

MATHEWS

MESSENGER



Principally *hi!* SPEAKING

Grace Martino-Brewster, *Principal*

Hello wonderful Mathews Community! It's hard to believe that we're already in December and just about half-way through the school year. Wow! It's been such a joy to watch your children learn and grow – I'm so proud of them and of their teachers for the amazing work they do every day. From reading to math, to science and technology, to music and art and PE – our students are engaged in meaningful lessons designed to help them grow.

Every day something amazing happens here at school and that is one of the reasons AISD has created an attendance campaign, Every Day Counts. You can find out more information about this initiative at <http://www.austinisd.org/everydaycounts>. There are many reasons to strive for daily attendance at school. First and foremost, we miss your child when he or she isn't here! But we also want every child to have the same opportunity to learn and grow. Every time school is missed, learning is missed and has to be caught up. Did you know that Mathews' attendance rate during the first nine weeks was 97.6%? That's awesome! We'd love to see it at least that high for the rest of the year.

How do we do that? Help your child make it to school on time every day. Even missing 5-10 minutes a day adds up hours of missed instruction. Whenever possible, please schedule medical appointments or trips outside of the school day/schedule. Eating nutritious foods and ensuring your child gets enough exercise and sleep are also helpful ways to maximize health and learning and minimize

sickness. We do understand that there are times when students are ill and we certainly want them to rest and heal when that happens. Our goal is to decrease preventable absences, not to have students come to school when sick.

AISD has put together a few interesting facts on school attendance. Did you know that being in school every day raises your student's chances for scoring well on tests, and securing college admission and scholarship opportunities? Helping your child make regular attendance at school a habit now, can help throughout your child's educational career and beyond! It's also important to know that for every child who is absent, the school district loses \$45 each day. Another way to think about it is that we get \$45 for every child who is in attendance each day. If every child was in attendance at Mathews on any given day, we would earn \$17,865 for the district – wow! That would go a long way in providing for the needs of our students. :)

Every day truly does count! We appreciate your continued support and thank you for sending your students to us every day. It is an honor and a privilege for us to teach and serve them. As we wrap up this first semester and go on winter break, I hope you all enjoy time to rest, relax, and have fun as a family.

Happy holidays to all!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 11

6PM - Fairy Tale Theatre Performance

DEC 12

6PM - Band, Orchestra, & Choir Concert

DEC 13

6PM - 6th Grade Dance

DEC 18

8AM - 6th Grade Showcase

DEC 19

6:30PM - Orchestra Performs At O. Henry's Winter Walk

DEC 21 - JAN 6

Drink Hot Chocolate, Eat Cookies, Sleep Late, Read

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

For the safety of all of our students and staff:

Every visitor must stop by the office to get a visitors badge. Anyone visiting for the first time must present a drivers license to an office staff member. If the badge system isn't working, please:

- 1) check in with an office staff member
- 2) sign in the visitor's binder
- 3) write your name on a visitor sticker

Thank you for your cooperation and support!

mathews MUSIC

Amy Goode, Music Teacher

First of all, a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the 5th Grade performance, *Rock and Roll Forever!*, a success! The students did a great job and learned a lot about some original rock and roll stars. During our preparations for the performance, I was impressed by the connections that were made and how often the students recognized the influences of some of the 'old' stars with some current performers (Little Richard ~ Bruno Mars).

December is a very musical month! On December 9th the choir students took a day to sing for some of the Mathews community supporters. In fact, all of the students will be doing lots of singing when they come to music class. As well, the 3rd Grade students will be preparing for their field trip to The Nutcracker on December 12th.

Also on December 12th, the Band, Orchestra, and Choir students will be performing their winter concert. There will be two performances – 8:00 am for the students and 6:00 pm for parents and community.

Finally, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade...be on the lookout for information about recorders! We start playing during music class in January!

On Thursday, December 19 the Kindergarten classes will perform a festivity of holiday songs on stage for families. The singing begins at 1:30 pm in the cafeteria.
Don't be late!

MATHEWS LIBRARY

Laurie Harwell, Librarian

November has flown by with NO TV Week and Book Fair taking up much of our time and energy. We still had regular classes and lessons (except the week of the fair), so it has been a fun-filled month of reading, learning and shopping!

Our Book Fair was the best on record!! We sold over \$7,600! We were able to keep \$350.00 worth of books from the fair for our library and will get 25% profit. Your support of our fair was phenomenal and very much appreciated.

I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped set up, run and then take down the Book Fair. A very special thank you to Kate Ertle and Rosemary Hernandez who worked tirelessly to help every day of the fair. I certainly could not have done it without them. Also, to Bonni Parker who made my costume and many other amazing decorations while battling the flu!

December will be busy with classes and reading. I will continue to focus on some non-fiction choices and am hoping to move into more sophisticated book choices as your child grows as a reader.

We will also focus on the many different ways that the holidays are celebrated - our diversity is truly unique and special.

Have a wonderful holiday season and winter break.

Please keep reading in between all the festivities!!



www.Mathews360.com

Directories, Calendars, School Supplies, Articles, and More

ARTiculations

Sara Belknap, Art Teacher

The Friday before Thanksgiving week, representatives from the Austin Empty Bowl Project picked up a bag of unclaimed bowls, along with a cash donation of \$720, from the Mathews community. Thank you to the many folks who participated in helping us support Kids Cafe, a program of the Capital Area Food Bank, and Meals for Kids, -- just another way that our students and families add to the Mathews legacy of giving.

3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have been inspired by the art of Austin artist Erin Curtis, whose work is currently featured by the Contemporary Austin at Laguna Gloria, as well as in a new sculpture installation in the warehouse district downtown. Mathews students will view the artist's colorful, painterly installation in the Gatehouse Gallery at Laguna Gloria this week, where they will also tour the grounds for a sneak peak at the beginnings of the planned Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park. The promised "unparalleled outdoor-indoor art destination" is to be comprised of sculpture and site-specific permanent installations by some of today's leading artists, installed at the 12-acre

lakeside estate of Laguna Gloria. Besides Ms. Curtis's sculptures, fabricated with colorful glazed bricks from the historic Elgin Butler Company, other notable installations now on display are large scale architectural pieces by British artist Liam Gillick, and New York artist Marianne Vitale. These artists will be featured through January 5th, 2014, at 3809 West 35th Street.

For other activities to keep your Mathews artist cultured over the break, check out these local family-friendly suggestions:

- 1) *Zilker Christmas Tree*- 3,309 bulbs carefully placed in a pattern to create a spiral effect and lit up every night of December from 6:00 p.m. until midnight. It's a tradition in Austin to walk inside the tree and twirl.
- 2) Check out the new movie: *Walking With Dinosaurs 3D*, set during the Cretaceous Period, and actually rated G.
- 3) *The Blanton Museum of Art* at UT, located at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard (MLK) and Congress Avenue.
Monday through Saturday 9am–5pm
Sunday 10am–5pm
- 4) Check out the National Gallery of Art's children's on-line activities: <http://www.nga.gov/kids/>

TECHNOLOGY, OUR FUTURE, & THE ANNUAL FUND

Jade Kurian

While some of us take computers for granted, Mathews students receive computer education thanks to the generosity of Mathews families. Every year, we ask families to contribute to the Annual Fund so that we can pay for our technology efforts.

Why: Because AISD does not pay for our technology teacher or other technology needs, we as parents fund the teaching position, hardware, and software, through the Annual Fund drive and other PTA efforts. The Annual Fund allows us to provide our children with the best opportunities in a web and tech oriented world.

According to Code.org, computer-programming jobs are growing at twice the U.S. national average while less than 2.4% of college students graduate with degrees in computer science. As we all know, children often find their passion in elementary school.

When: Our major launch was on December 5th, Discovery Night. We had a presentation in the Computer Lab on the importance of technology education. Throughout the campaign, we'll send emails through the listserv and Wednesday folders. The drive begins NOW and ends on March 28th.

How All Mathews Families Can Help: We're hoping every Mathews family will give at least \$100. If we collect \$100 for every student in the school, we will reach our goal of \$30,000. We know \$100 is not affordable for some families and that's okay. Families should give what they can and what's really important is that we have a hundred percent participation.

How To Give: Giving is easy. Please go to the Mathews 360 website and click on donate (<http://mathews360.weebly.com/annual-fund.html>) to make a one-time donation or a sustaining contribution (deducted monthly). You may also drop off a check to the front office.

If you have questions or if you know of an area business that would sponsor the Annual Fund, please contact Jade Kurian at jadekurian@mac.com or at 972 897 6755.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Parent Volunteers do so much valuable work around our school. Some of it is work we see every day, but much of the valuable effort happens behind-the-scenes. So I want to take a minute to say thanks to a few of our unsung heroes...

Thank you to our Library volunteers!

Brandi Warden	Monty Warden
Jessica Klima	Phyllis Warren
Madolyn Frazer	Kate Ertle
Bonni Parker	Alix Teleki
Namjin Lee	Amadora Comer
Papa Joe & Mama Rose	

Thank you to our Office, Homework Center, and Signage volunteers!

Lauri Pearson	Melissa Steele
Ann Simpson	Terry Snider

Campus & Community Volunteers made our Discovery Night a great success.

Thank you to our UT volunteers!

Joy Sontich	Grant Peltier
Joel Kent	Cassie Huckle
Adrienne Witzel	Taylor Polvadore
Jenna Stewart	Krystin Samms
Heidi Culver	Stephanie Steichen
Will Goth	Jeehyun Park
Adam Daily	Alex Hannah

Thank you to our community volunteers!

Sean Keese	Logan Ginbey
Barbara Wilson	Andrea Gowery
Nikki Krebs	Dylan Luo
Justin Zhang	Eddie Plant
Kevin Chau	Brian Cheh
Zia Lyle	Vincent Kauthold
Jamie Rodriguez	Anthony Rasp
Mary Louise Gilburg	

Mentors give a gift of time and friendship. Their kids love spending time together, and the relationships are having a positive effect on other areas of their daily activity and progress here at school.

Thank you to our new Mathews Mentors!

Justin Harlin	LaShaneika Ephraim
Garrett Goldstone	Aranza Gonzalez
John Harmon	Joel Kent
Marc Ott	Robert Peters
Kyle Ray	Ashley Savino
Andrew Basara	Jenny Tseng
Asia Howard	Sharla Stewart
Clarissa Rodriguez	Barbara Pratz

And special thanks to Jenny Tseng and Kyle Ray for working so hard to recruit their friends and reaching out to other campus organizations in order to grow the program. They took a lot of extra time to do that, and it has made a HUGE impact, as the list above shows!

Thank you to our veteran Mathews Mentors!

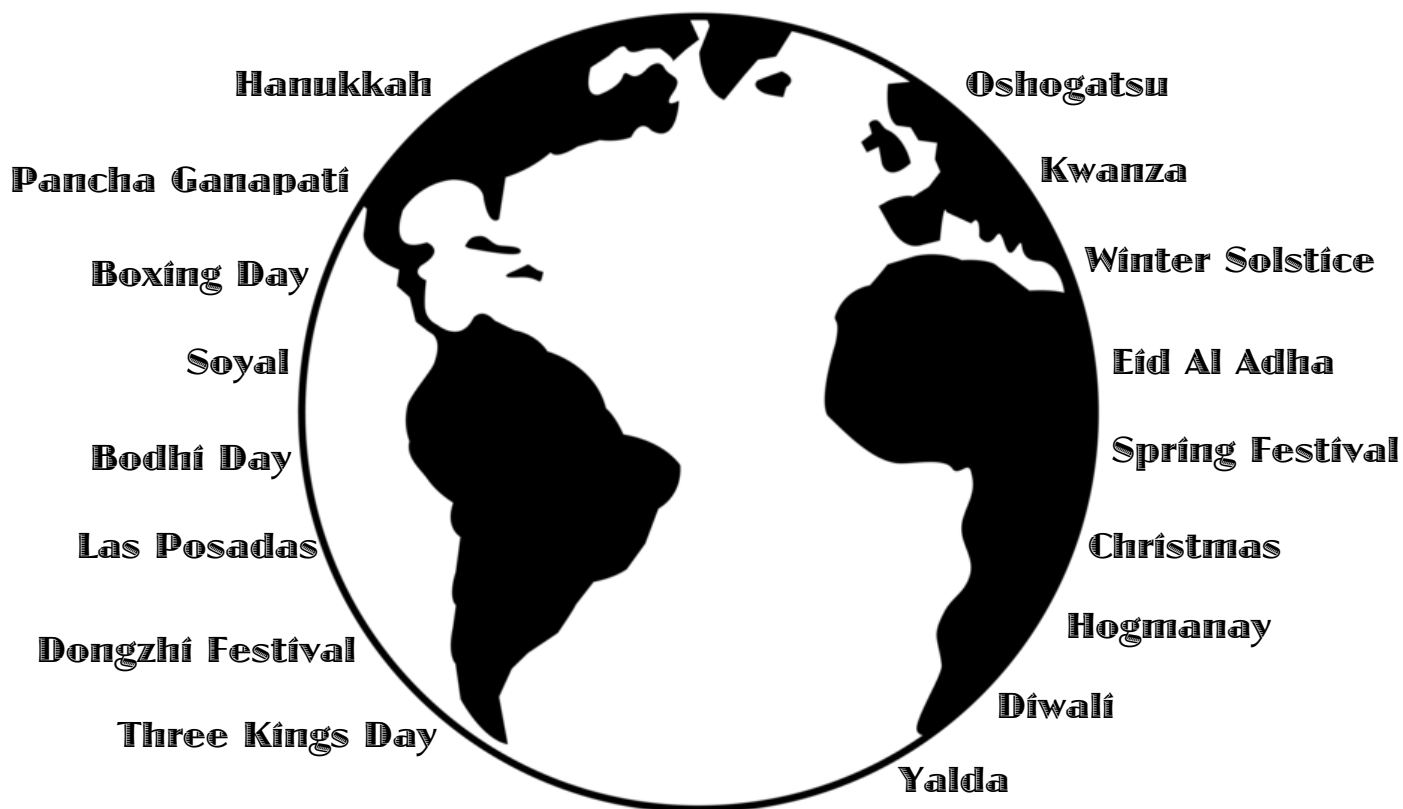
Lou Cannatti	Louis Casal
Rita Hersey	Kaileen Paige
Bruce Taylor	Siham Naseef
Almudena de la Morena	
Socar Chapman Thomas	

Building & Grounds Crew donate their time, talent, and sweat to keeping the school grounds beautiful and safe.

Thank you to our B&G volunteers, and Sandy Cartwright for leading the charge!

Mat Caldwell	Emily Wardell
Vienna Salazar	Caitlin Hoey
Mary Sullivan	Luke Klima
Shawn Shillington	Jim Tugendhat
Jennifer, Nash, & Wyatt Parker	
Terry, Desi, & Sebastian Snider	

Winter Holidays Throughout The World



Happy Holidays To All!

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

Empire 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