

MATHEWS MESSENGER



Principally *hi!* SPEAKING

Grace Martino-Brewster, *Principal*

Hello, wonderful Mathews community! Happy May to all of you. It's hard for me to believe that we've come this far in the school year so very quickly. It has been an honor and a joy to serve our students and work with our families all year. There is not a day that goes by that I don't reflect on the amazing things that our teachers and students have done and I am grateful to be a part of this true community of learners.

As we prepare to wrap up the school year, to read as many more books as we can, to engage in rich and meaningful dialogue about learning, to solve math problems and to research and create, your child should be filled with a tremendous sense of accomplishment. We've worked hard this year and we can see the results in the learning of our students. The same students who stand just a bit taller than they did at the start of the year, who use new vocabulary when talking, who have grown physically, academically, and socially emotionally. Child development at its finest! From Sneak-a-Peek in August through our sixth grade graduation on the last day of school, we've explored a variety of topics, gone on numerous field trips to expand our learning in the wider world, and come together over and over to celebrate the school and our community and to plan for an even better next year.

This is the beauty of Mathews. We have the most amazing students, the strongest faculty and staff, and a supportive and caring community. We truly thank you for partnering with us in your child's education, for encouraging him/her to read each day at home and to strive for his/her personal best. Together there is nothing we can't accomplish! :)

As summer looms large and plans for travel and fun and relaxation are made, please continue to have your child get to bed on time and get to school on time every morning. We're working and learning right until the end. And, however you spend your summers, please keep reading. Reading over the summer is a critical part of academic development and gives your child the right foundation for the start of the next school year. The best part, however, is that reading is fun and can be both an individual and a whole family event. Try reading a book aloud in the evenings or engaging in book talks at the table. It's entertaining and good for you, what could be better?

I have so enjoyed the year. I am in awe of our students' talents, as we've seen over and over and will showcase again at Fine Arts night tomorrow. Thank you once more for supporting your child and us in their learning and growing and for making this a year to remember!



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mathews MUSIC

Amy Goode, Music Teacher

What a wonderful school year! It's so hard to believe that things will be winding down soon.

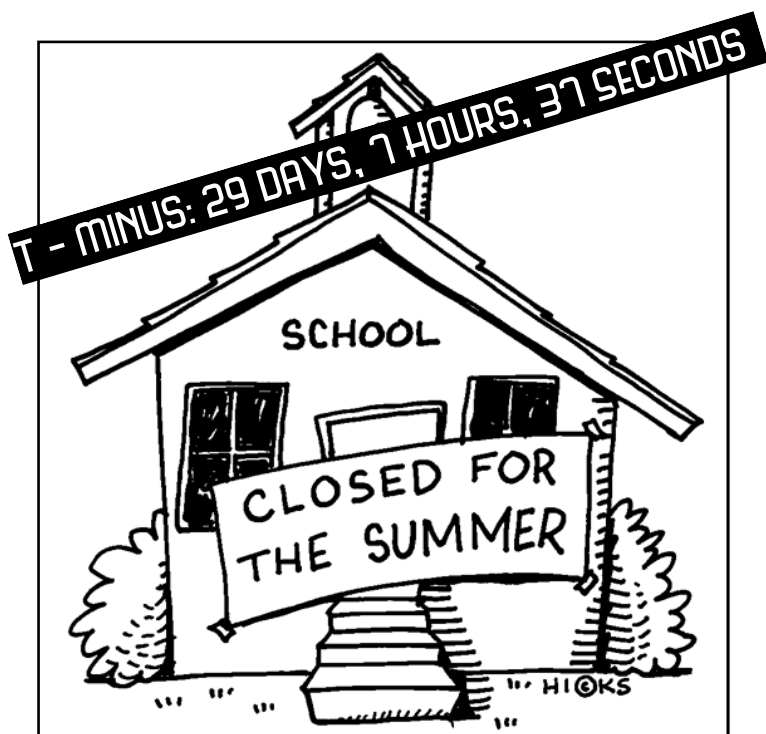
I hope that everyone enjoyed the International Festival. Coach Outlaw, Mrs. Belknap, and I were so proud of the students. They all did a wonderful job learning and then presenting their dances for the community.

As we finish these last few weeks of school, music classes will be filled with much singing and music reading. All of the students will be applying the skills and musical knowledge that they've been learning throughout the school year.

As well, the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes will be preparing for a field trip to the Austin Symphony on May 19th. The students will get to see a performance by a full orchestra. Some of the pieces to be performed are *New World Symphony* by Dvorak and *Ode to Joy* by Beethoven. I feel this will be a lovely experience for the students.

As we sing each Friday:

*"So let me say that I would rather be
a part of Mathews Elementary!"*



MATHEWS LIBRARY

Laurie Harwell, Librarian

Our book fair in March was the best ever! We sold over \$7,000 which gave us a \$1,600 profit and 5% free books from the fair! Thank you to everyone for supporting our library. I will now be able to purchase additional library resources and fund other activities as well. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped make our fair such a huge success.

This Friday, May 2nd is our 3rd annual "Poem in Your Pocket Day." On this day the children go around and read a poem to as many people as they can - one that they have written themselves or copied. They bring their poem with signatures to the library for a treat and then we hang all the poems on our "poet tree" in the hallway. This is always a really fun day and we are looking forward to it!

On May 16th we will have our annual Bluebonnet and Lone Star Thundercloud sub parties. The top readers in 3-6th grades will attend. Thundercloud very generously donates up to 40 box lunches for this event. Please thank them next time you are in the store! There will be prizes and a "store" for the students who earned points by reading these selected books. Tons of fun!!

Our 15th(???) annual paperback book swap will be held on Friday, May 30th. Students can bring in up to 5 paperback books (not hardcover) to exchange for the summer. Students may begin bringing their books the week of May 26.

Lastly, I will be sending home summer reading challenge info in Wed. folders on May 28th.

As the year comes to a close (sooner than we are ready for!) I will be letting everyone know when student books will be due and when the last week of library will be.

It's been an awesome and exciting year in the library and I want to thank everyone for supporting what we do! *Mathews Forever!!*

ARTiculations

Sara Belknap, Art Teacher

Since everyone is coming to our Mathews Fine Arts Night tomorrow, Thursday, May 8th, from 5:30-7:30, it would be pointless to waste this space with further advertising. There is no way any venue in ATX can match this Mathews institution highlighting art from every individual student at Mathews (yes, your child's art is featured), our SECOND annual gourmet MFE Spaghetti Supper in the cafeteria (only \$7), AND a spring concert performance in the gym by the 6th grade band and orchestra. There will also be all sorts of sculptures and the fantastic futuristic city created by 6th grade displayed in the library, AND the art sale (buy your child's artwork to fund Mathews art projects!) Be sure to bring your family and friends to see the show before the end of May, when all the art will be returned in your child's portfolio, whether you purchase it or not.

Next Saturday, May 10th, is the day Mathews sixth graders will participate in Jr. VASE at the area event held at Gorzycki Middle School. The purpose of this 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. These eleven students, Ben Appel, Citlalli Soto-Ferate, Clementine Webre, Aliaa Helal, Thea Huff, Lucia Saenz, Kylie Baber-Gonzalez, Luna Darling, Meiriona Maddy, Lola Garberoglio, and Gabriel Reyes Reynoso will bring artworks created in room 203 to this regional event. They will be interviewed by a certified juror who evaluates their work based on a standard based rubric and their understanding of the art processes involved in the development of their artwork. We owe a debt of gratitude to Fabiola Reyes-Reynoso (sister of Gabriel) for helping us prepare for this important middle school event.

On a parting note, I feel happy with the decision to retire this year to spend more time with my amazing (retired) husband and family (yes, I am a grandmother.) I want to thank the entire community for your continuous support of the Mathews Art Department over the past twelve years, for letting me have a room without a roof, and a home away from home (but not that far away from home.) Being the art teacher at Mathews is definitely on the list of experiences I have written on my heart, --and I'm not really going anywhere, I just get to sleep later.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 8

4:30PM - MFE Alumni Gathering in Library
5:30PM - Fine Arts Night & MFE Dinner

MAY 16

8AM - Parent Meeting, Cyber Safety
6-8PM - 6th Grade Dance

MAY 17

9AM - 2nd Annual Kinkadee Fun Run

MAY 21

3PM - Homework Center Ends

MAY 26

No School - Memorial Day

JUNE 5

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
8:15AM - 6th Grade Graduation



2nd Annual
**KINKADE
FUN RUN**

WHEN

Saturday, May 17th
9AM

WHERE

O Henry Middle School
2610 West 10th Street

HOW

Registration forms will be sent home soon

WOW

All \$ raised will go towards the
Mathews Technology Department!



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE
PARENT AND COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS WE'VE HAD**

THIS YEAR

PTA
Office
Homework Center
Wednesday Folders
Homeroom Parents
Octoberama
Fine Arts Night
Building And Grounds
Library
Mentors
MFE
International Festival
Track & Field Day
Music & Art Projects
And Many Many Many More!

**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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Waterloo Records & Video
West Lynn Corner Store
Whole Earth Provision Company
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