

The Mathews Messenger

Celebrating Austin's Award-winning Public International School

February 3, 2010

"We Educate the World"

Amy Kinkade, Principal

Enjoying February!



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Upcoming Events

- 2/5 9am - Noon 6th grade Shadowing Day
- 2/6 8:30-11:30am TAKS Camp
- 2/8 1:45pm MFE Meeting
- 2/12 Student Holiday/Staff Development
- 2/13 8:30-11:30am TAKS Camp
- 2/15 Parent/Teacher Conferences
8am PTA Board Meeting
- 2/18 Vision & Hearing Screenings
5:30pm Family Math Night
- 2/22 3pm CAC Meeting
- 2/26 7:40am African American Heritage Assembly
- 2/26 6pm-8pm Family Sock Hop

Principally Speaking...

Amy Kinkade, Principal: 414-4406

Fostering responsibility and leadership

As parents and educators, we strive to have our children develop the attributes of leadership. One of the most important ways we can do this is by modeling behavior in which each adult becomes an active member of the Mathews Team. It is in our nature to want to be part of something great and we all take pride in being a part of the Mathews Community.

One of the special attributes of Mathews is that we value each individual and each family. We appreciate every contributor who becomes actively involved for the greater good of the school. We see strength in differences and capitalize on and value diversity. We strive for people to feel camaraderie and a common bond. There are multiple opportunities in which parents can support the school through volunteering and providing financial support.

In my six years at Mathews, our core group of active PTA leaders has grown. I thank you from

the bottom of my heart for all your efforts. However, I struggle each day wondering when the next set of parent leaders are going to step forward. When is each parent going to ask these important questions: "What is my responsibility in relationship to my school? Have I contributed my fair share in terms of volunteering and/or financial support? In what ways can I model responsibility and leadership?"

Each team member must see that all of the 'gears' must work together for our school to continue to excel. There are four areas that presently come to mind where we must recognize our interdependence and demonstrate responsibility to our school:

- *Volunteers to be a PTA officer next year
- *Octoberama/Silent Auction key leaders
- *Grocery Card committee
- *Technology fundraising committee

Each of you is better for being on the Mathews team AND the team is better for having each individual. The workload becomes easier when people work together.

Call or email Elizabeth Breston, Tim Tierney, or me akinkade@austinisd.org, ebreston@IronHarbor.com, tjt@grr-tx.com

AIM Grant Recipients

The PTA is pleased to announce this year's AIM (Academic Innovation at Mathews) Grant recipients. AIM Grants were created 8 years ago as a way to support innovative, multi-disciplinary classroom projects. The application process is open to all Mathews teachers and the grant aims to provide financial resources to learning experiences that enhance the curriculum. This year the PTA encouraged the use of technology and a focus on global education and environmental or community services projects. In addition, because of limited funds, the committee took into consideration the number of children to be served by each project in order to leverage funds to reach the most students. There were 7 excellent proposals submitted and the AIM Grant committee has elected to fund 5 of these. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated and creative teachers. Look for project updates in the newsletter.

This year's AIM Grant Recipients:

Digital Video History Project and Video Book Project
Lead Teacher: Chad Rackowitz

The 5th grade will work in teams to record live interview of local Clarksville residents. Using digital video technology and resources from the Austin History Center, students will produce a video documentary of the history of Clarksville.

Creek Cleanup

Lead Teacher: Kate Curran

All 3rd graders will participate in a creek clean-up at Zilker Park. Students will investigate water quality, sources of pollution and interpret their findings to develop a pollution prevention plan.

Poetry Pizzazz

Lead Teacher Cindy dePutron

All 2nd graders will learn 12 or more different styles of poetry. Students will compose original works using the Word and Google Images to create their own hardcover poetry book.

Museum investigations

Lead Teacher: Sara Belknap

The AIM grant funds allow for every student in 3rd through 6th grade to visit the changing exhibits at the museums Austin Museum of Art and the Blanton.

Texas Cultures Project

Lead Teacher: Kristie Osten

The 4th graders will collaborate to create videos about different cultures in Texas, edit their work in iMovie, and share their films at a learning celebration.

Thanks to the PTA AIM Grant Liaison, Julie Mani, and committee members Tina Fernandez, Marcia Tugendhat, Tim Tierney and Elizabeth Breston.

African American Heritage Month

We celebrate African American Heritage Month in February.

Black History Month is credited to a Harvard scholar named Dr. Carter G. Woodson. The son of former slaves, Woodson dedicated his life to ensuring that black history was accurately documented and disseminated.

He organized the first annual Negro History Week in 1926, choosing the second week of February in honor of the birthdays of pivotal black supporters Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

3rd - 6th Grades will hold a writing competition highlighting the accomplishments of African American heroes. All children are invited to submit an entry, in the form of a narrative, using the prompts of either "respect" or "heroes", with winners announced at the February 26th Friday Assembly. These pieces will be on display in the front hallway

PTA Notes 1-11-10

Upcoming events in February include both Math night (Feb. 18) and the African American Heritage celebration (Feb. 26th). The 6th graders will have their shadowing career day on Feb. 5th where they will spend time with one of 36 different community members on the job. Principal Kinkade reported that the district wide budget should begin the approval process this month, and that information regarding how funds might be distributed should be known soon. The PTA board recommended to approve a mid-year budget adjustment, the revised budget will be presented at the State of Mathews meeting (originally scheduled for Jan. 28th but was canceled due to weather). Watch for an announcement regarding the new date; Ms. Kinkade will also give a review of the school's performance and accomplishments, as well as offering the Mathews community a chance to participate in setting plans and goals for the coming year. The next board meeting will take place on Feb. 15 at 8am.

ARTiculations

News from the Art Room, 203
Sara Belknap, Art: 841-1517, cell 694.3430

In celebration of Asian Heritage month, we were able to engage Korean artist, Yunkyung Cho, to demonstrate her talent and knowledge to 3rd through 6th graders. Ms. Cho, mother of Hayun (4th) and Yeyun (2nd), gave the students an overview of the history of Korean art, from traditional scroll art through contemporary installation artists. Ms. Cho also demonstrated her brush painting skills with exquisite renderings of cherry blossoms on rice paper.

We are moving quickly from expressive brush painting on scrolls and fans to the color and rhythm of African American heritage month. Kindergarten, First and 2nd grade will explore textile design, paper weaving, and print making, while upper grades will paint to the beat of African and African American music and learn about African ceramic traditions. The fifth graders will be making "ugly jugs" in February, their own versions of one of the slave pottery traditions of the American South. According to folklore, ugly jugs were used by slaves as grave markers, made ugly to scare the devil away. Our versions

tend to run the gamut from wicked (and I mean that in a good way) to dazzling, and always surprising.

We have the added inspiration of our "hand-painted" paper being integrated into the fabulous globe collage under installment in the gym by parent/artist Emily Johnson. Please contact Emily if you have time and energy for using scissors and glue to apply hundreds of children's cut-outs onto the surface of the globe.

The order forms for Youth Art Month merchandise will go home in the February 10th Wednesday folders. Austin Screen Printing creates a high quality product line for the Austin ISD Fine Arts Dept. with adult and student t-shirts, aprons, and canvas totes, all priced at \$8.00 per item, and all declaring the wearer to be "Wild About Art". There will be extra order forms in the office and the art room and you can turn them in with cash or check to either location before February 24th. All proceeds from the sale go directly back into the art program at Mathews.

Music Notes

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

jelopez@austinisd.org

February is full of exciting music activities for all. The African American Heritage Assembly will take place February 26th at 7:40 am.

Students in grades 3-5 will learn **Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing** and students across the grade levels will learn **We Can Make a Better World** for a school-wide sing along.

Students in grades 3-5 will begin their study of cool music on recorders. All students should bring a recorder and a 3 ring binder or folder to music class the first music day of February. Please call 841-1497 or email jean.adams@austinisd.org if you have any questions.

Kindergarten is beginning their study of the difference between beat and rhythm. **1st grade** was recently introduced to quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. They are writing them, clapping and singing them in song, and playing games using the rhythms. **2nd grade** is preparing to learn a new pitch *-do*. We have been singing songs, playing games, and using movement to prepare for the introduction of the new pitch.

2010 Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to the 2010 Science Fair Winners!

First Grade - Lucia Fernandez, Minha Choi, Eliane Levy, Nadine Sauer, Isaac Kind, Itzabel Lara Leija

Second Grade - Citali Soto-Ferate, Omari Thomas, Lucia Camos, Ella Jones, Georgia Breston, Hamin Park

Third Grade - Alex D'Amico, Andrew Maura, Coby Ray Ramierz, Isabel Cartwright, Francisco Fernandez, Quinn Harkrider, Michael Fish, Chloe Johnson, Sean Sepeda

Fourth Grade - Jack Kappelman, Hayoung Park, Eleanor Estrada, Luke Ramirez, Hailey Ahrens, Madeline Schell

Fifth Grade - Subin Ka, Ezra Parma, Mia Earley, Hannah Hansen, Darius Johnson, Aaliyah Tucker

Great Job! Thanks to ALL who participated!

6th Grade Shadowing Day

For the tenth consecutive year, we are providing an opportunity for our students to "shadow" a professional at work on Friday, February 5th (commemorating Ground Hog Day) from 9 AM - 12 Noon. This will give students a chance to explore career opportunities that might interest them. Our thanks to the many community organizations and companies that are hosting.

Cover to Cover

News from the Library

Laurie Harwell, Librarian: 414-0900

The library is busy as usual with learning, reading and special events.

On Jan. 29, Prek and 1st grade were treated to performances by storyteller, Bernadette Nason. She performed some of her Asian Tales.

In Feb. we will begin our "Dr. Seuss" Seussville reading incentive program for Prek - 2nd grades.

Classes record minutes read daily and have goals of 100/200 minutes depending on grade.

Each time they reach a goal, we move their Dr. Seuss character on a large map in the library, add a stripe to their Cat in the Hat and each child in the class receives a sticker.

This program will culminate with a special Dr. Seuss Day on his birthday, March 2.

Exploring Foreign Languages

Join Mathews Elementary Exploratory Language Program and Futura Language Professionals and learn about new and exciting languages, Chinese and French.

Studies show that children acquire second and third languages with great ease in their early years. Students have the opportunity to be exposed to two new languages during the spring semester. Tuition is being held to a minimum cost to encourage participation and sibling discounts are available.

Classes started on February 1st and we need at least 3 more registrations to prevent cancellation of these spring classes, so sign up TODAY! See the attached flyer for more info.

Register online at

www.futuraadventures.com or by phone at 512-483-1512 or mail this portion filled or check to : Futura Language Professionals 2038 Milan, San Antonio TX, 78258 .

After School Spanish Class

Beginning Spanish and Spanish Level II classes will be offered by Futura Language Professionals on a tuition basis after school this spring. See the attached flyer for more info.

Register online at www.futuraadventures.com or by phone at 512-483-1512

We continue our Bluebonnet and Lone Star reading incentive programs for 3-6th.

Students are earning a ticket for each book read and fill out a short form about the book.

Tickets earned are used toward a raffle, party and "store" in the spring.

We have been very busy using some of our Bookfair profits to add some great new books, DVD's and puppets to our collection.

Even with the extremely tight book budget we have received for the past few years, I feel that we have a very nice collection in our library.

Remember that parents are welcome to check out books to have at home!

Keep reading!

It really does make a difference!

Laurie Harwell

and the library gang of AWESOME volunteers

Family Math Night

Please join us on Thursday, February 18th. The fun begins at 5:30 pm. Each grade level will be sharing a variety of math games for everyone to learn and enjoy.

Two prizes will be given to the two students whose estimates come closest at the Estimation Station. Students will create a Birthday Bar Graph to show grade level attendance. The grade level with the highest attendance percentage will receive a Popsicle Party! And both parents and children learn a lot of new math games that one can play at home! Come for the fun, stay for the math!

Additionally, we will be having Community Booths with activities provided by adopters and outside supporters including "Pizza Fractions" (Pizza Hut), "The Twenty Challenge" (UTeach - College of Natural Sciences), "Giant Chess" (Texas Chess Association), "Count Your Cash" (Wells Fargo Bank), "Junior Builders" (Austin Association of General Contractors) and others.

Technology Spot Light

Lauren Fox

I'm happy to report that things continue to run very smoothly in the computer lab. The students are becoming more comfortable with the basic skills necessary to work more independently on the iMacs. Lately, we have focused our attention more toward Microsoft Office applications Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. We are now more familiar with how to create, save, and retrieve documents in the Mathews Shared Network folders. Take a look at what we have been working on:

PreK and Kinder - exploring our new art program Tux Paint through the creation of patterns and self-portraits.

First - Kidspiration was used to reinforce place value skills such as exchanging ones for tens, Word Art in Microsoft Word to create high frequency word walls, Tux Paint to make Living/Nonliving charts for science

Second - Microsoft Word for publishing poems using Word Art, text boxes and inserting files

Third - Intro to Fraction Glogster with online fraction practice, Kidspiration for Biography timelines, compare/contrast Venn Diagrams, PowerPoint Slideshows with Action Settings: Book Talks and Planet Studies

Fourth - Online Program Eye on Idioms, Power Proof Reading and Word for word choice using dictionary.com to find synonyms, and revising and editing lessons while implementing basic keyboarding and formatting skills

Fifth - Advanced Fraction Glogster online skills practice, American Revolution Image collections in iPhoto, PowerPoint slideshow on Natural Disasters

Sixth - Internet and Profile Safety Lessons with creation of PowerPoint slideshow with Action Settings, Inspiration Rock Cycle Diagram

Mathews' Family Sock Hop

Friday, February 26th 6pm - 8pm

It's time to Bop 'til you drop - don't miss this school-wide family event!

There will be food, drink, and lots and lots of dancing! So dust off your poodle skirt, roll up those blue jeans, and come join the fun. Our 6th graders are sponsoring this event and all money earned will go towards their annual spring camping trip.

The Family Package is only \$15.00, and good for admission to the dance for 4 family members, 4 hot dogs, 4 chips, and 4 drinks! Order your tickets now and pick them up at the dance.

Please remember: Every child must be accompanied by an adult, but we will have 6th grade parents chaperoning in the gym.

EMAIL YOUR SONG REQUEST TO DAT.HOBAN@MHS

Mathews Partners in Education 2009-2010

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!



Mathews Elementary
906 West Lynn Street
Austin, TX 78701

Phone:
(512) 414-4406

MATHEWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUND FOR EXCELLENCE AWARD

About the Fund:

In August 2005, a group of Mathews parents initiated an endowment fund with which to sustain school excellence. To date, more than \$26,000 has been donated to the Mathews Fund for Excellence. Each year, approximately 5% of invested funds will be awarded to a project which enhances the Mathews community.

Purpose of the Award:

To help Mathews Elementary School be a world-class elementary school for each of its students, teachers, administrators, parents, and alumni. This is the Excellence Award's fourth year. Previous awards went toward the construction of a permanent outdoor sign in front of the school, scholarship money for students to participate in a foreign language exploration program, a poetry study, and the hiring of a part-time technology teacher.

2010 Award:

Award Amount: Up to \$ 300
Application Deadline:
April 30, 2010

Announcement of Award: May 2010.
Implementation: Must be implemented no later than May 1, 2010.

For More Information on the Application Process:

Any questions, contact Kim O'Brien at 512.480-9648 or kkronzer@aol.com.

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
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
Grande Communications
Grubb & Ellis Mgmt. Services
GSD&M Idea City Advertising
Guero's Taco Bar
i9 Sports
Idylwood Stables

PTA Updates

The FIVE Document Cameras that the PTA purchased are here! The cameras will be placed in the classrooms of Ms. Cray (3rd), Ms. Gates (5th), Ms. Osten (4th), Ms. Cotton (5th) and Mr. Rackowitz (5th).

A PTA AIM grant helped to sponsor field trips for all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to attend the Austin Museum of Art acclaimed exhibit by David Bates, "From the Every Day to the Epic."

Our school earned \$218 from our Box-Tops rebate. Thanks to **Carrie Huff**, PTA Passive Fundraising Chair, for counting 2,180 Box Tops collected by Mathews families. The money will go toward purchasing Band and Orchestra Books. Keep clipping those Box-Tops and deposit them in the box outside the office. Mathews receives 10 cents for each label!

We know them as the masters of the cake walk, but this year **Katherine and Genie Robertson** organized the 6th Grade Shadowing Day. This is an important opportunity for 6th graders to spend the day exploring different work settings. The long list of businesses and professionals hosting our 6th graders is impressive.

This year's Science Fair was bursting with creativity thanks to **Chad Rackowitz, Jennifer Cray, Ruthann Rushing** and **Janet Maykus**, PTA Science Liaison. The 56 volunteer judges came from the community, adopter organizations and seniors from Austin and McCallum High Schools. We had a great turnout for Mathews Open House

Jeffrey's Restaurant/ Cipollinas
Katz's Deli Restaurant
Lighthouse Solar
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
Randall's Food & Pharmacy
St. Luke Ut. Methodist Church
Starbucks - 5th St. and Lamar
Sweetish Hill Bakery
Tapestry Dance Company
Tech Connects - UT
Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. - UT
Thundercloud Subs
Umoja - UT
UT Democrats
Waterloo Records & Video
West Lynn Corner Store
Whole Earth Provision Company
Whole Foods Market Corporate Office
34th Street Cafe

Hospitality Chair, and **Ruthann Rushing** for organizing the event and **Jackie Stone, Tim Tierney and Elizabeth Breston** for leading parent tours.

The entire school enjoyed the Asian Heritage Celebration, a beautiful display of tradition costumes, dance and art. Thanks to **Sunhee Jung, PTA Asian Heritage Liaison, Maria and Steve Ramirez, Lisa Feldkamp, PTA Music Liaison, Jean Adams, and Sara Belknap** and all the Mathews students who performed.

In partnership with **Mangia Pizza** and the PTA, the 4th grade raised \$1,495 from Mangia Pizza Certificate sales for their trip to San Antonio. Mangia also provides pizza at cost for all our PTA events.

The Read Naturally Program is serving 29 students from all grade levels. The program volunteers include **Genny Dalton, Marcia Tugendhat and Gladys Krause, Kathryn Estrada, Jackie Stone, Claudia Neal, Stephanie Doll, Susan Bell, and Leslee Perez**.

Let's not forget the people who contribute their time on an ongoing basis: **Lacey Strake**, Newsletter; **Renae Alsobrook**, Mathews Memo and Mathews360; **Germaine Curry**, Environmental Chair; **Julie Wade Levy**, manages our outside sign; **Laura Sheridan**, Homeroom Parent Coordinator, and the 60 parents volunteers that help with Wednesday folders, communications and classroom support. **Together we can accomplish so much!**