

MATHEWS

MESSENGER



Principally *hi!* SPEAKING

Grace Martino-Brewster, *Principal*

Hello wonderful Mathews Community – Happy November to all of you! I love this time of year where we traditionally pause, take a breath, and remember the good things in our lives. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the dedicated staff, supportive community, and absolutely wonderful students at Mathews every day. I’m thankful that our school is thriving, and learning is happening every day. Taking the time to reflect on the blessings in life keeps me going and keeps me positive even through the hectic pace that is modern life.

Speaking of staying positive, one of the ways we deliberately focus on helping our students keep going, even when they’re tired or frustrated, is by building Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into our daily routine. At Mathews, we are deeply committed to working with the needs of the whole child and we frame everything we do through an SEL lens. This helps us build in ourselves and our students the critical knowledge and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions (casel.org). These skills have been dubbed “the new smart” and are critical to our students’ continued success in school and beyond.

The competencies listed above form the foundation for the work we do every day. When schools focus on SEL strategies, there is growing evidence that positive outcomes are the result. The goals of SEL are two-fold: to promote social awareness and responsible decision making, and to improve students’ attitudes and

beliefs about self, school, and others. When SEL is implemented in schools, it leads to positive social behavior, fewer incidents of negative behavior (or conduct problems), less emotional distress, and academic success. Now that’s something for which to be thankful!

As with academics, when the school and home partner together, we see strong growth in our students. The following highlights some areas where parents can help support an SEL mindset at home:

- Focus on your child’s strengths. Concentrate first on what your child is doing well and build on these strengths when working on things he/she needs to improve. This helps to build the resilience and hope I wrote about last month.
- Find ways to stay calm when angry. Try taking deep belly breathes or take a break to gather yourself. At school, we use a “Peace Area” to help students refocus and calm themselves when upset.
- Read books together. Studies have shown that children who read literature have more empathy towards others than those who do not. (The benefits of reading just keep getting better and better!)
- Give your child choices to help them learn to solve problems. This builds confidence and lets them know their thoughts and feelings matter.

If you’d like to learn more about SEL, let us know. Watching students calm their bodies and emotions, help each other do the same, and encourage each other is a wonderful thing – it’s one of the many things for which I’m grateful. I hope each of you has much to be thankful for this month and always.

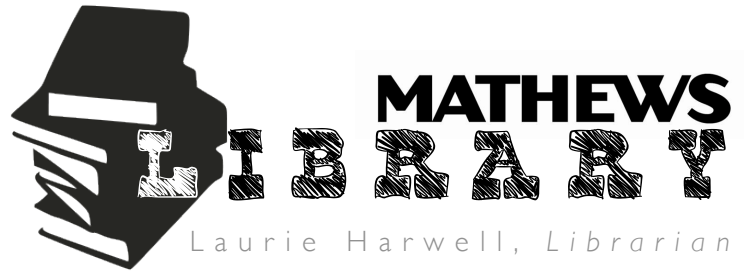


www.Mathews360.com

Directories, Calendars, School Supplies, Articles, and More

mathews MUSIC

Amy Goode, Music Teacher



Laurie Harwell, Librarian

The **5th Grade** musical performance “Rock and Roll Forever” is quickly approaching! There will be two performances on Thursday, November 14th, 1:30 pm for the Mathews Students and a performance for parents & community at 6:00 pm. On Saturday, November 9th, we will be working on the stage ‘set’. Feeling creative? Love 50’s and 60’s Rock ‘n Roll? Come join us 9 am – noon.

4th Grade students have been conducting and singing songs with changing tempo, and learning about “Doo-Wop” style of music. **3rd Grade** students are increasing their rhythm repertoire. They’ve recently added songs that use sixteenth note patterns. **2nd Grade** is also stretching their rhythm knowledge. Adding L-O-N-G sounds with half notes. **1st Grade** students have named two pitches: *so* (high) and *mi* (low). Soon we will be adding *la* to our melodies. And **Kindergarten** is listening, moving, singing, and playing with fast and slow.

Coming soon... In December, the 3rd grade classes will be learning about Ballet and attending a performance of Ballet Austin’s “The Nutcracker”. Also in December, it will be time for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students to get recorders ready. More info on student recorders will be in the December newsletter.

Look out! Here it comes! Our book fair and NO TV WEEK are coming up soon. Both will be the week of Nov. 12-19 (Monday, Nov. 11 is a holiday)

NO TV WEEK:

Pledge sheets for NO TV week will be coming home in Wed folders. Please return your pledge sheets by Friday, Nov. 8th. Verification slips will go home Wed. Nov. 13th and can be returned for medals the week of Nov. 18th.

BOOK FAIR:

Our book fair hours are 7:30am-4:00pm with special evening hours on Nov. 14th till 7:30pm (before and after the fall musical.)

Student wish lists will come home either Tues. Nov. 12th or 13th depending on which day your child’s class will preview the fair. You are welcome to come browse & shop anytime and we could really use some help setting up on Friday, Nov. 8th!

In October the library sponsored 2 author visits and one storytelling session. It was a very busy but exciting month. November looks to be even busier so come join the fun and help promote reading and literacy for our students!!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 OCTOBERAMA SPONSORS!

Endresen-Curry Family
Austin Land Company
E-Dental Group
Gottesman Residential
McCalla Family
Meridian Solar
Schofman Family
Fresa’s Chicken Al Carbon
Mauro Family
Amadora Puchol-Comer
Honoring Ms. Bachman’s 4th grade
Alvin Jung’s Family

Thank you!

Octoberama was a huge success this year!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

Octoberama would not be possible without your participation. Our children are so lucky to have support from the school community.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS:

Alpha Epsilon Delta,
Circle K International and
Austin Lodge #12.

We want your feedback on this year’s Octoberama!
Visit <http://tiny.cc/oct13surv> or scan the code to take the short survey to help improve next year’s event. Thank you!



THE DIRECTORY IS HERE!

Pick up your printed copy of the Mathews Student Directory. They are now available for purchase in the school office for \$5 each. Inside the directory you will find students listed by class as well as a list of teachers and staff with contact information. You may also access the directory online (with your login) at www.myschoolanywhere.com
Questions? Contact Katie Keenan at katie@nickmehl.com



MATHEWS MERRY MESSENGERS (M&M'S)

Last Year, the Mathews Friends for Excellence funded a project called the Mathews Merry Messengers. This generous grant will send 8 missions out into the world for Mathews students to spread peace and appreciation while learning about the gifts and needs of others. Our former fabulous music teacher, Jean Adams, is spear-heading this project with me and we are looking for other responsible, thoughtful adults to assist in making it happen.

Our first trip to the Central Fire and EMS station downtown with the 6th grade class, was a ringing success, with an "appreciation performance", and home-baked cookies to honor our local heroes. Other classes that have signed up are: Ms. Osten, Ms. Neal, and Ms. Nguyen. The third graders are scheduled to do an art activity with the residents of the Rebekah Baines Johnson Center, a

residential tower for seniors and disabled people, THIS FRIDAY, November 8th. If you have time or ideas, cookies or contacts to share, please jump on the M&M bus with Ms. Adams and the students of Mathews. We can use a few good souls.

Project Goal: Contributing to a broad educational agenda that involves enhancing our students' Social-Emotional competence

Project Description: A class field trip to a place where the students can share a performance (a song, a skit, etc) with adopters, first responders, the residents of a nursing home, the students at a special school, the workers at a nonprofit (Meals on Wheels, Red Cross, Food Bank), or suggestions???

Objectives/Anticipated Outcomes: producing students who interact in socially skilled and respectful ways; to practice, safe, and healthy behaviors; to contribute ethically and responsibly to their peer group, family, school, and community; and to form a foundation for meaningful employment and engaged citizenship.

For more information please contact Jean Adams @ 512-797-9755 or jeannelop@hotmail.com



Thank you to the 6th Graders for being first ever Mathews M & M's Ambassadors at the Central Fire Department Station on Friday, October 25th.

These terrific trailblazers truly represented all things Mathews with heartfelt gifts of food and song for our home town heroes.

Photo: Sara Belknap

ARTiculations

Sara Belknap, Art Teacher

Octoberama provided the perfect sunny day to introduce the new Mathews T-shirts, with design work by parent/artist Will Heron of *Will Heron Designs* (Billy's dad.) For a limited time, the John Deere green shirts are still available in adult S and M and youth sizes S-M-L for \$10.87 – in the office, (the "tax free" sale is limited to 2 weeks.) T-shirt sales have generated over \$1500 in profits, so far! THANK YOU. These funds pay for art field trips, supplies, and visiting artists, as well as materials for family activities like the Empty Bowl Project.

This past Saturday, many mellow folks joined Sonia Hoepfner and I in the cafeteria to glaze all the bowls that were made on September 28th for the Austin Empty Bowl Project. This program is an effort by Austin area potters to fight hunger. At Mathews, we make bowls with the plan to KEEP OUR OWN BOWLS and GIVE THE MONEY to

the actual event. If you and your family has bowls to claim (for \$20 each), please come by the Art room before 8:30 AM on November 19th, 20th, 21st, or 22nd -with cash in hand. I will deliver any left-over bowls (that can hold 2 cups of soup) to EBP on Friday, November 22nd, after school. Your \$20 donation goes to Kids Cafe, a program of the Capital Area Food Bank, and Meals for Kids, a program of Meals on Wheels & More. Take the bowl home with you to remind you that others have empty bowls. This year's OFFICIAL EBP event will take place on Sunday, November 24, 2013 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Marchesa Hall & Theatre in Lincoln Village (across from Highland Mall).

The annual Mathews musical will be performed on Thursday evening, November 14th, at 5:30. We will be building the set NEXT Saturday, from 9:00-12:00, in the cafeteria. You don't have to be in choir or 5th grade to lend a hand making props and drops for this Rock and Roll-themed extravaganza, so bring your family down to help on November 9th.

MATHEWS FRIENDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Mary Baughman

3 Excellence awards totaling \$1,274.13 will benefit Mathews students this year. Money for these awards comes from donations to the Mathews Friends for Excellence endowment at Austin Community Foundations.

#1 grant is 2 new gym mats: (\$218) Grant application by Coach Outlaw and Art Teacher Sara Belknap. Each mat will have the Mathews logo. PTA will provide funding for additional mats.

#2 "Blended classroom", 2 iPad mini tablets and accessories: (\$831.13) The iPads will be shared with all 3rd graders. "Having these iPads will enable Miss Fox to submit teacher and student created video and other digital products that showcase how students are engaging in blended learning experiences within and outside of Mathews. Miss Fox has found that student samples, along with teacher commentary, and enthusiasm, are most effective in encouraging other teachers to try new technology"

#3 "Digital Camera day in Pre-K": (\$225) Grant application by Diana McMillan. This will use 2 digital cameras to document learning and to help other staff develop their use of technology.

Check Out the Pennant Display in the Gym! NEW permanent signs explain how to add more schools to the display that inspires current Mathews Students to dream of "OH! The places they'll go!"

MFE Alumni Event Report:

Mathews Alumni and Friends gathered at Galaxy Café after Octoberama. Mathews "graduates" from 2011 on back to a 1930's-era student enjoyed snacks and beverages chosen by Patricia Bauer-Slate and prepared by Galaxy. Julie Levy said, "It was such a pleasure to chat with the alumni. They shared happy memories of their times at Mathews and



Photos: Ted Barnhill

seemed grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with people currently associated with Mathews."

Alum Robert Frausto and his sister Rosemary Salazar donated a copy of a photo from the Austin History Center that shows John and two other siblings as students in the 1960's. It is on



13 MATHEWS ALUMNI TO BE INTERVIEWED THIS MONTH FOR THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Mary Baughman

MFE will continue collecting oral histories of Mathews alumni. We conducted 14 interviews last year and are planning on 13 more this fall with alums who attended from the 1930's to the 1980's. These special memories of time spent at Mathews and remembrances of the period, place, and people were rich with detail and brought both tears and laughter to participants and interviewers. The oral history interviews were designed and collected by students in Dr. Shirin Khosropour's Research Methods class at ACC. Ted Barnhill and his Castleview Productions studio provided studio time and staff, and produced the DVD copies. These DVDs are housed in the MFE archives as well as the Austin History Center and personal copies are given to participating alums. Khosropour (parent of Mathews alumni) and Barnhill (parent of Mathews students) are MFE committee members.

REMINDER

Next Mathews Friends For Excellence Meeting:
Monday, November 18th, 3pm
In School Library

- NOV 6**
Vision & Hearing Screening
- NOV 9**
9-12pm - Paint Set for the Musical
- NOV 11**
Student Holiday/Staff Development Day
- NOV 12 - 19**
Book Fair & No TV Week
- NOV 14**
6pm - Fall Musical
- NOV 20**
Picture Re-Take Day
- NOV 25**
8am - PTA Board Meeting
3pm - CAC Meeting
- NOV 27 - 29**
Thanksgiving Holiday
- DEC 3**
7pm - OWANA Meeting
- DEC 5**
6pm - Math/Science/Technology Night
- DEC 9**
9:15am - Choir goes Caroling

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Homework center has gotten off to a great start. Mathews Elementary would like to thank Joel Kent from the U.T. Chapter of Gamma Beta Phi for continuing to be our contact, recruit volunteers, and share his time with us. We are grateful that he has found Abigail Stephens to help us out. He has also found a few other individuals interested in helping with our Great Leaps Reading Program. Abigail Stephens will be helping out at the start of November and Juliette Wise will be joining us from the ACC work study program.

If anyone knows someone interested in helping at Homework Center please have them e-mail ruthannrushing@austinisd.org.



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!

Mathews 2012-2013 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

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