



casti is

a school. An extraordinary one at that. But no words can do justice to what it truly is because Casti isn't a particular building or a sought-after class. It's a **journey.** It's the **passions** you uncover, the best friend you never saw coming, the exposure to the world at large. Casti is a place where you are comfortable enough to **try something you never thought possible.** Yet, as extraordinary as Casti is, it's simply preparing you for a lifetime of experiences just as **spectacular.** So, what is Casti? Read on and find out. Better yet, come see for yourself.

Casti is 100 years in the making

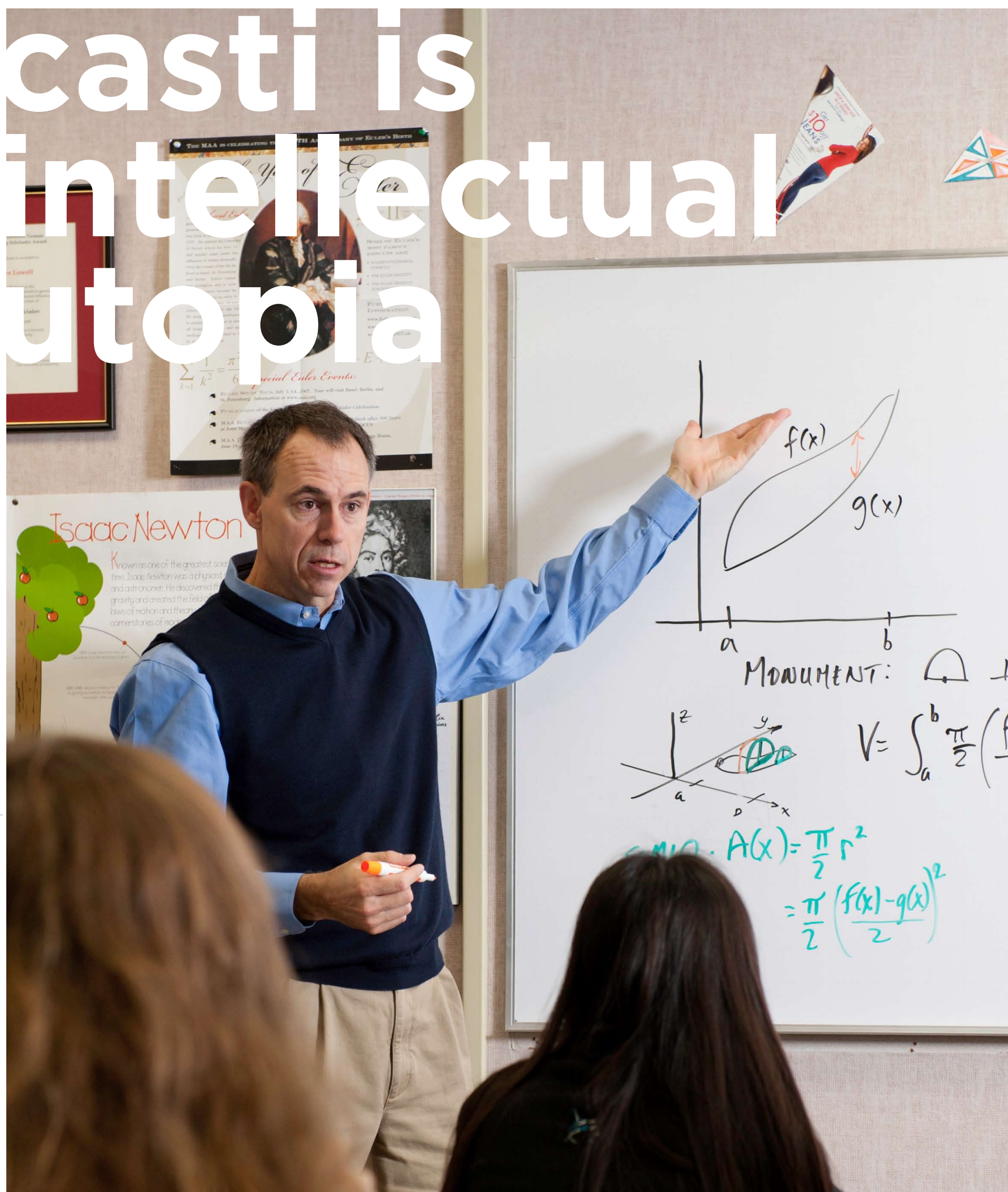
In 1907, Mary Lockey had the courage to boldly challenge the status quo by creating a school of academic excellence and character for girls that didn't exist on the Pacific Coast. While the Castilleja of today may look different, our core values, or five C's, remain the same: conscience, courtesy, character, courage and charity. And we most definitely still challenge the status quo. Our girls are the doers of the 21st century, the risk-takers who will change the world. They are, and always will be, Women Learning, Women Leading.

“The first time I walked onto this circle 11 years ago, and every single day since then, I have cherished the opportunity to impact the lives of young women. I have found my element, and standing here before you, I commit to all of you that I will lead a Castilleja that empowers each and every girl to find hers.”

— Nanci Kauffman, Head of School

In his book, *THE ELEMENT*, Ken Robinson explains that when people arrive at the point where natural talent meets passion, they feel most themselves, most inspired, and they will achieve at their highest levels. He insists that our changing times demand young people find their ELEMENT to make their dreams a reality. We couldn't agree more.

Casti is intellectual utopia



Learning should be riveting, capturing your heart, your mind and leaving you wanting more. At Casti, it is just that. With a curriculum that's both broad and deep, you can explore a variety of courses and dig deep when something sparks a passion. Whether you're into physiology or robotics, Shakespeare or International relations, you will be inspired, challenged and prepared, not only for acceptance at a top college, but a lifetime of leading and doing.

Casti is at the forefront of 21st century education with local and global real-life experiences, the latest technology innovations and countless internships and projects. We've also altered classroom configurations and furnishings to promote creative thinking and collaborative problem solving. Every conceivable intellectual curiosity can be met and cultivated here. This isn't about trends and buzzwords; it is about creating the ideal environment for girls to engage intellectually and enjoy real discovery.

A sampling of electives:

- Advanced Topics: French Seminar
- Choreography
- Dance Production
- Design and Sculpture
- Engineering Sustainable Solutions
- Introduction to Engineering, Programming and Robotics
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Italian Culture and Language
- Kinesiology, Sociology and Women in Sport
- Modern Latin America and the Caribbean
- Movietime 8: Lights! Camera! Action!
- Notions of Modernism—What Is Modern Art?
- Photography
- Russian History
- Science Internship Program
- Shakespeare: Stage and Page
- The Biology and Economics of Cancer
- Women's Rights and the Politics of Gender



“At Casti our daughters are nurtured to become skillful architects of their own destinies.”
 — Kimberly, current parent of daughters '17 and '14

425

Amazing young women in 6th-12th grade

19%

Students who receive tuition assistance

6:1

Student to faculty ratio

43%

Students of color

85%

Faculty with advanced degrees

52%

Senior class recognized by National Merit

“The excitement of the lab, including the hands-on pipetting and data analysis, along with the cutting-edge results of my experiment that may have been the first and only of their kind, stirred a new passion in me. I learned that I am a do-er and I like being the first to do and discover.”

— Natasha '11, Yale '15 on her summer internship in a neurobiology lab at Stanford

casti is relationships



“You have taught me the art of writing: how to organize and edit my compositions, how to make a claim and defend it eloquently, and how to be clear and succinct. Let me be clear and succinct now: you have changed my life.”
— Sonja '08, Stanford '12 in a note to Ms. Thompson, English teacher

With small class sizes and a curriculum that incorporates team projects and collaboration, girls develop camaraderie with their classmates and teachers that simply can't be replicated. You see it when they're sitting on a bench together eating frozen yogurt, having a lively discussion in class and charging down the soccer field. These girls respect and adore one another, and themselves.



Casti Traditions

- 1** At the Opening Day Tie ceremony, seniors each receive a red carnation from a faculty member before they cross the Circle to tie the 9th graders' navy blue ties.
- 2** Enthusiastic 6th graders whip up fresh-baked cookies (1400 this year!) and send them with handwritten notes to recent alums during their first mid-terms.
- 3** 10th graders work together and create a frighteningly good haunted house enjoyed by the entire community.
- 4** Each class starts the year on a special retreat which helps set the tone for the exciting year ahead.
- 5** Every year Casti girls write hundreds of unsolicited thank you notes to their teachers.
- 6** Each senior gives a 5-minute talk on anything she chooses, from waterpolo team stories to favorite music to overcoming a fear. After a rousing applause, her classmates present her with a bouquet of flowers.
- 7** Alums enjoy an open invitation to come back to Casti for a free lunch.

“Spend time talking to your teachers about things totally unrelated to school. As crazy as it might sound, by senior year you may consider some of your teachers to be your closest friends and confidants.”

— Lauren '08, Claremont McKenna '14

“I came to Castilleja because when I shadowed and knew no one, I instantly felt comfortable. I felt at home.”

— Mandy '12

“I love coming to work at Castilleja because I get to sit down with a student or an advisee, and talk through a perplexing math concept or a friendship challenge that she is facing, that is weighing upon her. I get to see her grow in her confidence that she can weather a storm, that she can seek out and learn from the experience of others. It is very satisfying that I could play a role in her emotional or intellectual growth.”

— Mr. Lowell, Mathematics teacher,
and parent '16

Casti is what you make it

I'd describe it as a quiet confidence — people from all walks of life remark on it when they encounter a Castilleja graduate and Castilleja alumnae from all generations recognize it in each other. I owe much to Castilleja for the magic that it has brought to my life.

— Elizabeth '81, parent '13

Poem by Natalie '11

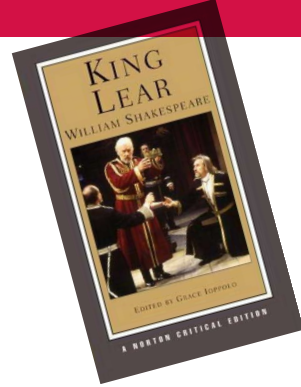


6:30 I wake up
And turn to my uniform and say, 'Wassup?'
Zipping up my light blue skirt
I slip on a non-UV navy shirt
I'm out the door and in a hurry
Because lunch today is apple curry!



I arrive on campus in a state of awe,
People are making frost angels on the circle, ha!
My friends and I do our greeting dance
The sixth graders give us a strange glance
7:55, off to class for all of us
We have important matters to discuss

Classroom memories are the best,
Teachers full of passion and extreme zest
Their zest causing us to stalk them madly
Alas! We cannot 'friend' them sadly
Yet I love my teachers beyond anything here
The discussions from Heathcliff to zombies to King Lear



After classes I linger on the circle
And ponder all the different quirks
That solidify the campus as one
Quirks are what unite us and make life fun
Like spontaneous ninja vs. pirate debates
Or class under our desks or secret dance parties—it's great!

From cookies to jumping in the pool fully clothed,
Castilleja is my home, something I've never loathed
Thinking is encouraged, people share passions
There is something for *everyone* from soccer to avant-garde fashions
The traditions, students and teachers act as the glue
To make Castilleja the perfect place for me and you.



The Club Scene

With over 50 options to choose from, you can find, or start, virtually any club, from Robotics to Ultimate Frisbee. Some are focused on personal growth, others are a vehicle for community action and many are just pure fun. Each year, the clubs change based on student interests.

This year's clubs include:

- Chemistry
- Cooking
- Debate
- Film
- Flame (Middle School Art and Literary Magazine)
- Free the Children
- Games and Movies
- Green Team
- Improv
- Jhumki Basu Memorial Garden Club
- Jump Rope
- Junior Classical League
- Lacrosse
- Middle School Chamber Orchestra
- Middle School Newspaper
- Miniature Golf
- Model United Nation
- Music for Community
- National Geographic Bee
- Peer Tutoring
- Puzzle
- Robotics
- Spelling Bee
- Student Government



In seminar classes now, I tend to be one of the only women who raises her hand often. Other women seem to have all received some memo about how girls are not supposed to participate actively and publicly in academics. I'm glad I missed that memo.

— Roark '08, Vanderbilt '12

casti is taking center stage



Casti students have access to an impressive array of courses and activities focused on dance, music, and performance and visual arts. They experiment and collaborate, working with everything from 3D papier-mâché to improvised mime. They learn where their passion and abilities lie and can then delve into those areas.

Core Arts

All ninth graders take a course called Core Arts. They study dance, drama, music, arts, photography, film and design in a combination of academic and studio approaches in the classroom and on fields trips. They not only learn about particular pieces but use them as a means of understanding the societies and communities from which they emerged.

On Stage

From choir and orchestra to Glee Club and One-Act plays, Casti girls have ample opportunities to perform. Four full-scale extra-curricular theatrical and dance productions are also presented each year.



On Display

Our Anita Seipp Gallery, a light-filled 1,000 sq. ft. space showcases both professional and student exhibitions. Whether it's individual work inspired by a global trip or seventh grade large-scale collaborative paintings, the pieces spark discussion and showcase creativity.



Casti is enthusiasm, and then some

Call it zeal, call it excitement, call it passion. Whatever it is, it is here and it is extraordinary. You see it in our teachers and students. They find their spark and suddenly life changes.

Griselda '11

Varsity lacrosse player, Peninsula Bridge Teaching Assistant and student leader, Griselda embodies the values of Castilleja. After being selected to attend a Diversity Conference in 10th grade, she and her team developed a unit to present to the faculty on the big "isms" (race, religion, class, sexual orientation and gender). They then created a full diversity curriculum to teach in the 7th grade. Their work continued at the fall 10th grade retreat and Annual Diversity Reception where Griselda, with the maturity of an adult, led a group of 50 parents in thought-provoking diversity activities and discussion. Equally important to her, she recently led a group of new 6th graders to a local yogurt spot so they could get to know each other. That's just how she is.



Natalie '15

At age 5 Natalie's father encouraged her to start martial arts. She attended her first lesson a bit reluctantly and now eight years later dreams of being part of the Junior National Team. She has competed in Seoul, Korea and trains for the Junior Olympics as much as six hours during the peak summer season. Why Taekwon-Do? It's an honorable sport where competitors respect each other and deep friendships are formed. It's also taught her valuable lessons about failure, resilience and persistence. Natalie's other loves are the violin (she's happiest playing Vivaldi), math and being with her friends.



Jessica '13

Founder of Green Team, a campus club focusing on environmental issues, Jessica is going full force to make a difference at Castilleja and in the world at large. The club is structured so everyone develops projects they are passionate and excited about individually, which results in more action and impact. A few current projects include: getting smartmeters installed on campus so we know how effective the changes are that we're making, creating birdhouses, trying "Meatless Monday" in the Dining Hall and participating in a national recycling contest. Most importantly, Jessica and her team hope to instill an appreciation for the environment at Castilleja so girls will feel fervent about protecting it.



Lauren '08, Tufts '12

At Castilleja, Lauren and a fellow classmate worked tirelessly on behalf of STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) to increase awareness at Casti and inspire action. They raised money by creating and selling cookbooks, organized attendance at rallies and events, and mentored younger students to champion this important cause. She's now parlaying those skills as a mentor at Tufts where she uses the skills she developed at Casti to do even more. This year she's with the Cambridge Healthy Children Task Force focusing on how trauma affects how children learn in school.

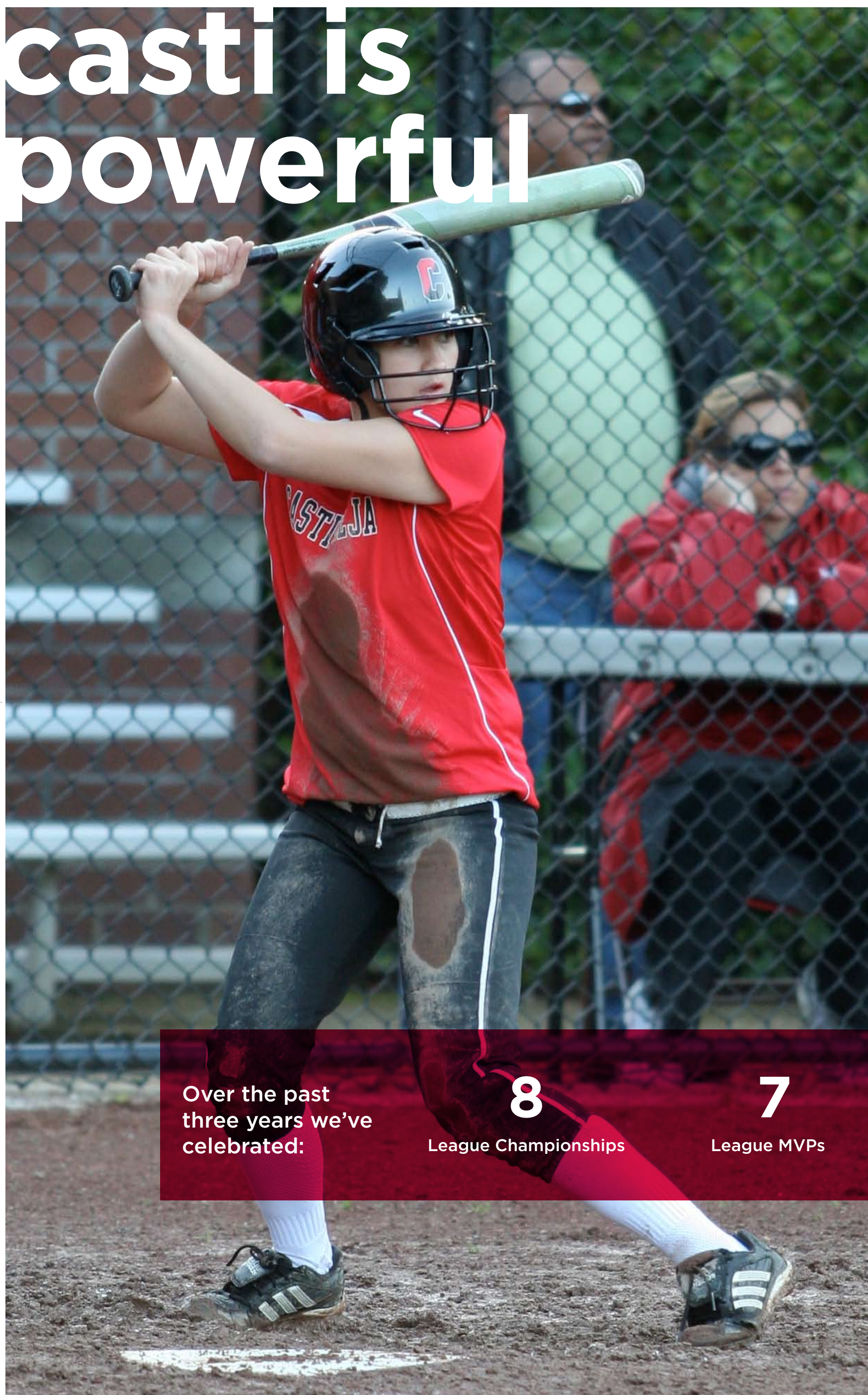
"While it can be overwhelming to think of all the problems we have today, it is at the same time inspiring to learn what my peers are interested in and their perspectives on different issues."



The single best thing about Casti is that when I'm with my friends, we can be talking about last night's episode of Glee and immediately switch to why Henry Clay didn't win a presidential election. Fun and intellect are not in opposition. In fact, they go hand-in-hand here.

— Grace '11, Stanford '15

Casti is powerful



Over the past three years we've celebrated:

8	7
League Championships	League MVPs

We are proud to have some of the most competitive and successful sports teams around but the foundation all starts with a fitness and wellness program that's dedicated to healthy development. Our curriculum explores topics such as stress management, relationships, body image, self-defense and even personal finances. Girls can enjoy spinning, Pilates, kickboxing, yoga, climbing and core strengthening.

Joan Z. Lonergan Center

Opened in 2008, this state-of-the-art facility includes two regulation-sized gymnasiums suitable for competition play, weight-training and cardiovascular work-out spaces, a dance studio, an indoor rock climbing wall and separate locker facilities for Middle and Upper School students.

Athletics

Girls in Middle School are encouraged to play, regardless of experience. And we have a no-cut policy.

Teams include:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Basketball | Tennis |
| Cross Country | Track and Field |
| Soccer | Volleyball |
| Softball | Water Polo |
| Swimming | |

Our Upper School varsity program is highly competitive, preparing girls to excel at the collegiate level. Freshman and JV teams are ideal for skill and team development.

Gator teams include:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Basketball | Swimming |
| Cross Country | Tennis |
| Golf | Track and Field |
| Lacrosse | Volleyball |
| Soccer | Water Polo |
| Softball | |

Our coaching staff includes four Olympians, a former NBA player, a PGA member, a professional track athlete and numerous former college athletes

Sports Performance program including injury prevention and strength programs, specifically for the female athlete

In any given year:

80% of Middle School students compete on teams

65% Upper School students compete on at least one team

34 students went on to compete in Div I, II, or III in last five years.



6

Section Finalists

1

Sectional Championship

1

State Championship



Casti is looking beyond your own circle

Preparing young women for the 21st century means helping them learn from people and cultures worldwide. We want girls to see the real world, even the realities that are hard to look at, and to be inspired to lead in our communities, on a local and global scale.

Leadership

Leadership opportunities abound in classrooms, clubs and athletics. Virtually everywhere you look you will see students developing the same tools that will carry them to success long after graduation. Casti girls have instituted change in everything from campus energy use to uniforms. They've orchestrated service projects, created curriculum addressing the hurdles of ninth grade and presented talks about diversity and acceptance. In short, they learn by leading.

Speakers

Every year extraordinary speakers share their stories and inspire our girls. Our unparalleled series has included: Al Gore, Madeline Albright, Queen Noor, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Isabel Allende, Jehan Sadat, Gloria Steinem, Richard Rodriguez, Lalita Tademy, Robert Sapolsky, Adeline Yen Mah, Wendy Wasserstein, Tobais Wolf, Muhammad Yunus, Jill Bolte Taylor, Annie Lebowitz and Greg Mortenson.

Community Action

Students choose the activities that interest them, across town or around the world. Whether it's a short or long-term project, raising roofs or raising awareness, Casti girls have tremendous impact. Just a few opportunities include:

Arts with a Heart

Annual extravaganza showcasing dance, poetry, multimedia and music. Fundraising supports a variety of organizations such as Collective Roots, an East Palo Alto organization supporting environmental and educational projects.

FACEAIDS

Educates the community about AIDS and raises funds to help international organizations fighting AIDS.

STAND

Students Taking Action Now: Darfur is a student initiative that seeks to create awareness about, take political action on, and raise funds to relieve the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

Global

The global perspective is a key component of our curriculum throughout the year, but it takes center stage each year during Global Week and when the Juniors embark on their Global Investigator trip.



casti is worldly

Global Week

Annual themes such as Food Justice and Sustainability, China and India, Peace and the Americas are brought to life with inspiring speakers like two-time Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, thought provoking workshops, films, alumnae panels and cultural arts performances. It's a chance to go deep and think big.

Global Investigator Trips

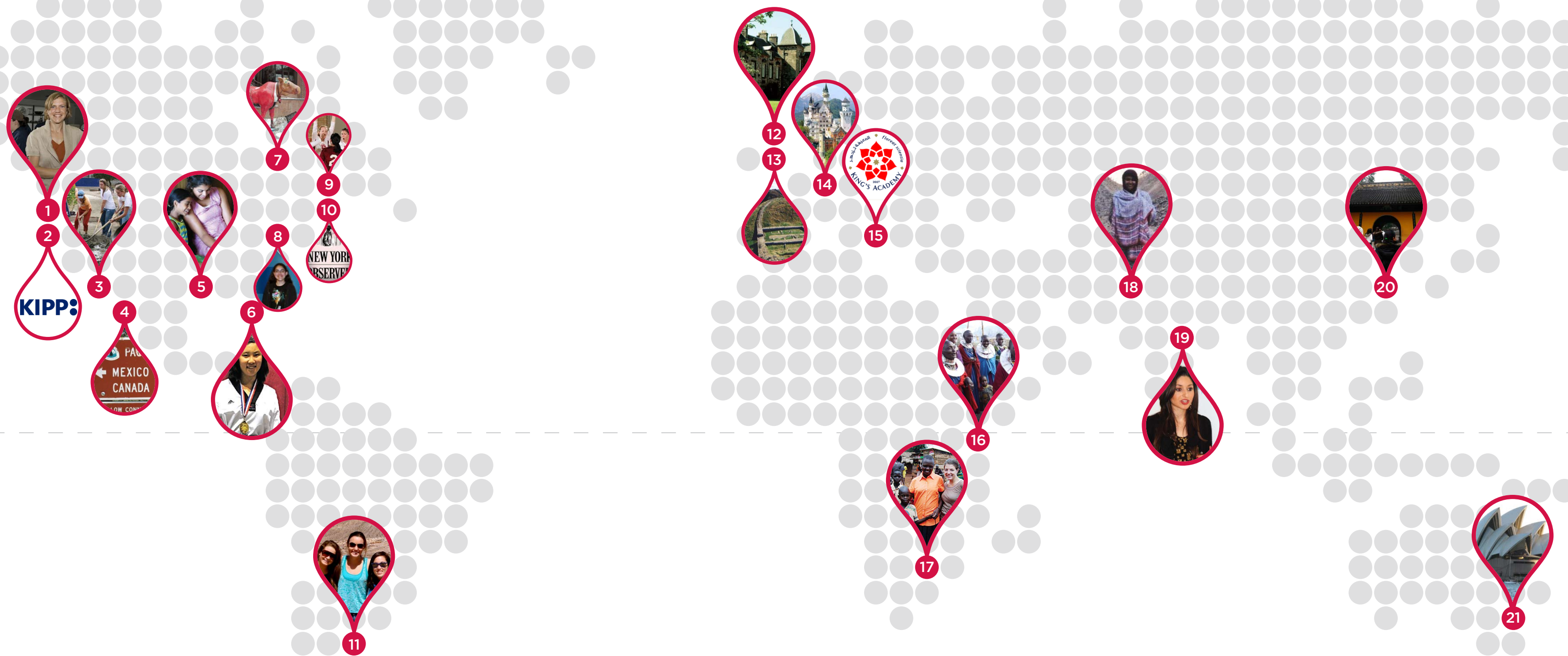
Each year the entire junior class travels to other parts of the world (notably India and China) to develop an understanding of the role of women. They investigate cultures, explore the communities, interview local residents and return home having gained deep insight and a rare personal experience.

Language, Culture and Service Trips

Students travel to Peru, France, Canada, Nicaragua and Italy to study languages and cultures in a way unlike any classroom. They enjoy home stays, service projects and seeing the sites they've learned about in class.



Casti is everywhere



With our far-reaching service projects, alumnae accomplishments and travel abroad, suddenly our 5-acre campus has expanded...a lot.

- ① **Berkeley, CA**
Casti alumna starts Revolution Foods which received 2nd annual Innovation Award and a meeting in the white house.
- ② **San Jose, CA**
Sebha '96, founds and serves as Principal of KIPP school.
- ③ **Tijuana, Mexico**
Spanish IV girls take a service and language trip to experience first-hand Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).
- ④ **Mexico to Canada**
Alumna Rachel hikes the Pacific Crest Trail to raise money for Breast Cancer.
- ⑤ **New Orleans, LA**
Middle School girls visit a sister girls school and assist with Katrina cleanup.
- ⑥ **Orlando, FL**
Nicole wins her second gold medal at TaeKwon Do competition.

- ⑦ **Toronto, Canada**
7th graders do an exchange in January and their hosts come to Casti in March.
- ⑧ **Washington, DC**
Casti girl advances to semi-final round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Woo hoo!
- ⑨ **Cambridge, MA**
Four Casti grads are starting players on the Harvard volleyball team.
- ⑩ **New York City**
Casti and Yale alum Molly landed her first job as a writer for *The New York Observer*.
- ⑪ **Argentina**
Three alumnae from the Class of '06 reunite in Buenos Aires during their study abroad semester.

- ⑫ **St. Andrew's, Scotland**
Three of our grads attend St. Andrew's University.
- ⑬ **Hadrian's Wall, England**
Casti archaeology dig.
- ⑭ **Germany**
Exchange student Patricia lives here.
- ⑮ **Madaba-Manja, Jordan**
Kat '13 is an exchange student at Kings Academy.
- ⑯ **Kenya**
Nyumbani Children's home is the recipient of Middle School toys, books, school supplies, blankets, and clothes drive.
- ⑰ **Africa**
Casti student fundraising allows for the building of a much-needed well.

- ⑱ **Afghanistan**
Alumna Sara works to educate girls.
- ⑲ **Delhi, India-Saima**
Casti and Stanford alum, created Roshni project which empowers young women.
- ⑳ **Shanghai, China**
#3 Girls School — global investigators host sisters' school.
- ㉑ **Sydney, Australia**
Chorale group performs at the Opera House.

red
not
pink



CASTILLEJA
S C H O O L

We're proud to enroll students who will gain the most from a Casti experience, regardless of financial status.

To learn more about what Casti is or the application process, please contact our Office of Admission.

650.470.7733
www.castilleja.org