

The Casa Connection

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

February 2010

Number 4 of 8 issues



From Principal Linda Scheele

Dear Casa Grande Parents and Caregivers,

This is to inform you that as of February 10, 2010 Casa Grande is adopting the same on-time policy that Petaluma High School has been using since 2008 and where they saw a dramatic reduction in the number of tardy (late to class) students. For some time we have been concerned about the number of students who arrive late to class. On an average day we have over 70 students tardy to their first period class. On an average week over 350 different students are late to one or more class periods. As a staff we have agreed that by tolerating this, we are sending the wrong message to students about the importance of being on time. The ramifications of being late to class are many:

- The tardy student disrupts the class by walking in late.
- The tardy student loses valuable instructional time.
- The teacher must repeat instructions or material to the tardy student, taking educational time away from other students.
- By tolerating tardiness to class, we fail to educate young people about the importance of promptness. This will become a serious issue for students when they leave school and become employed. Employers do not keep employees who arrive late to work.

The on-time policy is as follows:

- A student who arrives late to any class (late is defined as entering the class after the tardy bell has rung) will receive a detention slip from the teacher.
- The student will serve a detention either the same day, or the next school day. It is the student's choice.
- Detentions are 45 minutes in length. Students report to H-5, Student Services, for the detention immediately after school.
- Students who do not report for an assigned detention will receive two detentions, one as a consequence for being late and one for failure to serve the first detention.
- A student who fails to serve the double detention will receive an in-house suspension for one school day.
- Students who have an excused tardy, ex: a doctor's appointment, should report to the attendance office where they will be given a pass to class. No detention will be assigned.
- Students who intentionally cut class or who report 30 minutes or more late to class are considered truant and will receive an in-house suspension.

The teachers and staff at Casa Grande hope that you will support this policy by discussing with your students the importance of being on time to school. We want students to be in class where they can take full advantage of what Casa's wonderful teachers have to offer. We do not want the learning environment disrupted by students coming into class late. We hope you will partner with us by ensuring that your students arrive on time to school and by reinforcing the value of promptness.

United Anglers Fish Hatchery Membership Now

"We save Fish. We clean up the local creeks. We make a difference" Kristie Hubacker Co President Class of 2010)
The United Anglers Fish hatchery is an internationally known student built and operated facility located here on the Casa Grande campus. Starting in 1983, United Anglers is comprised of a group of young people dedicated to learning how to save wildlife species and Restore the local waterways. Known around the world for its success with the Adobe Creek Steelhead trout, students have recently engaged in the dramatic struggle to save our local Pacific Salmon. Throughout the year they do more than save fish, educate the community and teach at the local elementary schools, they have fun and making life long friendships. If your son or daughter is interested in animals, the environment or the outdoors, we encourage them to come to the hatchery during tutorial and find out now how to join this unique educational opportunity. Visit our website, www.uacg.org for pictures and for more information. You may also call 778-4703.

Casa Grande Booster Club

The Casa Grande Booster Club is proud to announce that our 2nd Annual Crab Feed was able to raise over \$14,000.00 for the students of Casa Grande High School. The event was a huge success and everyone seemed to have a great time. Dinner music was provided by Ryan Burke, Carrie & Maddie Kent with dance music provided at a discounted rate by Full Spectrum Entertainment

The food was prepared by Chef Mario Perez with the help of students from our culinary program. A big thank you to all our generous donors.

The Casa Grande Booster Club would like to thank these tireless volunteers; Ron & Valerie King, Bob & Pam Lorenzini, Sheila & Jim Burke, Helen Tyler, Carrie Kent, Genie Castro, Polly Mora, Bill & Michelle McSweeney, Carlos & Tamara Perez, Janet Kinahan, Stephanie Derby, Janette Braa,

Kathy Halligan, Michelle King, Sabrina Lorenzini, & Kaylee Braa.

Thanks to all the vendors whose donations helped to make this a great evening.

Bingo

Casa Grande Booster Club has Bingo games every Sunday. We are in desperate need of volunteers to help run this. If you are interested and have a few hours to spare on Sunday afternoons please contact Trudy May 415/897-7913. You can earn \$25.00 for your sport, club or organization at Casa by volunteering.

New Members

We encourage members to come to our meetings. They are the second Monday of the month and are held in the faculty lounge. We are looking for people to become involved who have younger students. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions....**765-4602 Valerie King, President.**



The Counseling Connection

Information to help you succeed in high school and beyond

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

Upcoming Dates

CAHSEE (Exit Exams) – Feb 2nd and 3rd
ACT Test (www.collegeboard.com) – Feb 6th
NO SCHOOL – Feb 8th (Lincoln's Holiday)
NO SCHOOL – Feb 15th (Washington's Holiday)
End of Grading Period – February 19th
Report Cards Mailed – February 26th
FAFSA Filing Deadline – March 2nd
Cal Grant Deadline – March 2nd
SAT Test (www.collegeboard.com) – March 13th
CAHSEE (Exit Exams – Make Ups) March 16th
Open House/College Night – March 31st
End of Grading Period – April 2nd
Spring Break – April 5th through April 9th
ACT Test (www.collegeboard.com) – April 10th
Report Cards Mailed – April 16th

February 2010

Congratulations! – **Laura Packard and Emma Williams** will be recognized as Students of the Month at the February School Board Meeting. Selection is based on outstanding academic achievement.

COURSE SELECTIONS FOR 2010-2011 – This is the time of year when students are making choices to determine what classes they will select for next year. During the last three weeks of January and continuing through the first week of February, the five Casa counselors have been in classrooms to speak to every student in 8th through 11th grade. We have given out course selection forms and explained students' options. It has been fun to

get so many questions and to see all of the excitement that students and their families have regarding courses for the upcoming school year.

Two super-informative and fun “promotional” events were held leading up to this decision-making period. **8th Grade Parent Night** and **Cluster Night** were held on consecutive weeks in January. Record-setting crowds on both nights were treated to Casa teachers and students proudly showing off the myriad courses, both electives and core academics, that your son or daughter can take during their time here. Many students and parents alike exclaimed dismay at not being able to take ALL of the classes they learned about. Not a bad problem for a school to have and truly a credit to the teachers and students who make up these high caliber programs.

If you still have questions about classes at Casa, use this link <http://casagrandehighschool.org/counseling4.aspx> to check out the **Course Description Handbook, Honors and AP Course Information, and the Small Learning Communities (SLC) Brochure a.k.a. Cluster Brochure** online. We have extra hard copies that you can pick up in the Main Office and Counseling Office. And please don't hesitate to call or e-mail the counseling staff with your questions.

FINANCIAL AID - Cal Grants are a source of free financial aid for students who meet the GPA and income requirements. To be eligible, students must submit a Cal Grant GPA



Information Release to Linda Barbieri, Casa's registrar, before February 10th. We gave Cal Grant forms to all seniors earlier this year, and we have more forms in the counseling office.

FINANCIAL AID (Continued) Also, students who are pursuing ANY post-high school education (e.g. trade school, junior college, four-year college) need to complete the FAFSA by March 2nd to qualify for grants and loans. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete the application if you have not already done so.

Scholarship information is available online at <http://www.casagrandehighschool.org/careers.aspx> and in the Career Center. Karen Buchanan, Career Center Coordinator extraordinaire, is available for questions about colleges, universities, trade schools, and scholarship information.

The **California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)** is being given 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 March 16th and 17th. This will also be the re-test date for juniors and seniors who have not passed the CAHSEE.



meeting we will discuss the student's individual goals and map out an education plan to help achieve these goals. It is a good time to discuss college and vocational goals, how to make up credits, and other individual needs. The conferences usually take 30-60 minutes and can be scheduled by calling the counseling office at 778-4690.

SOCIALIZATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS - For years we have been going into classrooms to address academic and career-related topics. This month the counselors will be once again facilitating discussions around the socialization of boys and girls in our Human Interaction classes. This is the second year in a row that Casa counselors have been bringing this activity to our 9th graders. Not only does this allow us to work with more students in the personal/social domain, it also gives 9th graders the chance to see Casa counselors involved in topics beyond the usual academic counseling. We appreciate the Human Interaction Department for giving us this opportunity to help our freshmen talk about why we are the way we are.

10TH GRADE I SEARCH PROJECT – The sophomore I Search projects are underway. Counselors are visiting all 10th grade English classes presenting information about careers and administering an interest survey to students. This English project provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and set appropriate after high school goals. Students research careers, majors, and colleges or trade schools that will help them meet their goals.

EDUCATION PLAN – Counselors recently helped all freshmen to start an education plan. Now they have a clearer idea of what classes they need to take over the next four years in order to graduate and to be eligible for college. All students and their parents are invited to schedule an Education Plan conference with a counselor to complete the plan. During this