

# THE VAN NESS VOICE

JANUARY  
2026

## THANK YOU!

The Van Fam Advisory would like to thank the parents for their generous support of our holiday class party. We had a lot of fun flipping flapjacks, playing the Jingle Ball game, and exchanging Secret Santa gifts! We also appreciate you joining us for the Holiday Bazaar, which is always such a fun and important fundraiser. Without you, these moments couldn't be possible and we are truly grateful for you!



## 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 algebraic expressions, inequalities, ratios, and proportions (Applied Math); graphing and writing linear equations (Intro to Integrated Math and Integrated I Math); and graphing quadratic functions (Integrated II Math).

## LITERATURE

This month, students will kick off their learning with an engaging mini poetry unit focused on deep exploration and close reading. Through activities such as poem replication, text comparisons, and thoughtful analysis of themes, students will strengthen both their interpretive and creative skills. Following the Day of Service, Literature students will transition into an exciting study of Greek mythology. As they explore a variety of classic myths, students will create individual scrapbook pages that reflect their understanding and creativity. This unit will culminate in a fully assembled Greek mythology scrapbook, showcasing their learning and imaginative work throughout the study.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Students have just completed our Ancient India unit and will begin our exploration of Ancient China. In this unit students will examine how China's location and geography shaped its history and people. From the Himalayas to the Gobi desert, these early civilizations were shaped by the climate and natural geography. This unit will also include a study in civilizations that developed along the Huang He River, including the Shang Dynasty, which will set the stage for the discovery of these civilizations' innovations, societal structures, economies, linguistics and the arts. Students will also learn how early belief systems, ruling dynasties and innovations, like the Great Wall, impacted the development of this great society.

## SCIENCE

This month, students will be continuing 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.

## ADVISORY

In Term 2, we transition our focus to the Community, centered on the themes of Optimism and Getting Along with Others. Students will move from managing their own feelings to understanding the feelings of those around them. Specifically, we will target the skills necessary to use positive communication to interact effectively with peers. A major focus will be placed on the "work" of friendship: how to develop and maintain positive relationships through active listening and empathy. Finally, students will be equipped with support for conflict resolution, learning how to navigate disagreements with a helpful, optimistic mindset that prioritizes solution-seeking over blame.

## 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/>.

All CSA District annual student forms can be accessed and completed electronically through your student's PowerSchool account. Under the PowerSchool Parent Portal, you can update emergency contact information and complete all annual forms. If you need help or support with accessing your PowerSchool account, please let me know.

## 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).

## BELUGA BALL BASKET

for this year's Beluga Ball Fundraiser, our Advisory has voted to do a WORLD CUISINE themed basket. Please check your email with the description and Amazon wishlist link to support us! There are cooking items in every price range! The proceeds from the Beluga Ball directly benefit our students in getting us learning materials needed to thrive at school. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

## Upcoming Events

- Friday, January 9th CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
- Monday, January 19th Day of Service
- Friday, January 23rd CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
- Friday, January 30th Yellow Day for National School Choice





# PICTURE PAGE

