

# MATHEWS

# MESSENGER



## Principally *hi!* SPEAKING

Grace Martino-Brewster, *Principal*

Hello, wonderful Mathews Community! Happy April to all of you. I find spring to be both beautiful and hectic as the weather warms up and the activity calendar fills up quickly! When our lives get so busy, finding the time to do everything that needs to be done can often be a challenge. This is why I'd like to spend some time on the importance of keeping daily reading in your schedule for your children and for yourselves.

Reading for as little as 20 minutes every day makes a huge difference in the lives of our students. The illustration on the right was shared by Cynthia Miller, one of our first grade parents. It clearly shows the research behind the value of daily reading. It is a compelling argument for continuing to carve out at least 20 minutes for reading each day, even when our schedules get busy.

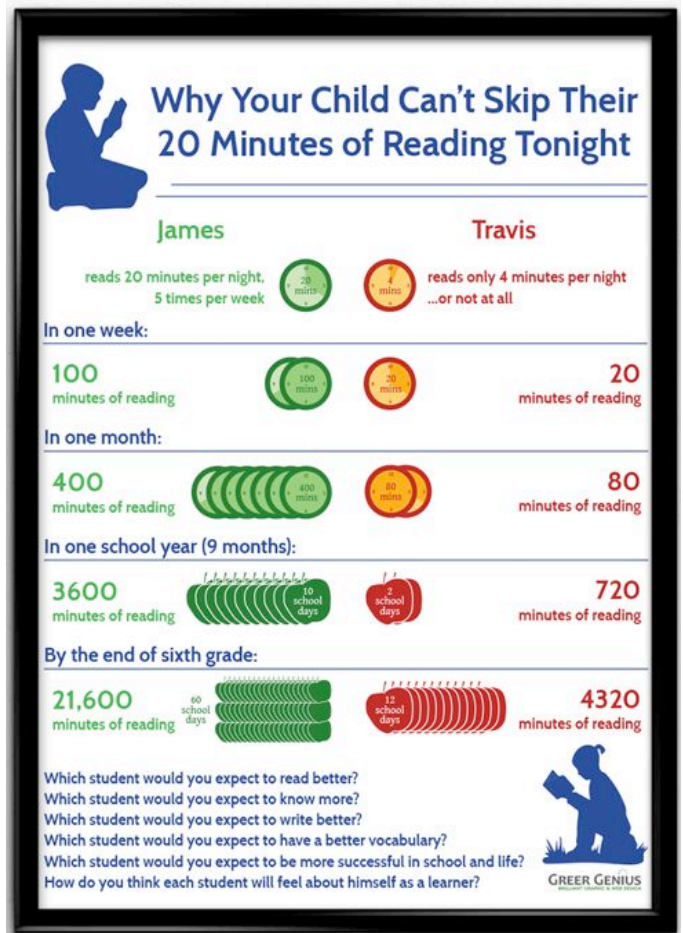
Think about how much more knowledge and vocabulary our children are exposed to when they read. Having a strong vocabulary is essential for our students as they are exposed to new material and learning throughout their educational career. Imagine how this exposure through reading can help them throughout their lives. We know that students who read like "James" in the infographic have higher academic achievement than students who read like "Travis" – up to 80% higher achievement. That's huge! Many adults sometimes give up the habit of daily reading but consider how much we teach our kids when we read and think about the knowledge we too could learn in 20 minutes a day!

It's important that we model reading for our children. Talk about books you're reading or an interesting magazine or newspaper article you read. Ask your children about their own books. Sit down and read a comic or a picture book or a chapter in a novel with your children. Not only is this beautiful bonding time, but it also shows your commitment to reading each day.

Access to books and to print is incredibly important for our students. All children who have early

access to books and print in the home, who are read to and who read daily, become better readers. So how can you surround your child with books? The library, both the one at Mathews and the public ones are marvelous treasure troves of books. It's easy to get a card and start checking out all kinds of books – even electronic ones! Good Reads, Half-Price Books, and Goodwill are also inexpensive places to find interesting books. Happy reading, everybody!

"The more you read, the more things you will know.  
The more you learn, the more places you'll go."  
**Dr. Suess, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut***



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL 4

8AM - Parenting With Love & Logic Workshop

## APRIL 11

7:45AM - Honor Roll Assembly

## APRIL 16

4:30-6:30PM - Instrument Selection Night For Incoming Mathews 6th Graders (see below)

## APRIL 18

No School - Staff & Student Holiday

## APRIL 24

Class Pictures

## APRIL 25

Track & Field Day

## APRIL 28

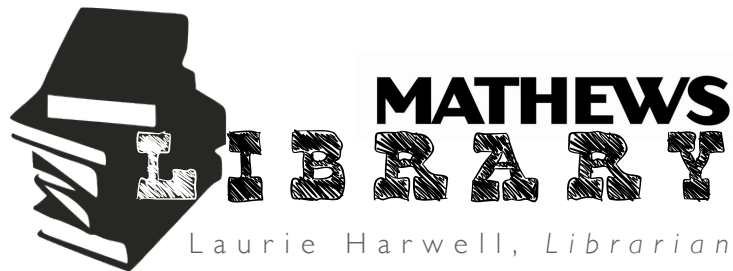
3PM - CAC Meeting

## MAY 2

7:45AM - Hispanic Heritage Assembly  
May Newsletter Articles Due

## MAY 5 - MAY 9

Teacher Appreciation Week



March has been a whirlwind in our library. We started off with a bang by having our Dr. Seuss celebration. It was great fun and a terrific way to celebrate a month-long reading program that had everyone with their nose in a book or listening to their teachers read.

We have been busy with library skills and various storytimes. The younger classes have been enjoying some great springtime books and the older classes continue with database orientations and nook practice.

We have 32 new e-books that have been downloaded on our nooks and the kids are exploring those. Next, we plan to have the older classes read and record stories for their younger "buddies". 4th grade will be having a scavenger hunt in the non-fiction section and 5th graders will have their fiction room relay soon.

Our book fair is winding down as we speak! It has been great fun and I think we will do very well. Yea, more library books!! Thank you for always supporting the library through our book fair fundraisers.

I want to say a big THANK YOU to all the wonderful parents who volunteer in the library. There are so many "extra" programs and fun things that we are able to do because of the support of these volunteers.

Book People will be announcing the winners of their annual bookmark contest soon. I'm hoping we will have some Mathews winners! I will let everyone know as soon as I hear.

Our BookSpring Read-A-Thon raised \$2,172! I'm hoping for even more participation next year and hopefully we'll raise even more. This event takes place around the end of January. Thank you to everyone who supported this important cause!

Looking forward to a busy April!  
Don't forget Poem in Your Pocket Day is coming!

## TUBA OR NOT TUBA, THAT IS THE QUESTION

6th grade students who will be attending Mathews next year are invited to an Instrument Selection Night from 4:30-6:30pm at O.Henry Middle School. The Mathews Band & Orchestra Teachers, Jimmy Spencer and Lisa Smith, will be on hand to help students try out instruments and make selections for next school year. By having their instruments chosen when school starts, this will hopefully give our students a head start on Band and Orchestra next year! Any questions, please contact

Mr. Spencer at [jspence1@austinisd.org](mailto:jspence1@austinisd.org)  
or

Ms. Smith at [lisa.d.smith@austinisd.org](mailto:lisa.d.smith@austinisd.org)



# ARTiculations

Sara Belknap, Art Teacher

If you were fortunate enough to attend last week's International Festival, you know that the Mathews community really knows how to pitch a party. Kudos to my partners Ms. Goode and Mr. Coach Outlaw for all their hard work and perseverance in creating and directing the student performances (no words to describe the size of their contributions), the brave and delightful staff members who proved that they also have happy feet, as well as all those meticulous PTA organizers who make the feast and Parade of Nations essential components of the event. Let me brag about the involvement of my own better half, David Belknap, who came every morning, all month, teaching the 5th graders their Turkish Helay, as well as cleaning off the backtop, and installing (and Uninstalling) the festive flags waving above the festivities. Without a doubt, the biggest thank you goes to the students of Mathews who throw themselves, headlong, into this whirling dervish of joy and happiness, creating life-long memories, along with a glow we can bask in for the rest of the year.

Mathews has the work of 21 student artists featured in the official AISD District-wide Art Exhibit. This exhibit is presented at the beautiful One Congress Plaza Building, 111 Congress Avenue, in conjunction with the state and national celebrations of Youth Art Month. Representing Mathews, with colorful, intricate compositions, weaving space and color, are Third graders Tongon Boo Sampson, Ella Eggleston, Amaya Collier, Saint John Naftel, and Ghaydaa Helal; Fourth graders Sage Schofman and Luella Bowersock; and Fifth graders Brittney Rutledge, Henry Grisham, Ella Naftel, Grant Endreson, and Kai Pang-Whitsett. Also on display in the show are personal and dynamic canopic jars created by Sixth graders Alec Basa, Lila Breston, Meriona Maddy, Ben Baskin, Ashley Villareal, and Emma Cartwright. The exhibit will be on display downtown until April 14th.

Work on the Mathews All-School Art Show will begin in earnest on Saturday, April 5th, from 9:00-12:00, in the art room (203). The matting and labeling of one piece of art from every student at Mathews will continue on the 12th and the 26th, and we will hang the show on Saturday, May 3rd. If you have any questions about volunteering for the

Saturday work days, or the opening night, (MAY 8th!) please don't hesitate to call 841-1517, or come by Room 203, before or after school, or email me at [sbelknap@austinisd.org](mailto:sbelknap@austinisd.org).

The Art Show has evolved into the main fund-raiser for the Mathews Art Department as sales of student art to parents (via a flyer to be sent home in the Wednesday Folders later this month) are used to fund fieldtrips, supplies, and permanent installations, such as the globe in the gym, the piñata light box, and the mosaic murals on our campus. Life is short, Art is long. Long live Art.

### Announcements:

1.) The Mathews community has been cordially invited to attend the Pease Elementary Fine Arts Night, to be held on their campus on April 24th, at eleventh and Rio Grande, from 5:30 to 7:30. Get neighborly, enjoy art and check out the oldest Austin school still in operation.

2.) MATHEWS FINE ARTS NIGHT, May 8th, 2013  
Alumni reception 4:30-5:30  
All-School Art Show Opening 5:30-7:30  
Sixth Grade Band and Orchestra Concert 6:15-6:45  
Exquisite Italian Dinner 5:30-7:30 – Two seatings  
(We're making twice as much as last year!)

3.) Mathews Friends for Excellence Dinner menu:  
Raw vegetables and hummus appetizers  
Capellini (Angel Hair) pasta with Carbonara sauce  
Hand-crafted turkey or beef meatballs  
Fresh green vegetable, fresh salad, bread  
Strawberry Shortcake  
\$7 per plate goes to Mathews Friends for Excellence  
*ALL funds dedicated to keeping Mathews EXCELLENT!*

## SCIENTISTS AMONG US

Congratulations to these individuals and teams for winning in the Regional Science Fair:

**Ghaydaa Helal**  
**Sami Gottlieb**  
**Pearl Heinley**  
**Peter Sutton**  
**Gabriel Canas**  
**Samuel Cartwright**  
**Elena Keitt**  
**Zoom Anonymous**  
**Maya Itzel Soto-Ferate**  
**Robert "Max" Miller**

And special congrats to **Eden Knapp** for winning the *Society Of Women Engineers Award!*

## MATHEWS FRIENDS FOR EXCELLENCE NEWS

-The Mathews Friends for Excellence met on March 17, and the next MFE meeting will be April 14, 3 pm. All are welcome at the meeting which is usually in the library, sometimes in the teachers lounge. Keep up with MFE news on the bulletin board by the library.

-IMPORTANT!!! The deadline for the MFE scholarship is March 31st. Please let Amy Kinkade know if you plan to apply: [aslk2323@aol.com](mailto:aslk2323@aol.com). Only Mathews alumni who are graduating from an AISD high school this spring are eligible to apply.

-Four new pennants joined the display in the gym.

-MFE is planning a delicious pasta supper as part of the Fine Arts Night festivities on May 8th. ONLY \$7 per person. Here's the schedule:

### **Pasta Supper**

5:30 – 6:15 & 6:45 – 7:30

(New this year: Two seating times for the supper)

### **Concert**

6:15 - 6:45

(6th graders may eat after the concert)

Before the pasta supper, from 4:30 –5:30 pm, a reception in the library will honor this year's 10

alumni history project interviewees. Former Mathews Principals Ben Kramer and Amy Kinkade, and current Principal Grace Brewster will talk about curriculum, demographics, and Mathews past, present, and future.

-Would your workplace or business be a good place for an MFE donation box like the box at Fresh Plus? Contact Saralyn Stewart to discuss this idea: [stewart@physics.utexas.edu](mailto:stewart@physics.utexas.edu)

-We are planning for the 100th anniversary celebration in 2016.

-Get to know your neighbors! Did they attend Mathews? Please let Mathews alums know - we would love to be in touch.

Contact Ruthann Rushing: [rrushing@austinisd.org](mailto:rrushing@austinisd.org)



We want to acknowledge Iliana Luna, Mom of Noah Ramirez in Ms. King's class for replanting the flower pots by the front door of the school!

## **Mathews 2012-2013 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

*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 Recreation Center  
Austin Republican Women  
BookPeople  
Carter Design Associates  
Circle K International–UT  
Coptic Students of Texas–UT  
Dance Associates  
Downtown Austin Alliance  
Dr. J. Fox & Associates  
El Arroyo Restaurants

Enspire Learning Inc.  
Forever Texas–UT  
Fresh Plus–West Lynn  
Galaxy Café–West Lynn  
Gamma Beta Phi Society–UT  
Grande Communications  
Grubb & Ellis Management Services  
GSD&M Idea City Advertising  
Guero's Taco Bar  
i9Sports  
Idylwood Stables  
Jeffrey's Restaurant / Cipollina's  
Lighthouse Solar  
Magnolia Café  
Mangia Chicago Stuffed Pizza  
Nau Enfield Drug  
OWANA

Pizza Hut #7101  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Randalls Food & Pharmacy  
St. Luke United Methodist Church  
Starbucks – 5th & Lamar  
Sweetish Hill Bakery  
Tapestry Dance Company  
Tech Connects–UT  
Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Inc.–UT  
Thundercloud Subs  
UMOJA–UT  
UT Democrats  
Waterloo Records & Video  
West Lynn Corner Store  
Whole Earth Provision Company  
Whole Foods Market Global HQ  
34th Street Cafe