



CASIS PTA POST

Issue 49

www.casispta.org

March '07

AUTHOR VISIT REVIEW

Jack Gantos arrived at Casis on February 9th and was instantly captivated by the warm welcome and hallways filled with Rotten Ralph pictures. Jo Cornwell's huge masterpiece of Percy and Ralph waited to greet him as he walked into our library. He said that the energy and excitement was in the air - "this is a special place!" Jack spent the day doing 3 presentations in the cafeteria, signing over 250 books for our kids and having lunch with the teachers. His presentations were full of great information, humor and stories that we will never forget! Jack left us all inspired to be better writers and readers.

Thanks to our amazing teachers who prepared the kids for Jack's visit by reading his books and discussing his work and writing techniques.

This wonderful event was supported by a huge group of hard working volunteers and teachers. Many thanks to Amy Roberts, Kristen Brakebill, Karen Brimble, Christine Caudle, Mi-

chelle Dante, Laura Grim, Cami Hawkins, Jana Howden, Karla Irvin, Marla Kiger, Barbara Klitch, Angie Larned, Carolyn Ostrom, Sue Phillips, Suzanne Rosato, Rena Sehlke, Leigh Simmons, Hillary Summers, Laura Wieland, Kerri Ann Chambliss, Lainey Fisher, Susie Matzorkis, Jo Cornwell, Stacey Ross, Barbara Nichols, Larry Chavin, Jaynelle Nestle, Colleen Carr, Amy Cavness and members of the teacher appreciation committee.



Grayson Rosato and Beth Roberts enjoying a moment with Jack Gantos.

PORT ARANSAS 2007!

Our Casis fifth grade classes are gearing up and getting ready for their annual educational trip to Port Aransas. This will be the 8th year that this special field trip has taken place!! The first week of May, our four 5th grade classes will have the opportunity to take an overnight field trip to the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) in Port Aransas. It will tie in with their upcoming lessons on habitats, adaptations, and a unit on MARE (Marine Activities and Resources in Education). The trip is made possible by our generous parents, the PTA and our hardworking faculty. Students will be going in two trips as follows: Mrs. Nestle's and Mr. Springer's classes on May 2nd and 3rd (Wed./Thurs.) - and Ms. Deiterman's and Mr. Batiensila's classes on May 3rd and 4th (Thurs/Fri). The students will be traveling by chartered bus and will stay with chaperones in the campus dormitories. Most of their meals will be 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! All interested parents are invited to attend as either chaperones or as non-chaperone volunteers. For those who were unable to attend the informational meeting on March 29th, please call Montse de Muller at 476-0926.

The Prez Sez.....

With our clocks rolled back, Spring is here! We are in our final descent for this school year and the PTA has several exciting events yet to come. The Casis Fun Run is April 15th at the O. Henry track. Co-chairs, Suzanne Plummer and Cami Hawkins, are busy planning this family fun event and will be seeking volunteers. Mark your calendars!

Track and Field is May 15th and 16th co-chaired by Allison Laughlin, Dena Lewis and Carlotta McLean. We will be needing lots of volunteers for those 2 days, so try to help if you can.

Leadership Casis (5th graders) will be running the April 12th General PTA meeting in the cafeteria at 7 pm. This meeting includes voting to approve our proposed PTA Budget for 2007-08. Please join us!

Brooks Franklin is organizing for Kinder/New Student Round-Up on May 1st. This fun event welcomes the newest members of our Casis family as they get an introduction to our school.

To prepare for summer reading we are fortunate to have Barbara Nichols and Cheryl Swanson lead us in a conversation on "How to Read with Your Child." This special program will take place at the General PTA meeting on Thursday, May 10th at 7:45 am in the library.

Casis students celebrated "Birthdays Around the World" during International Festival. Co-chairs, Tsina Napoliello and Azita Mohktari, were an awesome pair executing this inspirational and cultural event. Many thanks to Tsina and Azita and their terrific team of parent volunteers!

Our campus thoroughly enjoyed the crazy and clever author, Jack Gantos. Amy Roberts has graciously chaired Author Visit for 6 years, and now as her youngest daughter, Beth, graduates in May, our talented Amy will move on. Thank you, Amy, for making our Author Visits like "rock star" events!

Thank you parents, for all the wonderful things you do for our school. You make such a difference! And I'd like to extend my gratitude to the talented group of parents that we recently voted in as the Slate for 2007-08 (their names are listed in this issue). Interested in volunteering? Check out the various PTA committees and raise your hand if there is a committee that appeals to you. The PTA would love your involvement and talent!

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
—Benjamin Franklin

Kathy Mauro

2007-2008 Casis PTA Officers

Below are the potential officers slated by the nominating committee. The election will be held May 10th at 7:45 am in the library.

President Elect	Julie Ballard
VP Ways & Means	Karen Brimble
VP Services	Suzanne Bell
VP Communications	Tracy Fielder
Secretary	Julie Pastor
Treasurer	Amy Allen
Assistant Treasurer	Jay Foster

Internet Safety

Sergeant Paul Aleman from the Cyber Crimes Unit of the Attorney General's office joined us at our February General Meeting. He gave many helpful tips for safeguarding our children's internet use.

Helpful web sites include:

www.missingkids.com has definitions for the language, lingo and text clues that students use;

www.internetfilterreview.com is the internet site that reviews internet filters and provides safeguarding options; and

www.netnanny.com is the internet filter that Sgt. Aleman uses in his home.

Internet Safety Tips:

1. Establish rules for internet usage and post them near the computer. Examples include, what sites can your child visit, who can they talk to, how long will they be online, and where can they use a computer?
2. Keep computer in a common room, not a child's bedroom.
3. Know the dangers of cell phones that include still pictures, video, and e-mail.
4. Discuss the importance of telling a trusted adult if they receive inappropriate material.
5. COMMUNICATE with your child. Earn their trust by explaining how you are protecting them. The social norm should include children allowing their parents to protect them on the internet.

Special Thanks

Paul Holubec and Betty Cunningham for their work on the Casis treasury audit.

1379 Active Wear for Active Kids and Marcia Miliken Properties for signing on as Casis's newest landscape benefactors.

DATES TO REMEMBER

4/6, 5/24	Bad Weather Make-up Days
4/12	General Meeting, 7 pm, cafeteria led by leadership Casis Budget approval planned
4/15	Fun Run
4/20	Principal Brown Bag, Noon
5/1	Kindergarten and New Student Round-Up
5/3	PTA Exec. Board Mtg., 8:15 am
5/10	General PTA Meeting, Noon
5/15, 16	Track and Field
5/24	Last day of school

Casis PTA Volunteer Opportunities

This Spring we have many volunteer opportunities available to get involved in the PTA. Casis PTA is hosting Fun Run and Track & Field this Spring and we need our parent volunteers to assist. Please refer to the Volunteer Interest Form located on the Casis PTA website at www.casispta.org (select the volunteer menu) or call Brooks Franklin at 236-0885 to find your spot in the PTA this Spring!

The PTA is also seeking Committee Chairs for the 2007-2008 school year. If you are interested in chairing a committee, please contact Wendy Thompson (476-6747, winifredpage@aol.com) or Brooks Franklin (ebf@grandecom.net). There are over 65 programs and activities that offer many different volunteer opportunities in the PTA. Let us help you find your spot in the PTA for next year. Thank you to all our parent volunteers!

Walk, Run, Just have Fun, the Casis Fun Run is Coming!

**Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 15, 2007
O. Henry Middle School Track, 2-4 pm**

If you would like to help, contact

Cami Hawkins at hawkins2048@sbcglobal.net or

Suzanne Plummer at suzanne.plummer@amd.com

Leadership Casis News

At the February 5th meeting of Leadership Casis, our 5th graders extended their support to their fellow Allan Elementary 5th Grade counterparts as both campuses prepared for the TAKS tests held on February 20th. Our kids filled up bags with nutritional snacks, water bottles, pencils, and erasers. They then decorated the bags with inspirational and supportive phrases. They also made posters that expressed their support for their friends at Allan and those statements of support were then displayed in Allan's 5th grade wing. Both schools feed into O. Henry for Middle School, so these students will be together through High School. What a great way to get the connections started early!

\$ Casis Community Connections \$

Check out the second edition of the community connections page, a 1-page summary included with the PTA Post and make sure your dollars spent in the community are working for Casis!



\$\$ CASIS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS \$\$

Ways your day-to-day shopping can raise money for Casis

Published by Casis PTA; March '07

Do you know that many local and on-line businesses donate money to Casis just by your patronage? This flyer is intended to provide a list of these opportunities as well as inform anyone interested as to how they can partner their business with Casis.

CLIP

Boxtops for Education



Casis earns 0.10 cents for each boxtop. Turn-in boxtops to your classroom teacher. Last year the PTA earned more than \$2000!

CHARGE



Link your Target Guest Card or Target VISA to Casis and earn funds for the school every time you shop. Need more information? Call 1-800-316-6142 or visit www.target.com Casis # 96080.

MATCH



IBM employees

Any donations you have given Casis in the past or plan to give in the future (including Spanish or Technology "contributions") can be pooled with all IBM/Casis parents for an employer matching contribution from IBM. Contact Kathy Mauro at kathy.mauro@spcorp.com for details.



Hewlett Packard employees

Any Hewlett Packard employee may choose to submit their Casis PTA contributions through the HP Product Matching Program. HP very generously gives a 3:1 match. Identifying Hewlett Packard Casis parents will help pool contributions to maximize this matching resource for our technology program. Please contact Kathy Mauro at kathy.mauro@spcorp.com for details.

Does your company match? Please contact Kathy Mauro at kathy.mauro@spcorp.com to discuss creating this partnership.

PARTNER

Are you interested in partnering your business with Casis? Please contact Blanche Gill at bbgill@grandecom.net for more information.

SHOP

Bellita

Photography

Gayle Velayos of Bellita Photography specializes in child portraiture. Gayle's bright photographic murals of children are on display in the Casis cafeteria promoting our Health and Nutrition Campaign. Book your Spring photo session with Bellita Photography by May 31st and Casis will earn 10% of the proceeds. For more info, call Gayle at 512.769.6503 or visit her website www.bellitaphotography.com.

Randalls

Casis receives a percentage of your Randalls purchases. Designate your Remarkable Card to #4888, Casis today! Over the last 10 years, Casis has received over \$50,000!

Westbank Dry Cleaners

Turn in your dry cleaning receipts at the cleaners and 3% will be donated to Casis.



the soup peddler.

Order healthy, delicious meals delivered free. New menu each week! 5% of purchases go to Casis. Order at www.souppeddler.com/casis

www.boxtops4education.com

Do you shop at...

Officemax, LLBean, Nordstrom's, 800-flowers, Target, eBay, Ann Taylor, Lancome, Gap, drug-store.com, Hallmark, Gapkids, Garnet Hill, Scholastic Books, eToys, Sony Direct, Cabela's, Apple, Barnes & Noble, Restoration Hardware, Dell, AdidasHearthsong, Harry and David..... and many more!

Sign-up on-line at www.boxtops4education.com to become a Boxtop Booster Club Member, then make your on-line purchases with over 200 vendors via the boxtops website! With each purchase, the companies will donate directly to Casis.

