

THE CAS TIMES

From the Director's Desk

Dear CAS Families,

After the first semester students have another chance to recap and do the best for the end of the year to be able to be exonerated from final exams. It is time to start with a good step. Please be checking Gradelink regularly to see if your child has advanced or if they have missing work.



We have many exciting events for students coming up this semester including soccer tournaments, swimming, the spiritual retreat, science fair, field trips, Market Day and the Talent Show. Please check your school email regularly for updates on events and activities.

Let's pray for a blessed second semester full of enthusiasm and positive energy.

Many blessings to all,

- Ms. Vivian Pineda

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friendship Day/Field Trip to Children's Museum (PreK-6 th)	Feb. 14
Science Fair (9:20 - 11:30AM)	Feb. 16
President's Day (U.S.) (No Classes)	Feb. 19
Market Day (12:30 Dismissal)	March 2
Spirit Week	March 5-9
Elementary Retreat (1-6 th at EcoAventura)	March 8
High School Retreat (Finca La Loma)	March 8-9
12:30 Dismissal	March 9

Chapel/Bible Message – Theme for February: EQUALITY

Who is the Greatest in The Kingdom? This is a question that did not go inadvertently when the disciples asked Jesus. Since we are little, we are in a constant competition with our surroundings, the people around us, and ourselves. We naturally want to be better. This month's theme is Equality, which fits very well in school situations where we have to share everything. Of course, it is hard to share when we want first "what's best for us."

This is an everyday challenge for our kids/students, and it is not every day when they happily convene to share their time, games, classrooms space, recess, or any other moment with their schoolmates, when feelings of rejection get in the middle. It is not

everyday that we like the people around us, but it is everyday that we are commanded to "love our neighbor." Jesus ends up answering the question that you read in the beginning of this paragraph the following way:

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Matthew 18:2-5 (NLT)

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month we honor a teacher who is new to the CAS staff this year but who is already a valued member of our school family. Cesar Casasola is our Chapel/Bible and Music teacher and comes to us with a great deal of experience, education and a passion for teaching kids about the Lord and the Bible.

Since I was little my interests have been in constant change. This is not different from any of us but, while being born second in a list of four siblings, in a way, I learned to like their interests as well. When I was young my dad bought a house in Zacapa, *tierra caliente* as the song says, and some of the best memories I have are from that time. We had many pets including a cat, a dog, and a dove, and several other animals and bugs that just roamed around our house. There was a river in front of the house and I would go horseback riding, swimming, and fishing. This is one of the few memories I treasure living with my dad since we lost him to a heart attack when he was barely 40 years old.



Through this experience, God blessed me with many other moms and dads who were role models to me. They were my aunts and uncles from both sides of the family. I grew up really close to them and they helped me grow really close to God. My dad's youngest sister and her husband took me under their embrace. It is through them that I was able to visit the USA, not knowing that 10 years later I would earn a few degrees in the subjects that interest me the most.

I remember that every single morning, right before getting up from his bed, my dad would read the Bible and compare it to other versions he had. Little did I know that I was going to be in Texas during those 10 years, fully immersed in missions, working with our immigrant Hispanic families, while getting a degree in biblical and theological studies. This is why my interests continue to be diverse and I enjoy when I get to meet new people along our lives' paths. I believe we are all missionaries wherever we are, as long as we remember who called us to Him.

