

# The Mathews Messenger

Celebrating Austin's Award-winning Public International School

April 1, 2009

"We Educate the World"

Amy Kinkade, Principal



## Happy April Fool's Day!

### Principally Speaking...

Amy Kinkade, Principal: 414-4406

#### Continuous School Improvement

Our annual State of Mathews took on a new look and was a terrific success. Parents and teachers chose a focus group and spent an hour discussing new and innovative ideas to advance our school goals.

A comprehensive summary of ideas will be sent home next week and will be posted on Mathews360.com.

Below are snippets of some of the creative ideas: (some groups are still working on their summaries)

Community Service Projects—providing opportunities for our children to regularly participate in community service projects: \*Connect the projects to learning (i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> grade studies Texas—could they visit the state cemetery and participate in a clean-up)

Public Relations—Reaching out to neighborhood families who are not currently

attending Mathews: \*Brand a message "Think globally. School locally"; park gatherings.

School Safety: Talk to the city about installing raised crosswalks with flashing lights in the roadway; always having an adult in front of the school at drop-off.

Healthy Cafeteria Meals: Use more fresh vegetables; serve a vegan or veggie burger; post nutritional info on Mathews360.com

Building and Grounds: This group walked the school and will be coming up with a list of items that will be presented to A.I.S.D.

Math: Ms. Sepp and Ms. Turner taught parents how students solve math word problems. Parents learned about the use of manipulatives and other instructional techniques being used at school.

Thanks to all for participating and watch for the complete summaries next week!

### Contents

Principally Speaking	1
Upcoming Events	1
Mathews Fine Arts Festival	1
ARTiculations, Music Notes	2
Cover to Cover, Tech Fund	3
Prime Time	3
Mathews Partners in Ed.	4
PTA Updates	4

### Upcoming Events

- 4/1-4/3 6<sup>th</sup> grade Camping Trip
- 4/4-4/18 Saturdays 9am-12pm Art Work Days
- 4/7 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math TAKS
- 4/8 Class Picture Day
- 4/17 6pm-8pm 6<sup>th</sup> grade Dance
- 4/23 Fine Arts Festival
- 4/28 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> TAKS
- 4/30 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science TAKS  
6pm Fairy Tale Theater
- 5/4-5/8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/5 9am Kindergarten Round Up
- 5/8 Hispanic Heritage Assembly
- 5/18-5/22 Book Fair
- 5/21 International Festival

## Mathews Fine Arts Festival

April 23rd is billed as the Fine Arts Festival on the calendar, as the Mathews Band and Orchestra provide a concert to add to the evening's celebration of self expression.

The walls will be lined with the work of all 420 Mathews students and a new element of excitement will be added this year by an Art Sale in the cafeteria.

We will continue the process of choosing, mounting, labeling, and hanging work from all 420 Mathews students on Saturday mornings from 9:00 - 12:00, as well as most days after school.

We are currently seeking parents to organize the sale of donated works of art from local artists, parents, and

students. This sale will take place during the fine Arts Festival on April 23rd and is intended to raise funds for the Mathews Art Department.

Also in the cafeteria, we will have our Fine Arts Festival Reception, for which we are also soliciting parent organizers. The tasks include soliciting refreshments, paper goods, and flowers for the reception, as well as signing up volunteers to set up, man the punch bowl, or clean up.

The Mathews Art Show is one event that is near and dear to my heart and I promise that you will be impressed by all the talented artists we have at our school. If you would like to join the fun, check with me, Sara Jo Belknap, in room 203, call 841-1517, or my cell, 512-694-3430.

## ARTiculations

News from the Art Room  
*Sara Jo Belknap, Art: 841-1517*

On Sunday, March 29th, I spent a very proud three hours standing next to the art work of fourteen artists representing Mathews in the Youth Art Month exhibit at One Congress Plaza, located at 111 Congress Avenue. I fielded questions and absorbed compliments to pass on to the artists, Emily Fleming, Eli Breston, Jackson Hughes, Jun Ha Choi, and Ezra Parma, 4th grade, Monica Magallanes, Nyla Gershoni, D Pardo, and Matthew Pardo, 5th grade, and Morgan O'Hanlon, Leah Siff, Alana Hughes, Alazae Ybarra, Saida Egli, and Qin Latimer, 6th grade.

Their work will be on display to the public until April 22nd, along with hundreds of other artists from every school in the Austin Independent School District.

There **are** some repeats of artists' names in the list of "Google 4 Doodle" contest finalists and semi-finalists from Mathews.

Google invited K-12 students to play around with their homepage logo and see what new designs they could come up with around the theme "What I Wish For the World."

AISD Art teachers chose twelve designs from the 71 submissions at Mathews, 6 semi-finalists, to recognize the excellent work they put into their entries, and the 6 finalists, whose work was mailed to Google for judging through State, Regional, and finally National levels. The Mathews semi-finalists are: Eleanor Estrada, Nicolas Torno, Kachelle Kaufhold, Xzavia Walker, Dimitri Villareal, and Kaya Pinchback. The finalists are: HaYoung Park, Monica Magallanes, Nyla Gershoni, Nayoung Ok, Adina Friedman, and Leah Siff. You'll be the first to know if we have any artists who advance in the competition.

### While You are Attending the Fine Arts Festival, April 23 ...

Stop by the Summer Activities Info table in the front hall and pick up info from area organizations offering family and student opportunities.

## Music Notes

News from the Music Room  
*Jean Lopez, Music: 841-1479*  
[jelopez@austinisd.org](mailto:jelopez@austinisd.org)

**Kindergarten** - Students are having fun playing games and singing songs as we continue to learn about the rhythmic concept of one and two sounds to a beat ('short'-'long'), dynamics (loud-soft), and same-different.

**1<sup>st</sup> grade** - The first graders are just beginning to read music! Students have been playing lots of singing games and recently learned the solfa names for 2 high and low pitches (so and mi) and their placement on the music staff.

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade** - The children are progressing nicely as they practice reading, singing, and writing the do (dough) pentatonic scale (do, re, mi, so, and la). The classes are singing and playing games that

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade** - The children are learning lots about the recorder and have almost mastered reading and playing their first song. Please remind your child of the importance of ten minutes of daily recorder practice. Congratulations to the third grade.

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade** - Students continue their recorder study and will be adding about 6 songs to their repertoire before the conclusion of the unit at the end of this month. Please remind your child of the importance of ten minutes of daily recorder practice.

**Austin Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert** - Students in some of the upper grades will be attending the Austin Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert in May so we will begin studying the music to be performed to prepare for the fun field trip.



## Cover to Cover

News from the Library  
Laurie Harwell, Librarian: 414-0900

We are working very hard in the library processing all the new books that we were able to purchase with our extra money from the district.

We are also getting ready for our annual Lone Star and Bluebonnet parties and raffles. These parties are a reward for the students who have read the most Lone Star and Bluebonnet books.

3rd/4th graders are learning about encyclopedias with our brand new World Book set.

Everyone is busy practicing using our online card catalog and learning how to find books independently.

Our next bookfair will be May 18-22.

## Prime Time Spring Enrichment Classes

Homework Center will end for this calendar year on Wednesday, April 22nd. Thanks to staff and the many volunteers who made this activity possible.

An International Folk Dance Troupe begins this Thursday. Students with a serious interest in dance are encouraged to join this group, which will represent Mathews in the community and at school wide events. Our own staff/ parent Maria Ramirez, with assistance from Dance Associates and other parents, will lead the 8-week class from April 2 - May 21 on Thursdays from 3-4 PM. Class size is limited; interested 1-6 Graders should contact Ms. Ramirez or Ms. Rushing

Upcoming Parade of Nations and Geography Bee classes are being planned to prepare for our International Festival in May.

## Technology Fund Update

### Good news!

A big thanks to the Mathews Fund for Excellence for their contribution of \$500 to the Technology Fund.

\$2252.50 from grocery card sales  
\$4499.96 donated by parents, students and community members  
\$500.00 award from Mathews Fund for Excellence  
**\$7252.46 total in the fund**

You can now donate to the technology fund online! Find the link at [http://mathews360.com/?page\\_id=814](http://mathews360.com/?page_id=814).

Use your credit card or make an ACH bank transfer.

So far we have received 13 contributions ranging from \$4 to \$1000. **Thank you!**

The Parade of Nations class will prepare participants to present the Opening Procession (Parade of Nations). Each student will carry their country of origin flag, prepare a greeting in their language, and share a descriptive sentence about the country. Participants also are strongly encouraged to wear a native costume if at all possible. Class will be held on Thursdays and before school the week of International Festival.

The Geography Bee class is available for 3-6th Graders interested in participating in the Geography Bee contest. Class time will be devoted to various geography activities - a fun way to learn about the world around us all.

Further info will be coming in a future Wednesday folder; if interested contact Ms. Rushing.

## Thank You From the 6th Graders!!

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade car wash fundraiser was a huge success this past weekend!

They made \$819 and want to thank everyone - parents, students, and teachers - who helped, as well as everyone who came and got their car washed.

The money that was made will go towards the 6<sup>th</sup> grade annual camp trip ... Lots of fun ahead!



## OWANA Good Times Celebration

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009**  
**ON WEST LYNN BETWEEN**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> STREETS**  
**2:00 - 5:00 pm**

**JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR**  
**FUN, FOOD AND MUSIC!**  
**Face Painting, Cookie**  
**Decorating, Guitar Hero,**  
**Puppy Parade, Live Music,**  
**and MORE!**

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT**  
**THE WEST AUSTIN PARK**  
**AND THE MARY FRANCIS**  
**BAYLOR CLARKSVILLE PARK**

**Participating Sponsors**  
**include Anthony's**  
**Cleaners, Bonds, Caffé**  
**Medici, Clarksville CDC, El**  
**Interior, Fresh Plus, Galaxy**  
**Café, OWANA, West Lynn**  
**Corner Store, West Lynn**  
**Veterinary Clinic, Zocalo**  
**and More**

## Mathews Partners in Education 2008-2009

**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!**

### If You Missed March's CAC Meeting...

We reviewed the school's proposed budget for 2009-10. We will be able to keep a full-time literacy specialist and two full-time special education teachers, but we lost one half-time special education aide. So far the school has collected over \$5,000 toward retaining our half-time technology teacher.

A grant proposal was submitted to the Austin Community Foundation for \$15,000. Construction is continuing on the elevator and we are soliciting assistance of local business professionals in assessing options for building improvements.

Finally, we discussed restructuring State of Mathews to include breaking out into focus groups such as: improving the cafeteria to include healthier options, green building options, community service projects, outreach to the neighborhood, helping parents understand how math is taught at Mathews, future fundraising, and school safety.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 6th at 3:00pm.

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 Republican Women  
Bennigans  
BookPeople  
Carter Design Associates  
Central Market 061 - HEB  
Circle K International - UT  
Coptic Students of Texas - UT  
Dance Associates  
Downtown Austin Alliance  
Dr. J. Fox & Associates  
El Arroyo Restaurants  
Enspire Learning, Inc.  
Fresh Plus - West Lynn  
Galaxy Cafe - West Lynn  
Gamma Beta Phi Society - UT  
Grubb & Ellis Mgmt. Services  
GSD&M Idea City Advertising  
Guero's Taco Bar  
i9 Sports  
Idylwood Stables

Jeffrey's Restaurant/ Cipollinas  
Katz's Deli Restaurant  
Magnolia Cafe  
Mangia Chicago Stuffed Pizza  
MedAid.org  
Nau Enfield Drug  
Old West Austin Neighborhood Asso.  
Phi Beta Chi - UT  
Pizza Hut #7101  
Pizza Nizza  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Quix Food Store  
Randall's Food & Pharmacy  
St. Luke Ut. Methodist Church  
Starbucks - 5th St. and Lamar  
Sweetish Hill Bakery  
Tapestry Dance Company  
Tech Connects - UT  
Texenza Coffee  
Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. - UT  
Thundercloud Subs  
Umoja - UT  
UT Democrats  
Waterloo Records & Video  
Whole Earth Provision Company  
Whole Foods Market Global Hdqts.  
34th Street Cafe

### If You Missed The March PTA Board Meeting...

The Tech teacher fundraiser is going well. As of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, around \$4,000 in donations has been received. The coins alone amount to about \$1,140 and are still trickling in.

It was decided to purchase planners again for the upper grades to ensure consistency and have them available for purchase at the beginning of the year.

The HEB Grocery card program is picking up with a significant increase in the number of cards sold in February.

The fundraising committee decided not to pursue a fun run for this year but to consider some other alternatives, including an art auction with participation from Mathews kids and a dinner/picnic and entertainment fundraiser.

A sub- group of the fundraising committee is also forming to focus primarily on grant opportunities.