

# The Mathews Messenger

Celebrating Austin's Award-winning Public International School

March 4, 2009

"We Educate the World"

Amy Kinkade, Principal

## Springing Into March Principally Speaking...

Amy Kinkade, Principal: 414-4406

### Join us on March 26<sup>th</sup>!!

The State of Mathews evening (6pm - 7 pm) will take on a new look this year. We value everyone's input on the journey towards continuous improvement.

Students will participate in a variety of fine arts activities, (watch for more information in the next Wednesday folder) while parents will join one of 7 focus groups designed to provide the opportunity for everyone to voice their thoughts and share their expertise. Our Campus Advisory Council selected the following seven focus areas, which will be led by leaders in our school, A.I.S.D., or the community at large.

Which focus group will you join?

- Healthy cafeteria meals (led by A.I.S.D. head chef and our cafeteria manager)
- Safety -in and around the school;

- drop-off/pick-up and traffic
- Community Service Projects - How can we provide opportunities for our children to regularly participate in community service projects?
- Public Relations—How can we reach out to the neighborhood families?
- Math—How can you help your child understand/solve world problems?
- Building & Grounds—What does our school need in terms of refurbishing and maintenance?
- Fundraising for the future - What are the specific goals/projects for future



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### Upcoming Events

3/11	Prime Time Ends
3/16 - 3/20	Spring Break
3/26	5:30pm Pizza & PTA Mtg. 6:00pm State of Mathews
3/27	8:00am Honor Roll
3/28	9am-1pm Building & Grounds Workday
4/1-1/3	6 <sup>th</sup> grade Camping Trip
4/4-4/18	Saturdays 9am-12pm Art Work Days
4/7	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Math TAKS
4/8	Class Picture Day
4/17	6pm-8pm 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Dance
4/23	Fine Arts Festival
4/28	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> TAKS
4/30	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Science TAKS 6pm Fairy Tale Theater

### Mathews Gifted Program

The spring nomination window for the Mathews Elementary Gifted Program will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>-March 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in nominating your child for the gifted program, please pick up a nomination form and other information regarding giftedness from your child's teacher or the school office.

All nomination forms must be turned into your child's teacher by **March 13<sup>th</sup>** in order to be considered for the spring nomination period.

The process for selecting students for the gifted program includes: nomination, screening, testing, and selection. If you would like more information on the gifted program, please visit the district's webpage <http://www.austinisd.org/academics/curriculum/gt/> or call my office.

Thank you,  
Susanne Hansen; Assistant  
Principal  
414-7153

## ARTiculations

News from the Art Room  
*Sara Jo Belknap, Art: 841-1517*

I can't think of a better example of "ART" intersecting life than the African American Heritage Assembly on Feb. 27th. The community spirit was tangible in the gym last Friday, with huge kudos to parent Deborah Thomas and teacher Carly Harwell for organizing the writing contest and to the fine folks from Sweet Home Baptist Church for their magical presence at the assembly.

The 6th grade trekked down to the Blanton last week, getting a glimpse of the new exhibition, "Birth of the Cool". Sixth graders are in the process of planning their own miniature exhibition, and the Blanton provided plenty of inspiration. Last year's 6th grade museum is being raffled off (doll museum?)- so look for a \$1 raffle form in your Wed. folders before the next big Mathews get together, the State of Mathews, on March 26th (must be present to win).

Even as the 3rd and 4th graders are glazing their ceramic chairs, inspired by the Texas Chair Project exhibit at the Austin Museum

## Music Notes

News from the Music Room  
*Jean Lopez, Music: 841-1479*

[jelopez@austinisd.org](mailto:jelopez@austinisd.org)

Upcoming events - Building Blocks of the Orchestra, sponsored by the Austin Symphony Orchestra will be on our campus Monday afternoon, March 9th, to present the Brass family to our PK-3rd graders. Each year we are fortunate to have the Austin Symphony Orchestra present a different family of instruments to our students to enhance and support our music curriculum. The children love this as they are able to see and hear various instruments live.

Kindergarten - Students are singing songs, playing games, and using non-pitched instruments as they learn the difference between beat and rhythm.

1st grade - Students are preparing to learn their first solfege pitches as they participate in various singing games and instrument activities that emphasize high and low. The children had their first experience with a two line staff as they sang familiar songs while pointing to pictures representing high and low sounds. They learned that some music notes are on the lines of the staff and others are in spaces. The

of Art, they prepare to explore the latest offering at the museum. States of America, by Lordy Rodriquez (amazing hand drawn maps) and Outside Realism, by Clifford Ross (the biggest photographs you've ever seen) will be on exhibit through May 17th, so ask me for a family pass if you are interested in a field trip. The 5th Graders will also visit AMOA later this month.

EVERYONE is trying to get their portfolio together (to take home!), BUT first we have to pick out their favorite work for the all school art show in April. Work days will begin on Saturday, March 28th, and continue every Saturday, from 9:00 to 12:00, until the week of the April 23rd opening reception. Sorting, mounting, and labeling one piece of art from each student at Mathews is a mountain of work, but it is also awesome, hilarious, and therapeutic. The Campus Advisory Committee has decided to make the Art Show a fund raiser (for the Art Dept.) this year, and we need a committee to come up with a plan that is in the spirit of Mathews, fun, but respectful of all the personalities and circumstances that make up our student body. Please call me, Elizabeth Breston, or Tim Tierney if you would like to volunteer.

students were pretty excited because they were learning "big kid stuff".

2nd grade - After months of kinesthetic, oral, and visual preparation, the students finally learned the name of a new solfege pitch, "do" (pronounced "dough"). They are now reading short music phrases on the staff using sol, mi, la, and do. Reading music will be a huge help when beginning recorder next year in third grade. Students will compose a short composition using all the notes they have learned. Congratulations to the second graders!

3rd grade - We are well on our way learning about playing recorder. Ask your child to show you the fingerings for B, A, and G, and ask them to play Hot Cross Buns. We will begin a new song, "Frodo's BAG", this week.

4th and 5th - Students are reading music as we learn "Frodo's BAG" on the recorder. We will be learning a repertoire of about 7 songs on the recorder before the end of the year. Students will also compose and notate a short song using notes and rhythms we have learned. 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders learned about Renaissance music as we heard and studied Antiphon: "Stadium divinitatis" by Hildegard von Bingen. The piece was one of 16 selections covering the various music periods we have been studying throughout the year as part of our listening curriculum.

## Spanish Classes

Futura Language Professionals will offer Continuing Spanish on Tuesdays from 3-4 PM beginning March 24th. This will be a mixed age class of students with previous Spanish class experience lasting 8 weeks with tuition of \$95. Enrollment will be capped at 15 students. A registration information flyer is attached to this newsletter.

## PTA Cultural Arts Reflection Contest

The theme for next year's contest is "Beauty is...". Students - start your creative juices flowing and begin thinking of how you would like to participate.

## Cover to Cover

News from the Library

Laurie Harwell, Librarian: 414-0900

Prek-2nd grades celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on Monday, March 2 by wearing their pjs to school and participating in many exciting Dr. Seuss activities during the day.

Mrs. Briceno's 2nd graders were treated to a cupcake party and Suess movie for being the first class to reach 800 minutes of classroom reading.

Our visits with author, Stuart Murphy were wonderful and everyone had a great time purchasing autographed books.

3rd and 4th graders will be treated to a visit from Bluebonnet nominee author, Youme on Monday, March 9.

## Prime Time Spring Enrichment Classes

Most classes end the week of March 11th. Attached to this newsletter is a list of instructors, a survey requesting your input, and some form thank yous. Please encourage your children to express thanks to the many people who helped make this possible.

The Theater Arts class will have a workday in conjunction with the PTA's Building & Grounds Workday on Saturday, March 28th from 9 AM - 1 PM. All class participants and their parents are asked to help prepare sets and costumes for the upcoming Fairy Tale Theater production. Please volunteer by contacting parent instructors Kari Perkins at #689-8835 [kari@estrellabridal.com](mailto:kari@estrellabridal.com) or Liza Feldcamp at #923-6073 [liza@lizamadchen.com](mailto:liza@lizamadchen.com).

## Technology Fund Update

Mathews students kicked off the Technology fundraising effort with an astounding \$1066 in contributions to the "Do the Math" effort. Additional contributions from parents and community members total \$1334, and with grocery card revenue of \$1651, bring the fund total to \$4051. THANK YOU!

A grant proposal for \$15,000 for the technology program is ready for submission. We will hope for the best on being awarded all or most of that amount. Please keep your donations coming or contribute in the zero-expense way by purchasing grocery cards. For information about the fund, donations or grocery cards, contact Marcia at [mtugendhat@austin.rr.com](mailto:mtugendhat@austin.rr.com).

We are launching some new and exciting opportunities. In response to a student government request, a 6th Grade Debate club will begin on Wednesdays, March 25 - May 13 (8 weeks) from 3-4 PM. Mathews parent and Travis County Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt will lead it. Contact Ms. Rushing for registration forms.

An International Folk Dance Troupe is being formed. Students with a serious interest in dance are encouraged to join this group, which will represent Mathews in the community and at school wide events. Our own staff/ parent Maria Ramirez, with assistance from Dance Associates and other parents, will lead the 8-week class from April 2 - May 21 on Thursdays from 3-4 PM. Class size is limited; interested 1-6 Graders should contact Ms. Ramirez or Ms. Rushing.

## Family Math Night

We extend our thanks and gratitude to the following community groups who participated in the Family Math Night:

- UT Prof Lynn Kirby (UTeach - College of Natural Sciences)
- Stan Cross (Wells Fargo Bank)
- Ron Albee (Austin Association of General Contractors)
- Robert Gates (Pizza Hut)
- Prime Time instructors Terri Gallegos-Reynolds, Christy Gates, Yunus Kinkhabwala & Gary Gaiffe.

## Mathews Partners in Education 2008-2009

### Join the PTA!

In August, a goal for PTA memberships was set at 194 (a 10% increase from last year). To date, we have 184. We have accomplished so much as a community this year - won't you consider helping us meet this goal too?

All we need is 10 more people to join. Please send \$6/ person and your contact info to the office marked PTA membership - and thanks for your support.

### If You Missed February's CAC Meeting...

We discussed the Campus Improvement Plan. Almost all aspects of the plan are on track. We elaborated on the admission process and strategies for the G/T Program, math & science strategies, Career Day, encouraging attendance, continuing family nights, options for foreign language classes, and ways to support regular education teachers. Our next meeting will be Monday, April 6th.

### PTA Passive Fundraising

To date, we have raised almost \$900 with used books, cartridges, box tops, rebates, etc. This is a painless way to help us fund the many items the PTA supports - please drop your items in the bins in the front hall.

**We salute our community partners,  
who provide valuable support to our school.  
Please show your appreciation to these organizations  
with your patronage and words of thanks!**

ACC - Rio Grande Campus  
Accenture  
Alliance Abroad Group  
Alpha Epsilon Delta - UT  
Alpha Phi Sigma - UT  
Art & Real Estate Enterprises  
Austin Masonic Lodge #12  
Austin Republican Women  
Bennigans  
BookPeople  
Carter Design Associates  
Central Market 061 - HEB  
Circle K International - UT  
Coptic Students of Texas - UT  
Dance Associates  
Downtown Austin Alliance  
Dr. J. Fox & Associates  
El Arroyo Restaurants  
Enspire Learning, Inc.  
Fresh Plus - West Lynn  
Galaxy Cafe - West Lynn  
Gamma Beta Phi Society - UT  
Grubb & Ellis Mgmt. Services  
GSD&M Idea City Advertising  
Guero's Taco Bar  
i9 Sports  
Idylwood Stables

Jeffrey's Restaurant/ Cipollinas  
Katz's Deli Restaurant  
Magnolia Cafe  
Mangia Chicago Stuffed Pizza  
MedAid.org  
Nau Enfield Drug  
Old West Austin Neighborhood Asso.  
Phi Beta Chi - UT  
Pizza Hut #7101  
Pizza Nizza  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Quix Food Store  
Randall's Food & Pharmacy  
St. Luke Ut. Methodist Church  
Starbucks - 5th St. and Lamar  
Sweetish Hill Bakery  
Tapestry Dance Company  
Tech Connects - UT  
Texenza Coffee  
Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. - UT  
Thundercloud Subs  
Umoja - UT  
UT Democrats  
Waterloo Records & Video  
Whole Earth Provision Company  
Whole Foods Market Global Hdqts.  
34th Street Cafe

### If You Missed January's PTA Board Meeting...

The Octoberama final net was around \$17,510.00. Thanks to everyone who made it such a great success! Mathews membership is 179 and has almost reached our yearly goals with 100% of teachers participating! Aim grants have been awarded and all the projects can proceed.

Mangia pizza generously helped make the fourth grade fundraiser very successful and this should be considered again for next year.

We also discussed how the part time

technology teacher position that was privately funded last year needs to be annualized with other sources of income.

The grocery card program, in addition to grants and private donations, is primary to successfully maintaining this key position. A school pay system similar to what some other schools are using will be implemented this month to allow for contributions, grocery card purchases, etc. to be made securely online.