



THE CASA GRANDE TIMES

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A GAUCHO

October, 2015

VISION IN ACTION

Message from the Principal

8,000 Hours



Casa seniors from the class of 2015 wait in anticipation in the Big House Library, as they prepare to present their Senior Projects to panels of community judges last Spring..

At Casa Grande High School, we strive to prepare all of our students to be successful.

We want all of our graduates to be complex thinkers and problem-solvers. We want them to be prepared for 21st century global citizenship. We want them to be highly effective communicators and collaborators. And of course, we want all of our graduates to have a positive sense of self-worth, a healthy outlook on life, a sense of purpose and belonging and to enjoy meaningful friendships and family connections.

One of the most powerful educational experiences that Casa provides its students is the Senior Project, a capstone, yearlong project that every Casa senior completes. The interdisciplinary project challenges students in myriad ways, requiring them to complete at least 20 hours of community service, build a website to document their project, engage in research, work directly with an adult mentor, and give a public presentation to a panel of community judges. The project, perhaps more than any other assignment they complete in high school, gives students the opportunity to truly engage in real-world learning, which requires goal-setting, flexibility, risk-taking, false starts and perseverance—skills necessary for success after high school in post-secondary education, the workplace and in the civic arena.

Casa's current seniors have already begun this exciting work. Some of the projects already underway for the 2015-16 school year include: Project Vincero, a memorial for James Forni, volunteer work at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, Childcare support at La Tercera, 5K run for childhood cancer research, volunteering at the Soup Kitchen at the MaryIsaak Center, house building in Mexico, and supporting Sonoma County's Bookmobile to promote literacy. One student is even considering building an iPad app designed to improve communication at Casa Grande!

With nearly 400 seniors, Casa students will complete over 8,000 hours of community service, giving back to the Petaluma community in truly meaningful ways and providing our students with relevant learning experiences that go far beyond traditional academics. (To learn more about one of last year's highly successful and award-winning senior projects, please read the story in the Achievement section below titled, "We Built That.") --Eric Backman



Community volunteers review Casa senior project web pages just prior to judging student presentations. Every Spring, nearly 200 community members volunteer to judge senior projects at Casa.

Save the Date:

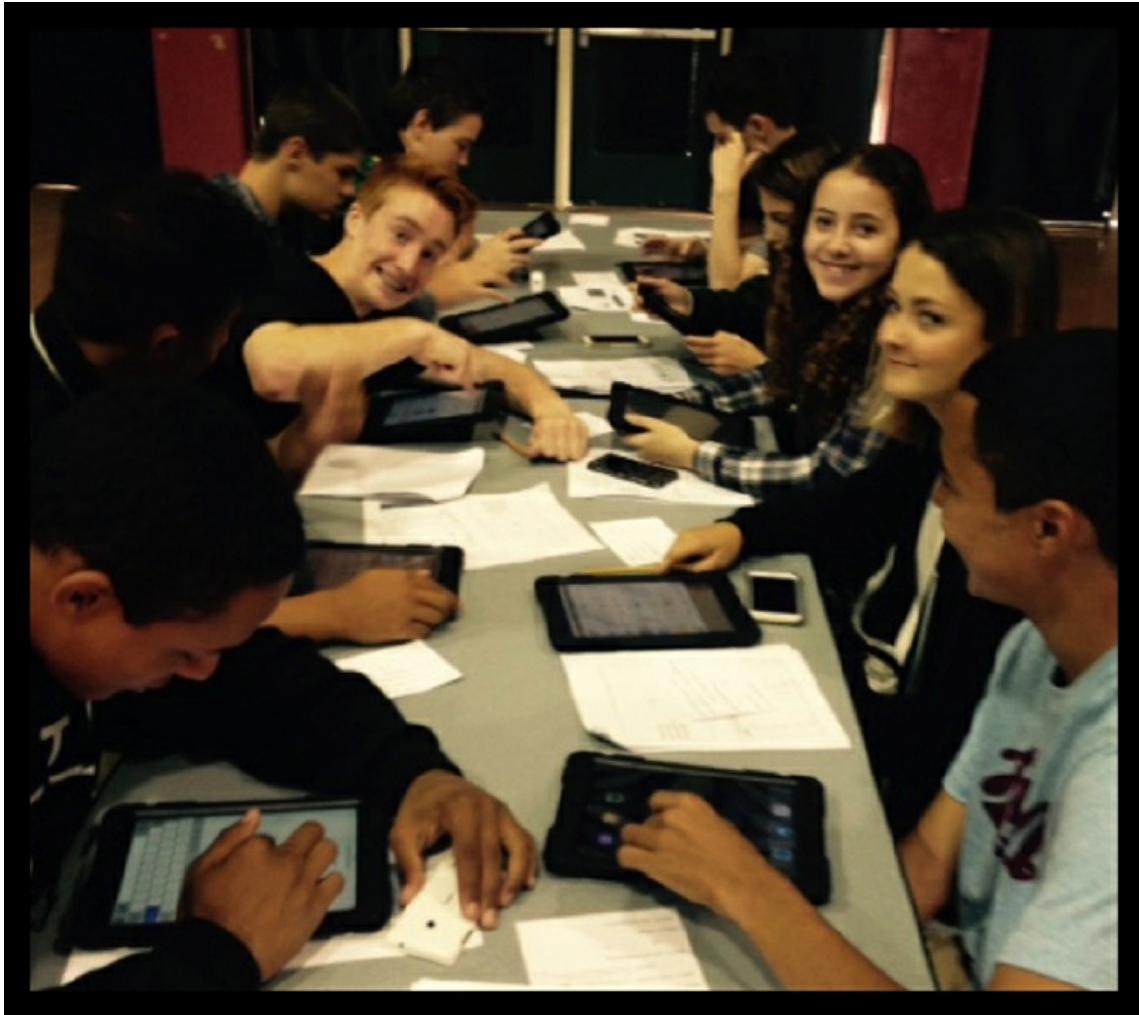
Senior Project presentations for the class of 2016 are scheduled for May 24 and 25.

Parents and community members are strongly encouraged to volunteer to be a judge. If you are interested, please mark your calendars now. Invitations to sign up will be sent out in early Spring, 2016.

What's Going On?

Stay Informed and Get Involved

IPad Deployment



Students work in the NMU on setting up accounts on their new iPads Friday morning, Oct. 2.

Apple iPads were successfully deployed to nearly all 1700 Casa students this past week. Considering all the moving parts and complexity of this new initiative, the distribution of iPads went considerably well. Casa teachers and students will now transition into an exciting new era of teaching and learning, where all students have ready access to the power of the internet and innovative and ever-evolving tools to enhance research, communication, and collaboration.

iPads are powerful learning tools and they will require that all members of the Casa community--parents, teachers and students--consistently reinforce responsible use. To

this end, Casa staff and parents must work together to promote digital literacy and citizenship.

[Click here to read some provocative thoughts on technology and parenting as we enter this new phase of education in Petaluma.](#)

[Petaluma City Schools iPad Handbook](#)

Star Wars Movie Nights continue Nov. 20th in the Gym



Inspired by James Forni's love of the Star Wars films and characters, Casa Grande High School, along with the Forni Family, will host three Star Wars Movie Nights in the Casa Grande Gymnasium, October 9, **November 20** and **December 11**. Be sure to mark your calendars and get your Star Wars costumes ready! Donations will be accepted for the James Forni Memorial Fund.

Homecoming 2015

Casa's Homecoming Week is nearly upon us. Please join us at the Homecoming Football Game on **Friday, November 6th**. Due to ongoing track and field construction at Casa, the game will be played at Petaluma High School. Casa will host Montgomery High School in what promises to be a great football game. We hope to see you there.

Casa in the news

Casa seniors David Yee, Claire Killian and Ram Goli, recently presented their summer internship projects on cancer research and water harvesting at Sonoma State University. [SSU Presentations](#)

Casa Grande and Petaluma High School organized a very successful gift card drive for victims of the Valley Fire. Thanks to the generosity of Casa parents and families, Casa raised over \$4500 in just five days.

[Gift Card Drive](#)

Read the *Argus* article about the promising start for Casa's new principal :)

[Casa's New Principal](#)

The *Argus* reports that Casa grad, Jake Lee, is named new head varsity boys basketball coach.

[New CGHS Basketball Coach](#)

Project Grad Needs You!

The Project Grad committee is meeting **Tuesday, October 13**, in the Staff Faculty Lounge at 6:30. We are in search of additional committee members to help plan this fabulous party as well as volunteers to help staff the event. Additional information about Project Grad is available at our website: <http://www.cghsprojectgrad.com>

This year's Project Grad: Friday, June 3, 2016.

Support the Music Program at Don Pancho's Mexican Restaurant

Join us for a Dine & Donate fundraiser to support the Casa Grande Music Program at Don Pancho's Mexican Restaurant, 285 N. McDowell Blvd, Petaluma, on **Thursday, November 5th**, 10 am - 9 pm. Mention the Casa Grande Music Program when you pay and Casa Grande Music will receive 30% of the cost of your order. Contact CGHSBandEmails@gmail.com if you would like a copy of the flyer. Thanks for your support!

Booster Club:

The Casa Grande Booster Club mission is to support academics, technology, fine arts and athletics. The next Booster Club meeting is at 7pm on **Monday November 9th** and **Monday December 14th** in the teachers lounge behind the OMU. And while only Boosters can vote, absolutely anyone can attend. We are always looking for volunteers.

The Boosters meet monthly on the second Monday of the month at 7pm. We try to keep meetings to an hour. During the meeting, we hear about what is going on at the school from the vice principal and in athletics from the athletic director. We hear presentations from teachers about what their needs are in the classroom and vote on approval of requests. Our budget is about \$95,000 for this current fiscal year. We plan on holding one fundraiser, besides our weekly Sunday bingo game, on February 22nd, 2016 at Lagunitas. Save the date!

We would like to thank Alyssa Fowler from the Graphic Design class for designing our

new logo.

You can find more information about the Boosters at <http://casagrandehighschool.weebly.com/boosters.html>

PTSA news!

Please support the PTSA **Chipotle** fundraiser on **Tuesday, November 10th**, 4-8 pm at Petaluma Chipotle, 401 Kenilworth Drive. Proceeds support classroom grants and senior scholarships.

Darcy Larimore-Arenas, PA-C, staff physician from Petaluma Health Center, Casa Grande site, will be speaking at the **November 18th** PTSA meeting, 7pm in the Staff Lounge. She will be updating parents on the new services provided to Casa Grande students this year.

Find out more information about Casa Granda PTSA by liking our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bighouseptsa> or by visiting our web page at <http://casagrandehighschool.weebly.com/ptsa.html>

Other Casa Events

October 15, 22, 29: College application workshops, 2:30-4pm in the Casa library.

October 23: the Casa Grande HS Symphonic Band will be performing a joint concert with the SSU Wind Ensemble. The concert will be at Weill Hall and will start at 7:30 p.m.

October 30: Principal's Tour, 9-10:30am. Call 778-4679 for more information.

November 6: HOMECOMING! Rally and parade during the day. Football game versus Montgomery HS at 7:30 pm at Petaluma HS. The Casa Marching Band will be at the game.

November 7: Homecoming Dance 6:30-10:30pm in the GYM.

November 11: the Casa Marching Band will be in the Veteran's Day Parade - 1:00 p.m. step-off, in downtown Petaluma.

November 20: Star Wars Movie Night in the GYM, 6-9:30 pm. Free admission; donations accepted for the Forni Scholarship Fund. Wear your Star Wars gear and enjoy!! (No chairs-so bring a blanket.)

Achievement

Gaucha Gazette Nominated for Pacemaker Award "The Pulitzer Prize for

Student Journalists”



The 2015-16 Gazette staff

The Gaucho Gazette, Casa Grande's student newspaper, is a finalist for the 2015 Newspaper Pacemaker award given by the National Scholastic Press Association. The award is the highest national honor for journalism students and has been considered the Pulitzer Prize of student journalism since its inception in 1927. *The Gaucho Gazette* has won myriad honors at *The Press Democrat's* annual high school journalism awards ceremony--everything from Best Layout and Design, Best Sports Writing, Best Features Writing, Best Investigative Reporting, and Overall Champion-- for 10+ years. *Gaucho Gazette* alumni have gone on to study at some of the best universities in the country, including all ten University of California campuses, Harvard, Barnard, Cornell, and Northeastern.

“We Built That” Casa Senior Project, 2015, Nominated for National Conservation Award



2015 Casa graduate, David Schyberg, lines up to start amountain bike race in Monterey last year.

Casa 2015 graduates Josh Marical, Nick Tribble, Emmett Schrader and David Schyberg have just been nominated for the national SHIFT Award, with a potential prize of \$10,000. The SHIFT Awards “recognize individuals, initiatives, or organizations that make innovative, impactful and replicable contributions to conservation through human-powered outdoor recreation.” (<http://shiftjh.org/2015-shift-award-finalists-summit-invitees-announced/>) In a few weeks, the four students will be flown to Wyoming to attend the annual SHIFT Summit and present their project on behalf of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) and Casa Grande High School.

In a recent email from Josh to his former teachers, Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Weir, he wrote “I guess I just wanted to say thanks for inspiring seniors like myself to give something meaningful to our community and to make it become something bigger. It really does show that we can make a difference. Thank you so much!”

Check out the video “We Built That.” <http://www.nationalmtb.org/blog/2015/06/15/we-built-that/>

Casa Grande High School • 333 Casa Grande Road • Petaluma • CA
<http://casagrandehighschool.weebly.com>

The Casa Grande Times is published monthly to inform parents of important news and updates related to our school community, and to unify our parents and community stakeholders in support of Casa students, teachers and staff.

Connect with us



If you have suggestions for us, please email them to casagrandetimes@petk12.org.