

# PANTHER PRESS

## Vernon Middle School

Volume 4, Issue 6, February/March 2022



### STUDENT OF THE MONTH MANNY ESPARZA

By Gio Nava



Congrats Manuel Esparza for being awarded student of the month for November. Manuel is a school leader in ASB. His favorite core subject is science. Manuel wants to go to a California State University and major in criminal justice. When he grows up, he wants to become a detective.

Manny's teachers were overjoyed by Manuel's selection as SOM and called him "very deserving" and a "superb example of Panther Pride here at Vernon.

"My family keeps me motivated to do my work in and out of school," Manuel stated. He quoted Walt Disney, saying "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." We wish him the best in the years to come!

### SPIRIT DAYS

By Zyla Delgado

Hey, panthers! We love seeing all the panther pride with our Spirit Days! We had a Disney Day, Sweethearts' Day, Tutu, Ties, and Twin Day, and lastly we had a 7th vs. 8th Class Competition.

On Disney day, people wore their favorite Disney character shirts and some people even wore Disney's ears. For Sweethearts' day on February 11th, staff and students wore pink or red shirts. Lastly, we had a Class Competition, 8th grade vs. 7th grade when 8th graders wore black shirts and 7th graders wore blue shirts.

Make sure to participate on spirit days; you might get prizes and toys from Mrs. Purcell in the mornings! Besides, it helps keep Fridays fun.



### STUDENT OF THE MONTH CARINA CABLLERO

By Desire Acosta



Congratulations to Carina Caballero for earning December Student of the Month! Carina would like to have a job in the field of science or engineering when she grows up.

"I really enjoy spending time in nature. Some of my hobbies are camping, travel, and photography," she said.

Carina shared that one of her favorite classes is Band, where she plays saxophone and trumpet. Other than Band, she currently takes part in Dance and the Speech and Debate Club. Carina stated that in her free time she often plays with her guinea pigs or works on a project of some sort.

One of her friends stated that she is always working hard and is great at what she does.

One of Carina's teachers said, "Carina reminds me of Sally Ride who said, 'I find myself looking around for other new, interesting opportunities to dive into.'"

### PBIS BEHAVIOR ASSEMBLY

By Itzel Urbina

On February 9, 2022, we had a PBIS/Behavior Assembly where Ms. Scott and Ms. Tovar talked about the end of the year activities and behavior expectations for both 7th and 8th graders. Some of the expectations are no fighting, horseplay, PDA, threats, bullying, or damage to school property.

Please follow all the school rules on campus and the surrounding community. If you break these rules you may be excluded from any or all of the end-of-the-year activities. These end-of-the-year activities include a Dance (8th grade only), Yearbook Signing Party, Castle Park Field Trip (7th grade only), Knotts' Berry Farm field trip (8th grade only), and the Promotion Ceremony (8th grade only).



Thanks to everyone for remaining calm during our Friday (2/18/22) emergency. Ms. Tovar and Ms. Scott gave us free dress days. Let's keep showing that Panther PRIDE!

## STRIVING FOR SUCCESS



Positive Behavior Intervention & Support





# GIRLS' BASKETBALL

By Jalyssa Alcasas



# BOYS' BASKETBALL

By Alexis Rubio

Our Girls' Basketball team has been doing a great job this season with so many wins! They moved on to the finals! Coach Martinez told us when the teams win, they will have a banquet and give awards. They also purchase team sweaters and shirts. Coach Martinez says to keep the team connected, he gives positive praise and affirmations. He also says his favorite team moment is whenever they win. Martinez states, "Can't isn't even in my vocabulary." The team took home a win against Oaks!

At Press Time, the Lady Panthers won the Final Game and are now the District Champs in Girls' Basketball. Way to go!

Our Boys' Basketball team has been awesome this year! In February they played against our crosstown rival-- Serrano Middle School. The boys put up a really good fight and brought home the win with a score of 39 - 14. What makes this game significant to others is that the winners get to keep a trophy for the rest of the year.

Mr. Perry said, "I am very proud of how the boys have performed, but I'm most happy that they had fun while playing."

At press time, the Boys' team won their Finals and were proclaimed the District Champs again! Congratulations Panthers.

- Alexa Rodriguez
- Alexandra Marquez
- Alyssa Troncoso
- Angelica Quintero
- Annie-Marie Corona
- Ashiya Jenkins
- Emiliano Garcia
- Grace Poulava
- Havili Matelau
- Isabella Rodriguez



- Jazmin Alvarez
- Leah Martinez
- Michel Guzman
- Reyna Guerra
- Serena Cardenas
- Suraya Abdhul-Hagg
- Ximena Gonzalez
- Head Coach Martinez
- Assistant Coach O'Neil

- Anthony Perez
- Cesar Barrios
- Chinedu Ogbogu
- Daniel Barrales
- Eddie Alacio
- Edwin Valdez
- Elijah Smith
- Eric Talamentes
- Ethan Salas
- Gabriel Medrano
- Jashaun Jones
- Jason Lopez
- Jayden Rous
- Jeffery Avila



- John Jones
- Jordyn Tripple
- Julian Huerta
- Kevin Quiroz
- Landon Novo
- Manny Mota
- Mauricio Salazar
- Nicholas Velez
- Ray Hernandez
- Rico Ceja
- Samuel Abajuo
- Sean Jackson
- Victor Garrido
- Coach Perry



# A COACH'S PHILOSOPHY OF BASKETBALL & LIFE

By Mr. Antonio Martinez

Motivation is an instinctual trait. One that is developed by instilling in our Panthers that they are representing not only themselves, but they are also a direct reflection of their parents, their school, their team, their coaches. Their actions are viewed by many; keeping your motivation is not easy as there are many distractions and it is easy to be derailed. You should always strive to be the best you can be and you should never ever waver.

Teamwork takes time. It begins with establishing the structure to instill discipline through repetition. By working on precision and timing, our Panther players began to understand the importance of teamwork. There is no easy answer, as there are many factors that contribute to being successful. Not only as it pertains to teamwork, but in life itself.

Here at Vernon, we have "PRIDE." Every student should know what that stands for. I can add a few more traits that will help define a person whether they are a leader or a follower.

I try to instill endurance, unselfishness, good bearing and judgment, courage, initiative, and tact in our lady panthers. I practice these daily myself as an example so the players may emulate my behavior. I tell them that they "should behave as if your parents were right behind you." Be the best person you can be, that's the winning message that I have for my players and all Vernon Panthers.

# JUST FOR FUN CLUB

By Brianna Valles

Hi Panthers! Have you ever wondered how fun the "Just for Fun club" really is? This club is made for students who have some trouble connecting with others, it's meant to feel like a safe place to make friends and have fun. As part of having fun with friends, this club also does lots of arts and crafts. This club has been running for about 5 years and only happens on the third Thursday of every month, this club is run by Mrs. Purcell. It's such a nice place to come together and socialize with other students.



# CAR CLUB

By Matthew Gaitan

If you love cars, then the Car Club is for you!

When you start to drive a car, you need to know when to change the oil and how the different parts work. Mr. Hall teaches the Car Club.

Students work together and learn about different parts of cars. The class watched Fast & Furious. This helped the students learn more about cars and how they work.

Mr. Hall is teaching students even more about cars.

Club members are building 3-D model car engines with 4 kids in every group. Mr. Hall is doing this to show students how the different parts connect and work together. In addition to learning about cars, students are also learning to work together to accomplish a project together.



# CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

By Miley Posadas



In the latter half of the 20th century, people who harvested our food were not always treated the same. Caesar Chavez was an American and Mexican union leader and labor organizer, as well as a civil rights activist.

In 1962, Chavez co-founded the National Farm Workers Association. As a labor leader, he fought to improve pay and working conditions for migrant workers. Beginning in 1965, he led a strike over these issues and a 5-year boycott against California grapes.

He also led the 300-mile farm workers' March to Sacramento in 1966. Eventually, Cesar Chavez went on a hunger strike like Gandhi did in India. Chavez believed in working for Social Change through non-violent means just like Mohatma Ghandi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

# 25 YEAR TEACHING AWARD

By Marissa Muñoz

Ms. Gomez "decided to become a teacher in high school. I had a class where I had the opportunity to work with children in an elementary school. I first had set out to be a counselor, but along the way, I decided to teach instead."

Before teaching at Vernon, Ms. Gomez taught at Ramona and Edison Elementary Schools. Ms. Gomez attended MSAC and transferred to the University of La Verne. She also took some classes at Cal Poly Pomona where she received her master's degree. Ms. Gomez teaches math and science, has run the spelling bee, and helped with all types of student events here at Vernon.

Her favorite quote is "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." -Aesop

Ms. Westbrook said her kindergarten teacher was so kind that she wanted to become a teacher, too. She worked at Hawthorne Elementary School before coming to Vernon. Ms. Westbrook attended OMSD schools, graduated from Chaffey High School, and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Cal Poly Pomona.

She received her teaching credential from Cal State San Bernardino. She had wanted to teach middle school, but she qualified for an elementary credential faster. Ms. Westbrook has had 3 careers and teaching is by far her favorite, "Every year is different because you have to learn how to cater to your students' different needs."

Ms. Westbrook's favorite quote is "Sometimes the dreams that come true are the dreams you never even knew you had." -Alice Sebold



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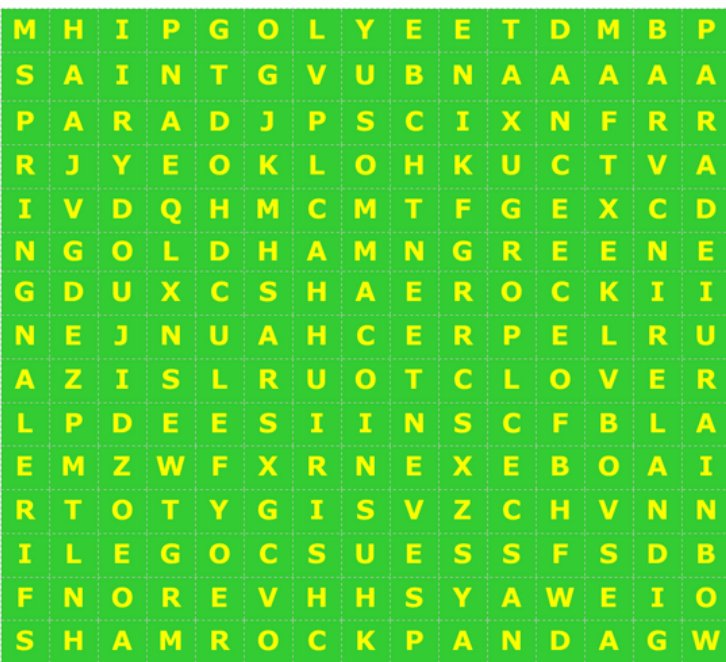


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**GOOD LUCK**



**Spring Green Luck Rainbow Gold Clover  
Dance Flower Shamrock March Saint  
Wishes Pinch Coins Parade Ireland Irish  
Leprechaun Seventeenth  
By Itzel Urbina & Desire Acosta**



### **Sharkie School Spirit** By: Ashley Carrero

Starting next week, it's **Shark Week!** What does that mean? It means ASB will be selling shark bags. Each bag includes a plush shark, shark keychain, and shark pen. These will be for sale before school in the lunch area. But that's not all, we also have a teacher contest.

If Bruce the shark turns up in your classroom, take a shark-selfie with your class and send it to Mrs. Purcell to be entered into our contest. Our **Sharkie Selfie** Contest will last 2 weeks.

Show your **Sharkie School Spirit!**



- 2/28-3/4 Parent/Student Conferences
- 2/28-3/4 **ASB Kindness Week: Be Kind to ALL**  
**Special Project: Let's Help Children in the Philippines bringing our gently used Clothing Donations to the library**
- 3/2/22-Wednesday- Basketball @Vernon
- 3/21-25/22- Spring Break
- 3/30/22-Wednesday- Earthquake Drill
- 3/30/22- Wednesday- Pride Store
- 3/28/22- Ranch Day: Western Wear
- 3/29/22-Wizarding World Apparel
- 3/30/22-Marvel vs. DC: Super Hero Wear
- 3/31/22-Sports Fan: Sports Apparel
- 4/1/22-Freaky Friday: Mismatched clothing Day
- 4/1/22-Pride store
- 4/4/22- Dance Team Audition
- 4/6/22- Dance Team Audition
- 4/21/22- Pride Store
- 4/22/22- Pride store

### **LET'S HELP OUR ADOPTED SCHOOL** By: Brianna Valles

As a part of Kindness Week, ASB and AVID are teaming up to work together on a project to help a small town and their elementary school in the Philippines. The school has just 80 students. This town is full of needy families and students often have to quit school at a very young age to work and help provide for their families.

This town & school is in need of donations to help their students. The school itself is putting together a food program to help get students to school and feed their families along with them.

We will all be helping here at Vernon by donating new or used shoes, socks, sandals, clothing, and any type of school supplies. Supplies for the teachers are just as important to them and such things would be very helpful. Staff is just as welcome to donate as well! ASB and AVID have put up some boxes in the library to collect these donations. Donations last from February 28 - to March 18. If you have any questions contact either Ms. Tovar, Mrs. Purcell, or Mrs. Brown.

### **MASKS RECOMMENDED, BUT YOUR CHOICE INDOORS**

After almost 2 years of mandated mask-wearing in our schools, on February 28, 2022, California Governor Newsom, in a joint statement with governors from Oregon and Washington announced that the state indoor mask mandate for schools will expire after March 11, 2022. Although the state of California continues to recommend face coverings in k-12 school settings, the mandates related to indoor mask-wearing in school end. OMSD will continue to remain steadfast in maintaining safe learning and working environments for students, staff, and families.

**By Josiah Diaz**

