

MATHEWS

MESSENGER



Principally *hi!* SPEAKING

Grace Martino-Brewster, *Principal*

Hello wonderful Mathews Community and Happy New Year to all! January is the time when we traditionally reflect on the past year and make plans and set goals for the year to come. It's an exciting time when we are focused on positive changes, and the possibilities for good things are endless. I've been thinking about how to keep this happy anticipation energy going once the newness of the year wears off because I know how important a sense of joy and hope are to keeping our students engaged in learning as we go into the spring.

During this pondering, on a regular day last week, Ms. McMillian's preK class was walking to lunch, all of them smiling as they moved down the hall. Ms. McMillian stopped when she saw me to tell me that her group had spontaneously broken into the Mathew's Caring Chant during work time. I beamed at them and then we chanted together, right there in the middle of the hallway, "Caring for each other is the Mathews way, caring for each other, each and every day..." After we finished, there was a cheer and the students proceeded to share with me how much they were growing and learning. I think I walked on air the rest of the day.

What those precious preK students taught me was that you look for joy in the little things – humming a song with your friends, noticing how much you're learning and growing, paying attention to your accomplishments, and holding hands and caring for your friends as you walk together. This is the kind of behavior that fosters joy and leads to on-going excitement as we move through grade levels and content areas, and that keeps us going through the challenges and successes we encounter.

The start of this second semester means we're about half-way through our school journey this year. This month, we'll celebrate the life of Dr. King and learn about

Asian heritage at our assembly on the 27th. This too brings joy – embracing and celebrating our diversity and strength as a school community. We will continue to deliberately remember to look for the little things that keep us going – the beauty of a new book to read, the feeling of pride and accomplishment when we discover a new idea and successfully master new units of study. And we as a Mathews community, will find our joy – so we can continue to connect with each other and our students throughout the spring semester!

How can you help at home? Talk with your child about what he or she is learning. Share your excitement when your child perseveres and finishes a tough assignment or project. Read the books your child is reading and talk about your favorite words, phrases, characters. Try a new activity together. Remember to look for the good things your child is doing and plan for exciting events that will occur throughout the year. And, just as our littlest students taught me, smile often, sing, celebrate accomplishments, and take care of each other. May each of us have a joy-filled 2014!

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 16

5:30-6:30PM - Science Fair Viewing

JAN 17

7:45AM - Honor Roll Assembly

JAN 20

Martin Luther King Day - No School

JAN 24

7:45AM - Asian Heritage Assembly

JAN 27

8AM - PTA Board Meeting

3PM - CAC Meeting

BookSpring Read-A-Thon Begins

JAN 31

8-10AM - Parenting With Love & Logic Workshop

FEB 7

8AM - PTA General Meeting

9AM-12PM - 6th Grade Job Shadowing

KINDERGARTEN PARADE

Come one and all to the

Kindergarten 100th Day Parade!

Join us in the halls of Mathews Elementary on Wednesday, February 5th @ 1:30 to celebrate 100 days of learning!

mathews MUSIC

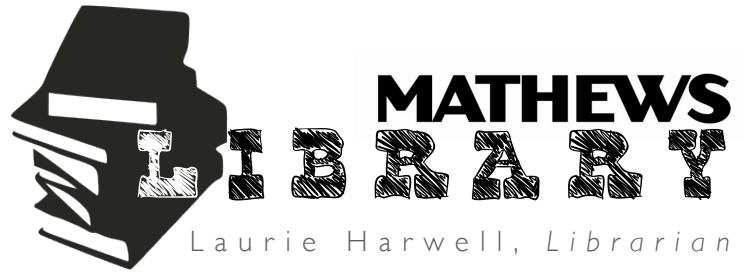
Amy Goode, Music Teacher

Recorder time! All of the students in Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades will be playing recorders for the next several weeks. The students will be applying what they've recently learned about reading pitch names of the lines and spaces on the music staff. Each grade level has a set of pitches and songs that they will be working with, building on work from previous years. The students are very excited and we are off to a great start!

The Kinder, First, and Second grade classes will also be working to apply skills learned during the first half of the school year. Kinder students will be performing music opposites (loud/quiet, fast/slow, high/low). First and Second grade classes will be reading rhythm and melodic patterns. Singing games will continue to be a large part of these classes work as well.

GIFTED & TALENTED

It is time for our Spring Gifted and Talented (GT) Nominations. The nomination window is from January 15th until January 29th. If you are interested in nominating your child to begin receiving GT services in the fall of 2014, please pick up the forms in the front office. You will need to complete a nomination form and a survey about you child. The completed forms should be returned to the office no later than January 29th. In addition, a letter has been sent home in Wednesday folders on January 15th with more details. If you have any questions about the GT services provided at Mathews or about the nomination process, please contact Kelly Meshell at 512 – 414 – 7153.



First of all, Happy New Year to everyone!

We are very busy in the library working on book selection, different genres of literature, and mostly honing our skills with our IBISTRO search catalog (2nd-6th).

Next up, we are going to focus on investigating our awesome database selection and working with our NOOKS. There's never a dull moment - always something to do!

Our 2nd annual BookSpring Read-a-Thon will begin on Jan 27th and run through Feb 7th. With only a small number of students participating last year (which was our first time), we were able to raise over \$1,000 to help purchase books for communities in need.

This Read-a-Thon is super-organized and very easy to participate in. Students can not only earn money for others, they can earn prizes too AND most importantly, spend quality time doing something that they already love - READING! Information and collection envelopes should be delivered to school next week (Jan 13th) hopefully in time to go into Wednesday folders. If not they will go home in Wednesday folders on Jan 22nd.

Starting on February 3rd, our Pre-K - 2nd grades will participate in our annual Dr. Seuss reading incentive program. This is always a big hit and will culminate with a Dr. Seuss celebration day on his birthday, March 2nd. (Actually we'll celebrate his birthday on Friday, Feb 28th.)

Thank you for your continued support of our library and student reading. A HUGE thank you to all our wonderful library volunteers! All the special things that we are able to do depend on this support!



www.Mathews360.com

Directories, Calendars, School Supplies, Articles, and More

ARTiculations

Sara Belknap, Art Teacher

During these first two weeks of school, our students have been talking about friendship, community, harmony - and making art with a PEACEful message. We have a dream of sharing pie at Mathews on Friday, January 17th, to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy with a new culinary tradition. On Saturday, January 18th, the MLK celebrations will continue in our neighborhood community, as we share pie at the 6th Annual *Sweet Home Peace Through Pie Social* at Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, 1725 West 11th, in Clarksville.

Bring your favorite "Peace Pie" and pie story to share in one of the best potlucks in Clarksville. Music (including the legendary *Bells of Joy*) and program in the Sanctuary begins at 2:00 pm, with pie sharing (and art) in Fellowship Hall afterwards. What better way to acknowledge the Martin Luther King holiday, than sharing the story of "peace", a slice of pie and neighborhood fellowship.

As a member of our Mathews community, you are invited to sign the Pie-O-Neers For Peace Pledge, (displayed in the hall by the library), declaring that "We come together to share pie and listen to each other's stories, hopes, and dreams. We learn to

recognize and cultivate the ingredients of friendship, community, and peace. Together we build more supportive and peaceful communities, one piece at a time." You may also want to read (and post) messages written by students and staff on our PEACE bulletin board. As one of the ways our school participates in the Anti-Defamation Leagues *No Place For Hate* program, Pie-o-neers for Peace offers a creative way to nurture Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) at Mathews, crafting meaningful connections to our history, culture and community.

We will ALSO celebrate Asian Heritage month at Mathews this month with Asian calligraphy and traditional art projects - and an extraordinary morning assembly on the 24th. A busy January provides so many reasons and ways to rejoice in the diversity of our students.



WELL MAYBE I'LL STOP BY
FOR JUST ONE BITE...



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

You are invited
6th Annual Sweet Home
Peace Through Pie Social

Saturday, January 18, 2:00 - 4:30 pm

Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church
1725 West 11th Street, Austin, TX



Calling All Pie Bakers:

Share "Peace Pies" & pie stories!

*{Any pie can be a peace pie
if served with that intention}*



— Celebrating "Unity" in the Community —
In honor of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

1:30 - 2:00 pm: Deliver pies to Fellowship Hall. Bring a pie story to share with your pie!
Savory or sweet, ANY kind of pie can be a "Peace Pie" offering

2:00 pm: Program begins in the Sanctuary, Reading of Dr. King's I Have a Dream speech
by Pastor Steve Manning

Special Musical guests: Bells of Joy

Followed by pie & conversation in Fellowship Hall

"Peace Posters" Art Exhibition by students from Mathews Elementary School

Pies served by Sweet Home and Culinary Art students from area high schools

Audio assistance by Art Institute of Austin Audio students

Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Steve Manning, 1725 West 11th St., Austin, TX

For additional information contact www.peacethroughpie.org.

Cultivating peace, one piece at a time.