

The Casa Connection

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

November 2009

Number 2 of 8 issues



House and Cluster News

The Autumn House teachers congratulate our November Students of the Month, Cristina Diaz and Conor Feeney. They will both receive gift certificates to Cold Stone. Keep up the good work!

Casa Grande Booster Club

Hey Casa Parents, Staff and Students:
Hope you are enjoying the fall. The Casa Grande Booster Club has been busy with our membership drive, selling Casa clothes at the football games, running the snack bar and doing Sunday bingo. Just a reminder, we support Academics and Fine Arts as well as Athletics we literally benefit every student at Casa.

The Casa Grande Booster Club is really a fun organization; you get to be involved with your child's school in a productive way, without them being too embarrassed. A majority of our board members have students that are juniors this year so we won't be here much longer. We encourage anyone interested in joining the board to come to our meetings and check us out. We meet the 2nd Monday of the month in the faculty lounge at 7:00. We are particularly looking for parents with younger students who will be coming to Casa in the future. The Booster Club gives back \$50,000.00 a year to Casa but we need the next group of parents to step up and join us.

We are now preparing for our 2nd Annual Crab Feed, it is going to be on Friday, January 22, 2010. Please call me if you want tickets 765-4602 or 484-1076 or Bridget Lyons 477-3191. This event is so much fun and we sold out last year, we expect that to happen again this year so DO

NOT DELAY we only have 250 tickets and the food is incredible. Tickets are only \$45.00 each and the profits benefit all the students at Casa. We are also looking for live and silent auction items, if you have a business, service or vacation rental that might work please call Carrie Kent 763-6593 or Genie Castro 763-4273.

Thanks for your time. Please keep us in mind if you are interested in joining the board. We are looking for a few good parents that know how to have a good time while raising money for Casa.

Go Gauchos!

Valerie King

Casa Grande Boosters President



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 Lomeli and Kathy Moyles
Project Success Desiree West **Career Center** Karen Buchanan

Important Dates

Veteran's Holiday - Nov 11th
Thanksgiving Holiday - Nov 25th, 26th, 27th
UC/CSU Application Deadline - Nov 30th
Financial Aid Night - Dec 3rd, 7:00 pm NMU
FINALS - Dec 16th, 17th, 18th
SAT Test Registration by Dec 15th -
(for Jan 23rd test date)
Winter Break - Dec 21st - Jan 4th
ACT Test Registration by Jan 5th -
(for Feb 6th test date)
8th Grade Parent Night - Jan 12th
Honors Information Night - Jan 12th,
Preceding 8th Grade Parent Night
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - Jan 18th
FAFSA Workshop - Jan 26th, 6:00 pm to
8:30 pm, Casa Grande Library



Students of the Month

Congratulations to **Kiara Covarrubias** and **Matthew Long** who were recognized as students of the month for **October 2009**. Students are selected based upon their outstanding academic achievement. These two students were honored as the

two Students of the Month at the October School Board meeting.

National Merit Scholarship Program

More **congratulations** are due to the following students for their **high scores** on the **PSAT** in **October 2008**. Over 1.5 million juniors took the **PSAT nationwide** in 2008. The National Merit Scholarship Program identifies the top 1% high scores nationwide, about 16,000 students, with a Selection Index score of 218 or higher. These students are National Merit Scholar Semifinalists and have an opportunity to be Merit Scholarship winners - a \$2,500 scholarship. Students with Selection Index scores of 201 to 217 are in the top 2.5 % of high scorers nationwide and are honored as Commended Scholars.

National Merit Scholars Semifinalists:
Kristen Schwabe-Fry
Anisa Li

Commended Scholars:
Matthew Long
Vanessa On
Brett Reeves
Nina Udonsak

National Hispanic Recognition Finalist:
Diego Jaramillo

Congratulations to these students!
Casa Grande is proud of your accomplishments!

Golden State Seal Merit Diplomas

Seniors who receive a scaled score of 370 or above on 6 qualifying California Standardized Tests during high school will receive Golden State Seal Merit Diplomas. These students will receive a special seal on their diplomas marking the distinction. We are proud to announce that 85 Seniors have achieved this honor!

These students are:

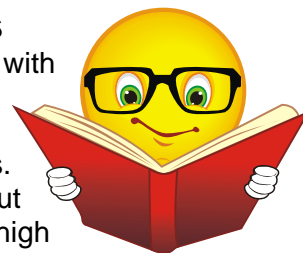
Maxwell Barry, Matthew Bluhm, Sage Boetler, Nichoals Bokaie, Jennifer Brooks, Kylie Buck, Thomas Burns, Kenny Campbell, Max Chappell, Christa Christianson, Gursharan Claire, William Cole, Andrew Collins, Kiara Covarrubias, Nathan Cox, Brandon Cramer, Kyle Cubba, Michael Dagnino, William Dagnino, Hugh Dowdy, Matthew Draluck, Nicholas Fausone, Vincent Fausone, Brian Fingado, George Foley, Clinton Gavette, Ginamarie Gianandrea, Spencer Hall, Donovan Halpin, Alexis Halstenson, Tyler Harwood, Emily Hawkins, James Camala, Diego Jaramillo, Phillip Johnson, Liza Klebe, Christian Ladd, Christina Lee, Anisa Li, Matthew Long, Hsiao-Yuan Ma, Ryan Markey, Benjamin Marshall, Rebecca Martinez, Samuel Martinez, Samantha McCrea-Twyman, Jeffrey McGarrah, Morgan McNees, Samantha Montenegro, Daniel Moore, Georgia Moriyama, Nathan Mowat, Kaitlin Murphy, Jared O'Brien, Vanessa On, Brady Oslar, Laura Packard, Jyoti Pal, Tia Perez, Sara Phelan, Dominique Pierremont, Casey Powers, Matthew Redeker, Brett Reeves, Heather Russell, Matthew Samet, John Scannell, Jake Schloetter, Kristen Schwabe-Fry, Mary Senello, Rohan Sharma, Lester Sit, Alaina Skolnik, David Slattery, Kyle Smith, Natalie Smith, Chloe Spicher, Teresa Tinetti, Kim Tran, Nina Udomsak, Richard Wester, Emma Williams, Trevor Williams, Ryan Wong, Jennifer Yu.

Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen this could be **you** when you are a Senior if you score high on 6 of the qualifying standardized tests in April and May.

Education Plans

We are continuing with education plans for **Freshmen** and **Sophomore** students.

These plans map out courses to take in high school to meet post-high school goals. Parents are welcome to attend this planning meeting, but it is not required. Students may request an appointment with his or her counselor to write the education plan or parents may **call the Counseling Office to schedule an education plan appointment at 778-4690.**



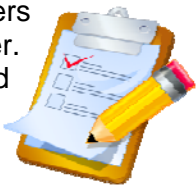
College Applications

CSU and UC college applications are due by November 30th. Don't wait until Thanksgiving weekend to complete your applications! The UC and CSU offices will be closed that week, so no one will be available to answer your questions. If you have any questions about which courses to put on your application, ask your counselor. We are happy to review any college application – just ask!

Private college applications are due at varying times. Check the dates so you don't miss a deadline. Some private college application deadlines are January 1st. Counselors will not be writing letters of recommendation and Secondary School Reports over the Winter Break, so be sure the request is made well in advance of December 21st.

Letters of Recommendation

If a **Senior** needs a letter of recommendation for colleges or a scholarship, the student should complete the Letter of Recommendation Profile, available in the counseling office. The information provided helps counselors and teachers write a more persuasive letter. Please give counselors and teachers at least two weeks notice so we have adequate time.



Financial Aid

The financial aid cycle is coming around. Attend the **Financial Aid night** on **December 3rd** to hear general information about financial aid. Need help filling out the FAFSA? Attend the **Financial Aid Workshop** on **January 26th**. The financial aid **deadline** for the **FAFSA** and the **Cal Grant** is **March 2, 2010**.

Cal Grant GPA Verification forms will be available in mid November in the Counseling Office. **This form is REQUIRED to be returned to our Registrar by mid February** so that we may submit your students' GPA to the California Student Aid Commission. Without parent permission to send your student's GPA, your student may not be considered for a Cal Grant.



Scholarships

Local scholarship information will be **available on the Career Center webpage in December**. Apply for this

local, free money for after high school education!

2nd 6-Week Progress Reports

The second 6-week progress period ends on October 30th. After this progress period, 6 weeks remain in the Fall semester. I encourage any student or parent who has questions about a grade or progress in a course to discuss this with your teacher. Students earn credits and GPA with the December, semester grades.

Students who received a grade lower than a "C" need to make use of the daily tutorial

period. Parents should feel free to contact their student's teachers via email or voice mail. Phone numbers and email addresses are on the Casa Grande Website or in the yellow Parent Handbook distributed during registration in August.

Onward – We encourage all students to continue diligent and thoughtful effort in high school. The high school education is the foundation for success in the world after high school.

Casa Grande Counseling Department Webpage

Check out the Casa Counseling Department webpage. It is loaded with lots of information to help you plan your educational path through and after high school. We want **all** to students to be successful after high school!



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Career Center Coordinator

CASA GRANDE HIGH SCHOOL



This June will be the twenty-first year that Casa Grande has participated in Project Graduation and we are looking forward to throwing a fun, entertaining, drug and alcohol free, celebration for our graduates.

Please join us the first Monday of every month (except December) @ 7:00pm in the Faculty Lounge at Casa Grande High School.

IMPORTANT DATES

10/05/09 - Project Grad meeting - 7pm at CGHS Faculty Lounge

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To Casa families:

This graduation party - which is amazing and takes 100's of volunteers - is designed to keep our kids SAFE on graduation night while they are celebrating the cumulation of 12 years of hard work! For 21 years there has not been a single death of a Casa Senior on Graduation night which is statistically one of the most dangerous nights for them. We are very proud of this and want the next 20 years of Senior to be safe also. It takes a group effort for this to happen!

There are many opportunities to help and we primarily recruit and communicate by e-mail. Throughout the year we will e-mail the entire list looking for decorators, casino dealers, contributions, etc. If you are only available for a few hours this year, look for the opportunity that works for you. If you are interested, please e-mail us at casaprojgrad@yahoo.com and we will be happy to include you on our mailing list.

We also need a few committed people who want to help plan the party. It is a year-round commitment but generally most of the jobs just take pockets of effort. This year many of the committee chairs have Seniors and this will be our final year on the committee. We are looking for parents who will shadow us so next year the new chairs are ready to seamlessly take the reins!

Our monthly meetings are the first Monday of each month (except December when we do not meet) in the faculty lounge at Casa at 7pm. Please come, see what we do, meet the chairs and see what opportunities may appeal to you. The jobs are fun as are the people who do them!

If you want to be involved with the planning but can not be at the first meeting - or any Mondays- please e-mail and let me know - we will work something out!

Also, check our website, designed by 2009 Senior Danielle Carney for her Senior Project: <http://casaprojectgrad.com/>

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Cathleen Andreucci - Casa Project Grad Chair

Volunteers needed: Join the celebration!

Sonoma County Project Graduation is a 100% volunteer organization. Keeping our seniors safe on graduation night requires hundreds of volunteers each year. If you're a parent, volunteering allows you to connect with graduating seniors and get an insider view at one of the biggest community events of the year in an exciting way: volunteers do everything from setting up decorations to dealing blackjack or running arcade-style games to preparing and serving meals and snacks.

But volunteering with Project Grad isn't just fun - it's rewarding as well. Many people stay involved long past their children's graduations, and you may just meet someone on your committee who's in their tenth year as a volunteer. Project Grad needs volunteers to lead or participate on the following committees.

- Decorations
- Food
- Entertainment
- Security
- Prizes
- Tickets
- Fundraising
- Publicity
- Staffing
- Clean-up

Without volunteers, this wonderful event for our teens would not happen. There are many volunteer opportunities, before the event, the day of the event, during the event, and afterwards. Come join the fun - you will be glad you did.



Did you know you can shop and at the same time help Casa's Project Grad. It is easy! Check out escrip.com to learn more!

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact us at
casaprojgrad@yahoo.com.