

**Casis Elementary
Website
www.mycasis.org**

*Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition Blvd., Austin, Texas 78703
September 14, 2007*

**Casis Elementary
Attendance Line
414-0003**

Mission Statement

Our **mission** is to provide a learning environment that will enable each student to work to potential in his/her quest to be a life-long learner and a productive member of society.

Calendar Items

Friday, September 7 – Friday, September 28		Gift Wrap Sale
Saturday, September 15	9:00 a.m.	Marathon Kids Kick-Off Celebration (UT Mike Myers Field)
Monday, September 17	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis Kick-Off Meeting (Library)
Monday, September 17	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Gifted & Talented Parent Information Night (Library)
Tuesday, September 18	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Wednesday, September 19	8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Casis Cares/Read Aloud Parent Volunteer Training (Cafeteria)
Thursday, September 20	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Make-up Training for Casis Cares/Read Aloud Parent Volunteers (Library)
Friday, September 21	12:00 p.m.	PTA Meeting (Location TBA)
Friday, September 21		Gifted & Talented Nominations Due
Tuesday, September 25	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library)
Friday, September 28	12:00 p.m.	Principal's Brown Bag Lunch
Friday, September 28		Gift Wrap Sale Ends

Gift Wrap Sale

Casis PTA and Innisbrook Wraps present the 2007 "Kick Up Your Heels"! fundraiser with a great line of products from Innisbrook/Helen Grace Chocolate. This is the second largest fundraiser for Casis, which helps fund our reading specialist, technology lab, Spanish program, and much more. All families are encouraged to participate as the sales generate funds for all of the wonderful programs offered at Casis. With every dollar sold of Innisbrook wraps, Casis receives \$0.53 cents. Our goal is 75% participation, so please return the product forms **by Friday, September 28th**. If achieved, the kids will enjoy a school-wide Krispy Kreme donut party. Catalogs filled with gifts, wrapping paper, bags, bows, chocolate and magazine subscriptions were sent home last week in your child's Friday folder. Prizes are as follows: for every 100 items sold, seller will receive a \$100 Best Buy gift certificate. For 150 items sold – seller receives an additional \$150.00 Best Buy gift certificate. For 200 + items, seller will receive another additional \$150.00 Best Buy gift certificate; all totaling \$500.00. If you are unable to share your catalogs with out-of-town family and friends, remind them that they can support Casis by ordering online at Innisbrook.com, school number 119069. If you have any questions please contact Ashley Crider at 477-6416, Ellen Miura at 469-9626 or Julie Kocurek at vote4julie@aol.com.

Traffic Safety, Disabled and Fire Lane Parking Reminders

Please **do not** use the teacher parking lot, the Casis Village parking lot or any of the neighboring business parking lots as a drop-off or pick-up location. Please **do** use the Circle Drive, Hillview or Northwood, as appropriate. **Please do not park in fire lanes, even for brief periods of time.** PARENTS: **We have four disabled parking spots in the front circle drive that are utilized at drop-off and pick-up times. Please do not park in or in front of these spots before or after school, as there are parents who need to use them to pick up their children with special needs.** You *may* park in designated places on Hillview or neighborhood streets near the school. Finally, please **do not** make U-turns in or around school zones.

Safety Patrol Volunteers

Many families help to get the school year off to a great start by volunteering to help with safety patrol. It is very important to follow the traffic and safety guidelines to keep our children, staff and parents safe. Much time goes into training and scheduling these parent volunteers before school even starts to help ensure all rules are communicated accurately to all parents at the beginning of the year. The Casis families were terrific in following the directions and guidelines this year. The following families are to thank for their time and energy devoted to volunteering in the HOT sun this year: Elizabeth and David Adams, Kristin Brakebill, Martha Carapetyan, James Clark, Mary Estrada, Tracy Fielder, Jay Foster, Dawn Goetzel, Wendy Griessen, Kristen Hallman, Cami Hawkins, Peggy O'Shaughnessy, Sue Phillips, Suzanne Plummer, Eduardo Sanchez, Robin Shepherd, Chas Studor, John and Jeannette Williams, and Laura Wilkinson. A thanks truly goes to the families of our student volunteers who enable these volunteers to get to school early and stay late after school while at the same time getting their other children off to and home from school, especially on the first day! Thank you all so much! The parent volunteers were assisted by some very capable 5th graders who jumped in eagerly on the first day: Annika Brakebill, Alexander Estrada, Danielle Johnson, Tommy and Danny Matson, Reed Sallans and many other 5th graders who arrived at school early and decided to help out. The 5th grade safety patrol will now take over for the rest of the school year, please show them the same respect for the rules as you did our parent volunteers. Thanks to our very supportive and hard working administrative staff, Patty Martin, Ana Montoya and Jennifer Lyon.

Asian American Cultural Center

The 7th Anniversary Celebration of the Asian American Cultural Center will be held on Saturday, September 15th at 11713 Jollyville Rd. (at the Arboretum, north of 183N) from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This event will feature music, dance, games, food and cultural demonstrations. For more information, please call 336-5069 or visit www.asianamericanccc.com.

Leadership Casis

The first “Kick-Off” meeting will be Monday, September 17th after school in the library. We have lots of fun, service oriented activities planned throughout the year. Parent volunteers are still needed to help. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Allison Laughlin at 472-2717 or Beth Durrett at 517-0217.

PTA Volunteer Interest Form For Fall 2007/Casis PTA Website

Many thanks to those of you who have already returned your PTA Volunteer Interest Forms. If you haven't turned yours in yet, there is still time to sign up for volunteer opportunities. Please check as many volunteer opportunities as you are interested in and return the form to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Extra Volunteer Interest Forms may be found in the office or by going to the PTA website at www.casispta.org. For more information contact Brooks Franklin, Volunteer Coordinator, at 236-0885 or by email at ebf@grandecom.net. We want to encourage everyone to visit www.casispta.org for the latest news and information. You will find important dates, forms, the student handbook, newsletters, etc., all on one convenient site. If you have anything you would like to post on the site, please contact Tracy Fielder at tracyfielder@sbcglobal.net or 542-0045.

Casis Cares and Read Aloud Volunteers

Jennifer Lyon, school counselor, continues to look for parent volunteers to assist in classrooms with Casis Cares (part of our character education program) and Read Alouds. Second grade will continue to have CC/RA at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and all other grades will be at 2:00 p.m. Training for all volunteers will be on Wednesday, September 19th from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. A make-up session will be held on Thursday, September 20th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the library. We encourage all new volunteers to attend the Wednesday morning training, as more details will be included about the program at that time. Contact Jennifer Lyon at jllyon@austinisd.org, or 414-7167.

Diez y Seis Celebration – Volunteers Needed!

Rebecca Jobe, Spanish teacher, has organized a Diez y Seis Celebration on Monday, September 17th. Ballet Folklorico will perform. Volunteers are needed in the cafeteria for any period of time from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. to hang decorations, and from 10:30 a.m. until 1:05 p.m. to offer students traditional Mexican flag cookies at lunchtime. Please contact Lynn Boswell at lynnboswell@villitaproductions.com if you have questions or need more information.

Parent Information for Gifted and Talented

The AISD Gifted and Talented Program serves students in grades K – 12. The fall nomination process begins September 17th and lasts until September 21st. If you are interested in learning about the Gifted and Talented Program, please attend the parent meeting on Monday, September 17th from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the library. Nomination forms and a brochure about the G/T Program will be available at the meeting and in the office. If you have questions, please consult with your child's teacher or call Assistant Principal, Ana Montoya, at 414-7166.

Marathon Kids

Marathon Kids Kick-off Celebration is set for Saturday, September 15th, at UT Mike Myers Track and Field Stadium. Free parking is available in the UT parking garage next to the stadium. Children will receive a Marathon Kids water bottle. AISD students will begin at 9:00 a.m. Please register your child for Marathon Kids. Registration forms were in your child's classroom at PIN night. Forms will also be available in the gym. Marathon Kids is a part of our WOW program at Casis. Teachers have their students jog the track to complete their Marathon miles. All finishers receive a shirt in the spring, but they have to be registered. Please go to www.MarathonKids.com for more info.

Grounds Thank You

Ms. Samok and the Casis staff would like to thank Sara Marler, Casis parent, and Rebecca Hardeman, former Casis parent, for restoring the lower playing field back to beautiful grass. At the end of Field Day last year it was all dirt. Sara and Rebecca worked hard all summer so that we could have our field ready for school!

Casis Chess Club

The Casis Chess Club will meet every Tuesday in the library from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. All 2nd through 5th graders are invited to attend. All ability levels are welcome and it's not too late to join. You don't even have to know how to play. Parents of interested Kindergarten and 1st graders can call Diana Graves at 480-0782 or email @ diana-graves@sbcglobal.net.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Many thanks to parent-volunteers in Mr. Batiansila's, Ms. Pasko's and Ms. Nestle's classes for monitoring the cafeteria and playground over the last couple of weeks. Thank you in advance to Mr. Springer and Mr. Chauvin's parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch, September 17th – 28th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Attendance was high at both of our Parent Information Nights. It is truly an honor to be at a school where parents are so supportive of teaching and learning.

Sincerely,
Patty Martin