other smaller requests with each form. The Spring Form is to prepare your child for the next school year. At any time, please feel free to email Amy Allen, Assistant Treasurer, at amyallen@austin.rr.com or Kathy Mauro, PTA President at kathy.mauro@spcorp.com to verify your contribution history. Our programs would not sustain themselves without the generosity of the parents at Casis!

Spring Form: Technology Contribution (first request), School Supply Kits, T-shirts, Path of Excellence and Campus Grounds Beautification.

Fall Form: Spanish (first request), Technology Contribution (second request), Field Trips, Cultural Arts, Cougar Book Fund, Grounds Beautification, Teacher Supplies and Support, T-shirts (second chance), Directories and PTA membership Dues.

**Leadership Casis** is open to all 5th graders who are interested in community service, school service & school spirit. The first meeting will be held in the library Monday, September 11th after school until 4:00 p.m.

Leadership Casis students will host a new student open house social on Friday, September 29th from 2:00-2:30 pm for any student new to Casis this year in grades 1-5.

Please be sure that your application has been turned in prior to the first meeting. Parent volunteers are needed to help facilitate meetings and field trips.

Contact **Margie Medrano 451-5506** or **Marcia Millikin**

### 2006-2007 CASIS PTA BOARD

President	Kathy Mauro	478-7346
President Elect	Wendy Thompson	476-6747
V.P. Communications	Tracy Fielder	542-0045
V.P. Services	Jim Brewer	473-8256
V.P. Ways & Means	Blanche Gill	322-0003
Secretary	Julie Pastor	474-5216
Treasurer	Bill Patterson	437-7922
Historian	Dixie Carlton	476-3039
Parliamentarian	Julia Howry	474-6006
Volunteer Coordinator	Brooks Franklin	236-0885
AC-PTA	Karen Brimble	479-8280
Principal	Barry Aidman	414-2062
Teacher Representative	Derek Springer	841-5555

### Annual Casis Forest Clean-Up

**Saturday, November 18th, 9:30 am— 12:30 pm**

Calling all trimmers, bush whackers, rakers, and general dirt enthusiasts. We'll meet at the Forest entrance at 9:30 am and work until about 12:30 pm. Last year we had a good turnout and were able to get the job done well within that timeframe, while having a lot of fun! Bring work gloves, shovels, rakes, clippers, and even chainsaws and wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Children are welcome; they feel an important part of making their school a better place. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful resource. Lets get digging! E-mail to let me know you are coming or just show up. Thanks for helping! Nancy Hurd 322-9618 [axioman@aol.com](mailto:axioman@aol.com)

### **LINK YOUR RANDALLS CARD TO #4888!**

Did you know that since the Randalls school donation program was launched with Casis 10 years ago, they have donated approximately \$56,000 to Casis? Don't forget to link your card to #4888!

Also, watch for Randalls 10% Back to Schools program. For all grocery purchases of qualifying products [the products are marked by a yellow school bus sign in the store], use your Remarkable Card, and Randalls will contribute 10% of the purchase price to the school. The purchases can be made until Sept. 5th. After Sept. 5th, when you check-out, Randalls will give you a Rewards Certificate, showing your qualifying purchases. Please give these Certificates to your teacher by Oct. 16th or send to Gaye Holden Pate, the PTA/Remarkable Card Chair.

### **WILD ABOUT CASIS**



**2006**

**Grab your family and friends and conga over to the 2006 Casis Carnival!**

**Friday, October 27th  
5:30-8:30 pm**