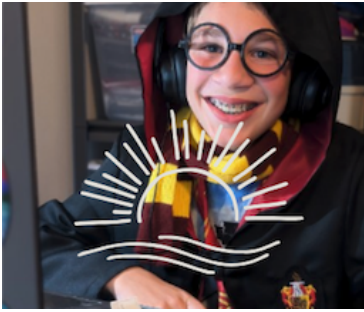




November 2024

# Parent/Student MONTHLY NEWS NOTES



## Monthly Message



**Justine Rauterkus**  
Asst. Exec. Director

### Changing Leaves, Changing Perspective

How is it already November, and where did the year go? One of the most interesting things about the end of year holiday season to me, is the contrast in what we each experience. A lot of people simultaneously look forward to and dread this time of year or very firmly fall into one category or the other. The cold weather, the holiday cheer, multiplied time constraints, additional family expectations, and added financial strain to name a few common lines of thought.

This is often the best time of year for people, or conversely, a hurdle to overcome. Even those individuals that are deeply in love with holiday season face challenges. They still experience the crowds, the holiday music, the expectations to make it the cheery time of year for everybody else, etc.

Have you ever thought about how these contrasts are what provide you with the context? This is a concept that intrigues me. Without the negatives in both past and present life experiences, we would never be able to even identify the best moments in our lives as something exceptional. I think what we often forget is that this idea of contrast is present throughout the whole year, but it seems to amplify during this season providing us with stark contrast and an opportunity to pick up the good parts instead of the bad.

Depending on which side of the "holiday camp" you fall in, would you like to change how you view this upcoming season? What could you change or try this time around to make a better experience? For me, I think the solution lies in the acceptance of the negative aspects of the holidays while celebrating the positives. One of our biggest differences as humans, is that while we may not be able to control external situations, I believe that we do have control over how we choose to experience them and what we put our focus on.

# What's New?



## ***New CMASAS Spirit Store!***

**Help us build our tuition assistance fund while shopping!**

We have created dozens of new CMASAS-branded products in multiple colors that you can enjoy as we approach the holiday season! Just click below to view our upgraded Spirit Store!

There are some really cool pajama bottoms, t-shirts, sweatshirts, phone cases, day packs, hats, and tumblers.

[Spirit Store Link](#)

The best part is that we are teaming up with the Personalized Education (PE) Foundation to raise money for its tuition assistance fund, which offers opportunities to CMASAS families in need.

From now until **November 18, 2024**, when you purchase any item at the CMASAS Spirit Store, a matching donation of the same \$ amount will be made to the PE Foundation Fund. As you shop, you will help provide the gift of education to a fellow student.

## **IMPORTANT NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS!**

### **Student Council Hobby Fair**

**November 7, 2024 2:00-3:00pm PST**

### **Veteran's Day - Office Closed**

**Monday, November 11, 2024**

### **San Diego Regional Gathering: Lions, Tigers, and Bears**

**Friday, November 15 2024 - 1:30-3:30pm PST**

**DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS NOVEMBER 7th**

### **Parent Ambassador Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

**10am or 5pm PST**

**Spirit Store Holiday Sale Fundraiser Ends**

# Counseling Updates



**Heidi Fox**  
Director of Counseling

## **Seniors Planning to Apply to College:**

November and December are two of the biggest months for college applications. If you are a senior planning to apply to college, please make sure you are keeping up on your application deadlines. Do NOT wait until the last minute to ask me (your school counselor) to submit your transcripts, school report (ranking, GPA, and more), or write you a letter of recommendation. Along the same lines, do not expect your course instructors or PEC to write a letter of recommendation (LOR) in one day's time! Plan ahead! Give everyone at least a week's notice. I look forward to helping you complete your college applications over the next few months!

Please consider reviewing my latest installment/recording for the College Bound Club Meeting (from Oct. 31, 2024). This is a 30-minute recording where I cover these topics: How to Narrow Your College Search, How Many Colleges (& What Kind) Should You Apply To, How to Pay for College, and more! I encourage parents to watch, as well!

## College Bound Club Meeting Recording

### **HS Students:**

Interested in learning more about ASU dual enrollment courses? Please take a few minutes to review our ASU page from our HS course catalog here: <https://www.cmasas.org/course-catalog/high-school/asu-ulc>  
This is a GREAT way to get ahead in your college credits before you even leave high school!

### **National Honors Society (NHS):**

Reminder that at the end of January (2025) we will send out an invitation to ALL high school students who meet the initial eligibility requirements to be invited to apply to National Honor Society. The minimum requirements are at least a sophomore in standing (have completed at least 6 HS credits), completed at least one semester of credits/courses at CMASAS (minimum of 3 HS credits completed), and have at least a 3.50 cumulative GPA. If you have questions about the eligibility to be invited, please let me know.

### **ALL Students & Families:**

As a reminder, the more involved your child is in school, the more likely they will succeed! Participating in these opportunities helps "connect" your child to other students, feel connected, and have more "buy in" to school. It can also be helpful to a student's mental health and well-being. Encourage your child to:

- \*Join a club
- \*Attend homeroom weekly
- \*Attend any assemblies we offer
- \*Attend a regional gathering to meet students/staff in person
- \*Participate in your students "school chat" (K-5 School Chat, 6-8 School Chat, and 9-12 School Chat)—there are wonderful daily conversations happening in those chats!

If you are ever concerned about your student, their progress (or lack thereof), or anything else, I am always happy to set up a meeting to discuss any concerns.

# Upcoming Events

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
JOINING OUR CMASAS

## Parent Ambassador Program

OUR PARENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO  
STRENGTHEN OUR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN OUR SCHOOL  
LEADERSHIP AND CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES



Mentoring New Parents



Providing Valuable Feedback to  
CMASAS Leadership



Sharing Your Story with Prospects



Building Parent Community thru  
Activities, Partnerships & Fundraising



**FIRST MEETING**  
Tuesday  
NOVEMBER 19, 2024  
10AM OR 5PM

(MEETING LINKS TO COME)





# THANKSGIVING Student Fundraiser

From November 1-December 13, 2024

*This Holiday Season, Let's Make a Difference!*

Join us in growing our Tuition Assistance Fund to support CMASAS families who need added financial support.

Together, we can make a meaningful impact.

**GOAL = \$1,000  
IF WE REACH OUR GOAL CMASAS  
WILL MATCH \$ FOR \$**

#### How You Can Help:

- Have a bake sale in your neighborhood
- Organize a lemonade stand
- Sell items at a garage sale
- Organize a local car wash

Get creative and email April Sandoval ([asandoval@cmasas.org](mailto:asandoval@cmasas.org)) with your plan...Let's hit our goal!

The Personalized Education Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to transform lives through education. With your support, we're making K-12 educational opportunities more affordable for those where a private education is just out of reach.



**April Sandoval**

Elem. and Middle School PEC/CI  
and Community & Culture  
Specialist

#### Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is celebrated in November each year in the United States. It is a time to recognize and honor the contributions, history, and culture of Native Americans and Indigenous peoples. The celebration often includes events, educational programs, and activities that highlight their heritage. Hop on over to Teams to learn more.

#### Regional Gatherings

Our annual gathering at the Pumpkin Patch took place on Saturday, October 19th, on Sauvie Island in Portland, Oregon. We had a fantastic time celebrating in person as a school community, enjoying activities such as roasting s'mores, navigating the corn maze, and carving pumpkins. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and embrace the season together.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## 2024/2025 CMASAS Regional Gatherings



**Raleigh, NC**  
**Museum of Natural Science**  
 September 28, 2024  
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm



**Portland, OR**  
**Pumpkin Patch on Sauvie Island**  
 October 19, 2024  
 10:00 am - 1:00 pm



**San Diego, CA**  
**Lions, Tigers and Bears**  
 November 2024  
 Date/Time TBD



**Salem, MA**  
**Salem Witch Museum**  
 May 23, 2025  
 Time TBD

### Clubs

Student clubs are an integral part of building community here at CMASAS. They help develop a sense of belonging and connect students to their peers. They also allow students to develop and strengthen skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership. We offer over 30 clubs which range in topics. We love that clubs are student driven. We welcome students to start a club with the support of a staff member.

Student clubs are up and running! All clubs are listed on our [website](#). You can register for a student club via your PEC.

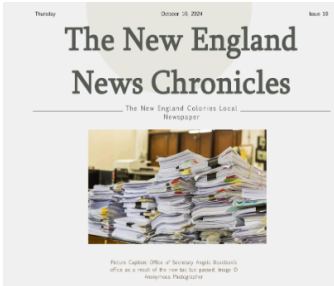
### Club Spotlight - Storymakers

A piece of music can tell a story, superheroes can come alive through a comic strip, and writing can be loads of fun! Come on a journey with us as we explore and review books, write, and share. Storymakers will engage students in various genres of writing.

This club recently expanded and is now for grades K-8, runs every Wednesday at 11:00am pacific with April Sandoval, Kylee Lally and Collin Reed co-moderating.

# Student Spotlight

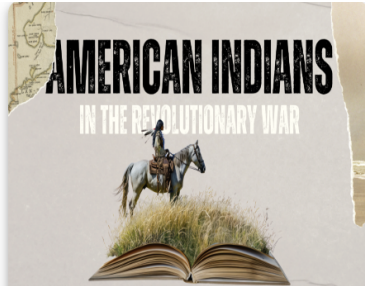
Check out our new [student spotlights](#) this month! Please continue to send in achievements by filling out the following [form](#).



## GRIEVANCE NEWSPAPER ASSIGNMENT FOR US HISTORY

Elisia Nikolich  
8

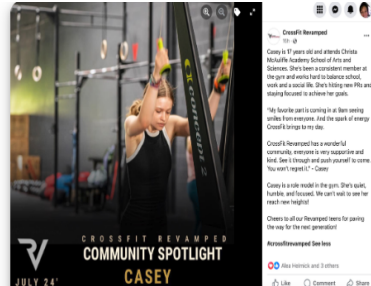
My task was to write a fictional newspaper article assuming the Declaration of Independence was never written after



## HONORS PROJECT U.S. HISTORY A: AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Madison Dginguerian  
10

The project revolves around American Indian involvement and contribution in the American



## SPOTLIGHT OF CASEY WHITE AT HER GYM

Casey White  
12th grade

Awesome accomplishments that are recognized at Casey's gym.

[Latest Testimonial \(click on image\)](#)

## Accelerated Learners TESTIMONIAL

### The Pleszewski Family, Gaia and Felicia - Class of 2023



At CMASAS, we're proud to offer a unique K-12 online learning experience that empowers students to take control of their education. Recently, we sat down with Felicia, Gaia, and Bart, a family whose students attended CMASAS for more than four years. Their story is truly remarkable—Gaia and her sibling were able to graduate from our program at just 13 years old, thanks to the flexibility and personalized pace CMASAS offers.

By choosing a program that allowed them to accelerate at their own speed, they reached this incredible milestone far earlier than most students. Their journey highlights the power of personalized learning, the guidance of our Personalized Education Coaches (PECs), and the global mindset we aim to instill in our students.

#### A Perfect Fit from the Start

Felicia and Bart enrolled their children at CMASAS in July 2019, after searching for an online school that could offer both flexibility and structure. They had previously attended another online school but found it lacking in the support their children needed.

CMASAS offered exactly what they were looking for.

"We wanted a school that was self-paced but also had structure," Felicia explained. Bart added, "In Quebec, where we live, the government monitors homeschooling and online education closely. CMASAS provided not only the curriculum but also the necessary documents, assignments, and grades to keep us in compliance."

#### The Role of the Personalized Education Coach (PEC)

A standout feature of CMASAS is the Personalized Education Coach (PEC), and the family emphasized how crucial their PECs were in their journey. Over the years, Gaia and her sibling worked with two PECs: one while in middle school and another while in high school. These PECs provided invaluable support, adapting to their needs at different stages of their education.

"Our PECs were absolutely essential. They played a key role in the entire process," Bart emphasized. "The middle school PEC was empathetic and supportive, guiding the kids according to what they were ready for. In high school, the PEC was more goal-oriented, helping them structure their education toward graduation."

The family was so impressed with the PEC experience that they recommended CMASAS to other families. "We've had friends enroll, and we told them the PEC is key. It really sets CMASAS apart from other online schools!"

#### The Benefits of Personalized Learning

Gaia and her sibling started CMASAS at the age of nine, and they quickly saw the benefits of personalized learning.

"The flexibility allowed us to start school at a younger age and take more courses over a longer period," Gaia shared. "We also gained skills like organization and scheduling that we wouldn't have learned in a traditional school."

Because CMASAS allows students to set their own pace, Gaia discovered that evenings worked best for her, while her sibling learned to overcome procrastination. "It was an adjustment at first," Gaia admitted, "but once we figured out what worked best, it was much easier to stay on track."

#### A Community That Shapes Global Citizens

More than just an educational institution, CMASAS fosters a sense of community and respect that prepares students to become global citizens. Bart noted, "We're trying to help them become global citizens—people who are self-reliant, responsible for themselves, but also respectful to others. I think CMASAS provides that partnership where they are respected. They're part of this journey, in the driver's seat, and that's really different from most educational experiences."

Bart explained that their previous online school focused purely on content delivery, but CMASAS offered something deeper. "CMASAS was more like a community where everybody was moving forward individually but also with a collective goal. It wasn't just about the courses—it was about creating a well-rounded experience."

#### Addressing Common Concerns

One common concern for parents considering online education is the potential for social isolation. CMASAS effectively addressed these concerns. "Our main concern was social development. However, we prioritized social interaction, and the flexibility of CMASAS allowed us to align our schedule with social events and vacations."

In addition to personalized learning, CMASAS offers a variety of clubs and extracurricular activities. Gaia participated in the Yearbook Club and Minecraft Club, which helped her stay engaged with the school community and explore her interests outside of traditional coursework.

#### Preparing for Future Challenges

As Gaia and her sibling transitioned to college, they found that CMASAS prepared them well for the demands of higher education. "The work ethic, scheduling, and executive skills we developed at CMASAS have been incredibly beneficial," Bart added. "CMASAS provided an opportunity for enrichment, allowing our students to progress at their own pace and reach their full potential."

#### Join Us!

If you're looking for an online school that offers flexibility, personalized learning, and a supportive community, CMASAS is here to support your family. Visit us at [www.cmasas.org](http://www.cmasas.org)

# Let's Celebrate!

## Student Virtue Awards - October

The October Virtue of the Month was "**Compassion.**" Here are the award recipients:

#### Middle School:

- **Elisia Nikolic** — She consistently demonstrates compassion toward both her peers and instructors. For instance, when speaking with April, she expressed genuine happiness for another student who won the Middle School Representative role in student council this year,



sharing that she was grateful for her own opportunity to serve in that position last year. Her nomination also mentioned that she is a role model for the younger students in clubs and models kindness on a regular basis.

### High School:

- **Mateo Hoyos**—His nomination stated that he bowed out of a leadership position in Student Council to allow another student the opportunity this year. It also mentioned he “always shows consideration to his peers & is always reluctant to engage in harmful gossip.”
- **Levi Dginguerian**—Levi is a new student this year but has jumped into our school's online community. He is working on starting up a new club--Aviation Club. He has taken the time to engage in many homerooms to share about his passion in the area of aviation. He provides a warm welcome and an encouraging environment.
- **Natalie Cusimano**—Her nomination stated: “Natalie is always understanding of others and shows compassion. She has shared stories of supporting her friends and being genuinely happy of their successes. She is kind even when dealing with personal struggles.”

### November's Virtue is **Gratitude**

Continuing to emphasize the importance of being thankful.



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