

# MATHEWS

# MESSENGER



## Principally <sup>hi!</sup> SPEAKING

Grace Martino-Brewster, *Principal*

Hello wonderful Mathews Community! Happy March to everyone! This has been a long and cold winter and I know I'm looking forward to the beauty and warmth of spring, when the flowers start to bloom and the grass begins to green. And, while we're still waiting for the flowers, our students are blooming and growing every day. It's a wonderful thing.

Speaking of growing, the staff and I are committed to our own ongoing improvement and learning by studying the book, *Opening Minds: Using Language to Change Lives* by Peter Johnson. The focus for the book is on the words we use in the classroom with students as they're learning and how we can deliberately create environments that foster a growth mindset and resilience for our kiddos. This dovetails nicely with the emphasis we've had all year about reframing the concept of failure from a negative to a positive. Our mistakes help us grow. When we're not afraid to take risks, our learning expands. At Mathews we want to strive to use words that help our students develop in all areas of growth.

An example of deliberately choosing our words is the use of "yet." Instead of saying, "You / I

don't know how to read," say, "You / I don't know how to read, yet." The simple addition of that one little word changes the frame for the child and encourages learning rather than shutting it down. I've written before about this growth mindset and how essential it is for our students as it helps them push through difficult tasks and find the fun in learning. When we help our students see their potential, we are truly helping them blossom and grow. And remember, this hope for their future is a strong predictor for future success! At school, the staff and I talk about being like the willow tree, able to bend and adapt to strong winds and storms. This is the same adaptability we want to nurture in our students too.

So how can you help at home? When your child is learning a new skill or struggling with a homework assignment, use words that encourage and foster growth. Model what happens when you get distracted while working on a task. Talk about the lessons you've acquired from your life when things were hard or when you made a mistake and learned from it. Together we can support each and every child along his or her educational journey. Happy growing, everyone!



[www.Mathews360.com](http://www.Mathews360.com)

Directories, Calendars, School Supplies, Articles, and More

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAR 8 - MAR 16**

Spring Break!

**MAR 17**

Vision and Hearing Screening

**MAR 19 - 21**

6th Grade Camping Trip

**MAR 21**

7:30AM - Mrs. Briceno's Class SEL Assembly

**MAR 24**

8AM - PTA Board Meeting

3PM - CAC Meeting

**MAR 24 - 28**

Spring Book Fair

**MAR 28**

5PM - International Festival



We have had a very busy February in the library! Our Dr. Seuss reading incentive program for the PreK - 2nd Graders was lots of fun and I can tell you there was some major reading going on in those classes.

Our first annual Dr. Seuss birthday bash was held in the cafeteria on Feb. 28th and everyone was looking pretty groovy in their PJ's! Our very own Ms.G recited the entire book of *McElligot's Pool* by Dr. Seuss from memory to a very excited breakfast crowd, who were munching on green eggs and ham!

Now that this very busy month is over, we are working on biographies (2nd Grade) encyclopedia and database lessons (3-6th) and also exploring and working with our Nooks. We will also be working hard on different library skills. Scavenger hunts, fiction room relay, and lbistro lessons are coming soon.

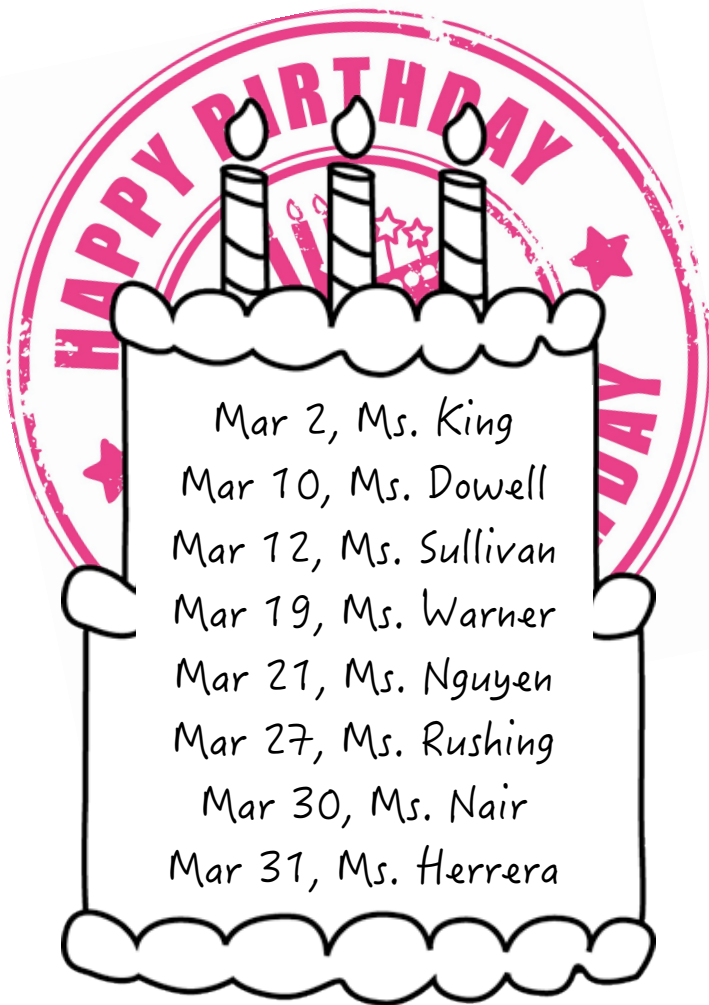
Please know that all of our AISD databases are available to you at home. I have bookmarks with all databases listed, including any usernames/ passwords that you might need. It is an impressive collection of databases that are all screened and checked for reliability by the district.

*Guess what's next?? ...That's right!*

*It's time for our spring book fair!*

Our fair will run March 24-28th and our evening sales will be on the 28th during International Festival. It's a great way to stock up for summer reading (which you will need if you participate in the summer reading program!)

We are looking forward to another busy and productive month in the library. Keep reading!!



## TOP O' THE BOX TO YOU

Please remember to continue collecting and turning in your box tops. Mathews earns 10 cents per box top. Pre-K won the January classroom competition. As a school, we have collected almost 6,000 for the school year.

Thanks to all who are saving box tops!



# ARTiculations

Sara Belknap, Art Teacher

The winners of the Peace Through Pie peace poster contest were announced at the always meaningful African American Heritage assembly on February 21st. Representatives from the peace-loving non-profit chose 13 posters created by 21 student artists, some individually, and some by collaborative groups. The winning artists are: Ben Baskin, Joe Velasco, Marley Gattis, Pauline Caldwell, Chris Rodriguez, Adrian Lopez, Darien Magallanes-Nigo, Luella Bowersock, Madison Kern, Haley Crane, Billy Heron, James Dinh, Alex Martin, Terra Perkins Plowman, Sophia Strake, Mai Mai Nguyen, Austin Crane, Aiden Wynn, Bizu Crouther, Dylan Rochlen and Brandon Brena. The child-wise images created by these Mathews artists will be used by Peace Through Pie on their website, with the expressed purpose of promoting world peace.

All Mathews students (and I do mean ALL Mathews students) started working on folk dances in Special Area classes this week, as preparations begin for our International Festival, scheduled for Friday, March 28th. Ms. Goode, Coach Outlaw and I so enjoy selecting countries and music for each grade level, and working together, and with students, parents and community members, to choreograph age-appropriate dance performances for the festival. This is the best way to celebrate our diverse population - with an international pot luck dinner and dancing by ALL the students and staff of Mathews – (even parents and alumni will be joining in before it's all over.) It's part of OUR culture, so please make it a priority to attend this special event, starring YOUR children.

March is *National Youth Art Month* and the State of Texas has been a leader in Youth Art Month celebrations since it began. Thank you, so much, to everyone who purchased the black Youth Art Month tee-shirts to show your support for the arts. The official AISD District-wide Art Exhibition will open with a grand reception from 1:00-3:00 on March 23rd at the One Congress Plaza Building, 111 Congress Avenue. The April Messenger will salute the artists who will represent Mathews in the show, with both 2-D and 3-D artwork, on display until April 14th.

We are actively recruiting a parent sponsor for the 2014 Jr. VASE club, an afterschool art class

that allows 6th graders to pursue an enrichment experience in art. The purpose of the Texas Art Education Association Junior-Visual Art Scholastic Event is to recognize exemplary student achievement in visual art through individual and original expression of ideas. Participating 6th graders will bring artworks created in room 203 during the month of April to this regional event, Saturday, May 3rd. Middle school students from throughout our region will be interviewed by certified jurors who evaluate their work based on a standard based rubric and their understanding of the art processes involved in the development of their artwork. The parent sponsor will be responsible for meeting with us after school one day a week in April, and helping with materials and paperwork (the school will pay the entrance fees) for these extra hard-working Mathews artists. Look for a flyer in the 6th grade Wed. Folders today to get involved in this worthwhile activity.

While I so enjoy working in the gym with Coach Outlaw and Ms. Goode – (and ALL the students and staff) – to create and learn the 2014 dances, I am more than ready to roll up my sleeves and dive into preparations for the 2014 Mathews All-School Art Show, coming up on May 8th. The first prep day for the Art Show is April 5th, when we will meet in the art room, from 9:00-12:00, to sort portfolios and start the curating process. One piece of artwork from every Mathews student will be chosen and mounted over the course of three Saturdays; April 5th, 12th, and 26th, from 9:00-12:00, mostly in the Art Room, 203. We will hang the show (through-out the entire building) on May 3rd. Please call if you want to volunteer for any of the dates, or if you have any questions about this Mathews event (my favorite.)



# THANK YOU!

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Thank you to Joel Kent and the UT National Honor Society for volunteering at the Building and Grounds workday on March 1st.

The group re-graded the pea gravel in the 1st Grade playground area, raised the height of the retaining wall, added mulch to the playground, and raked and bagged the entire front of the school. Not bad for 3 hours' work! Thanks as always to Mathews Dad Sandy Cartwright for organizing and leading the charge.

## OFFICE

Thank you to Sherry McHale, Melissa Steele and Lauri Pearson for helping out with all kinds of activities in the front office!

## CLASSROOM

Thank you to Dason Whitsett, who visited both 5th Grade Science classes to teach about solar design. He taught how to best capture the sun's energy and the information greatly helped with the 5th Grade solar oven project!

*Have an individual or group you'd like to thank in the next newsletter?  
Send the info to [benbishopin3D@gmail.com](mailto:benbishopin3D@gmail.com)*

## 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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Alpha Phi Sigma-UT  
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Austin Republican Women  
BookPeople  
Carter Design Associates  
Circle K International-UT  
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Forever Texas-UT  
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