



CASIS PTA

Issue 47

www.casispta.org

November 2006

CASIS CARNIVAL

Casis Carnival 2006 was a "wildly" successful and fun-filled evening! We want to take this opportunity to thank all the people in the community who helped make "Wild About Casis" possible!

Of course the incredibly generous families, teachers and staff at Casis made this event a reality. To them we have endless gratitude. We are tallying our numbers and can't wait to give a full report on how successful this event has been for our school.

We'd like to thank our food donors who generously donated all of the fabulous food at Carnival:

- The County Line (Karol and Doug Boes)
- Hula Hut
- Wahoo's Fish Taco
- Maine Root
- Sweet Leaf Tea
- Santa Rita Tex Mex Cantina
- Mr. Margarita Sales, Rentals, and Mixes, Randalls
- EZ's Brick Oven & Grill and
- Mr. Gatti's Pizza

Please be sure to thank these generous donors for supporting our school when you visit their establishments.

Finally, while so many came forward to give their support, there are some people we want to thank for leading the charge for Casis Carnival 2006. They are Stephens Inc., Kristin and Wick Alexander, Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, Adam Litch, John and Alex Clark, Randalls, AJL Advertising, Ellen, Ford and Caroline Campbell, IBM Matching Gift Program and an anonymous donor.



Carnival 2006 Co-Chairs Abbe Oden, Kelly Talbert and Kathryn Burniston

The Prez Sez.....

Let's "Celebrate" and stay "Wild About Casis"! As the holidays approach, we have so much to be thankful for at Casis; the dedicated teachers, staff and administration; the wonderful enrichment opportunities provided by parent volunteers and the funds of the PTA. I am pleased to share that our financial successes from our major fundraisers, Gift Wrap and Carnival, have secured a balanced budget for us for this school year. Thank you so much to the Gift Wrap Chairs: Ashley Crider, Paula Duke and Frances Thompson. Their "CELEBRATE" campaign raised more than projected in the budget! Congratulations!!

Oh, what a night! Carnival was a fabulously "wild" community event! A perfect evening with lots of very happy children! Many, many kudos and thanks to our Carnival Chairs: Kathryn Burniston, Abbe Oden and Kelly Talbert. These Chairs, and their Carnival Committee, planned and executed an event that entertained the masses and far exceeded their projected net earnings. Thanks to the many parents who volunteered and contributed to Carnival, proving that we *are* WILD ABOUT CASIS!

Book Fair is around the corner, November 13th and 14th. Thanks to Book Fair Chairs: Ashley Fowler, Carole McRoberts and Susan Wise. Book Fair is based on the book Charlotte's Web and their theme is "Weave Yourself Into Reading". These Chairs have lots of great plans for Family Night ... so mark your calendars!

You're Invited: Next week, November 9th at 7 pm in the cafeteria, Representative Donna Howard will be our guest speaker at the General PTA Meeting. She will discuss school finance, school nutrition and other related topics. We will also have the pleasure of Whole Foods sharing healthy snack ideas! Please join us!

"Genius without education is like silver in the mine." ~ Benjamin Franklin

Kathy Mauro

Innisbrook Sale - A Reason to CELEBRATE

This year's Innisbrook sale is something to Celebrate. Casis students sold a grand total of \$70,436 worth of gift wrap, chocolate, magazines, gift items and accessories. Casis keeps 53%. WOW! Did you know that the top selling gift wrap was the reversible Smiling Snowmen at 330 rolls? The reversible Hip Hop was the second top seller at 211 rolls. What about the best selling chocolate? English Toffee at 173 boxes. The number of magazine vouchers sold? 245. If you missed out on any of these favorites, you can order anytime at Innisbrook.com and they will ship it to you quick. Our Casis number is 119069. Congratulations to our hard selling gift wrap grade level winners. They are McCoy Gonzales (EC), Nolan Jett (Kindergarten), Steven Crider (1st grade), Victoria Sikes (2nd grade), Annika Ostrom (3rd grade), Ian O'Brien (4th grade) and Tanner and Ben Mauro (5th grade). Way to Go! Orders should be in soon, if not already, and will be going home with your child in an easy to carry box. Let one of the gift wrap chairs know a.s.a.p. if there is a problem with your order so we can help resolve it.

Thanks again to all students and parents who participated in our Gift Wrap Celebration. Your efforts paid off! Paula Duke (482-8545), Frances Thompson (542-9262) and Ashley Crider (477-6416)

Three Families + IBM = \$9200 products for computer lab!!!

Check out the Casis Technology Lab ~ there is new equipment thanks to 3 Casis families: the Bengtson Family, the Willis Family and the Orbach Family. These families collaborated to purchase 20 flat screen monitors and 4 ThinkCenter M52 Towers for the Casis Technology Lab! These products are worth \$9,200!! IBM very generously matches 4:1 on donations from IBM employees to schools. This is the second year IBM/Casis families have organized to maximize their gifts to the school. Does your employer offer a unique donation opportunity? Let us know!

More news continued on page 2.....

Conserving Our Resources

In this Friday Folder, you should receive a letter regarding a new system Casis Elementary and the Casis PTA are wanting to implement. We are always looking for the best ways to keep our families informed and involved. In an effort to conserve resources, time, and money, we would like to reduce the amount of paperwork sent home each week.

Currently, our Friday Folders are packed full of information that could be sent via email. This might include, but not be limited to Principal's Newsletter, Classroom Newsletters, Special Area Updates, and other various forms. These emails would typically be sent on Fridays. Our hope is to send as much information as possible electronically. We also want to ensure that people who desire to receive paper copies can still do so. Through our directory questionnaire, we already have current email addresses for most Casis parents. We will do our best to accommodate your preference.

And last, please visit our website www.casispta.org. PTA is continually updating the site with all current information and forms.

Look for your letter regarding school communications in this Friday Folder. Please return it to your child's teacher by next Friday, November 10th. I would appreciate any feedback you may have.

Tracy Fielder
VP Communications
tracyfielder@sbcglobal.net
 542-0045 home

Status of Funds Raised from the Spring and Fall Forms

The two forms, Spring and Fall, are forms that the PTA distributes every school year to directly request for contributions for different categories of expenses the PTA incurs.

Spring Form requests donations for Technology, School Supply Kits, T-shirts, Path of Excellence & Grounds Beautification.

Fall Form requests donations for Spanish, Technology (2nd request), Field Trips, Cultural Arts, Cougar Book Fund, Grounds Beautification, Teacher Supplies and Support, T-shirts (2nd chance), Directories and PTA membership dues.

Some financial highlights from these two forms are as follows: There are 568 Casis families, 386 families (68%) supported the Technology Program through contributions on the Spring or Fall forms raising a total of \$53,966. Our Technology Program is budgeted to spend \$85,000 this school year.

370 families or 65% of the total number of Casis families supported the Spanish Program by contributing on the Fall form, raising \$38,013. Our Spanish Program is budgeted to spend \$50,000 this school year.

The Fall Form included two new categories: Field Trip funds & Teacher Supplies and Support. Field Trip funds raised \$9,236 (we are budgeted to spend \$11,500 this school year). Teacher Supplies and Support raised \$3,857 (we are budgeted to spend \$13,400 this school year).

Casis Book Fair 2006

The Fall Holiday season has arrived and what better time to find new books for your children than at our annual Book Fair. The Book Fair and Family Dinner will begin Monday, November 13th. Our book preview will begin Monday at 7:45am. Book sales begin at 4pm on Monday and continue through 5pm Tuesday. Monday night's Family Dinner will be served by Casis 5th graders from 5:30pm- 7:00pm.

Please join us for this fun community building event that supports our wonderful library! We are going to have "Some Book Fair"!

Randalls Reward Coupons Reap Big Benefits

Through the Randalls Good Neighbor Program, Casis is receiving an additional \$1,200 in response to the numerous Reward Coupons (10% Back to Schools Program) that our parents collected over the past several weeks and turned into Casis for credit. We are very fortunate to have such a Good Neighbor as Randalls!! When shopping, please thank them for their support of Casis. We also want to remind parents to keep a look-out for Randalls next campaign, the Community Bucks coupon. Collect your Community Bucks and turn them into Casis for \$1 per coupon donation to the school.

Nominating Committee Process to Begin in December

The nomination process to select the PTA Nominating Committee will begin in November. This committee is responsible for recommending a slate of officers for the 2007-2008 school year. The Nominating Committee will be elected at the January general meeting of the PTA. Look for more information and reminders in the Principal's Notes that come home in your child's Friday Folder. If you have any questions, email or call Julia Howry at 474-6006 or jhowry@austin.rr.com.

DATES TO REMEMBER

11/2	PTA Executive Board Meeting, 8:15 am
11/2	CAC 3:15—4:30 pm
11/9	General PTA meeting, 7:00 pm
11/10	Student Holiday/Staff Development
11/13	Book Fair/ Family Night
11/18	Casis Forest Clean-Up, 9:30 am-12:30 pm
11/22—24	Thanksgiving Holidays

PTA MEETING! Thursday, November 9th, 7 pm, Casis Cafeteria

State Representative Donna Howard: *The Special Session and Beyond: A Discussion with State Representative Donna Howard*
 Betsy Foster, Whole Foods Market, *Healthy Snack/Lunch Ideas for our Kids*