



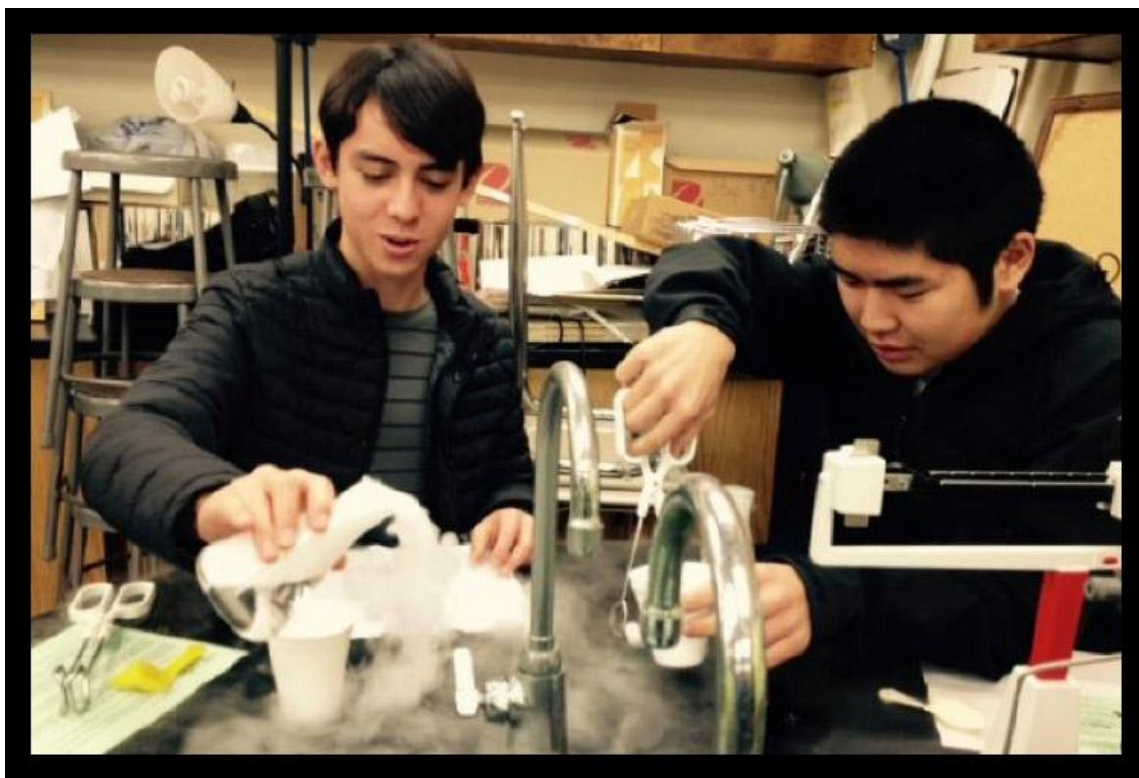
THE CASA GRANDE TIMES

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A GAUCHO

February 2016

VISION IN ACTION

Message from the Principal



Students in Ms. Cottle's Honors Chemistry class conduct experiments with dry ice.

February is an exciting month at school. It is the time when students begin signing up for classes for the coming school year. For students in high school especially, the selection of classes is extremely important and can help determine a student's college and career trajectory after high school. Choices about classes can also strengthen our communities and the world.

At Casa, there are so many great choices of core academic and elective classes that it is often difficult for students to choose. A number of recent studies shows, however, that among those choices students should be taking more science and math classes. In fact, at Casa and throughout Petaluma City Schools, educators are advocating that students take at least three or, even better, four years of both classes. This is part of a larger statewide and national agenda to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), in order to prepare young people to fill an estimated 2 million new, high paying jobs.

A 2007 Carnegie Foundation commission concluded that “the nation’s capacity to innovate for economic growth and the ability of American workers to thrive in the modern workforce depend on a broad foundation of math and science learning, as do our hopes for preserving a vibrant democracy and the promise of social mobility that lie at the heart of the American dream.”

The Carnegie study is cited, along with many others, on the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) website, which outlines the new nationally adopted science standards and the rationale that led to their creation. The need for new science standards and increased levels of math competency is focused on improving the lives of young people as they enter a rapidly changing, and increasingly competitive, global society. Additionally, the new standards are promoting the kind of education that will help ensure that the next generation is technologically and scientifically literate, and is able to address important social and global issues like healthcare, energy efficiency, clean water, poverty, and climate change.

As parents and educators, we should be strongly encouraging our kids to take more science and math classes. -- Eric



Secondary science teachers from throughout Petaluma City Schools met recently to plan for district-wide implementation of the new [Next Generation Science Standards](#).

What's Going On?

Stay Informed and Get Involved

- Tuesday, February 16, Boosters meeting, Staff Lounge, 7pm
 - Monday, February 22, End of 6 week grading period
 - Fri, Sat, Sun March 4,5,6 and 11,12,13 Drama Spring Production Fri/Sat at 7 pm, Sun at 1pm
 - Tuesday, March 8, Project Grad meeting, Staff Lounge, 6:30pm
 - Wednesday, March 9, ELAC meeting, Library, 6:30pm
 - Wednesday, March 9, PTSA meeting, Staff Lounge, 7pm
 - Wednesday, March 16, Casa Grande Band Spring Concert, NMU, 7pm
 - Friday, March 18, Staff Development Day NO school for students
 - Spring Break: Monday, March 21 through Friday, March 25 NO school
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BOOSTER CLUB

Want to Support the Casa Boosters?

Don't miss out on our next event! Tickets on sale now!!!!

Food Fun and Support our kids! Silent Auction with front row graduation seats!

February 22, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Lagunitas Brewing Co.

Pasta dinner provided by Lombardi's

Buy your tickets online for only \$25.00 per person

No Host Bar (beer and wine) Must be 21

www.CasaGrandeBoosters.com

Boosters currently has positions available for the 2016/2017 school year. Please email

[Lori Torkelson](mailto:Lori.Torkelson) if you are interested.

Project Grad

Come enjoy one of the great food events of the year — **the 2016 Food, Wine and Craft Beer Festival on Saturday,**

March 12 at 6pm. Lions Club will host this event where you get to sample delights from over 30 local food vendors.

Great music provided by high school bands, delicious food and a no host bar. Tickets are \$40 each.

This is a great fundraiser for our Safe and Sober Project Graduation party. All proceeds go to Project Grad!!

[Email Beth](#) for tickets or call her at 707-332-7537.

[More info here](#)

Looking for Casa Grande **student volunteers for Saturday, March 12th.**

We need 10 students 9am-12, lunch provided, for setting up the Host Lions event (balloons etc) and then 10 students to serve and (10) clean up (5pm-8pm & 8pm – 10pm). No adults.

Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors = community hours and a fun evening.

Seniors = \$10 off Senior Project Grad ticket (one time deduction-no compounding volunteer credits/cash for ticket purchase).

Please email [Beth Pesutich-Mendoza](mailto:princesssparkles24@yahoo.com) princesssparkles24@yahoo.com if you're a student that can volunteer.

Kelly O'Shea, a parent volunteer, will be visiting Senior Gov't/Econ classes on March 7th/8th to talk about the Safe and Sober Project Graduation Party and will be handing out information. Keep an eye out for this information!

Project Grad is still hoping to get more volunteers for our committees. We'd love to have some new Freshman and Sophomore parents join us and help fill positions next year.

Come to our next meeting in the Faculty Room at Casa on Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30pm.

Come test drive a Ford and earn \$20 for Project Grad!

Ford Motor Company will donate \$20 for each test drive and survey completed — Saturday, April 16 from 10am-2pm.

[Click here for more information](#)

PTSA

PTSA Meeting-March 9th, 7pm, Staff Lounge

Guest Speaker, Jane Mc Master, MEd, AAC certified ADHD Coach-Academic Coach, will be speaking on the "Basics of Academic Success for Your High Schooler".

Students and parents are welcome to attend. Presentation will focus on strategies for

completing homework successfully, tips for getting out the door each morning, ideas for quieting distraction during study time, and parent strategies for helping your student. Presentation will last about 30 minutes. See you then!

iPad Coverage Program

Letters weremailed out regarding the optional iPad coverage program which provides an inexpensive solution for parents to lessen the financial burden should an accident or theft occur. Please [click the link](#) for detailed information. The cost is \$35.00. Please see Ms. Samuel or Wendy in the main office to purchase. We are seeing students carrying iPads around with no cases. please remind students that cases should be kept on the iPads at all times. For more information regarding iPads please read over the [iPad Handbook](#).

Project SERVE - An Opportunity to Participate!

Casa's seniors are diligently working to complete their capstone projects. These represent many hours of research and mentored community service which will culminate in presentations to panels of community judges on **Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24 and 25, 2016**. If you'd like to be part of this tradition and serve on a panel, please email [Brenda Bellinger](mailto:bbellinger@petk12.org) at bbellinger@petk12.org. She will be happy to add you to our list.



[Casa Choir sings South Africa](#)

I had the pleasure of leading the monthly Principal's Tour earlier this month and had this incredible choir performance to present to prospective students and their parents.



After a month-long wait for the rain to stop, a string of dry days have allowed workcrews to return to the track to finish the job. If the weather cooperates, Casa's new track should be completed by the end of the month.

Project Vincero is underway!



An important and inspiring project is now underway. Located in front of the gymnasium, a new walkway, garden and sitting area is being installed that will showcase a sculpture of the Vincero "V", along with a number of James Forni's favorite inspirational quotes. The project is the brainchild of a number of our seniors who have designed the space and raised funds as part of their senior projects. Parent volunteers from Oak Grove Construction and Ohana Construction are donating both labor and materials to complete the project. Seniors involved with the project include: Nic Petri, JJ Anderson, Jimmy Burggraf, Dylan Roberts, Shane Ghiringhelli, Stephen Proctor, Connor Hanley.

Casa in the News

Petaluman helps create a global community



Kelly Rankin is an educator at Casa Grande High School and a regional coordinator for Education First High School Exchange Year. Photo by Lynn Schnitzer/The Argus-Courier.

Read this [greatArgus article](#) about Casa teacher Kelly Rankin and all that she does to support foreign exchange students. Kelly does an incredible job helping young people make meaningful connections with others from around the world.

Casa Grande honors football players



SUMNER FOWLER/FOR THE ARGUS-COURIER Dylan Roberts who came back from severe injuries suffered in a pre-season motorcycle accident received Casa Grande's first CJ Strong award in honor of CJ Banasek. On hand for the presentation were, left to right, varsity coach Trent Herzog, CJ's mother Heather Banaszek, Roberts and CJ's

Read [this article](#) about the recent Casa Football Awards Banquet, which honored players for more than athletic achievement. Awards were presented in honor of CJ Banaszek and James Forni.

Achievement

Casa AcDec Win Regionals for the 32nd Year in a Row!



The Casa Grande Academic Decathlon team had a tremendous performance this past Saturday as they were the victors of the North Bay Regional Competition and were named Sonoma County Champions for the 32nd consecutive year!! They out thought and out spoke 12 other schools in areas as diverse as Math, public speaking, literature, economics, music, science, art, essay and more. The Casa Grande team comprised of our future leaders earned 69 individual medals and 18 team awards!

The top five highest overall scores in the competition all went to these Casa students: Nico Carballal, Ram Goli, Omar Khan, David Yee, and the highest score was earned by Claire Killian. The other Casa students with superior performances were Cody McGunagle, Blythe Abbey, Dylan Tyrell Smith, Amanda Chisholm, Thomas Hancock, Zachery Esponda, and Nicholas Eaton. The team would like to thank all of the faculty and student body who have supported them with special thanks to Ms. Obbagy and, of course, Mr. Pillsbury for their knowledgeable academic instruction and inspirational guidance.

Petaluma High School Librarians Promote Literacy and Fun



Congratulations to our Librarian-Leaders, Nathan Libecap and Connie Williams (PHS), for organizing an incredibly successful LumaCon event last week. Over 2,000 people came, many of them wearing costumes of their favorite comic book characters. The event was fun, inspiring and educational, and included some of the most renowned comic book and graphic novel authors in the nation.

[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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