

# THE VAN NESS VOICE

December 2025



## Musical Memories

“A bright and shiny, mighty finey”  
”THANK YOU to all of our families and friends who came out to support our production of “Something Rotten Jr.”

The Van Ness Advisory would like to recognize our class stars, Miriam and Sean, for their amazing performances! This was their first CSAMS musical and they each shined on the stage!

## Gratitude Pumpkin

In November, we continued a long-standing tradition in our Advisory: The Gratitude Pumpkin. Regrettably, this advisor did not snap a picture, but each day our class reflected on what or whom we are grateful for and wrote them on a pumpkin, as a reminder to always show gratitude to those people and moments that make life extra special. The class was most grateful for supportive parents like YOU! A close second was “Taco Bell” lol.

# Holiday Bazaar

We are excited to share that our CSAMS students will be hosting our second Holiday Bazaar on **Friday, December 12th**. This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and enjoy the spirit of the season with our school community. PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY HOLIDAY EVENT!

Students who are interested are invited to create homemade crafts, artwork, or simple projects at home to sell at the bazaar. (No food items, please). Participation is completely optional, and students may choose any project that sparks their interest. Last year, we had students 3D print items, create picture frames, and make homemade jewelry. Note: While many students will be providing homemade goods for the bazaar, all money collected will be used to purchase books for the CSAMS Battle of the Books.

Our Advisory is also going to be making and selling gift bags and gift tags- perfect for housing all of the wonderful craft items for sale, and make a delightful ready-to-gift.

Closer to the event date, we will send additional details regarding set-up and logistics. For now, we encourage students to start creating. All projects and items should be ready by **Thursday, December 11th**.

Thank you for supporting our students as they explore creativity, responsibility, and community engagement. We look forward to a festive and fun Holiday Bazaar!





**Math:** The instructional learning targets of the CSA middle school math curriculum focus on developing students' proficiency in key mathematical areas such as ratios, geometry, algebraic expressions, and statistics, while fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world application skills. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for high school math and beyond by encouraging a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. This month, students will be exploring concepts of equations (Foundations Math), equations and inequalities (Applied Math); graphing and writing linear equations (Intro to Integrated Math and Integrated I Math); and graphing quadratic functions (Integrated II Math).

**Science:** This month, students will be wrapping up their Plate Motion Engineering Internships and beginning Unit 4 - Rock Transformations. As student geologists, learners will explore a geological mystery: two rock samples—one from the Great Plains and one from the Rocky Mountains—look very different, yet contain a surprisingly similar mix of minerals. Did these rocks originally form together and later become separated, or did one form first and provide the materials for the other? To uncover the answer, students investigate how rocks form and change over time, and how various energy sources drive those transformations.

**Literature:** This month, students will wrap up *The Last Cuentista* unit by writing analytical essays on one of the novel's major themes, highlighting their growing ability to interpret literature with depth and clarity. Next, they'll put their research skills to work by creating a magazine that showcases the life and accomplishments of their chosen biography subject. To close out the month, students will shift their focus to engaging seasonal and holiday-themed nonfiction texts.

### **Biography Project**

This term in Literature, students will conclude their exciting biography project where they selected an influential person to study — such as a scientist, athlete, philosopher, or other revolutionary thinker from the past or present. Students read the biography, explored articles or periodicals, and will now complete a series of creative projects to demonstrate what they've learned.

#### **Timeline:**

- Sept. 22 – Dec. 5: Independent reading and research (biography + articles).
- Dec. 8 – 11: Complete final projects in class.
- Dec. 11: Final projects due.
- Dec. 12: Gallery Walk presentations.

**Social Studies:** This month, students have been continuing on in their journey through ancient civilizations. We ended our Ancient Egypt unit and transitioned into our Ancient Kush and Phoenicia unit. Students had various chances to challenge themselves as writers and thinkers, as well as express themselves creatively through different projects that showcase their knowledge of the month. Moving into the new month, students will begin to learn about Ancient India, discussing the different ways that civilizations were able to survive and thrive in the ancient world. Students will end the month learning about Ancient China before we head into holiday break.

## PowerSchool

POWERSCHOOL and CSA District Annual Student Forms Remember you can check your child's progress on PowerSchool at any time at <https://csadistrict.powerschool.com/public/>.

Your child receives the best education when we work together as partners. Please check your student's Powerschool with them regularly and provide opportunities at home for them to complete unfinished work or mastery. In addition to receiving a progress report from me every Friday, students should develop strong habits in their responsibility and work ethic to foster their continued success at school. Thank you for your support from home!

## Yearbooks

Middle School Yearbooks are on sale! Our yearbook is a 68-page color yearbook made by our Middle School Yearbook enhancement that captures events and memories from this school year. If you would like to order a yearbook, please visit this direct link: [Order Link](#)! If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kowalczyk ([kkowalczyk@csaschool.org](mailto:kkowalczyk@csaschool.org)).

## Secret Santa/Advisory Party

On Friday, Dec. 19 we will have our holiday Advisory Party!

Our class wants to do a Secret Santa Gift exchange. We are asking that families provide a \$10 or under wrapped gift from the list they received. If any families are unable to participate, please email me. I want to ensure that all students leave with a special surprise that day!

The class is also requesting a PANCAKE party! Please see your email for the Sign-Up genius for ways to contribute items or cooking help!



## Fun To Look Forward To

Wednesday, December 3rd	Math Term Finals
Thursday, December 4th	Glenlore Trails Aurora Winter Wizards Fundraiser
Friday, December 5th	End of Term 1- Finish reading Biography
Thursday, December 11th	CSAMS/CSPA Winter Collage Concert in High Bay, 7 pm
December 11th	Biography Project Due
Friday, December 12th	Holiday Bazaar 1:00pm-3:00pm
Friday, December 19th	Report Cards Go Home
Friday, December 19th	Holiday Spirit Wear and Secret Santa Pancake Party
Week of December 22nd	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
Week of December 29th	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

## Contact Info

Email: [Lvanness@csaschool.org](mailto:Lvanness@csaschool.org)



NOTE: My email has been updated to reflect my married name, but emails sent to my former address: [lflorida@csaschool.org](mailto:lflorida@csaschool.org) will be received, as my accounts are now synched. Please make sure you can receive emails from my new email account!



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we wrap up another busy and meaningful year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support. Your partnership, encouragement, and involvement have made such a positive difference in our Advisory community, and I truly appreciate the trust you place in me.

I hope this Christmas season brings you moments of rest, joy, and connection with the people who matter most. May you have time to savor the small but special moments—shared laughter, quiet traditions, and the warmth of being together.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a new year filled with hope and happiness.

Warm regards,  
Lauren Van Ness

