



# THE CASA GRANDE TIMES

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IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A GAUCHO

*December, 2015*

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## VISION IN ACTION

Message from the Principal

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### Petaluma Dreamers



Last month, forty-four Casa and Petaluma High School students and eight members of Petaluma City Schools' staff attended the Fulfilling the Dream Conference at Santa Rosa Junior College. An estimated 350 students from multiple countries attended the event to learn about pathways to post-secondary education for students who are not yet U.S. citizens. This fieldtrip is a great example of the exciting work being done at Casa to support the aspirations and hard work of Casa students who come from diverse backgrounds and who are historically underrepresented in college.

Casa 10th grader, Maria Gonzalez, attended the conference and had this say:

*My name is MariaGonzalez. I am a tenth grader at Casa Grande High School. I attended the Dreamers' Conference on Friday, November 6, 2015. I attended, even though I am not a Dreamer. I thought it would be a great opportunity to listen to different stories and find out about the lives of Dreamers in our community. I realized that not only are there very interesting stories, but also a lot of ways Dreamers can attend college. They informed us that there are scholarship opportunities for everyone. You don't have to be a legal citizen to go to college. There were different workshops we could attend to see the different ways and types of help to keep our education growing. I believe it was a very helpful conference, and they should keep doing it so all of our community can gain this knowledge and go to college.*

One of the greatest strengths of Casa Grande is its diverse student body, which mirrors state and national demographic trends. A recent Pew Research Center study (read "5 Facts About America's Students" below) indicates that American students are more diverse and also "on track to be better educated" than previous generations.

Casa's Dreamers, who are primarily first generation college-going students, are a local example of a diversification trend that is statewide, national and also global. These are students who are working very hard to create opportunities to access higher education to improve their lives, along with their families'. In doing so, they are also helping the economy. Analysis by UC Berkeley Law School shows the vast benefits of the Dream Act on local and state economies. Read the article [CA Dream Act: Return on Investment](#).

Casa's Dreamers, along with all other students, contribute to an extremely rich and vibrant cultural life at school. As our students prepare to enter a world that is increasingly diverse, interconnected and global, what better way to prepare than to attend a school where students from diverse backgrounds socialize, collaborate, study, perform, problem-solve, compete, and share friendships on a daily basis. -- Eric Backman

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AUGUST 10, 2015

5 facts about America's students

BY LAUREN KENT | 24 COMMENTS

In a few weeks, America's roughly **53.5 million K-12 students** will head to the classroom. Trading in swimming pools and summer jobs for math problems and history homework, these students will hit the books at one of more than **129,200 schools** across the country, including about **5,700 charter schools** and **30,900 private schools**.

Pew Research Center has found today's American students as a whole to be more diverse – and on track to be better educated – than their parents and grandparents. Here are five key findings about these students:

[Read More Here](#)

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# What's Going On?

Stay Informed and Get Involved

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## Events:

- December 16,17,18-FinalExams-Student dismissal at 12:45 pm each day
  - December 18-End of theFirst Semester
  - December 19 through January4-Winter Break
  - January 5-First day of theSecond Semester
  - January 11-Boosters Meetingin the Staff Lounge 7-8:30pm
  - January 12-8th Grade ParentNight in the NMU 6:30-9pm
  - January 13-Project GradPlanning Meeting in the Staff Lounge 6:30-8:30pm
  - January 13-ELAC Meeting inthe Library 6:30-8pm
  - January 13 and 14-DramaAuditions in the NMU after school
  - January 20-PTSA Meeting inthe Staff Lounge 7-8:30pm
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## PTSA

The next PTSA meeting will be January 20th, 7pm in the staff lounge. Our guest speaker will be Lyn Romstad, Mentor Me Coordinator for Casa Grande. PTSA is seeking volunteers to chair Senior Scholarship Committee (meets in early May) and Senior Breakfast (June 3rd-7am). Please email Lisa Allen at [joe3lisa3@comcast.net](mailto:joe3lisa3@comcast.net) for more details.

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## Music Program Fundraiser at Lagunitas

The Casa Grande Music Program will be holding a fundraising event on **Monday, January 25, 2016, from 5:30 - 8:30 at Lagunitas Beer Garden**, to support their upcoming Disneyland-Southern California Performance Trip. Join us for an evening of fun, friends, family, silent auction, raffle, dancing and music! The CGHS Jazz Bands and Chamber Choir will provide entertainment. Caterered Taco Dinner by Don Pancho's.

**Tickets are available online at Brown Paper**

**Tickets:** <http://CGHSMusicProgram.brownpapertickets.com>.

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## Project Grad

Calling all Underclassmen parents especially freshmen. ProjGrad is in dire need of committee members.

Namely: prizes, web managing, and someone to oversee the kitchen. If you like to shop, sharpen your digital skills and keep the food coming hot. This would be perfect for you. A chance to make a difference for a safe and sober senior party. Come join the fun! Next meeting in the Faculty lounge, **January 13, 2016** - Wednesday at 6:30pm.

Need a Great gift idea for those that are hard to buy for...Host Lion's Food, Wine & Craft Beer Festival tickets now available. Mark your calendars for March 12. 2016 contact Beth Pesutich-Mendoza 707.332.7537 or [princesssparkles24@yahoo.com](mailto:princesssparkles24@yahoo.com)

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## Booster Club Fundraiser

Our annual fundraiser is on **February 22, 2016** at Lagunitas Brewing Company. All monies the Booster Club raises go to all CGHS students. There will be an auction and Lombardi's pasta dinner. No host bar. Must be 21. Tickets \$25.00. Tickets can also be purchased at [casagrandeboosters.com](http://casagrandeboosters.com).

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## Join the Team

One of the best ways parents and community members can support Casa teachers and students is to become a member of PTSA and Boosters. Both organizations play an essential role in supporting the incredible work being done at Casa by funding our athletes, academics and artists and the teachers and staff who support and educate them. Please visit:

[PTSA like us on Facebook](#)

[Boosters](#)

[Project Graduation](#)

Eastside Friends of Music

Friends of Drama

United Anglers

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## Casa in the News

### Gauchos' Barich 23rd at state final



ALVIN JORNADA/ARGUS-COURIERE

Casa Grande's Adria Barich finished third in the North Coast Section championships to earn a trip to the state meet.

Casa's Adria Barich finished 23rd in the state in the CIF Cross Country Final. Read all



## Field of Dreams



Check out this photo of Casa's new, soon-to-be-completed, track and field, which was taken by Casa senior Ram Goli and his drone.

Read the Argus article "Big Gift for Casa Grande" about the soon-to-be-completed all-weather track and field at Casa. <http://www.petaluma360.com/sports/4853136-181/big-gift-for-casa-grande>

*The Paris attacks hit very close to home. Read this story about a Casa grad's eye witness account of the horror of the Paris terror attacks.*

<http://www.petaluma360.com/news/4769153-181/petaluma-couple-witnessed-paris-attack>

## Tree Hugger



*Students in Casa's 3D:Make class recently constructed life-sized human sculptures constructed of packing tape and newspaper. The sculptures have been thematically placed throughout campus.*





## Achievement

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### Team AcDec Starts to Prep for Competition



Introducing Casa Grande's 2015-16 AcDec Team. This year, the rigorous and multifaceted academic competition will focus on the nation of India. Students will study Indian history, literature, culture, economics, science and mathematics. Casa's AcDec Team is a 31-year State Finalist led by master teacher, Mr. Rick Pillsbury. Go team! Go Gauchos!

## Holiday Wish

On behalf of Casa Grande High School's teachers and staff, I would like to wish all of our parents, students and supporters a happy, relaxing and safe winter holiday. We'll see you back at school on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. --Eric

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.

*Connect with us*

