

The Casa Connection

Casa Grande High School 333 Casa Grande Road Petaluma, CA 94954
(707)778-4677

Dec-Jan 2009/2010

Number 3 of 8 issues



From Principal Linda Scheele

The first semester is behind us, and the second semester begins January 5th. At Casa we are already busily working on plans for the 2010-2011 school year. Beginning on January 22nd, counselors will begin visiting classrooms to enroll students in classes for next year. For those students entering their junior and seniors years, this will mean choosing a Cluster as well. For next year we have reconfigured our Clusters. There will be four Clusters from which to choose: Green Careers Pathway, Health Careers Pathway, Liberal Studies, and Marketing and Media. We are excited about these changes and feel that these offerings will benefit our students. More information on the Career Clusters will be available at Casa's Cluster Night on January 20th. On that evening parents and students are invited to come hear about our new Clusters and talk to students who are in those clusters. This will be an exciting evening and we hope you will attend!

Autumn House News

The Autumn House teachers congratulate our November Students of the Month, Kevin Ennis and Camille LeMay. They will both receive gift certificates to Cold Stone. Keep up the good work!

English Learner Development Academy

HAPPY HOLIDAYS – On behalf of all the teachers and bilingual assistants in the English Learner Academy, we would like to wish our students and their families a very happy holiday.

FINALS – Finals for the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year are coming soon. December 16, 17, and 18 are the dates of the finals. Please make sure your students get plenty of rest and are prepared for these very important exams. As mentioned prior, the teachers and bilingual instructional assistants have set as a priority for each of the English Learners at Casa Grande High School to have a successful year; the exams are an important culmination of the first semester's learning.

IN MEMORIAM – The Casa Grande High School EL Academy lost two very special members this past fall. Bilingual Instructional Assistant **Michael Casanovas** passed away in October after a short illness. Michael worked for ten years as a bilingual instructional assistant at Casa Grande, helping students in their academics as well as with social and life issues. Students and staff alike miss his wonderful sense of humor and incredible intellect.

In November, senior Anais Centeno Barajas was injured in a car accident that one week later took her life. Anais was a bright, conscientious, courteous and happy young woman. She had recently passed her California High School Exit Exam and was preparing for college. Anais's passing has saddened so many of her friends, peers, and teachers. She was loved by so many people. To both the families of Michael Casanovas and Anais Centeno Barajas, we offer our deepest sympathy.

CELDT TESTING – The English Learner Development Department has completed the state-mandated California English Learner Development Test. Results of the test will be available toward the end of 2009. The CELDT test is one that measures the language acquisition of EL students. Parents will receive a copy of each student's

proficiency levels in Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing when results are available. We will keep you informed!

ELAC MEETINGS – Make your voices and concerns clear by attending the very important ELAC parent meetings. Please mark your calendars with the following dates for the English Learner Advisory Committee meetings that will be held at 7:00 p.m.

February 11, 2010 and May 6, 2010 (CGHS Library)

In February parents will be given a computer “tutorial” in the new CGHS computer lab. In May, we will celebrate our graduating seniors and our students who have been reclassified as fluent English speakers.

Our goal is to build a community of interested and involved parents this year. Our student population is growing tremendously. We hope, therefore, that participation at the ELAC meetings will grow equally. We look forward to meeting the parents of our students and encourage your involvement.

GIVE US NOTICE if your student plans to be away from school for any length of time for vacations to Mexico or elsewhere. It is essential that your student keep up with schoolwork during the days he or she is absent so that credit is not lost! Students who miss finals because of vacation must turn in late work immediately upon their return; they must make up missed finals within two weeks. Failure to do so will result in an F for the semester.

KEEP US INFORMED! If your address or phone number changes for any reason, please call the Bilingual Office at 778-4770 with the new information. It is vital that we communicate and that the school is informed of such changes! We welcome your comments and questions at any time. Messages may be left at any time, 24 hours a day! If you have concerns about your student regarding attendance, class work, grades, or other issues, please call! Communication is so important!

Noticias de la Academia de Inglés

FELICES FIESTAS – En nombre de todos los maestros y asistentes bilingües de la Academia de Inglés queremos desearles a todos nuestros estudiantes y a sus familias unas felices fiestas.

EXAMENES FINALES – Los exámenes finales para el primer semestre del año escolar 2009-2010 están muy cerca. Los días para éstos exámenes son el 16, 17 y 18 de Diciembre. Por favor asegúrese de que sus estudiantes descansen bien y estén preparados para tomar tan importantes pruebas. Como ya lo hemos mencionado antes, los maestros y asistentes bilingües han hecho una de sus prioridades el que cada uno de nuestros estudiantes tengan un año escolar exitoso. Por lo tanto, no está de más mencionar que los exámenes finales son la culminación del aprendizaje del primer semestre.

EN MEMORIA – La Academia de Inglés de la Escuela Preparatoria Casa Grande ha perdido a dos miembros muy especiales éste otoño. Asistente Bilingüe, **Michael Casanovas**, falleció en el mes de Octubre después de una corta enfermedad. Michael trabajó durante diez años como asistente de instrucción bilingüe en Casa Grande, ayudando a los estudiantes con sus trabajos académicos, al igual que con sus vidas y problemas sociales. Tanto los estudiantes como el personal educativo extrañan su buen sentido del humor e increíble intelecto. En el mes de Noviembre, Anais Centeno Barajas, estudiante cursando su último año de preparatoria, fue herida en un accidente automovilístico, el cual cobró su vida una semana después. Anais era una joven lista, concienzuda, cortés y feliz. Recientemente, ella aprobó el examen de salida de la preparatoria (CAHSEE) y se preparaba para asistir al colegio. La partida de Anais ha entristecido a muchos de sus amigos, compañeros y maestros. Ella era amada por muchas personas.

A las familias de Michael Casanovas y de Anais Centeno Barajas, les ofrecemos nuestras más sentidas condolencias.

EXAMENES ESTATALES “CELDT” – El Departamento de Desarrollo de los Estudiantes de Inglés ha completado los exámenes estatales. Los resultados estarán disponibles a finales de éste año. Este examen mide la adquisición del lenguaje Inglés en nuestros estudiantes. Los padres de familia recibirán una copia mostrando los niveles de competencia de su estudiante en las áreas de Escuchar, Hablar, Leer y Escribir. ¡Los mantendremos informados!
ELAC MEETINGS – Haga que su voz y sus opiniones cuenten al asistir a nuestras importantes juntas de padres de familia

ELAC. Favor de marcar sus calendarios para las siguientes fechas para las juntas del Comité Bilingüe que se llevarán acabo a las 7:00 p.m.

11 de Febrero, 2010 y 6 de Mayo, 2010
(Biblioteca de CGHS)

En la junta del mes de Febrero los padres de familia recibirán una “tutoría” en computación en el nuevo laboratorio de computadoras de CGHS. En la junta del mes de Mayo celebraremos a nuestros estudiantes que se graduarán y aquellos otros que serán reclasificados como hablantes fluidos del idioma Inglés. Nuestra meta es de construir una comunidad de padres activos e interesados éste año. Nuestra población estudiantil está creciendo tremendamente. Por lo tanto esperamos que la participación de nuestros padres crezca de igual manera. Esperamos conocer a los padres de nuestros estudiantes y animarlos a participar.

FAVOR DE AVISARNOS – Si su estudiante no asistirá a clases por cualquier periodo de tiempo, ya sea de vacaciones a México u otro lugar. ¡Es esencial que su estudiante se mantenga al corriente con sus trabajos escolares durante los días que haya faltado, para que no pierda sus créditos! Los estudiantes que pierden los exámenes finales a causa de sus vacaciones deben de entregar cualquier trabajo tardío inmediatamente a su regreso a clases; ellos deben de tomar los exámenes finales dentro de las dos primeras semanas de su regreso. Si no lo hacen, el resultado será una “F” como calificación para el semestre.

MANTENGANOS INFORMADOS – Si su dirección ó números de teléfono han cambiado, favor de llamar a la Oficina Bilingüe a cualquier hora y dejarnos saber su información correcta. El número a llamar es 778-4770. Es vital que mantengamos las líneas de comunicación abiertas y que ambas partes estemos al tanto de dichos cambios. Si usted tiene preguntas acerca de la asistencia de su estudiante, sus calificaciones, trabajos ó cualquier otra preocupación, ¡no dude en llamarnos! ¡Es importante mantenernos en constante comunicación!

PTSA News

The PTSA has been busy this year. We provided the teachers and staff with a fabulous breakfast thanks to our Staff Appreciation Coordinator, Kathy Halligan.

Thank you also to the parent volunteers who brought in goodies for the breakfast!

We have also provided grants to the art department, drama department and the Spanish department.

Thank you to the parents and teachers who have signed up for the Raley's e-scrip card which helps to provide the funds for the grants. If you have a Raley's e-scrip card, be sure to register online before you use it. If you lost the instructions on how to register, check out the PTSA sight on the Casa Grande web page. If you don't have a card and would like one, just e-mail me at the address below.

Our next PTSA meeting is on January 21, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the faculty lounge.

Kelly Balfour

PTSA president

kbalfour@comcast.net



The Counseling Connection

Information to help you succeed in high school and beyond

Counselors Sharon Howell (Head Counselor), Kathy Jelin, Leonor Garduno, Paul Koene, Brett Sklove
Secretaries Lisa M. Lomeli and Kathy Moyles
Project Success Desiree West **Career Center** Karen Buchanan

Important Dates

FAFSA (Financial Aid) – 2010–2011

Application available online January 1st

CLUSTER INFORMATION NIGHT – January 20th

8th GRADE PARENT NIGHT & HONORS

INFORMATION NIGHT – January 27th

6:30pm – NMU

CAHSEE (Exit Exam) – February 2nd and 3rd

(10th Grade ONLY)

CAL GRANT GPA VERIFICATION FORM DUE –

February 15th – (12th Grade only)

ACT TEST – February 6th – REGISTER by

January 5th

SAT TEST – January 23th – REGISTER by

December 15th

PEF SCHOLARSHIPS – Deadline for

Applications – February 2nd

END OF 1ST GRADING PERIOD – February 19th



CONGRATULATIONS to all seniors who have completed college applications to the CSU and UC systems, and individual private colleges. We know how stressful the college application process can be, especially in addition to homework, extracurricular activities, and work commitments. In some cases, the electronic applications were overly frustrating. However, you have successfully completed a hurdle in the college process!

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS & MID YEAR REPORTS

The UC and CSU application deadline was November 30th, so that stressful part of the application process is over! Some private/independent colleges require a mid-year report as part of their application process. These include the fall semester grades which are recorded on the transcript and are used by the colleges to see how their prospective students are progressing in their senior year. It is the student's responsibility to let their counselor know if a mid-year report is needed and to provide the appropriate form from the college.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Kristen Schwabe-Fry and Emily Hawkins who were recognized as students of the month for **November 2009!**

Congratulations to Nina Udomsak and Anisa Li who were recognized as students of the month for **December 2009!** Selection is based upon outstanding academic achievement.

PSAT RESULTS

PSAT results will be available before winter break in December for students to see their counselor if they have questions about PSAT score reports. Juniors should be signing up for one of the spring SAT tests.



COURSE SIGN UPS FOR 2010-11

Yes, it is that time already! Counselors will be presenting to student in January to go over the course sign-up process for next year. Students will receive course sign-up sheets which will be due back to their counselors one week after the presentations. 10th and 11th grade students will need to select a cluster. Please see the Casa Grande High School *Small Learning Communities* pamphlet for more information about the clusters. Look on line for the new version available after January 1st on the casa grande website under the counseling section.

NEW COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 2009-10

Casa Grande is pleased to announce two **new courses** to be offered to students next year:

- Mandarin 3
- English 11 AP

Please contact the Counseling Department for further information.

THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM

will be administered to all sophomores on February 2nd and 3rd. For sophomore students who are absent on one or both of these days, a make-up test will be offered in March.



ATTENTION SENIORS IMPORTANT INFO RE: CREDITS, GRADES AND GRADUATION

As the spring semester approaches, senior students and parents are reminded that 220 credits in the specific subject requirements are required for graduation. Students who fail a graduation requirement in the fall semester must make arrangements to make up those credits in order to graduate. Time is obviously of the essence. SRJC and Petaluma Adult Education are two of the most accessible ways for students to make up credits during the spring semester. If parents or students have concerns about credits, grades or graduation status please contact your counselor as soon as possible.

ATTENDANCE is always an important part of high school success. **Students need to be on time and in class every day** in



order to take advantage of all that Casa Grande has to offer. Grades in classes are directly related to attendance, and a student who misses school has difficulty keeping passing grades. Parents

should call the attendance office at 778-4686 to excuse an absence for an illness or a doctor's appointment. If a student misses a class they should always check in with the teacher(s) on the day they return to get any make up work.

It is especially important for seniors to keep attending classes in the spring semester. Many seniors feel the pull of "senioritis" and attendance can decline. Remember that a student is considered a truant once they have 9 period cuts or 3 days of unexcused absences.

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