

Chalk Talk – CAS

Students at CAS elementary/middle and high school are collecting donations of rice, beans, first aid items, flashlights and batteries, baby items, and personal hygiene items which will be given to World Care thanks to the help of several real estate Agents in Sierra Vista. All donated goods are going for Haiti Relief. CAS students are also having a can drive to collect aluminum cans for recycling with all proceeds going to the Red Cross. Students and parents are welcome to bring their donations and cans to recycle to either school building at the CAS campus on 900 Carmelita Dr.

CAS Middle School - The Center for Academic Success (CAS) is holding its annual Science Fair on Friday, Feb 5th. Middle school students in grades 6-8 will set up their experiments and their displays in the cafeteria and the fair will be open to the public from 1:30-3:30pm. Younger grades and high school students will be touring the exhibits, asking the students questions about their projects and completing assignments based on the exhibits. The public is encouraged to attend to see how students have tried to either prove or disprove their various hypotheses. The exhibits are supposed to demonstrate the pupils' understanding of the Scientific Method, showcase their research on the topics they chose, as well as foster scientific exploration by the students.

Students have been working on their science fair projects since they came back from Christmas vacation. All experimentation was done at home, with classroom guidance provided by science teacher Mr. Ofstedahl (Mr. Oh!) and Mrs. Kelsey. Each week there have been different deadlines for the students to meet. For week one, students had to come up with what scientific question they wanted to answer. By week two, the students needed to turn in research from at least three different sources and their hypothesis. On week three, students turned in their experimental procedures as well as a list of the materials they needed to complete their experiments. By week four, students should have completed their experiments and prepared their observations and conclusions. The Feb. 5th Science Fair represents five weeks of student preparation. Eighth grade students also had to complete a written report about their projects.

“The students have been working hard on their projects,” said Mr. Oh!. “I’m really excited to see their finished displays. We really have to thank the parents who also are encouraging and supporting their children to do their very best.” He said the comments he received from parents after he sent home letters explaining the science fair and the scope of the project was overwhelmingly positive.

“It’s great to see what the students come up with for their ideas,” Mr. Oh! said.

To further help students with their experiments, 7th-grade teacher Mrs. Kelsey developed a Friday enrichment class called Science Fair Help. The class has been instrumental in giving students guidance and help with every aspect of their Science Fair process. Additionally, Mr. Oh! sponsors the after-school Mentoring Club every Wednesday. This “homework help” club has been a great resource for those students choosing to participate.

Awards for the Science Fair will be given to the first, second and third place finishers in each grade. Additionally, the top three projects in each grade will go on to compete in the Yes! Fair science fair competition at the Windemere, March 2-4. Judges for the competition will be CAS Superintendent Dr. Don Derrick, Principal Steve Huff and high school science teacher Miss Gaines.