



THE CASA GRANDE TIMES

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A GAUCHO

January 2016

VISION IN ACTION

Message from the Principal



The Casa Grande High School campus in 1972, the year the school opened.

Welcome to the Class of 2020

On Tuesday, January 12, I had the pleasure of welcoming Casa students and parents of the class of 2020. In just six months, this group of students, who are currently 8th graders, will be the newest members of the Casa community and will become part of a growing tradition that strives for excellence.

8th Grade Parent Night is one of my favorite events of the school year because it gives

Casa teachers a public forum to showcase the exciting and innovative programs and curriculum offered at Casa, while also demonstrating their commitment to excellence and professionalism. The event also gives us the opportunity to define who we are as a school and to communicate to the public what we stand for and believe in.

During my opening remarks to parents, I drew upon a couple of themes that I believe truly define who we are as a school community. One of those themes is *Innovation and Iteration*. At Casa, we never stop trying to improve and to meet students' evolving needs. In just the last few years, Casa has embarked on the 1:1 iPad initiative, added a computer science program, the H-ONE 3D:Maker Space (see article below), and the Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE). Meanwhile, Casa has maintained a steadfast commitment to providing all students with instruction and coursework in core and elective classes that will prepare them well for success in post-secondary education, the workplace, and in the civic arena.

The 8th Grade Parent Night presentation included a look at two photographs, one taken in 1972, after the school was first opened. The other was taken just a few weeks ago at the beginning of 2016. The comparison of these photos is a telling illustration of how much Casa has grown in its forty-four year history and how committed this school community is to meeting the ever-changing needs of our students. --Eric



Here's Casa now in 2016. Since 1972, Casa has added the science wing, 23 R-wing classrooms, a health clinic, solar power, the United Anglers Fish Hatchery, the Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE), and, coming soon, a state of the art all-weather track and field.

Casa's CORE Values Presented at 8th Grade ParentNight, 2016

- College and Career Readiness
 - 9th Grade Counts
 - Innovation & Iteration
 - Value Diversity
 - Relationships & Community
-

What's Going On?

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Friday, January 29: Principal's Tour 9-10:30am Call 778-4679 for more info

Saturday, January 30: Winter Formal Dance in the GYM 6:30-11pm

Monday, February 8: NO SCHOOL, Abraham Lincoln Holiday

Tuesday, February 9: Project Grad meeting in Staff Lounge 6:30pm.

Monday, February 15: NO SCHOOL, Presidents Day Holiday

Tuesday, February 16: Boosters Meeting in the Staff Lounge 7-8:30pm

Note: February 2 & 3 are regularly scheduled schooldays. The CA Department of Education has suspended the California Exit Exam, which was originally scheduled to be taken on these days.

Project Grad

Fun evening out — **Saturday, March 12 - 2016 Food, Wine and Craft Beer Festival 6-8:30pm.**

Project Grad is now selling tickets to the 2016 **Food, Wine & Craft Beer Festival**, held on Saturday, March 12, 2016. 6pm-8:30, This event includes tasty selections from over 30 of our finest local caterers and restaurants, and a no host bar at the Veterans Memorial Building Petaluma. If you buy the tickets from Casa, ALL THE PROCEEDS benefit a Safe and Sober Graduation for Casa Seniors. Not only are you making a great contribution, but you get to try out food from all sorts of Petaluma food vendors. Yum! Buy your \$40 tickets with your friends and make it an adult night out!!

Tickets at \$40 each are available from Beth at (707) 332-7537 or princesssparkles24@yahoo.com

Tickets also available at CASA home basketball games. Please join in on this great event and help the Class of 2016 Project Grad event be a success!

Calling all parents— Project Grad is in need of committee members. Here's your chance to make a difference for a safe and sober graduation party. Come join the fun! Next meeting in the Faculty lounge, February 9, 2016 - Wednesday at 6:30pm.

Project Graduation's Safe and Sober Party was originally started in 1980 in Maine to prevent fatalities among graduation seniors during promotion season. The 'Sonoma County Project Grad' was founded in 1987 in response to increasing drug and alcohol use amongst students on their graduation night. Statistically this is the most dangerous night of the year for young people. Project Grad is a fun party for Seniors fully chaperoned and operated 100% by volunteer parents and community members.

Keep an eye out for information — Project Grad will be making our rounds to the classrooms in March to deliver Project Grad information to the Seniors. This event is so much fun — Don't miss out.

PTSA

PTSA is seeking a volunteer to head up Senior Scholarship committee; PTSA provides scholarships to senior students in recognition for their volunteer service in the community. PTSA is also seeking a volunteer to head up Senior Breakfast to be held on June 3rd. For more information, contact Lisa Allen at joe3lisa3@comcast.net

Casa Grande Music Program

The Casa Grande Music Program is holding a fundraising event this 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. Catered Taco Dinner by Don Pancho's. Tickets are still available online at [Brown Paper Tickets](#).

BOOSTER CLUB

Please join Boosters for our annual fundraiser at the **Lagunitas Brewing Co., February 22, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm**

Food Fun and Support our kids!

Pasta dinner provided by Lombardi's

No Host Bar (beer and wine) Must be 21

Buy your tickets now online for only \$25.00 per person at

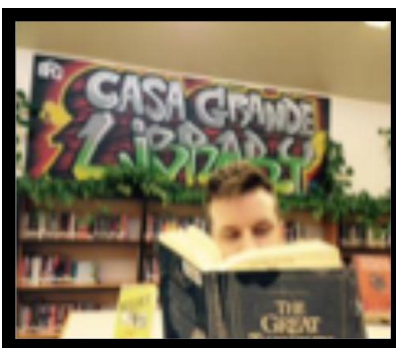
Want to make a difference? Boosters is looking for new Board members for the 2016/2017 school year.

You're welcome to attend any of our monthly meetings to get details on the positions available.

We are currently seeking a short term volunteer position to organize our 4th of July Fireworks booth. This would only be a two week project and be a great way to raise money for the students at Casa Grande.

If you're interested please contact Lori Torkelsen at lori@tnacpas.com for details.

The next Boosters meeting will be held on Tuesday February 16th at 7 pm. We meet in the staff lounge behind the Cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you there!



Mr. Libecap, Casa's Big House Librarian, Recommends...

This month's recommendation from Nathan Libecap is "[Why Floundering is Good](#)" (it's a short article).

The article is a great introduction to a concept called "[Productive Failure](#)" which is, in my opinion, an antidote to situations that we experience every day when students struggle to get from point A to point C without a structured and detailed explanation of point B.

When I went through my credential program eleven years ago, scaffolding instruction was emphasized. While useful and in some situations necessary, scaffolding doesn't always allow students to experience the chaos of problem solving outside of an academic setting. Productive Failure, as a concept and instructional tool, is a balance to scaffolding. -- Nathan

Additional recommended and related reading to the "Floundering" article

above: Read a really interesting article about the teenage brain that was recently published by *MindShift* in KQED News. Given the plasticity of the teen brain, which researchers now say lasts between the ages of 10 to 25 years, the author, Katrina Schwartz, advocates that educators consistently look for ways to confound, perplex and challenge students.



“When we are not challenging our kids in high school, not only are we hindering their academic development, but we also aren’t taking advantage of the plastic prefrontal cortex,” Steinberg said. The prefrontal cortex is strengthened by challenge and novelty. “This is when we want them to be challenged and pushed because this is when we can develop advanced thinking, as well as self-regulation,” Steinberg said.

[Harnessing the Incredible Learning Potential of the Adolescent Brain](#)

Casa in the News

Read this fantastic article, which includes a great interview with master art teacher Harry Frank, about Casa’s new H-ONE Makerspace and the 3D:Make class.

'Makerspace' at Casa Grande High School fosters innovation



[Makerspace at Casa Grande](#)

Achievement

Band Director, Arlene Burney, Receives National Honor



National award winning Casa Grande Band Director Arlene Burney working with the concert band Tuesday morning January 12, 2016 (SCOTT MANCHESTER/ARGUS-COURIER STAFF)

Casa Band Director and teacher extraordinaire, Arlene Burney, received the John Phillip Sousa Legion of Honor Laureate Award in late December. Presented with the award in Chicago, IL, Ms. Burney is one of only eight music educators in the entire nation to be honored with this prestigious recognition. Nominees only qualify if they have had 20 or more years of excellence in band direction. It is worth noting that Mark Wardlaw, Santa Rosa High School Band Director, also received the award this year. Read the story from the *Argus*: [National Award for Casa Band Director](#)

and the story on [Petaluma360.com](#).

Casa's Youth Entrepreneurship Award Winners



Casa Entrepreneurship students Connor Hanley, Stephen Proctor, Jordan Lute, Michal Hale and Alison Giammona (not pictured) recently won a regional business design competition hosted by the Youth Entrepreneurship Program. Michal and Alison won first place for their design of paracord key chains. Connor and Stephen won third place for their design of Casa color-by-class sun glasses. And, Jordan was a runner-up for his design of "Same" brand bracelets. Congratulations to each of these students and their teacher, Mr. David Meirik.

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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