

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

*Casis Elementary
2710 Exposition Blvd., Austin, Texas 78703
October 8, 2008*

**Casis Elementary
Attendance Email
Annie.C.Johnson@austinisd.org**

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

Monday, October 13		Student Holiday/Parent-Teacher conferences
Tuesday, October 14	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library/Portable 1)
Wednesday, October 15	8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Reading Buddy Meeting (Library)
Wednesday, October 15		Kindergarten Grade Level Field Trip (Elgin Tree Farm)
Wednesday, October 15		Read Alouds/Casis Cares
Thursday, October 16		4 th Grade Field Trip (Texas State Capitol)
Friday, October 17		Walk/Bike to School Day
Friday, October 17	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	PTA General Meeting (Portable 1)
Friday, October 17		End of First Nine Weeks
Sunday, October 19		Down Syndrome Association Buddy Walk (Georgetown)
Monday, October 20		Bus Driver Appreciation Week
Monday, October 20	2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Leadership Casis (Library)
Tuesday, October 21	2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Chess Club (Library/Portable 1)
Wednesday, October 22		Read Aloud

Parent – Teacher Conference Day – Monday, October 13th

The official parent-teacher conference day for elementary schools in AISD is Monday, October 13th. There will be no school that day for students. The goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss students' academic progress and to set goals for learning success for the rest of the school year. Teachers will share information about beginning of the year assessment results and classroom performance. Our teachers are eager to meet with you and welcome your questions. Please prepare for the conference by thinking about specific questions you might have for your child's teacher and specific things you would like to share that might help the teacher better know and assist your child. Together, you and the teacher will develop an action plan designed to promote academic growth. This parent-teacher conference is just one of the many opportunities for communication between you and your child's teacher. We are excited about working with you to help your child be successful.

Walk or Ride Your Bike to School Day! – Friday, October 17th

Join us on October 17th for Walk or Ride Your Bike to School Day! If you don't live too far away, ask Mom, Dad or another adult to walk or ride with you to school – it'll be cool! Remember safety: only cross at the cross walks and look both ways before you cross. If you ride your bike, wear a helmet and remember to keep to the side of the road and get off of your bike before crossing the street. Wear your Casis t-shirt and bring your own water bottles. Refills will be provided by Whole Foods and Jack & Adams Bicycles will supply the bike racks. We look forward to everyone's participation!

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped provide food for the last Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: Ashley Crider, Shannon Cameron, Nan Alexander, Anne Keene, Molly Benson, Martha Carapetyan, Denise Thompson, Lee Anne Conciene, Suzanne Plummer, Judy Pape, Carolyn Allen, Julie Graber, Lauri Perry, Sherri Underbrink, Dawn Goetzel, and Jeanne Perez. Thanks also to Bert's BBQ! We truly appreciate all of your time and generosity.

Casis Artwork On Display

Congratulations to the Casis students who have their beautiful artwork on display at Carruth Administration Center and Baker Center! The work will be on display October 1st through October 30th. Parents, family, and friends are invited to view it during business hours. The following students have their work at Carruth Administration Center, located at 1111 West 6th St., third floor, 78703: Chloe Carlander, Laurel Fowler, Wyatt Richards, Max Kepple, Carter Pace, Graham Patterson, Eliza Cain, Davison Thompson, Kate Singleton, Will Ezell, Helen Peck, Hunter Roberts, Claire Rivers, Rees Wilson, Ally Reznicek, and Hoyt Taylor. The following students have their work on display at Baker Center, located at 3908 Avenue B, 1st floor, 78751: Georgia Oldham, Jackson Bell, Joseph Estrada, Isaac Tocker, Clara Fancher, Chelsea Chase, Natalia Hernandez, Mills Alexander, Marcus Gallardo, Anna Beth Burniston, Maya Nunez, Daniel Gustafson, Micah Carlson, and Read Barbee. Congratulations Casis artists!

Traffic Changes

Please be aware of the new traffic rules at the Westover/Exposition/Hillview intersection. No right turns on Red are allowed from the hours of 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. and from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Report Cards

On Wednesday, October 22nd, your child is bringing home the first report card of the year. Report cards are sent home every nine weeks (four times each school year). Student progress is reported by subject area on a number scale of 1-4 in grades Pre-K through 2nd Grade. Students in grades 3-5 receive traditional letter grades. On the right side of the report card, a 1-4 scale reflects your child's personal development. The Special Area teachers provide grades for Art, Music, Physical Education, Computer Lab and Spanish. For this nine weeks you will not receive grades for Computer Lab or Spanish due to the new computerized grading system. We will keep you updated as to the progress of reporting these grades. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's progress.

P.E. News

Cross Country practice began Monday, October 6th in the Casis gym. Practices are from 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. every Monday through November 22nd. Registration forms are available in the P.E. office. Also, the week of October 13th all students in grades K - 5 will receive a lesson on bicycle safety during their P. E. class. June Villarreal, Certified Super Cyclist, who works for the Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities will talk to the students on helmet safety and bicycle laws.

Electronics Recycling

Did you know that there are more than 100 million used cell phones in the U.S.? We do, and that is why Casis now recycles electronics! So bring in your old cell phones, Ipods, laptops, and cameras, working or not, and we will take care of the rest. Just look for the orange bins at the main entrance, 1st grade wing, and 5th grade wing. 100% of the proceeds go to the Casis PTA – so think green!

Another Good Neighbor Program from Randalls

If you spent a minimum of \$50 at Randalls through September 29th, you would have received a Community Buck at checkout. Please send all Community Bucks to your classroom teacher, addressed "PTA – Randalls" no later than October 13th. The PTA must mail them to Randalls by October 23rd. Casis will receive \$1.00 for every Community Buck sent to Randalls. Thanks!

Reading Buddies

It's time to get matched with a Reading Buddy! Reading Buddies is a wonderful and beneficial way to volunteer your time at Casis. You get to spend 30 minutes per week with your buddy reading and/or working on other schoolwork at a time that's convenient for you. There will be a meeting Wednesday, October 15th at 8:00 a.m. in the library to match volunteers with buddies. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Carlson at 453-1495 or bbcmai@austin.rr.com.

Carnival Parking/Entrance on Friday, October 24th

We urge as many students as possible to walk to and from school on Friday and encourage families to walk to and from the carnival in order to decrease vehicular traffic and increase student safety. Please park in a courteous fashion and don't block the driveways of our neighbors. Keep fire lanes, entrances and exits clear for emergencies. Your cooperation will help make carnival a safe and enjoyable event for everyone. Parking will not be allowed in the teacher parking lot, as it will be the only walk-in entrance to Carnival. Please **DO NOT** park in the Casis Village Shopping Center. Remind friends and neighbors to come join the fun!

A Note About the Lost and Found Booth at Carnival: located at the front entrance to Carnival, just past the gate to the left next to the Ticket Booth. Please instruct your child to "look for the balloons" if they get lost, as this will be the only booth with balloons.

Student Success Initiative

Please be aware that grade placement requirements of the Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI) require all 3rd grade students to pass the TAKS Reading test and all 5th grade students to pass the TAKS Reading and Math tests. Students will have three opportunities to pass these tests. The first administration for reading for both 3rd and 5th grade is March 3rd and Math for 5th grade is April 7th. Brochures were sent home with students in these grade levels last Friday. Thanks.

Box Tops For Education

Friday, October 17th is the first collection deadline for box tops. Please trim your box tops on the dotted lines and place them in the box top collection baggie located in each classroom. The classroom collecting the most box tops will have a cookie cake celebration. Contact Karen Carlander at kcarlander@earthlink.net or Liza Rios at lizarios@hotmail.com with questions.

Buddy Walk – Sunday, October 19th

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas (DSACT) presents The Buddy Walk, which will be held at Reunion Ranch in Georgetown, TX. There will be all kinds of activities for adults and children along with all-you-can-eat BBQ. The actual Buddy Walk celebration runs from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information visit www.dsact.com.

Cafeteria/Playground Parent Volunteer Monitor Thanks & Reminder

Many thanks to parent-volunteers in Mr. Pifer's and Ms. Noack's classes for monitoring the cafeteria and playground over the last couple of weeks. Thank you in advance to Ms. Morrison's & Ms. Mathes' parent-volunteers who will be here to volunteer during lunch, September 29th through October 10th. If you can help, please call your homeroom parent.

Sincerely,
Patty Martin

