

The Casa Connection

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

October 2008

Number 1 of 8 issues

From the Office of Principal Linda Scheele

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
Now that your students have received the first progress report of this school year, it is a good time to have a conversation about what is going well, and what could be better. Many students, particularly freshmen, struggle with organization and prioritization. Have your student take a look at the strategies below and discuss which ones he/she currently uses, and which ones might be helpful. We want this school year to be the best ever for your students. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.
Regards,
Linda Scheele

Strategies for Success at Casa Grande High School

1. Do you have a quiet study space, free from the distractions of the TV, computer, phone, friends, etc.?
2. Do you do your homework as soon as you get home, when your brain is still in 'school mode'?
3. Do you play a sport or have other activities that keep you from your homework until late at night? While extracurricular activities are a valuable part of a high school experience, the fact is that we all only have 24 hours in every day and many young people are stretched too thin. It requires an even more disciplined approach to one's studies.
4. Do you begin your homework by doing the most difficult subject first, while you are still fresh? If you put that off until the end, it will take you longer and be more difficult.
5. Do you do assignments the same day they are given, or do you have the "I have two days to do this" attitude? It's best to do things as soon as you get them.
6. When you are at school, are you engaged in what is going on in class? Do you find yourself daydreaming, or thinking about something else? Being aware of your thoughts and making an effort to stay

focused is crucial. One way to do this is by taking notes on what is being said, and by asking questions and contributing to class discussion.

7. Do you ask your teachers for help when you need it? Do you take advantage of tutorial and other study sessions?
8. Do you write down your assignments in your agenda without fail? Do you look at it at home to make sure you are doing what is required? Do you check the websites of those teachers who have them?
9. Do you turn in EVERY homework assignment?
10. Do you read the novels in English carefully, and take notes to keep track of what is going on?
11. Do you have a group of peers with whom you can study, and on whom you can call for help?
12. Do you review class notes each night, or wait until the night before a test to begin to study?

These are but a few of the many things students can and should do to be successful and avoid becoming overwhelmed. These are also things that *only* the student can do; no one else can be responsible for this. Teachers try to do everything in their power to make sure students are successful. Parents try to do the same. At about this time in every child's life parents come to the realization that there is only so much they can do, and the rest is up to the child. We can see the 'big picture' but often, they cannot. For many students it takes until their sophomore year or later before they can get the routine down. That is little consolation to parents standing by feeling helpless. For some students it takes them awhile to see that there is a point to all this hard work. For some, the consequences for poor performance (such as loss of privileges at home) are enough to motivate them. For some, it is a lack of maturity that only time will cure. Good communication between school and home is important. Teachers, counselors and administrators welcome your input.

Small Learning Communities Score Big

Casa Grande High School was awarded a 1.25 million dollar 5-year Federal Department of Education grant to support rigorous and relevant teaching and learning while developing strong relationships between both students and staff using the Small Learning Community (SLC) model. The journey to implement SLC's began over five years ago to increase student achievement so that "all students graduate prepared for success in work, advanced study, and the in the community" and that "students learn in a caring, safe environment where they are motivated to do their best work" (District Mission/Vision).

The SLC's at Casa Grande are organized into "Houses" for 9th & 10th graders and "Clusters" for 11 & 12th graders. Houses consist of no more than 120-180 students that share common teachers for three of their courses. Ninth grade students share common English, math and physical science teachers. Tenth grade students share English, science and world history teachers. In the 11th and 12th grade students choose an SLC that includes both academic and elective courses around a common theme. Our renowned English Language Development (ELD) Academy and Advanced Placement (AP) programs are embedded in each of the SLC's. Within the Clusters students take their required English and social science courses as well as a least one elective.

The five SLC's at Casa are:

- Culinary, Academics, Tourism and Event Planning Resources (CATER)
- Justice, Environment and Teaching (JET)
- Health Career Pathway (HCP)
- Science, Technology, and Engineering (STE)
- Arts, Design and Media (ADaM)

The \$1.25 million will allow Casa Grande to provide increased time for teachers to meet together to plan curriculum, time for teachers to discuss student needs and provide interventions, time to visit innovative and high achieving schools, fund attendance at workshops and conferences, provide books and supplies for each of the houses and clusters so there is relevant and up-to-date information available in the classroom. Erin Fender, one of the Assistant Principals, will serve 80% of her time as the Project Director. Additionally, the grant

will fund secretarial support, a half-time Community Entrepreneur, bring the Career Outreach Specialist position to full-time, and fund a teacher to serve forty-percent of his time as a curriculum coach to provide guidance in developing interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

We encourage you to ask your student about their SLC. We are certain the SLC's will enhance learning at Casa Grande by providing increased personalization, rigor and relevance.

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Testing for 11th and 12th Graders — Nov. 4th & 5th

Casa Grande High School will test all 11th & 12th graders who have yet to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Testing is scheduled for

Tuesday, November 4th (English Language Arts) and Wednesday, November 7th (Math). Students who have yet to pass either section of the test are allowed to take the exam up to three times in one school year and will only retake the section they did not pass.

As of the 2005-06 school year, all students must pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and meet all other high school graduation requirements in order to receive a High School Diploma. To date, the only exemption from the CAHSEE is given to students pursuing a certificate of completion. All other students, including those in Special Education, are required to pass both sections of the test.

The purpose of the CAHSEE is to improve student achievement in high school. It also helps to ensure that students who graduate from high school can demonstrate basic competency in the content standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. Most of the questions on the CAHSEE are given in a multiple choice format. However, the ELA part of the exam also includes one written essay question. Given the academic importance and high stakes of the CAHSEE, Casa Grande High School is committed to providing your son or daughter every opportunity to prepare and pass this exam.

If you are a parent/guardian of an 11th or 12th grader who has yet to pass and have not had an individual meeting with a counselor please call the counseling office at 778-4690 immediately to set up an appointment. The

counselor can provide you with detailed information regarding your student as well as general information that can help your student better prepare for the test. We are providing additional instruction to help students who need assistance through a CAHSEE support class being taught by Mr. Sean Millard during 5th period.

Students take the CAHSEE for the first time in their tenth grade year. Casa Grande High School will be administering the CAHSEE test to all tenth graders on February 3rd and 4th. We are proud to share that last year over 87% of our tenth graders passed both sections of the exam. This is an increase from an 80% pass rate the previous year. If you have any questions please contact Eric Backman, Assistant Principal at 778-4681.

Advanced Placement Tests

Casa Grande is justifiably proud of its Advanced Placement program. AP classes are taught primarily at the junior and senior level. After students complete the course work, they take a test administered by The College Board. Successful completion of this test allows them to possibly receive college credit for their high school coursework. The honors and AP programs are supported with GATE funding.

The following students have taken and passed AP classes during the 2008 school year:

Art – Drawing – 2 students passed

Teacher Harry Frank

Cleo Chappell and Cory Mast

Calculus – 52 students passed

Teacher Richard Pillsbury

Jessica Abulencia, Austin Arey, Shira Babow, Alyssa Benjamin, Carl Braun, Mark Brown, Casey Burke, Danielle Chang, Alex Chism, Kira Cocchiara, Lilia Covarrubias, Patrick Dietrick, Liana Finer, Rachel Finer, Alison Fisher, Michael Fung, Storm Glover, Kadi Greene, Elizabeth Hamp, Kelly Hill, Charlotte Insull, Elizabeth Jaeger, Alice Johns, Jon Klein, Erin Kleinfeld, Kelsey Kress, Eliza Kritz, Clarence Lam, Frohman Lee, Justin Lee, Angelica Lilinoe, Shunchuan Liu, Aaron Lundquist, Taylor Matzen, Devin McCarthy, Joseph McMahan, Chris McNamara, Nicole Mitchell, Stephanie Parreira, Anna

Pieper, James Prendergast, Devon Redus, Jennifer Sawhney, Dylan Schaefer, Kristen Schwabe-Fry, Vikram, Shukla, Arushi Sohi, Grady Standard, Victoria Tomlinson, Nicholas Wackerman, Andrew Wang, Lauren Weiss, Aries Wong, Alexandra Woodbridge, Matthew Wutsch, Matthew Zweier

Chemistry – 1 student passed

Qiaochu Yuan

Economics/Macro – 19 students passed

Teacher – Scott Dietlin

Austin Arey, Derek Baldwin, Billie Bian, Carl Braun, Cleo Chappell, Sam Chisholm, Sierra Cubley-Debruin, Michael Fung, John Gallo, Kadi Greene, Jon Klein, Cory Mast, Devin McCarthy, Nicole Mitchell, Stephanie Parreira, Sarah Santos, Kimberly Thompson, Lauren Weiss, Qiaochu Yuan

English Language and Competition – 47 students passed

Teachers - Marty Hogue and Gay Robbins

Austin Arey, Shira Babow, Billie Bian, Joseph Biancalana, Carl Braun, Ryan Browde, Kaitlyn Buck, Alicia Carney, Cleo Chappell, Sam Chisholm, Kira Cocchiara, Sean Collins, Joseph Farey, Liana Finer, Michael Fung, Jacob Gardner, Kadi Greene, Kelly Hill, Vanessa Iacocca, Karen Inthinavong, Elizabeth Jaeger, Allison Kates, Christine Kendall, Jon Klein, Shannon Kowalski, Frohman Lee, Angelica Lilinoe, Nick Lorenzini, Cory Mast, Chris McNamara, Sarah McSweeney, Mario Mejia Garcia, Nicole Mitchell, Nick O'Brien, Nora O'Hagan, Taylor Powers, Timothy Salyers, Sarah Santos, Amalie Sherry, Grady Standard, Kimberly Thompson, Nicholas Wackerman, Austin Wang, Alice White, Caitlyn White, Aries Wong, Qiaochu Yuan

English Literature and Composition – 48 students passed

Teachers - Marty Hogue and Gay Robbins

Domico Adams, Austin Arey, Shira Babow, Billie Bian, Joseph Biancalana, Carl Braun, Ryan Browde, Kaitlyn Buck, Alicia Carney, Cleo Chappell, Sam Chisholm, Kira Cocchiara, Lilia

Covarrubias, Joseph Farey, Rachel Finer, Michael Fung, Jacob Gardner, Kadi Greene, Ashlee Gregori, Kelly Hill, Vanessa Iacocca, Elizabeth Jaeger, Allison Kates, Christine Kendall, Jon Klein, Shannon Kowalski, Frohman Lee, Lorenzo Leoni, Angelica Lilinoe, Nick Lorenzini, Cory Mast, Chris McNamara, Sarah McSweeney, Mario Mejia Garcia, Nicole Mitchell, Nick O'Brien, Nora O'Hagan, Taylor Powers, Timothy Salyers, Sarah Santos, Amalie Sherry, Grady Standard, Kimberly Thompson, Nicholas Wackerman, Austin Wang, Alice White, Aries Wong, Qiaochu Yuan

French Language – 1 student passed

Teacher – Christiane Traub

Qiaochu Yuan

United States Government – 38 students passed

Teachers – Brian Lochtan and Mavis Weir

Austin Arey, Shira Babow, Derek Baldwin, Billie Bian, Joseph Biancalana, Carl Braun, Kaitlyn Buck, Cleo Chappell, Sam Chisholm, Kira Cocchiara, Lilia Covarrubias, Sierra Cubley-Debruin, Michael Dailey, Liana Finer, Rachel Finer, Michael Fung, John Gallo, Jacob Gardner, Kadi Greene, Vanessa Iacocca, Elizabeth Jaeger, Jon Klein, Lorenzo Leoni, Nick Lorenzini, Cory Mast, Devin McCarthy, Chris McNamara, Nicole Mitchell, Nick O'Brien, Stephanie Parreira, Sarah Santos, Amalie Sherry, Grady Standard, Kimberly Thompson, Austin Wang, Lauren Weiss, Aries Wong, Qiaochu Yuan

Physics - 38 students passed

Teacher – Richard Pillsbury

Austin Allen, Austin Arey, Derek Baldwin, Billie Bian, Carl Braun, Ryan Browde, Kaitlyn Buck, Cleo Chappell, Sam Chisholm, Alex Chism, Kira Cocchiara, Sierra Cubley-Debruin, Liana Finer, Rachel Finer, Michael Fung, John Gallo, Jacob Gardner, Kadi Greene, Chris Hughes, Elizabeth Jaeger, Jon Klein, Kelsey Kress, Frohman Lee, Angelica Lilinoe, Devin McCarthy, Chris McNamara, Nick Muchow, Taylor Powers, Timothy Salyers,

Sarah Santos, Vikram Shukla, Kevin Thornton, Victoria Tomlinson, Nicholas Wackerman, Austin Wang, Lauren Weiss, Aries Wong, Matt Zweier

Psychology – 19 students passed

Teacher – Jon Simon

Domico Adams, Christopher Castaneda, Andrea DeLeon, Charlotte Insull, Austin Jay, Kylie Kenney, Frohman Lee, Justin Lee, Rita Lo, Kevin Miller, Tiffany Morales, Kelly O'Brien, Ashley O'Lear, Shane Redmond, Sabrina Soldavini, Emma Soss, Courtney Tarca, Jamie Titus, Caitlyn White

Spanish Language – 24 students passed

Teacher – Rebeca Martinez-Chavez

Karina Angeles, Shira Babow, Jessica Cabrera Baeza, Felipe Chavez Alatorre, Kiara Covarrubias, Cesar Diaz, Karen Flores, Dana Flores Aguado, Sarah Gerberkai, Sonia Gonzalez, Emily Hawkins, Eliza Kritz, Dillin McEwan, Nicole Mitchell, Clara Munoz, Erica Ochoa, Ashley O'Lear, Roberto Rosila-Mares, Victoria Serano, Alejandra Valencia, Jose Vasquezmorin, Andrew Wang, Rachel Wiegardt-Egel,

Statistics – 8 students passed

Teacher – Scot Wigert

Billie Bian, Ryan Browde, Mark Brown, Kaitlyn Buck, Joseph Farey, Vanessa Iacocca, Cory Mast, Austin Wang

United States History – 42 students passed

Teachers – Brian Lochtan and Dinah Lee

Jessica Abulencia, Chloe Bradley, Mark Brown, Chris Buckley, Tara Camgros, Danielle Chang, Alexander Chism, Andrea DeLeon, Patrick Dietrick, Janine Dion, Mary Elliott, Michael Falsetto, Allison Fisher, Kaitlyn Frisch, Linnea Grayson, Matthew Hanlon, Ellen Hensel, Jordan Hinds, Charlotte Insull, Edwin Irizarry, Erin Kleinfeld, Eliza Kritz, Clarence Lam, Justin Lee, Maggie Lee, Aaron Lundquist, Devin Masterson, Taylor Matzen, Dillon McEwan, Lauren Raffi, Hannah Ryan-Humphrey, Dylan Schaeffer, Arushi Sohi, Ratikorn Songsana, Emma Soss, Chase Van Etten, Daniel Vovchuk,

Andrew Wang, Rachel Wiegardt-Egel, Alexandra Woodbridge, Julia Wu, Katherina Xu

From the Casa Grande Library

What's been going on at the library? A lot! For starters, there's a new teacher/librarian since Ms. Thompson retired last spring. Ms. Anna Koval, who lives in Sonoma, taught high school English in Sacramento and was a high school librarian in San Francisco. Library assistant Miss Helen Holroyd says Ms. Koval is "perky" and "energetic" and together the two make quite a fun team. The Casa library is taking on a whole new look because of the construction of a new computer lab. It should be completed sometime this spring. But in October, 5 big yellow new bean bags will find a home in the library, thanks to a grant Ms. Koval got from DonorsChoose.org.

In September, Ms. Koval & Miss Helen raised awareness all over campus about censorship during Banned Books Week. They passed out buttons and bookmarks and even made a movie starring Casa students. The library has begun a brand-new book club, and the nearly 20 members are totally into their first title: "The Dead & the Gone" by Susan Beth Pfeffer. For more info go to www.bighousebookclub.com. Since August, the library has hosted more than 60 classes, circulated more than 1300 books, and been visited by more than 7000 students! For more information about Casa's amazing library, please visit their website at www.bighouselibrary.com.

Important Casa Yearbook Information

Senior/Parent Ad brochures were mailed home, they are also available for pickup in the front office.

The second Senior photo of choice and short quote are due by 11/26/08 to

casayearbook@yahoo.com

Look for Yearbook order forms in the mail
Any questions - please email us at casayearbook@yahoo.com or contact David Meirik via school email.

News from the Casa Grande High School

English Learner Academy

WELCOME! Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! As always the teachers in the English Language Development Academy (ELD Academy) are excited about the new school year and working with your students. For your information, the teachers and bilingual instructional assistants are listed below:

Judi DeChesere-Boyle, English Learner Resource Teacher, ELD II, III, IV
Michael Casanovas, Bilingual Instructional Assistant
Jose Luis Gutierrez, Bilingual Instructional Assistant
Elisa Artle, Bilingual Instructional Assistant
Hilda Castillo-Abate, ELD IB, II, III
Elena Richer, ELD IV
Jennifer Casteel, U.S. History SDAIE
Kirianne Brackett, World History SDAIE
Michal Buchmann, Biology SDAIE
Tom Griffin, Algebra IB SDAIE, American Government SDAIE,
Economics SDAIE
Steve Conner, US History SDAIE
Kevin Harrington, World History SDAIE
Melinda Maderious, Algebra II SDAIE, Math Analysis
Rebeca Martinez-Chavez, Spanish for Native Speakers II, IIIAP
Lisa McNaughton, Spanish for Native Speakers I
Capper, Rachel – Spanish for Native Speakers I and II
Angel Moquete, Geometry SDAIE, Algebra I SDAIE
Eric Smith, Algebra IA SDAIE
Melissa Wickenkamp, Physical Science SDAIE, Chemistry SDAIE,
Introduction to Science
Donna Reed – Biology SDAIE
Sadie Melgar – Life Skills
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. We welcome your comments and questions at any time. Please phone the Bilingual Office at 778-4770. 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!
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 2008. 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 – It is important to understand why the ELAC (English Learner Advisory Committee) meets. When a school in California has more than twenty-one English Learners (and Casa Grande has over 350), it must have a committee made up of parents who have input on all services and programs offered to English Learners. The ELAC meetings create a forum through which parents can have such input into the education of their students. So, join us! Make your voices and concerns clear by attending these important 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. in room M-9:

December 11, 2008 March 5, 2009
May 14, 2009

At the September meeting, four parents were selected as officers. These parents are: Jose Flores, Maria Mendoza, Jorge Hernandez, and Carmen Fernandez. Congratulations to these parents! Besides being important to our Casa Grande ELAC meetings, these parents will represent Casa Grande High School at the District English Learner Advisory Committee meetings.

At the December meeting, counselors from Casa Grande High School will be available to answer your questions about attendance policies, grades, transcripts, discipline policies, and other school-related issues. Also, counselors from the Santa Rosa Junior College will be present to speak about their Outreach Program and ways for students to prepare for college entrance. 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!

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!

Noticias de la Academia Para Estudiantes de Ingles Como Segunda Lengua de la Escuela Preparatoria de Casa Grande

¡BIENVENIDOS!-Bienvenidos al año escolar 2008-2009. Como siempre, los educadores de la Academia para el Desarrollo del idioma ingles como segunda lengua (ELD Academy), estamos muy contentos de trabajar con sus hijos A continuación le presentamos una lista de nuestros profesores y Asistentes bilingües.

Rebeca Martinez-Chavez,: II, III, AP
Capper, Rachel: I, II y III
Lisa McNaughton: I
Judi DeChesere-Boyle: ELD II, III, IV.
Hilda Castillo-Abate: ELD IB, II, III
Elena Richer: ELD IV
MichalBuchmann: Biología
Donna Reed: Biología
Melissa Wickenkamp: Física, Química, Introducción a ciencias
Jennifer Casteel: Historia de los Estados Unidos.
Kirianne Brackett: Historia universal.
Steve Conner: Historia de los Estados Unidos.
SadieMelgar: Destrezas de vida.
Kevin Harrington: Historia universal.
Tom Griffin: álgebra, IB, Gobierno americano, Economía.
Melinda Maderious: Algebra II, Análisis matemático.
Ángel Moquete: Geometría, Álgebra I
Eric Smith,: Álgebra IA
Asistentes bilingües:
Michael Casanovas
José Luis Gutiérrez
Elisa Artle

REUNIONES DEL GRUPO ELAC-Es importante que entendamos porque el Comité Asesor para los Estudiantes de Ingles como Segunda Lengua (ELAC) existe. Cuando una escuela en California

tiene mas de veintiún estudiantes aprendiendo ingles como lengua extranjera, (En casa Grande tenemos mas de 350) se debe tener un comité de padres y apoderados que expresen su opinión a cerca todos los servicios y programas ofrecidos para los estudiantes de ingles. Las reuniones del grupo ELAC son un foro en el que los padres opinan a cerca de la educación de sus hijos. ¡Acompáñenos! Venga a estas reuniones y exprese su opiniones y preocupaciones. Tome nota de las fechas de nuestras próximas reuniones Todas se llevaran a cabo A las 7:00 p.m. en el salón M-9:

11 de Diciembre, 2008 5 de Marzo, 2009
14 de Mayo, 2009

En la reunión de septiembre, elegimos los representantes oficiales de nuestro grupo de padres, Ellos son: José Flores, Maria Mendoza, Jorge Hernández, y Carmen Fernández. ¡Felicitaciones para Ellos! Además ser muy importante para nuestras reuniones ELAC en Casa, estos padres también nos representaran en las reuniones de ELAC del distrito escolar.

En nuestra próxima reunión en el mes de diciembre, consejeros de la Escuela Preparatoria Casa Grande estarán presentes para contestar preguntas a cerca de las normas de disciplina y asistencia; calificaciones, transcripciones, y otros temas relacionados con la escuela. También los consejeros de La Institución Post Secundaria de dos años (Santa Rosa Junior College) estarán presentes para hablar de servicios especiales y de asistencia publica, así como también de las diferentes maneras en que los estudiantes se pueden preparar para la vida universitaria. Nuestra meta para este año es formar una comunidad de padres interesados y motivados en participar en la educación de sus hijos. Nuestra población ha crecido inmensamente, y por esta razón, esperamos que la asistencia a las reuniones del grupo ELAC también crezca. Además, queremos tener la oportunidad de conocer a los padres de nuestros estudiantes y también motivar su participación. AVISENOS si su hijo (a) planea no venir a la escuela por un periodo de tiempo largo, vacaciones a México o a otro lugar. Es esencial que los estudiantes sigan cumpliendo con el trabajo escolar durante los días que estén ausentes de la escuela, de esta manera, los créditos no se pierden.

¡MANTÉNGANOS INFORMADOS!-Si por alguna razón se cambia de dirección o de numero de teléfono, llame a la oficina bilingüe al 778-4770 y dennos su nueva información. Es importante que sepamos como ubicar a las familias de nuestros estudiantes.

Casa Grande Boosters News

1. It is not to late to become a member. Please call Genie Castro 707/763-4273. Ask about the great benefits of being a Life Member for only \$375.00. Payments can be made as long as it is paid off by the end of the current school year.
2. The Casa Grande Booster Club is having a Crab Feed Fundraiser on January 24, 2009. Tickets will be \$35.00 a person and the event will take place at the Luchessi Center. Call Val King 765-4602 or 484-1076 to get tickets.
3. If you are interested in purchasing any Casa Grande clothing please contract Sheila Burke 778-7203.



The Counseling Connection

Information to help you succeed in high school and beyond

Counselors Sharon Howell (Head Counselor), Kathy Jelin, Keeli Kahmoson, Michele Craig-Morales, Leonor Garduno, Paul Koene, Brett Sklove

Safe Schools Cindy Moore **Career Center** Karen Buchanan

Secretaries Lisa Lomeli and Kathy Moyles

Upcoming Dates

1st Fall Progress Grading Period – Sept 26th

PSAT – Oct 18th

CAHSEE (Exit Exam) – Nov 4th and 5th

CSU Application Period – Oct 1st thru Nov 30th

UC Application Period – Nov 1st thru Nov 30th

College Application Workshops – Oct 13th & 17th, 3:15 p.m., E-16

Senior Overview Night – Oct 2nd, 7:00 p.m., OMU

SRJC Night – Nov 5th, 7:00 p.m., OMU

2nd Fall Progress Grading Period – Nov 9th

Financial Aid Demystified – Dec 4th 7:00 p.m., OMU

SAT I & Subject Tests Date– Nov 1st, Register by Sept 26th

SAT I & Subject Tests Date – Dec 6th, Register by Nov 5th

ACT Test Date – Oct 25th, Register by Sep. 19th

ACT Test Date – Dec 13th, Register by Nov 7th

Counseling Department Commentary – Oct 2008

Hello to all new students and parents to Casa Grande High School and welcome back to all returning students and parents. The counseling Department is pleased to have two counselors new to Casa Grande: Paul Koene and Michele Craig-Morales. Both come to Casa with experience working with teens and they are a welcome addition to our counseling team!

The school year began smoothly with all students placed in classes by the third week of school. We have a large number of students attending Casa this year, over 1900 students. We also have the biggest Junior and Senior classes ever due to increased numbers of students staying at Casa until graduation. We believe this to be due

in part to the increased student support of both the small learning communities and the lower counselor to student ratios. More students are finding success at Casa Grande!

Email – As a reminder, all teachers, administrators, and counselors are on the same email system. You may send an email to **firstinitiallastname@pet.k12.ca.us** (for example, **jsmith@pet.k12.ca.us**) for all staff. This is usually the best way to get in touch with your students' teachers if you have questions or concerns.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists and Commended Scholars – Casa Grande has 2 Semifinalists and 8 Commended Scholars for the National Merit Scholarship Program this year! These 10 seniors are among the nation's top students honored for their exceptional scholastic potential based on their Preliminary SAT scores from the October 2007 test. The Semifinalists are in the top 1% of all scores nationwide and the Commended Scholars are in the top 3% of all scores nationwide.

Casa Grande's Semifinalists are Joey McMahan and Rachel Wiegardt-Egel. Our Commended Scholars are Mark Brown, Alex Chism, Charles Frayne, Eliza Kritz, Christian Liken, Aaron Lundquist, Dillon McEwan, and Anna Pieper. Congratulations!!

Students of the Month – Charlotte Insull and Andrew Wang were the September Students' of the Month and were honored at the September School Board meeting for their outstanding achievement!

Progress Reports – By now you should have received the first progress report cards which were mailed on October 3rd. If you have not received this report card in the mail, please call the counseling office to ensure the mailing address is correct. The progress report card is a courtesy to students and parents to track student progress. If you or your teen are surprised by a grade, please communicate with your teen's teachers to know the reason for a grade received.

PSAT – the PSAT will be administered on Saturday, October 18th beginning at 8:00 a.m. The PSAT is the Preliminary SAT exam targeted primarily for juniors. All juniors who are planning

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on attending a 4-year college after high school should take the PSAT before they take the SAT I. Juniors taking the exam that score in the top ½ of 1 percent nationally are considered for a National Merit Scholarship. Signups for the PSAT will begin in the first part of October. The cost for the PSAT will be around \$20.00. Juniors have priority for PSAT sign ups, however Sophomores may also take the PSAT on a space available basis.

College Applications – the college application time is upon us. The CSU application filing period is October 1st through November 30th and the UC application filing period is November 1st through November 30th. Both the UC and the CSU systems expect students to file online applications and have greatly improved the online application help screens with videos and more complete instructions. We will be offering Application Workshops on October 13th and 17th after school for those students who have questions or would like assistance with their college applications. Students can sign up for the workshops in the counseling office.

For private and out of state colleges, check individual college web sites for filing periods and applications. Many private colleges use the Common Application which can be found online at <https://www.commonapp.org>.

We cannot emphasize enough that students complete and submit their applications well before the November 30th deadline. Both systems begin processing applications as soon as they are received. Accuracy is a must when reporting grades, courses completed and in progress, and extracurricular activities. Students have been given a copy of their transcripts to use in the application process.

Letters of Recommendation – Counselors request that students who need letters of recommendation for college applications or scholarships please give at least two weeks' notice. Counselors ask that all students requesting a letter of recommendation complete a Senior Resume and give it to the counselor at the time of the letter of recommendation request. This helps us write a stronger letter because we can include academic details from the Senior Resume. The Senior Resume form can be picked up in the Counseling Office lobby.

College Admission Testing – All juniors who are planning to attend a 4-year college (UC, CSU, or private) after high school should sign up for the SAT I Reasoning Test or the ACT. The UC system admission requirements require students to take the SAT I or ACT *and* two Subject Tests.

Registration for SAT I and the Subject Tests is through College Board at <http://www.collegeboard.com>. The ACT website is <http://www.actstudent.org>.

Credit Status – a student achieves a higher grade level status based on the number of credits earned.

Senior	= 160 credits minimum
Junior	= 100 credits minimum
Sophomore	= 40 credits minimum
Freshman	= < 40 credits

We are in the process of reclassifying those students who have not received enough credits from the previous year to move ahead to the next grade. A letter will go home to all parents/guardians of students who are reclassified. A reclassified student may still graduate on time if he or she earns the minimum 220 credits in the appropriate subject areas.

CAHSEE – Current Sophomores will be taking the CAHSEE in Spring 2009. All seniors and juniors who have not passed either portion of the California High School Exit Exam will take the Exit Exam on November 4th and 5th. High school graduation requirements include successful completion of the CAHSEE. Seniors who have not passed the CAHSEE will have two opportunities to pass the exit exam this academic year: November and March. All seniors who have not yet passed the Exit Exam have been offered to take the CAHSEE support class 5th period. If you are the concerned parent or guardian of a junior or senior who has not yet passed the CAHSEE, please schedule a meeting with your student's counselor.

4-Year Plans – We will begin accepting appointments for 4-year plans for those parents who would like to schedule an individual 4-year plan meeting. Counselors will be doing many 4-year plans in a group format to ensure that all freshman and sophomore students have a 4-year plan. More information about 4-year plans will follow in next month's newsletter.

Classroom Guidance – Counselors will be visiting many classrooms this month to provide informational lessons to students. We will be visiting Senior English classes to discuss information about graduation and college/post-secondary options, Freshman physical science classes to provide information on how to be successful in high school, and Junior US History classes to discuss graduation requirements and college/post-secondary options.

**Fall Informational Events for
College Bound Seniors**

UC/CSU Application Workshops

October 13 and 17, 2008, 3:15 p.m., E-16
Begin your CSU and UC applications in the computer lab. At least two counselors will be present to help answer questions. Sign up for one of these workshops in the Counseling Office.

SRJC Information Night

November 5, 2008, 7:00 p.m., OMU
Presenter: Norberto Quiroz, Counselor SRJC
If your student is planning on attending SRJC after high school or if he or she has not yet chosen an after-high school option, we encourage you to attend SRJC Night on November 5th at 7:00 p.m in the OMU. A counselor from SRJC will present information about educational opportunities at SRJC.

Come hear about the opportunities available at SRJC for high school graduates: Scholarships, Transfer Options, Student Services, Certificates, and more!

Financial Aid Demystified

December 4, 2008, 7:00 p.m. OMU
Presenter: Margaret Mann, SRJC Coordinator
Financial Aid & Outreach
Financial aid night will be December 4th at 7:00 in the OMU. A financial aid representative will host this evening information session. Topics covered will include the financial aid timeline, the FAFSA, and Cal Grants.

Learn the basics for financial aid for any post high school education. Margaret will provide a clear explanation of the financial aid process.

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Memories of the Heart/Recuerdos del Corazón
Children Remember: A Memory Art Competition
Friday, October 17 - Sunday, November 2

Altars and art on display throughout Petaluma
Many events honoring the cultural traditions of Latin America

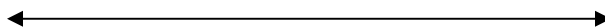
Remember a special someone by creating a portrait.
Around, beside, or within the portrait please create a handwritten story
about that person, friend or pet and why they were important to you.

To participate, download the application at www.PetalumaArtsCouncil.org,
and send it with your portrait and description to:
Guadalupe Tausch, Colors of Spanish, 55 Maria Drive (782-1084) or:
Drop materials at the **Petaluma Art Center** on Washington at Lakeville.

First prize - \$50, Second place - \$35, Third place - \$20 in each of the categories
A scholarship for a **Petaluma Art Center** Art Class will be provided to each selected artist.

All portraits will be on display at the Petaluma Art Center

If you have questions, please call Peter Perez, Curator (267.218.3437) or Guadalupe (782-1084)



Memories of the Heart/Recuerdos del Corazón
Niños Recordando: Una competición de arte con recuerdo
Viernes 17 de Octubre - Domingo 2 de Noviembre

Exhibición de altares y arte alrededor de Petaluma
Varios eventos honorando las tradiciones culturales de América Latina

Recordando a alguien especial a través de la creación de un retrato:
Alrededor, a un lado o integrado en el retrato agradeceremos que hagas un escrito a mano creando una historia
acerca de esa persona, amigo(a) o mascota describiendo porque fue importante para ti.

Para participar descarga la aplicación en www.PetalumaArtsCouncil.org,
y envíala con tu retrato y descripción a:
Guadalupe Tausch, Colors of Spanish, 55 Maria Drive, Ste.844 (782-1084) o:
Deja tus materiales en el Centro de Arte de Petaluma (**Petaluma Art Center**) en Washington esquina con Lakeville.

Primer lugar - \$50, Segundo lugar - \$35, Tercer lugar - \$20 en cada una de las categorías
Una beca será concedida a cada artista seleccionado para tomar clases de arte en el Centro de Arte de Petaluma
Todos los retratos se exhibirán en el Centro de Arte de Petaluma (Petaluma Art Center)
Si tienes preguntas por favor comunícate con Peter Pérez (267.218.3437) o Guadalupe (782-1084)