

★ NEW CASAA LOGO WILL GO HERE!  
★ SEE CONTEST DETAILS BELOW! ★

**Save the Dates:**

July 26, 2011

◇ Alumni BBQ

October 2, 2011

◇ Community Picnic

Fall 2011 (tbd)

◇ Refurbishment Event

March 17, 2012

◇ Community Fundraiser at the SF Exploratorium

Spring , 2012 (tbd)

◇ Dislecksia - The Movie

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**CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2011!**

**June 9, 2011** With the traditional tossing of their mortarboard caps, the CAS Class of 2011 celebrated their graduation just outside the Notre Dame Theatre.

Also honored at commencement were 31 younger students transitioned out of CAS to other schools.

Congratulations, students!

We are proud of your growth and of your achievements, and salute you for your many gifts and talents.

We congratulate your families also, who have been there to support your CAS journey. They, like you, deserved this wonderful day of celebration.

A common theme in the

commencement speeches by Missy Armstrong Beyerlin (daughter of Dr. Charles Armstrong) and Claudia Koochek (CAS Head of School) was how students acquire a "tool box" of skills and strategies during their time at CAS.



You leave CAS with an increased level of self-awareness, resilience, and confidence. Cultivating such attributes will enable you to succeed in your education and throughout your lives. We can't wait to see how you define success for yourself!

Graduation/transition does not mean your relationship with CAS comes to an end. You are no longer students; you have become CAS Alumni!

The Charles Armstrong School Alumni Association (CASAA) is the community of former CAS students (and their parents) who have the common bond of learning differences.

Our alumni and past parents share information about schools and programs, tools, latest research findings, and other useful tips for students with learning differences. More importantly, CASAA members attend CAS alumni events to reunite with their classmates and friends!

WELCOME TO CASAA!

**CAS ALUMNI BARBEQUE**

Please join  
SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS  
AND FACULTY  
for the



**CAS ALUMNI BBQ**

**Tuesday, July 26, 2011  
12:30pm  
at Charles Armstrong School**

**RSVP**

Please RSVP to Gail Jackson by Friday, July 22  
gjackson@charlesarmstrong.org  
or 650.592.7570 x 240

(Please let us know if you are vegetarian, also!)



Put your creative thinking caps on!

The Charles Armstrong School Alumni Association needs a new logo!

Email your submissions in .jpeg, .tif, or .pdf format (at least 300 dpi) to Gail Jackson (gjackson@charlesarmstrong.org) by Aug. 31, 2011.

Winner will receive a CAS Cougar hat and long sleeved t-shirt!



**Room 17:  
ready for its  
REFURBISHMENT!**



Learn more about the annual fund at:



<http://www.charlesarmstrong.org/support/waystogive.php>

## EXCITING CHANGES AT CAS THIS SUMMER!

When our students and teachers return to Charles Armstrong School this fall there will be some exciting changes!

We received approval from the City of Belmont to undertake a Refurbishment Project for the school. We are in the midst of a busy summer as we implement this Refurbishment Project to update all of the interior spaces on our campus.

As a result, our teachers and students will have the benefit of state-of-the-art “positive learning environments” that have been specifically designed to support dyslexic learners. The end

result will be that the school will have a uniform look and feel in every classroom.

We have been motivated to undertake this project because of a growing body of research that shows a definite link between classroom design and student outcomes.

Dyslexia causes information to travel along different pathways within the brain wherein visual, light, sound, space, temperature and environment impacts learning.

Positive learning environments can produce improved learning rates,

reduced absenteeism and improved alertness.

The Board, faculty and staff worked with architects and interior designers to help determine what will best serve the needs of both the teachers and students. It has been a community and team effort to arrive at the final design which incorporates the best thoughts of green design as well as thermal and acoustical comfort. The end result is also cost effective.

We will look forward to welcoming all alumni at a celebration to be scheduled for the fall. You will be amazed by the changes!

## SUPPORT THE CAS ANNUAL FUND 2011-12

### What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is the key fundraiser for CAS each year. The money raised goes to:

- Financial Aid for families that could not otherwise attend CAS
- Support for our science, technology, sports, drama, art and music programs
- Funding for our transition program
- Funding for teacher retention and recruitment

- ▶ Our goal is 100% participation from our entire school community—faculty, staff, board of trustees, parents, and yes, even alumni.
- ▶ This 100% participation demonstrates commitment to the school and is important when we seek support from foundations and other donors.
- ▶ Any contribution, whether substantial or modest, makes a world of difference.

## Claudia's Corner

Dear CAS Alumni,

I hope this finds you enjoying your summer and getting what I am sure is some well deserved rest and relaxation. As always, our school year flew by and ended on June 9th with a wonderful ceremony for our graduating and transitioning students. We

will miss them and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Our summer began with a bang as we launched an exciting Refurbishment Project here on campus. In our desire to enhance the learning environment for our students, we are modernizing and updating our classrooms, restrooms, library and multi purpose room. The design of the refurbishment is based on scientific

data which shows that space design is important in promoting creativity, keeping students focused and alert, and enhancing relaxation and socialization. Together these elements positively impact student outcomes. We are very excited about having our students return to a much improved campus in September and hope you will have a chance to visit us and see the changes first-hand.

As I reflect back over my 20 years at CAS, I think of all my students, and how impressed I am by your tenacity and the special gifts that you show to me as you move on with your lives. Although you are no longer my students, you are always in my thoughts and each time I hear about how you are doing, it warms my heart. Please continue to stay in touch.

Fondly,

*Claudia*

## ALUMNI UPDATES...

**Johanna Koons (CAS 1999-2002)** studied sustainability in Australia and art in Florence, Italy, and will to Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, MA, to work on her senior thesis, an art exhibit examining the relationship between the earth and sacred spirituality. She hopes that all is well at CAS!

**Marisa Huerta (CAS 2000-2006)** will be attending cosmetology school in Fall 2011. Marisa graduated from South San Francisco High School in 2010. She presently works as a makeup artist and is a member of a Folklorico dance group, which performs latin dances in beautifully colored dresses. Marisa is also interested in competitive cheerleading.

**Erik Johnson (CAS 2000-2002)**, a junior starting pitcher on the University of California baseball team, was named first-team PAC-10 for 2011. After facing termination due to lack of funds, the Cal baseball alumni and other friends rescued the baseball program by pledging

donations to support the team. The Cal Bears relied on their never-say-die attitude and resilience all season long, and earned the opportunity to play in the College World Series.

**Andrew Gaddis (CAS 2001-2006)** completed his freshman year at Santa Clara University. He competes on the cross country and track teams and has been accepted into the undergraduate Business program at the Leavey School of Business. Andrew reports that the professors and learning resource staff are helpful and accommodating, and that SCU reminds him of CAS for its warmth and caring environment.

**Madeleine Burr (CAS 2002-2007)** graduated from Notre Dame HS, Belmont and will attend Santa Clara University in Fall 2011. She received the "Most Improved Academic Excellence Award" as well as awards for English, AP US Government and Economics, and Photography. Madeleine and her family are grateful she

attended CAS where she gained confidence, maturity, learning strategies and the self-advocacy skills that will last her a lifetime.

**Will Gunn (CAS 2002-2006)** graduated from South San Francisco High School in 2010 and will be attending College of San Mateo in Fall 2011 after spending the summer working at Camp Mather outside of Yosemite National Park. Will earned the nickname "the Beast" while playing rugby for the Golden Gate Rugby Club.

**Andy Green (CAS 2004-2007)** graduated from the Canada Middle College program with a 3.9 GPA and will attend UC Santa Cruz in fall 2011. He sends greetings and best wishes to his former teachers and classmates. He plans to spend time this summer hiking and camping.

**Sam Bartlit (CAS 2004-2007)** graduated from Menlo Atherton High School and is looking forward to attending the University of Colorado in Boulder in Fall 2011.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT... Adrienne Kleid (CAS 2002-2004)

**Adrienne Kleid (CAS 2002-2004)** studied abroad at the University of Amsterdam in Spring 2011, and is traveling to Belgium, France, and Malta in the summer before returning to San Francisco State to finish her International Relations BA (Environmental Focus area) in Spring 2012. Adrienne shares, "I have found that dyslexia is much more of a blessing than a

burden in college, it allows me to better understand interconnections, particularly between subjects. My wish for the graduates of CAS is that they have the courage to get through the tough assignments and make it to the fun part of school. :) I still frequently remember good times there and the life lessons I learned. I know that if it weren't for my years at CAS



**Adrienne in Amsterdam**

there is no way I would be where I am today, let alone finish the homework".

## High Schools attended by CAS graduates Classes of 2008-2011

Archbishop Riordan High School  
Bay School of San Francisco  
Bayhill High School  
Bentley School  
Berkeley High School  
Brookline High School, Brookline, MA  
Burlingame High School  
Carlmont High School  
City Arts and Technology High School  
Coast Redwood High School  
Cupertino High School  
Da Vinci High School, Davis, CA  
Drew School  
Eagle Hill School, Hardwick, MA  
Everest High School  
Fremont High School, Sunnyvale  
Gateway High School  
Gunn High School  
Half Moon Bay High School  
Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy  
Hillsdale High School  
Junipero Serra High School  
Lick-Wilmerding High School  
Livermore Valley Charter Prep  
Los Altos High School  
Los Gatos High School  
Lynbrook High School  
Menlo Atherton High School  
Mercy High School, Burlingame  
Mid Peninsula High School  
Mills High School  
Monte Vista High School  
Notre Dame High School, Belmont  
Palo Alto High School  
Piedmont High School  
Prospect High School  
Sacred Heart Prep  
San Mateo High School  
San Ramon Valley High School  
Santa Clara High School  
Saratoga High School  
Sequoia High School  
St. Francis High School  
St. Ignatius College Prep  
St. Lawrence Academy  
Stanbridge Academy  
Sterne School  
Summit Preparatory High School  
Tamalpais High School  
Terra Nova High School  
The King's Academy  
The Marin School  
Waldorf High School  
Woodside Priory

**Charles Armstrong School  
Alumni Association (CASAA)**

1405 Solana Drive  
Belmont, CA 94002

Phone: 650-592-7570  
Fax: 650-591-3114  
Questions: Email Gail Jackson:  
gjackson@charlesarmstrong.org

**HELP CAS GO GREEN!**

If you received a hard copy of this newsletter and would like to receive an electronic version instead, please make sure we have your email address!

Send to: Gail Jackson at:  
gjackson@charlesarmstrong.org



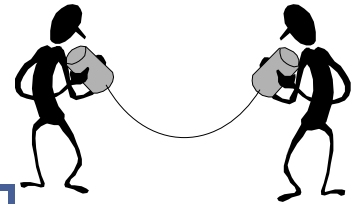
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*The mission of the CAS Alumni Association is to build relationships between CAS and former student families in order to provide ongoing education and support for alumni families.*

<http://www.charlesarmstrong.org/alumni/>

**Keep In Touch...with CAS and Each Other!**



**facebook casaa!**

Charles Armstrong School is re-creating our presence on Facebook!

More details to come, but keep an eye out for a new and improved page!

Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Charles Armstrong School"

**JOIN THE CASAA EGROUP**

Get up-to-the-minute news and event information from CASAA!

Subscribe to our Alumni eGroup today!

To subscribe, just send an email to: [Armstrongalumni-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Armstrongalumni-subscribe@yahoo.com)