



The Prez Sez.....

Spring has sprung!! With our return from Spring Break, we are flying toward the end of the year. As I complete this article, we just finished our annual Fun Run. What a fantastic day and event. A huge thank you to Tracy Fielder and Lea Holubec for chairing!

We also hosted our final open house to prospective parents in March. A great group of potential parents toured the school and learned some of the finer points of what goes on at our wonderful school.

The proposed budget for the PTA will be presented to the Executive Board this month and to the General Body at the April 13th meeting for approval. I want to thank everyone that participated in this process. It is a very worthwhile exercise and as usual I am so impressed with the talented parents, teachers and staff we have and the energy they bring to the table.

Also, this month we will be electing the Casis PTA officers for the 2006-2007 school-year. I want to thank the nominating committee and our parliamentarian, Jana Howden, for their work in preparing the slate. It is posted in this newsletter and I invite everyone to attend the meeting on the 13th for the election.

We still have a few events that could use your help as volunteers. Casis Track & Field Days are coming May 9th & 10th. Please contact Marla Kiger 419-9200 or Julie Baselice 380-0419 to offer your assistance.

We are looking forward to Kindergarten/New Student Round-up on May 2nd. This is always such a fun event for the newest members of our Casis family to get an introduction to our school.

Enjoy the spring!

Field Trips

Are you tired of getting notices home asking for \$3 for a field trip this week and \$12 for next month? Did you know that teachers are responsible for the collecting and counting monies for field trip costs? To satisfy AISD requirements, your child's teacher has to write individual receipts for any money they collect that is \$5 or more. The money is then counted two times--by the teacher and Annie Melvin, our bookkeeper. The funds are then driven to the bank and deposited. Needless to say, this is a time consuming process for everyone involved.

In an effort to eliminate this hassle for our parents, teachers and office staff, the Casis PTA has decided to change the way funds are collected for field trips. What that means is next year instead of being nicked and dimed for \$3 here and \$5 there, we will ask parents to give a specified amount—for example, \$20 per child—to cover the expense of field trips for the entire year. The request will come on the Back-to-School form and will go into a specified account for field trips. And you will not be asked to fund any field trip during the school year with the exception of the 5th grade Port Aransas study trip.

When a class is ready to take a trip, the office will request reimbursement from the PTA and that will eliminate the hassle factor for parents and our wonderful teachers. This will be an easy fix to a cumbersome process for everyone. We also hope this change will enhance field trip opportunities for our kids and expose them to some wonderful learning experiences in our community.

Be on the lookout for the addition of Field Trips on the Back-to-School form that is sent home in your child's Friday Folder in August.

Proposed Slate of 2006-2007 Casis PTA Officers

Below are the potential officers slated by the nominating committee. The election will be held at the April General Meeting on April 13th at noon in Portable 14.

President Elect—Wendy Thompson

VP Ways & Means—Blanche Gill

VP Services—Jim Brewer

VP Communications—Tracy Fielder

Secretary—Julie Pastor

Treasurer—Bill Patterson

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Fun Run Was Fun For All

Casis families and friends turned out in record numbers for the 14th Annual Casis Fun Run held last Sunday March 26th at the O. Henry Middle School Track. 353 Casis students participated in a fun day of friendly competition which included a distance run, 50 yd. dash, 100 yd. dash, and several relays coordinated and led by Cindy Samok. Jim Jim's was on hand to serve their delicious ices again, and Julie Horvath massaged weary participants.

One special highlight of the day was Archer Hadley, 4th grade student, bravely rounding the track to finish his lap among masses of Casis fans chanting his name. Cheers were loud as Ms. Samok awarded him a well-deserved gold medal. Way to go Archer!!!

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the distance run:

	1st	2nd	3rd
5th grade boys	Klay Kepple	McLean Bell	Roger Cain
5th grade girls	Kate Brodnax	Aimee Martin	Bailey Watson
4th grade boys	Brandon Fielder	William Morris	Sean Rinks
4th grade girls	Kendall Brewer	Sara Greaves	Megan Nater
3rd grade boys	Chess Patterson	William Koen	Matt Terrill
3rd grade girls	Sarah Wells	Kim Griffith	Sophia Higuera Victoria
2nd grade boys	Davis Franklin	Trevor Bell	Gavin Nater
2nd grade girls	Hanna Windham	Georgia Oldham	Eliza Cain
1st grade boys	Vijay Verraraghaver	Michael Morran	Jake Larson
1st grade girls	Kendall Bengtson	Anna Girardeau	Olivia Pozder
Pre-K/K boys	Ryan Talbert	Billy Clark	Reed Cameron
Pre-K/K girls	Emma Green	Ellen Campbell	Maura Goetzel

Our proceeds this year will benefit the 5th grade study trip to Port Aransas. The 5th grade students did a tremendous job of promoting this event through announcements, posters, skits, and stickers. They also contributed the day of with warm-ups, ribbon and sticker distribution, and bracelet sales. Thank you to Brandon Batiansila, Beth Deiterman, Jaynelle Nestle, and Derek Springer for leading these students. Their effort paid off by grossing over \$12,000!

Casis volunteers are always so generous with their time. Many thanks to the parents, friends, and teachers who contributed to the day's success, as well as the following businesses for their support: AJL Advertising, Broaddus Chevron, Four Sons Cleaners, the Horvath family, Hi-Rise Balloons, Jim Jim's, Lucy's Boatyard, National City Mortgage, Plains Capital Bank, Randalls, and RunTex.



Picture at right: Kinder girls just after starting the 50 yd dash.

Port Aransas 2006

The first week of May, our fifth graders are going to have an opportunity to take an overnight field trip to Port Aransas. This will be the 7th year that this field trip has taken place. The trip has been made possible by our generous parents, the PTA, and our hardworking faculty. This is unique to Casis; we are one of a few public elementary schools that shares this experience with their students. The four fifth-grade classes will be going in two trips, two classes at a time, with parent and teacher chaperones. They will travel by bus and stay at the UT Marine Science Institute (UTMSI). The students and their chaperones will be staying in the dormitories and eating some of their meals at UTMSI. The field trip will include visits to mudflats, sea grass beds (the Texas version of kelp forests), barrier islands, a two-hour voyage on the UT research vessel (the KATY) into the Corpus Christi Bay, activities in the Pier Lab, and a cookout. This is a fabulous experience, and all those who make the trip possible are very much appreciated.