



Principally SPEAKING

Grace Martino-Brewster, *Principal*

Hello everyone and happy February to all of you! This is such an exciting time of the school year. We are in full academic swing, students are learning and creating at high levels, and enriching activities abound. It's fair to say that the abundance of planning and preparation that happens in the spring semester keeps all of us on our toes and engaged. What a great feeling!

Speaking of planning, this is also the time of the year that we begin to look forward to putting systems in place for an even better 2014-2015 school year. One of our goals this year was to incorporate technology into the classroom setting in meaningful and natural ways. This is indeed happening, thanks to our wonderful teaching staff and our technology teacher, Ms. Sanders. What the teachers are able to do, however, is restricted by both the outdated equipment and limited number of technological resources available on campus. The good news is, the Campus Advisory Council (CAC), the PTA, a group of passionate teachers, and I have been working for improved technology access and integration for the next school year and beyond.

Why the focus on technology? The world is changing at an exhilarating rate and we need to ensure our students are prepared to navigate this new age of learning and of being. We want our teachers to feel comfortable with these tools and ways to use them to engage students in hands-on projects and research. It seems that almost every day, there is another tantalizing blog post or article about ways to use technology to connect with students, to engage them in learning, to push their understanding of the world and the various content areas. Have you heard of MOOCs, of flipped classrooms, of Glogster, Schoology, or any of the other new trends in education? We want our

students to be able to keep pace with the world and to be confident and savvy learners; we believe that technology is an essential tool for this.

So, we'd like to shore up our access to technology and provide updated training for our teachers and staff on the best way to use the tools available to us while maintaining our strong foundation of social emotional learning and a welcoming school culture for all. What better way to ensure all students find school relevant than to incorporate highly engaging technology into the curriculum? Last week, the CAC met with the director of technology for Austin ISD and begin to solidify our plans for the future. This week, a small group will meet to design the next steps for this huge initiative, including how we can get feedback and input from the larger Mathews community. This is an important issue for all of us and your view of our needs is valuable as we continue this process. Be on the lookout for more information soon! :)

As we celebrate the many wonderful events of February, including African American history, the Super Bowl, the Olympics, choice sheets for middle school, middle of year assessments, projects and competitions, we're also keeping our eye on next year and ways to continue to make Mathews the best school around. Exciting times, indeed!

KINDERGARTEN PARADE

Join us in the halls of Mathews for the **Kindergarten 100th Day Parade!** Due to the snow day school closures, the date is changed to **Friday Feb 7th @ 1:30.** Don't forget to leave time to sign in at the office!

THE SHADOW KNOWS

Corinda Bachman & Kellie Dowell

This Friday, February 7th, the 6th graders will be participating in **JobShadowing**, which is a 6th grade annual event at Mathews. Students filled out interest surveys and researched various job opportunities and were then matched with jobs from around the Austin area. They are able to shadow someone in their job of interest and learn important on-the-job training.

The students are very excited about this wonderful opportunity. A big thank you to all of the participating businesses and professionals.



STILL LOOKING
FOR SOMEONE
TO SHADOW ME!

☕ COFFEE TIME ☕

HOSTED BY MATHEWS PTA

Please join us in the Library
Friday, February 7th @ 7:45am.
Come share a cup o' joe with fellow
Mathews parents, and learn more about
what's happening around school.
At our first PTA general meeting for the
semester, we'll start with a brief update on
PTA business -- mostly, it's a chance to
mingle and get to know other parents and
Mathews staff!
Coffee and light breakfast served.
We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 7

7:45AM - PTA General Meeting
9AM-12PM - 6th Grade Job Shadowing
1:30 - Kindergarten 100th Day Parade

FEB 17

Bad Weather Makeup Day - School In Session

FEB 20

6:30PM - Orchestra Performance, Ice Cream Social
@ O. Henry Middle School Cafeteria

FEB 21

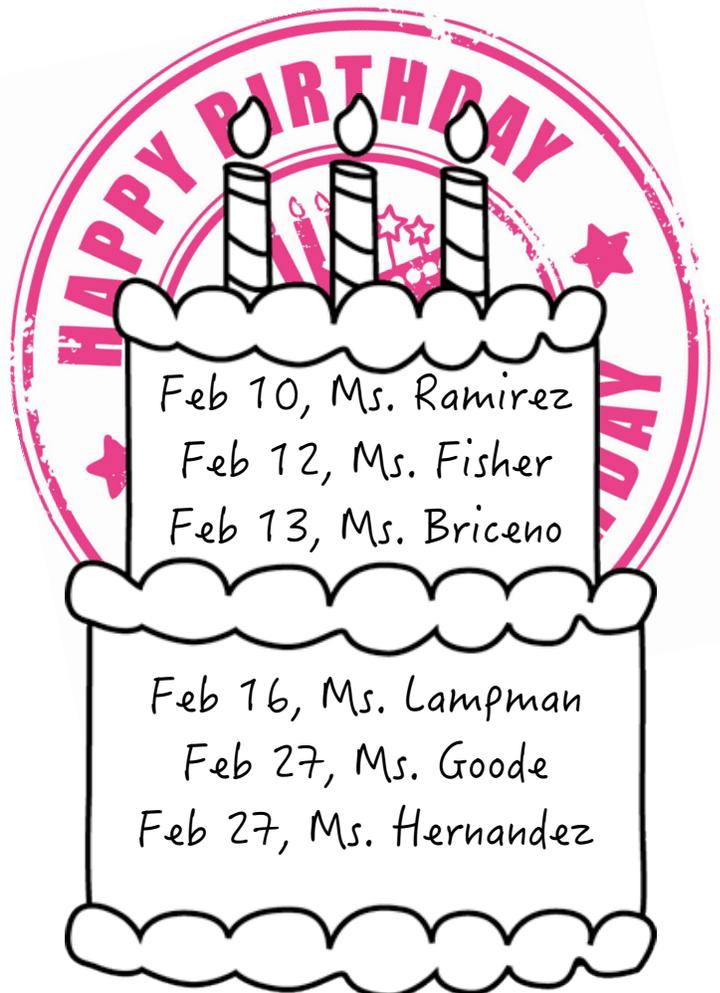
7:45AM - African American Heritage Assembly

FEB 24

8AM - PTA Board Meeting
5PM - CAC Meeting

FEB 28

March Newsletter Articles Due
10:30AM - Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration
12:15 - Brass Quintet Performance (PreK, K, 1st)
1:00 - Brass Quintet Performance (2nd, 3rd)



mathews MUSIC

Amy Goode, Music Teacher

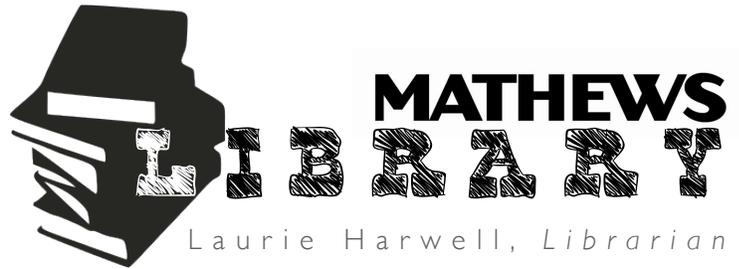
Recorder playing continues! The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes will be continuing recorder playing through the month of February. The students are doing really well, playing several songs, and applying music reading skills!

Also for 3rd – 5th grade (and 6th grade, too!), on February 14th, the Austin Jazz Workshop will be performing a concert of the music of Sonny Rollins. This group gives an awesome performance for the Mathews students each year, I'm sure this year's performance will be just as enjoyable as all the others!

The Kinder students are applying skills they learned in the first half of the year with music opposites. We've been playing loud and quiet, moving fast and slow, and are now heading into high and low sounds. The students will also be playing 'shapes' this month: Circle (drum), rectangle (woodblock), and triangle (triangle!).

The 1st and 2nd grade students are continuing with applying rhythm and pitch reading skills that they learned in the first half of the school year. First grade classes will be playing simple patterns on xylophones during the next few weeks. Second grade students will be learning about the opera composer Gioacchino Rosini and his music in *The Barber of Seville*.

Look for more music information in early March when the students will begin preparing their dances for International Festival! Hope to see everyone at this wonderful event on evening of Friday, March 28th!



Our Book Spring Read-A-Thon officially kicked off Monday, Jan. 27th. I hope you received your envelope with instructions and prize information in last Wednesday folders. I would love to see a big number of participants!

On February 3rd we will be starting our Dr. Seuss reading incentive for Pre-K thru 2nd grades. The kids love to see their Seuss character move to different spots on the map as they record their classroom minutes of reading.

We will have a Seuss celebration on Feb. 28th. Students can wear their PJ's, there will be green eggs and ham in the cafeteria for breakfast, and we are planning some fun activities for participating classes in the cafeteria that afternoon.

On February 7th our third and fourth graders will be treated to an author visit from Shana Burg, whose book *Laughing With the Moon* is a Bluebonnet nominee! We are very excited to host this wonderful author!

On February 19th the library will host 13 judges who will be reading essays written by our 3rd-6th grade students. They are always so impressed with our student writing and are always happy to be a part of our wonderful learning community. We thank them for their gift of personal time to help us with this event!

Always busy, always happy, and always reading!



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ARTiculations

Sara Belknap, Art Teacher

Since the Lunar New Year, (January 31st, this year) marks the end of the winter season, let us embrace the tradition to reconcile, forget all grudges, and sincerely wish peace and happiness for everyone. I have to admit that I left a well-deserved posting out of my January scoop, recognizing 7 second-grade artists who represented Mathews with beautiful artwork installed in the halls of the AISD Central Administration building for the month of January. Those talented artists are: Alora Smith, Victoria Okongo, Aubrey Hesselgrave, Esther An, Sally Barnhill, Sophia Strake, and Zella Britt. I hope they can forgive me.

All around the halls you can view the peace posters created by Mathews students to celebrate our rich cultural diversity, while cultivating Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), which is vital for a healthy campus. Our participation in the Peace Through Pie program for students, educators, schools, and youth groups is Pie-o-neers for Peace, offering a new way to rekindle the pie social and invest in the peace making process.

The art that was created will be juried by a panel of artists from Peace Through Pie and selected works will then be featured on the organization's

website, social media, and other media to help promote the organizational goal of Peace.

Youth Art Month will officially fall in March, so don't forget to turn in your order for the official YAM tee shirts, (aprons and totes), celebrating kids' art in Austin. You can view this year's "Art Takes Many Shapes" design on a black, 100% cotton tee in the hall outside the art room. Tuesday, February 11th, will be the last day to turn in orders, with cash or check, (tee shirts, totes are \$10, and aprons are \$12) to the office, or the art room. We can all proudly wear our tee-shirts in March to show our support for the arts in AISD.

GIFTED & TALENTED GAMES DAY

Parents of Gifted and Talented (GT) Students:
GT Student Games Day is quickly approaching. Games Day will be held February 8th from 9:00 - 11:00am at the Baker Center Cafeteria.

A flyer was sent home in Wednesday folders on January 29th that included this opportunity as well as additional opportunities for participation.

In addition, please see the AISD GT parent blog (<http://www.aisdaas.blogspot.com/>) for information and activities for you and/or your student.

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!

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Accenture
Alliance Abroad Group
Alpha Epsilon Delta-UT
Alpha Phi Sigma-UT
Art & Real Estate Enterprises
Austin Masonic Lodge #12
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Austin Republican Women
BookPeople
Carter Design Associates
Circle K International-UT
Coptic Students of Texas-UT
Dance Associates
Downtown Austin Alliance
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El Arroyo Restaurants

Enspire Learning Inc.
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Fresh Plus-West Lynn
Galaxy Café-West Lynn
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Sweetish Hill Bakery
Tapestry Dance Company
Tech Connects-UT
Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Inc.-UT
Thundercloud Subs
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