

# Millards's Message

Thank you all for allowing your children to be a part of the Casa Grande High School Music Program. This music program has a long and rich history of excellence in band, choir, jazz band, and marching band. It has a very fun history as well. It has given both students and parents so many great memories over the 50 years of Casa's existence. This history happens and continues due to the hard work and dedication of students and parents over the years. So I want to thank you again for allowing your child to be a part of this ongoing history at Casa Grande High School. I have always considered it a high privilege to teach all of these students. I believe whole-heartedly in the power of music in our world and the difference a music education can make in the life of each and every student that participates in it.

It feels more and more "normal" the more we roll slowly out of this pandemic. I think this is a completely fantastic thing! I was able to attend some musical performances over Spring Break both at Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University. These performances got me even more excited at the prospects of what lies in store for the Casa student musicians as we continue to come out of this pandemic!

Now for the honest truth...music programs cost money and need volunteers to operate in any decent capacity. They require much more money the more active the bands and choirs are. That is a fact of school music programs. The school district only supplies a meager budget from which to work. The cost of operating and maintaining a high-quality music program FAR exceeds what the district supplies as far as a budget is concerned.

This is why I am sending out this special edition of the "Casa Grande High School Music Department Newsletter". To inform you of the needs that the music program will have as we continue moving forward. There will be more needs as we continue if we are to continue and maintain our rich history of excellence. I sincerely hope that you can find a place where you, as a parent and/or family member, can actively volunteer in some capacity to help your child continue to have a rich musical experience while at Casa Grande High School.

Please read through this information that follows (especially the info at the bottom of this newsletter for the bingo volunteer informational meeting **this Thursday evening** in the Casa Grande High School Music Building) and give some honest and serious consideration to the opportunities that come up for parents/family members to participate and be a part of the Casa music family!!!

Respectfully,

**Mr. Millard**

## **What Is Eastside Friends of Music and What Does It Fund?**

Eastside Friends of Music (or just E.F.M.) is the Casa Grande High School Music Boosters organization. It is registered as a non-profit organization with the State of California.

As the name infers, this organization supports mainly the music program at Casa Grande High School, but it also supports the other public school music programs that feed into Casa on the East side of Petaluma when needed. This would include Kenilworth Junior High School band, the Old Adobe Union School District band and choir music programs (if they have these), and the Waugh School District band and choir music programs (if they have these).

## **What Does E.F.M. Pay for, Specifically?**

E.F.M. finances a great deal of things that help the Casa Grande High School Music Program. Here is a list of several things that this organization finances (it is by no means a complete list either). This will hopefully begin to give you an idea of the size and scope of what it takes to finance a music program.

- Sheet music for bands, choirs, and jazz ensembles (anywhere from \$45 to \$200 per piece of music purchased)
- Entrance fees for bands, choirs, and jazz ensembles into music festivals (anywhere from \$250 to \$500 per group for each festival)
- Bussing to and from festivals and field trips (the district and school do not cover these costs..the cost varies depending on where the musical ensembles travel and for how long...it can get expensive very quickly)
- Music stands and chairs in the music building to be purchased or replaced (average is \$108 per chair and \$53 per music stand)
- Maintenance and repairs for school-owned music instruments (this is an ongoing expense as instruments are taken to shop various times throughout the year...easily over \$2,000 per year on the conservative side)
- Paying for clinicians and specialists to come and work with the students (costs varies depending on the professional musician coming in and what they charge)
- Paying for a professional choir piano accompanist to work with the choir classes (cost varies depending on how many hours accompanist works)
- Membership costs for various musical organizations. Membership is generally required for bands and choirs to register for the music festivals (about \$100 -\$250 per organization each year)
- Maintenance of uniforms and purchase of new uniforms as needed.

Like I stated earlier, this is only a portion of the costs a music program encounters as it tries to operate smoothly. When the musical ensembles get to a point where they can go on overnight trips, the costs increase exponentially.

## **What is the CGHS Music Program's Biggest Fundraiser?**

For over 40 years, the main income source for the Casa Grande High School Music Program has been bingo games that we co-sponsor along with the Petaluma High School Music Boosters. The income we have received from these games has enabled us to operate for decades without the students having to do bake sales, door-to-door fundraisers, as well as walk-a-thons and fundraisers of that sort. While those are great and can generate money...our bingo games have raised enough income to the point where those are not absolutely necessary (unless the bands and/or choirs are going on an overnight trip).

The ONLY way this fundraiser succeeds is with parent and family volunteers. It can not succeed without them. I know that sounds direct, but it is the honest-to-goodness truth. And the more parents and family members that volunteer for this, the less time each one needs to contribute. It becomes a win-win situation for everyone when we have a lot of volunteers. Plus...volunteering for bingo games can be fun!!! You work alongside other band and choir family members for a good cause and get to know them while doing so.

## **A Message from the Most Recent CGHS Music Program Bingo Coordinator**

*The following is from Alisha Krupinsky, our most recent bingo coordinator...*

This Saturday night bingo game is held at Casa Grande and collectively ran by Parents of both Casa Grande and Petaluma High School Band programs. That's right; the parents run the bingo program! This takes all kinds of volunteers. Most parents (guardians, friends, family - anyone over 18) can volunteer by working one bingo shift six times per year. (That's once every other month, yes, even in the summer!). Bingo subsidizes our music program substantially.

Already know you LOVE bingo? Then be a co-chair or learn to "call" bingo!! Co-chair commitment is 12-13 bingo shifts per year (roughly once a month). There are usually 4 to 5 co-chairs per school. Co-chairs are responsible for the leadership of the day, assigning tasks and calling the games. Ideally, we want co-chair representatives from each class- Senior, Junior, Sophomore, Freshman because as kids graduate, we have a legacy of knowledge being passed on. There are always two co-chairs each Saturday night to lead the game.

There are several jobs that the volunteers cover on any given Saturday evening:

- Selling Flash – Each game is worth one dollar. Walk around the floor and sell these mini games to the players. You will definitely get your steps in and this is where we make the majority of our profit.
- Snack Bar – keep items stocked and monitor the money at the back table
- Sell Bingo Cards – only the first 2 hours of the night, this is the main bingo games that we sell until the bingo night actually starts
- Bingo Caller – B-10, B-10
- Cashier – Usually done by a co-chair. Takes the money in from all areas and generates the payout for the bingo games.

We hope that you are willing and can find the time to help us all create a robust and rich music program for the students of Casa Grande!!!

*The pandemic obviously shut down this fundraiser and huge income source when it hit in 2020. We have been recently been given a soft "green-light" to resume these games in early May. We can not do this without volunteers that are trained on how to do this! We have also been contacted by several former bingo players asking when they can come back and play while supporting our music students. We are hoping to do this as soon as possible...and it all starts with having the volunteers. If Casa can not field enough volunteers, then the Petaluma High School Music Boosters could potentially reap all of the benefits from this program. We would like to make sure that both high school music programs benefit!!! We hope to see you at our informational meeting on Thursday evening!!!*

## **SPECIAL BINGO VOLUNTEERS MEETING**

### **THIS THURSDAY EVENING!!!**

**There will be an informational meeting in the Music Building (Room-G-1) at Casa Grande High School THIS coming Thursday evening (April 14) at 6:30 PM.**

Mr. Millard, Alisha Krupinsky, and a few other parent volunteers experienced in volunteering for bingo will be there to explain the fundraiser in more detail and answer any questions you might have. Coming to this meeting does NOT obligate you to volunteer at all! It is simply an informational meeting to get you more informed so that you can make the best decisions for you and your family as far as volunteering is concerned.

I sincerely hope that we **PACK** the room with folks interested in being a part of the team that helps bring back the Casa Grande High School Music Program to its former status and beyond!!!

Thank you for taking the time to read through this. I know it's a lot to digest. Your time and efforts are always greatly

appreciated!!!

We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting Thursday evening!!!

### Comments & Replies

Comment...