



# LIBERTY NEWS

November 18, 2014

Serving New America School-Las Cruces

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NAS-LC closes on Wednesday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and reopens on Monday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Veterans Day at NAS-LC

### A Personal Perspective

By Maira Villa

The New America School-Las Cruces hosted an evening assembly on Veterans Day, November 11, 2014, to thank all our veterans and active military for their service. The speeches given by these brave people were very sad, but also very inspirational. It really made me see this holiday in a much more serious way. From now on I plan on letting veterans and military service members know how grateful I am that they fought for our freedom. I'm even debating joining the military myself after I graduate.

*"It really made me see this holiday in a much more serious way."*



On Tuesday, November 11, 2014, NAS-LC honored 14 veterans, who had a combined total of 157 years of service. The veterans were from the Combat Motorcycle Association 47-1.

### What do you like about NAS-LC?



"I have been here for a year and will graduate in May 2015. I like this school because the teachers are fair and it's only 24 credits."  
~Adam Villegas



"I have been attending NAS-LC for almost a year. It is great here. I love the teachers and the education I'm receiving. My favorite class is geometry."  
~Santana Garcia

Summer Lucero and Jessica Martinez, Liberty News staff



*Do you dare open these doors?*

## Halloween Door Contest

### Mr. Ray the Big Winner!

Story and photographs by Monica Ruiz and Alex Cobarrubia

This year Mrs. Fisk (history and Student Council Advisor) and the NAS-LC Student Council sponsored a Halloween Door Contest. Mrs. Fisk, Mrs. Morinsilva (vocational education and leadership), Mr. Ray (English and history), Mr. Thomas (English and communication skills), and Mr. Lerma (IT) participated in the contest. Students voted on Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and the winner, Mr. Ray, was announced on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Ray received a \$20 gift



Mrs. Serna (center) is pictured with some of her night students.

### An Interview with Mrs. Serna

*By Areli Baca, Paulette Duenez, and Jose Mendez*

**What do you think of state testing for students?** *I think there is too much state testing. We have classroom tests, and then on top of that the state testing, I also find it hard for all students.*

**How does this testing affect you as a teacher?** *It stresses me out because I feel that I'm setting up students for failure.*

**What is your overall outlook on this school?** *I really like it! It's a great idea for choices that students made young.*

**Do you like teaching night students?** *I love it! Students want to learn.*

**What is the best thing about your job?** *Students are given a second chance and want to learn.*

# Students Thank Veterans

## Veterans Day

The eleventh month, the eleventh day, the eleventh hour

Dear Joe,  
Thank you for being as brave as a lion to be part of the military and for being an example to all the family. **Areli Baca**

Dear Dad,  
Thank you for serving our country and fighting for what you believed in. You fought for our country and for our rights. I appreciate everything you have done. You are and always will be a great and inspiring man for all of us. You are as strong as an ox. **JoAnn Dunlap**

Dear Pat,  
Thank you for your time served. Nobody can be like you, so thank you. You are as brave as a lion. **Monica Ruiz**

Dear Victoria,  
I want to thank you, my best friend and aunt, for bravely serving our nation as a Marine. You are as wise as an owl. **Paulette Duenez**

Dear Uncle,  
Thank you for serving our country. I really appreciate your risking your life for us. Even though you're not in my life anymore, I thank you so much. **Alondra Lozano**

Dear John,  
Thank you for everything you did for our country. I want you to know you are our hero. You are like Captain America. God bless you. Thank you again! **Araceli Zavala**

Dear Veterans of America,  
I thank you from the depths of my heart for the freedom of our country. You put your lives and the lives of your families on the line. I would never be able to repay in anyway for I am only one. You are all my heroes ... each and every one of you soldiers. I am free to go to school, work, and church with no fear. **Veronica Varela**

Dear Veterans,  
Just want to say thank you for everything you have done. You are a very brave person and strong. You are as fast as a cheetah and strong as a pit bull's jaw. **Doreen Johnson**

To Anyone Who Has Served,  
Thank you very much for having the strength and courage to defend our country. I want you to know we really appreciate everything you've done and continue to do. In my opinion, I think our soldiers are as fierce as lions and clever as foxes. Thank you once again for your service. **Maira Villa**

Dear Uncle,  
Thank you for serving our country. I really appreciate your risking your life for us. Even though you're not in my life anymore, I thank you. **Alondra Lozano**

## Q&A with the Great Night Staff

**Frances Gutierrez & Alexa Alanis** by JoAnn Dunlap

### Do you enjoy working here?

**Frances:** *I love working here. It's my home away from home. I enjoyed coming here as a student, and I absolutely love working here with all the different students. Working with everyone is fantastic.*

**Alexa:** *I love working here because it's helping with my career choice of becoming a social worker. I get to interact with different students with diverse backgrounds on a daily basis and learn new things.*

### How do the night students differ from day students?

**Frances:** *Most night students WANT to be here and most of the day students HAVE to be here. The reason I say most is because it's not that way for all.*

**Alexa:** *I think that the night students have more hardships, and it becomes overwhelming and yet they still succeed. The day students have fewer responsibilities and not as much pressure.*



Frances Gutierrez (l) and Alexa Alanis (r) are part of the NAS night



## NAS Hygiene Drive Success

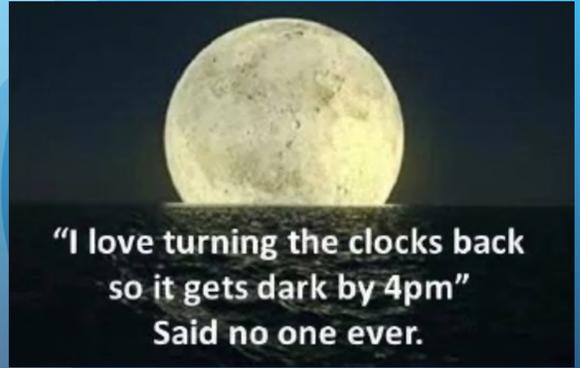
*Las Cruces Sun-News*

New America School-Las Cruces sponsored a hygiene drive on Oct. 23, 2014 for the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. For two weeks, student council took part in the campaign to raise hygiene products. The school delivered 570 pounds of hygiene products to the Community of Hope, along with a meal for the residents living in Camp Hope. Forty students, two teachers, and members of the Combat Vet Motorcycle Association helped deliver the hygiene products and the meals. Mrs. Fisk (center) is the faculty advisor for Student Council.

## BLANKET DRIVE ... Coming Soon

*By Alejandro Quezado*

The NAS-LC student council is starting the second drive of the year, a blanket drive. After the successful hygiene drive on Oct. 23, 2014, the student council team is planning to collect: jackets, sweaters, blankets for the homeless in Camp Hope of Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. The drive will go on for 3 weeks, from Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. As a student council member, I see the passion that Mrs. Fisk has for helping the community, and we need the school's help to complete this drive because the cold days are here!



"I love turning the clocks back so it gets dark by 4pm"  
Said no one ever.



## Meet Mr. Thomas

*by Manny Cordero*

Mr. Thomas teaches English and Com Skills at the New America School-Las Cruces. He is an army veteran and graduated with honors from NMSU. He was on

the Dean's List throughout his college career and earned the 2014 Dean's Academic Award in the College of Education. This is his first year teaching high school.

**What's the hardest part of being a teacher?** *Keeping students focused and engaged.*

**What's your favorite part of being a teacher?** *Helping students learn.*

## Speaking Out...

"I'd like to see the school add a daycare center." **Allejoyce Owens**

"Get rid of the cameras." **Gabby Castillo**

"I wouldn't change anything!" **Areli Baca**



*Yellow marigolds are an Aztec symbol of death. You will often see yellow marigolds on Dia de los Muertos altars.*

## **Day of the Dead Traditions** *Las Cruces Bulletin*

A Day of the Dead altar is usually arranged on a tabletop that is used exclusively for the altar. Altars have at least two tiers. The table is draped with a cloth, paper, or plastic covering and an arch made of marigolds is often erected over the altar.

Traditional foods placed on the Day of the Dead altars include atole, mole, tamales, and tortillas. Altars also usually include the dead person's favorite foods, including modern foods such as Rice Krispy's or potato chips. Another food you will find on many Dia de los Muertos altars is pan de muertos, which literally means "bread of the dead." A sweet roll is traditionally eaten at the gravesite or altar of a loved one.



# **Dia de los Muertos** **~ Day of the Dead**

By Araceli Zavala and Veronica Varela

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a Mexican holiday that is celebrated on Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 of each year. Ms. Salmon (ESL) and her students set up the altar shown above. Other members of the NAS-LC community were invited to include pictures of their loved ones who had passed away.



## **In Our View ...**

Dr. Stathis is my Communication Skills teacher at night. She is always full of energy; she never stops going. Dr. Stathis has us engaged in classwork. If we don't get what we need to do BOOM!!! Dr. Stathis is there to save the day. ~ **Summer Lucero**

Dr. Stathis is an amazing teacher. She makes her lessons so everyone can learn with pictures and examples or just reading from our textbooks. ~ **Jessica Martinez**

I like how she encourages us to keep focused on what we do, and she is a very, very good baker. Thank you for the cookies. ~ **Doreen Johnson**

# Veterans Day features an attributive noun. Who knew?

You know that a noun is a person, place or thing. You probably also know that nouns can be proper, common, or possessive.

Nouns often serve as the subject in a sentence:

*Veterans are people who have served in the military.*

Nouns also serve as the object in a sentence:

*The students in my class wrote letters to veterans.*

But nouns can also function as adjectives to describe other nouns:

*Veterans Day is an important holiday in November.*

In the sentence above, the word *veterans* modifies or describes the noun *day*. In other words, it is acting as an adjective. When a noun functions as an adjective, we call it an attributive noun. Now you know!



*How many other attributive nouns do you know?*

- ✓ credit card
- ✓ government official
- ✓ television news
- ✓ bank statement
- ✓ gas station
- ✓ library book
- ✓ geometry problem
- ✓ science experiment



## **LIBERTY NEWS** Serving the NAS-LC Community

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