



THE CASA GRANDE TIMES

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A GAUCHO

November, 2015

VISION IN ACTION

Message from the Principal

Growth Mindset



Focused and determined, Azaria Guernon, Casa senior, rehearses in the Casa Grande High School drumline back in August, a week before the start of the school year.

Azaria and her fellow bandmates are among the hardest working students on campus. In addition to taking a full load of classes, most of Casa's music students take a zero period music class, regularly rehearse and perform after school, and take music

lessons. The success of Casa's music program has as much to do with hard work and determination, as it does with the natural talent of students.

Are intelligence and natural talent fixed traits that people are just lucky to be born with? Are certain students, due to their genetic inheritance, destined to excel and succeed, while others are bound to struggle?

In her book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, Carol Dweck, a Stanford University psychologist, challenges the assumption that intelligence is a fixed trait. Citing a host of new discoveries in the field of neuroscience and adolescent development, Dweck argues that intelligence--particularly during adolescence, when the brain is undergoing tremendous growth--is not a fixed trait at all, but rather is quite pliable. In her book, Dweck shows how students' self-perception about their ability to learn, and their understanding of the nature of intelligence itself, is critical to the capacity to learn and grow. Students who come to view their intelligence as a trait that can be developed and expanded have what Dweck calls a growth mindset. Studies show that students who adopt a growth mindset, or the belief that they are capable of significant intellectual growth, are able to achieve at much higher levels and continue to do so throughout their lives.

Recently, Casa teachers and staff have been reading Dweck's book and discussing its implications for the classroom and the school. At Casa, we are interested in promoting growth mindsets. We want all of our students to understand that everyone has the innate capability to grow their intellect and skill sets in real and significant ways. Students who are convinced that they "are just bad at math" or "can't do art," can actually find success in these and other subjects through hard work and by focusing on their own growth and development over time.

For this to happen, though, the school community, which includes both teachers and parents, must change the way we talk about and celebrate student success. Dweck argues that instead of focusing on achievement and success alone, teachers and parents should emphasize the amount of work that it took to be successful.

THINK ABOUT

What if parents said, "You must have worked very hard," instead of, "You are so smart?" How might this affect how much harder our kids would try next time?

As a school community, we want to promote hard work, risk-taking, and perseverance. So instead of praising students for their intelligence (ie, "you're so smart") or their natural talent ("you're so amazing"), we should focus on the hard work that leads to accomplishment. --Eric Backman

Check out these two videos about Growth Mindset:

[Carol Dweck on Believing You Can Improve](#)



[The Science of Adolescent Learning](#)

What's Going On?

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Nov 10: Dine and Donate at Chipotle to support PTSA (see more below)

Nov 11: Veterans Day - NO School

Nov 11: Casa Marching Band in Veteran's Day Parade 1pm, in downtown Petaluma.

Nov 13, 14, 15 and 20, 21, 22: Casa Grande Fall Play-"The Learned Ladies"
Fridays and Saturdays 7 pm; Sundays 1 pm.

Nov 18: ELAC meeting, 6:30 pm in room M-3

Nov 18: PTSA meeting, 7 pm in the Staff Lounge

Nov 20: Star Wars Movie Night-The Empire Strikes Back, 6 pm in the GYM

Nov 23-27: FALL Break- NO School

Dec 3: Winter Choir Concert, 7 pm in the NMU

Dec 4: Casa Grande Holiday Faire in the NMU

Dec 4: Casa Grande Choirs to perform at Light Up a Life tree lighting ceremony in downtown Petaluma near Mystic Theater at 7pm.

Dec 10: Winter Band Concert, 7 pm in the NMU

Dec 11: Star Wars Movie Night-Return of the Jedi, 6 pm in the GYM

Dec 12: Casa Grande Choirs performing at Festival of Christmas at Petaluma Valley Baptist Church at 4pm.

PTSA

Support PTSA...No cooking! Dine & Donate at Chipotle, tonight **Tuesday, November 10th, 4-8pm**, and help support classroom grants & senior scholarships. Go to our [Facebook](#) page to print up the attached Chipotle flyer and bring it in. 50% of all proceeds supports classroom grants and Senior scholarships.

PTSA meeting on **November 18th, 7pm** in staff lounge, features guest speaker Darcie Larimore-Arenas, PA-C, MPH. Darcie will speak about teen health issues & services provided by Casa Grande Clinic.

Big thanks to parents who sent in items for our "All Treats, No Tricks" Halloween staff event! PTSA and the casa staff appreciate your support!



Booster Club

Become a Booster member and support students in Fine Arts, Academics and Athletic

programs - visit www.casagrandeboosters.com to sign up today.

We are a nonprofit organization of parents, staff and alumni supporting the Academic, Technology, Fine Arts, and Athletic programs of Casa Grande students since 1975.

During the 2014/2015 school year, we distributed over \$100,000 to benefit Casa Grande students.

Join us and help decide where funds will be distributed this year.

When: the second Monday of each month

Where: Casa Campus Staff Lounge (behind the cafeteria)

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Refreshments and drinks are provided -- Looking forward to seeing you

Save the Date for our annual dinner and fundraiser: **Feb 22, 2016 @ Lagunitas**

Casa Grande Choirs

November 20th, the Casa Grande High School Chamber Choir will, along with a few other Sonoma County high school choirs, join the Sonoma State Symphonic Chorus and Chamber Singers in their "Candlelight Family Concert." The concert will be on the stage of Weill Hall at The Green Music Center and begins at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$8.00 and includes parking.

December 3, the Casa Grande High School Choirs will have their Winter Choral Concert. It will be in the NMU at Casa Grande High School and begins at 7:00 PM. There is no admission, but donations are gladly accepted and appreciated. This concert will feature the Concert Choir, the Chamber Choir, and Casapella.

December 4th, the Casa Grande High School Choirs will be performing at the 30th Annual "Light Up a Life" tree lighting ceremony sponsored by St. Joseph Health. This event is for Hospice of Sonoma County and honors people who battle or have battled cancer and their loved ones. The event will take place at Center Park (the large pine trees in front of the Mystic Theater on Petaluma Boulevard). The event is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM. [Find more information here!](#)

December 10th, the Casa Grande High School Bands will have their Winter Band Concert. It will be in the NMU at Casa Grande High School and begins at 7:00 PM. There is no admission, but donations are gladly accepted and appreciated. This concert will feature the Freshman Band, the Concert Band, the Symphonic Band, the JV Jazz Band, the Varsity Jazz Band, and two selections with all bands combined.

December 12th, the Casa Grande Choirs will be performing as a part of the "Festival of Christmas" at Petaluma Valley Baptist Church. The Casa Choirs' performance will begin at 4:00 PM.

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Project Grad -- Project Grad: Friday, June 3, 2016.

The ProjectGrad committee will meet Tuesday, January 12th, 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. More information is available at our website: <http://www.cghsprojectgrad.com>

Casa Grande Band

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

Casa in the News

Read this fantastic [Argus article about Elijah Qualls, Casa Grad](#) , who is a rising star on and off the field at the University of Washington in Seattle.



Also read this great article about Casa's [Homecoming Game Victory Over Montgomery](#).

A few photos from Homecoming Week





Achievement

Nathan Libecap is Casa's Educator of the Year for 2015



Congratulations to Nathan Libecap (and Library Assistant, Helen Austin), Casa Grande's Educator of the Year for 2015-16. Nathan will represent Casa at this year's California League of High Schools Region 1 Educator of the Year Recognition Ceremony on November 10th. Nathan has been selected for this prestigious honor due to his tireless efforts to promote literacy to all students and teachers in and outside of school, his contributions to the creation of a school culture that is friendly, safe and inclusive for all, his consistent promotion of creativity and innovation, and for his dedication to effective professional collaboration. Former Casa Educators of the Year include: Eric Backman,

A Solid Start: The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) scores are in for 2015

Public schools across the state received their first results from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). As the charts (compiled by Casa math teacher, Scot Wigert) below show, Casa's current 12th graders did well relative to other schools, particularly in English Language Arts. Casa students have established a baseline score in our first year that sets a high standard--yet with plenty of room for growth. Casa should be proud of the work that we have done to implement challenging new curriculum and instructional practices. The community should be especially proud of our students, who exhibited persistence and hard work as they met the challenge of a very long and rigorous test. For more information about the CAASPP Assessment, please go to the parent guide link here: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/sbparentgde11.pdf>

English				Math			
Rank	School	% Meet or Exceed	# tested	Rank	School	% Meet or Exceed	# tested
1	Tech High	93	70	1	Tech High	77	71
2	Casa	77	378	2	Carillo	52	384
3	Analy	77	315	3	Analy	51	311
4	Valley Oaks	71	31	4	Credo	44	27
5	Carillo	68	390	5	El Mo	42	118
6	El Mo	69	118	6	Casa	41	381
7	SR HS	65	435	7	PHS	38	301
8	Windsor	64	395	8	Windsor	33	369
9	PHS	61	295	9	SR HS	31	435
10	Credo	58	26	10	Sonoma Val	31	270
	County	60			County	31	
	State	56			State	30	

Casa Grande High School • 333 Casa Grande Road • Petaluma • CA [Website](#)

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.

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