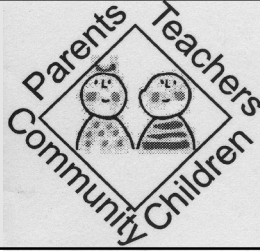


The Casis Elementary

PTA POST

Issue 45

May 2006



The Prez Sez.....

As I write this, I have just finished the first shift of the Track & Field Days at Casis. The school year is coming to a close quickly and I can hardly believe it is May!! What a great year it has been at Casis. The PTA has accomplished much this year with hugely successful fundraisers, awesome cultural events and wonderful after school enrichment programs.

I want to thank everyone for their time this year, as you committed hundreds of volunteer hours to one or many committees, programs or events. We couldn't do it without the support of the parent volunteers and your talent and efforts are the reasons for the PTA's success. There are too many people to list, but please know that our students and staff greatly appreciate all that you do!

I want to especially thank the Executive Board for all the work they have done over the past year. Kathy Mauro, Bill Patterson, Wendy Thompson, Blanch Gill, Jim Brewer, Michelle Dante, Jana Howden, Marla Kiger, Leslie Winter, Gaye Holden-Pate, Derek Springer and Barry Aidman, thank you!! You all have been an incredible support to me and I appreciate your insight and enthusiasm not to mention your dedication to the kids at Casis!!

Thank you to Barry Aidman, Elyse Smith, Ruth Sterling, Annie Melvin, Annie Johnson and Kaysie Sallans. You all do an incredible job every day at Casis. We are so lucky to have such an outstanding staff and administration. I also want to thank our custodial staff for their assistance to the PTA: setting up meeting areas, moving things and of course keeping our school looking so great.

To our teachers... you are undoubtedly the best!! Thank you for being a part of the PTA. One of the greatest things we have at Casis is the successful working partnership between parents and teachers. Your input is vital to our success and to the ultimate success of our kids.

Finally, I want to thank my family for their support this year. I love you and I promise not to be on the phone so much next year!

Kathy Mauro will take the helm on May 11th. I have had the pleasure of working with Kathy for the past two years on the board and in several other activities. Kathy will do a wonderful job as President next year and is already busy with plans and preparation for the fall. She has a fantastic executive board to work with and we look forward to next year.

It has been an honor to serve as PTA President this year. Thank you

Track and Field Celebrates the Olympics

Casis Track & Field Olympics 2006 was held on Tuesday, May 9th and Wednesday May, 10th. P.E. teachers Cindy Samok and Roger Taveirne helped students, faculty and parents celebrate the Olympic experience. Opening ceremonies included the Parade of Nations, where each class represented a nation.

Volunteers helped to officiate the events, worked in the concession area or just cheered our Casis Olympians on. Kindergarten through 2nd grade competed on Tuesday the 9th, and 3rd through 5th graders competed on Wednesday the 10th. Everyone on campus joined hands in making The Friendship Ring during Wednesday's Closing Ceremony, it was awesome.

The PTA sold Concessions and sports souvenirs both days. As usual Jim Jim's, popcorn and pickles were the traditional favorites.

It was fun to see the sea of Casis Track & Field T-shirts on every student. Thank you to Run-Tex and AJL Advertising for providing every student with this keepsake.

Thanks to the students, faculty, staff, custodians, and parent volunteers for the success of Casis' Track & Field Olympics 2006.



Mrs. Carter's kinder class represented Mexico

More news continued on page 2.....

Sister School Program

I would like to thank the Casis students, teachers, and parents that have made the first year of the sister school program such a success. Our hope was that the students would have a chance to learn about the culture of some of our Spanish speaking neighbors. As you will see during the Spanish class open house, I think they are beginning to.

Through the exchange of letters, photos, and videos, the students have had a taste of life at Colonia Solidaridad in central Honduras. Casis students have been able to watch the progress of the new school that is being constructed in Honduras. Though the funding for the school is coming from a local non-profit called Austin Helps Honduras in conjunction with the Italian Red Cross, the parents and students are actually providing all the manual labor for the construction of the school! That's one involved PTA!

The students and teachers in Honduras were very appreciative of the school supplies you have donated, and I will be taking the clothes recently collected by leadership Casis on my next trip there. I know that they will be warmly received. Thank you.

As we continue the sister school program over the coming years, my hope is that the students of Casis develop relationships with the children in Honduras, and become very motivated to learn Spanish and other languages. Do encourage you child to take advantage of this opportunity!

Chas Studor
Abe and Ben's Dad

On Monday, April 24, 2006 the Texas House of Representatives passed House Bills 1, 2, 3, and 4. Together, the Bills would create a new business tax and provide a .17 tax cut in local property taxes over two years. School Districts have the option of adding .03 back to the tax rate giving taxpayers a net saving of .14 per \$100 valuation of their property. The House also approved an additional \$1.00 per pack cigarette tax to generate more revenue. The property tax savings money will be replaced with the new business tax and the proposed cigarette tax increase and some of the state's surplus funds.

The Senate is currently considering these bills and hopes to approve a similar version.

The new business tax will offer marginal tax relief for property owners but does not provide additional revenue for public schools. Governor Perry stated that he would allow lawmakers to discuss teacher pay and education reform after they settle the tax issue.

Fifth-Grade End-of-School Activities

It's hard to believe that our fifth-graders are nearing the end of their elementary school days! There will be a few special activities for fifth-graders during the last few days of school. On Tuesday, May 23, the fifth-grade volleyball games with the Casis faculty and staff will take place. These games are always a lot of fun, and all parents are welcome to attend and cheer on the kids! On Thursday, May 25, the fifth-grade graduation ceremony will take place at 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. The ceremony will include a speaker, a slide show, a reception, and of course, the awarding of diplomas. After graduation, the students will change into their swimsuits for a pool party and lunch at Northwest Park. The students will be taken to the pool party on AISD buses. Parent volunteers will drive the students back to school around 2:30 p.m. in time for regular pick-up. Look for more details about these activities in your Friday folders!

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