

# PANTHER PRESS

## Vernon Middle School

Volume 4, Issue 5, January 2022



### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

By Miley Posadas-Padron

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a Dream today."



MLKJ at the March On Washington, D.C., 1963

On January 17th, we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, his life and role in the *Civil Rights Movement*. He is famous for peacefully protesting injustice against people of color in the United States from the mid-1950s until he was assassinated in 1968.



He never forgot the time when he was six years old and one of his white playmates announced that his parents would no longer allow him to play with King, Jr. because the children were attending segregated schools.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1968, in Atlanta, Georgia, and followed his minister father into the ministry. He learned in college about peaceful protests and how to stand up and protest against injustice.

When King, Jr. got older he started making speeches about segregation and how it was not right that people of color could not drink out of the same drinking fountain as white people.

He organized the *Southern Christian Leadership Conference* to coordinate activities and events to help win equal rights for all people. He also organized the *Montgomery Bus Boycott* where Black Americans would not ride the bus because people of color like Rosa Parks had to give up their seats on the bus to white people. One of his most famous speeches, *I Have A Dream*, was given at the 1963 *March On Washington*.

### VALENTINE'S DAY

By Brianna Valles

Valentine's Day happens every year on February 14, across the states and all around the world. Gifts such as candy, flowers, and stuffed animals are exchanged between friends and significant others. School children often exchange Valentine's Cards that may contain candy. Decorations typically feature Cupid and his arrows, doves, and hearts.

This holiday is celebrated as a Christian and Roman tradition, as this event is associated with St. Valentine, a patron Saint. There are many stories about how St. Valentine came to be chosen. Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men were better soldiers than those who have wives and families, he disallowed marriage for young men.

Valentine, noticing the injustice of the matter, didn't listen to Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Still, many insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true inspiration for the holiday. He was also beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Today, we celebrate this holiday as a way to remember those we love. So, Happy Valentine's!

### COOKING WITH OUR PANTHERS

By Matthew Gaitan

The teachers who are in charge of the cooking club are Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Whitton. Cooking club has been so popular that they have had to run 3 sessions with different students each time.

Students have lots of fun in the club because they enjoy learning to make new food. They also love tasting the food they have created. While cooking is a lot of fun, the students have also learned how to be safe in the kitchen, the importance of cleaning fruits and vegetables, and the need to keep your cooking area neat and clean.

Our Panther Chefs get to pick from different categories the food that they make. They have made grilled cheese sandwiches, English muffin pizzas, ginger sugar cookies, apple pie bites, and chicken pozole.

Mrs. Taylor said, "We love to teach these kids and help them learn new recipes."



## STRIVING FOR SUCCESS

ARTS Performance is Our Passion

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# LADY PANTHERS' BASKETBALL

By Jalyssa Alcasas

Our girl's basketball team is back this year and ready for some fun!

The coach, Mr. Antonio Martinez, is looking forward to another year of great games.

Martinez explained what kind of team members he is looking for, "I am not looking for skills per say, I am focused on what the students have to offer. Do they have the fire, the desire, the drive to learn and accept the challenge."

Coach Martinez told us, "Most of the lady Panthers are already well balanced and only require a small amount of reminders to maintain their passing grade. The lady Panthers are great at helping each other. I will remind them that academics are more important than sports." He also stated, "Perseverance, self-control, teamwork are traits that are developed." Martinez continued, "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." We are all hoping our female Panthers have a good season with lots of fun and games!



# BOYS' BASKETBALL

By Alexis Rubio

Mr. Perry is coaching the Boys' Panther Basketball Team, currently in tryouts! Try out dates were January 6-7, as well as January 13.

For this year's team, Mr. Perry is hoping for the players to improve their playing skills and their overall ability to work as a team.

This year will be Mr. Perry's second year coaching the boys' team. Over 40 basketball players have tried out this year, but only 10-15 kids can be selected for the team.

Mr. Perry said that "It would be nice for the team to make it to the championships, but I really just want the team to improve this year for the future."

He added, "I want them to work hard, play well together, and develop confidence as they move through the season."

The qualities Mr. Perry is looking for in his players are to stay motivated and be perseverant."

# SPIDER MAN NO WAY HOME

By Zyla Delgado

!SPOILER ALERT!

*Spider-Man: No Way Home* hit theaters on December 17, 2021, and like many recent movies, it's a wide release so you can watch it in person. It's one of the biggest movies out now. Most people loved it, but some viewers had a different opinion.

In this movie, Spider-Man (actor Tom Holland) is surprised along the way in old and new ways, which makes the movie so much more interesting and exciting.

Vernon Panther, Kevin Flores mentioned that his favorite part of the movie was when all the Spider-Men came back from the other movies.

Ebony Rivas, another Vernon Panther, said, "What I liked best about the movie was when Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield joined the movie." I agree 100%. See it now!



# WHY ANIME SPIRIT DAY?

By Desire Acosta

Amine Shirt Day was January 14! But what exactly is anime? Anime is an abbreviation for "animation" referring to all cartoon animations made in Japan. However, it is commonly used to describe a certain animation style that originated in the 1960's by Osamu Tezuka. The big eyes, exaggerated expressions, bright and colorful graphics were believed to be inspired by other cartoon characters like Betty Boop and Mickey Mouse. Unlike these Western cartoons, anime is not just for kids. There are animes for all ages, including adults.

The golden age of anime is considered to be the 1980's to the early 2000's. Twenty-two anime movies and 256 anime shows came out in the 1980's alone. Some of the most popular anime of that time that still continue to air are *Dragon Ball*, *Sailor Moon*, *One Piece* and *Naruto*. Some newer ones are *Death Note*, *Attack on Titan*, and *My Hero Academia*. Most anime start off as Japanese comic books, usually the length of a novella, called manga. So if reading isn't your thing, watch the anime! Or if you want something to spend your money on, buy the manga!





# SEAL OF BILITERACY

By Brianna Valles (Republished)

Hey, Bilingual Panthers! Have you ever heard of the "Seal of Biliteracy"? This is a program for students who have mastered a high level of speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages other than English.

This seal is given by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program is offered because it shows a positive response towards multilingualism and the use of multiple languages. Knowing more than one language strengthens bonds within communities so students are encouraged to learn another language in high school and beyond.

People who speak more than one language are more likely to get better jobs once they graduate high school or after they go to college. Learning languages helps students have greater college and career readiness and opportunities.

If you can meet the requirements, you will receive a Gold Seal on your 8th-grade promotion certificate. If you would like more information, please talk to Assistant Principal Ms. Scott. Information was also posted to Schoolloop in August.

# DID YOU SAY PAJAMAS?

SPIRIT DAY DECEMBER

SPIRIT DAYS ARE COMING!

CHECK THE CALENDAR.



**BOOKS ONLINE FOR PANTHER READERS!**  
 SORA is a digital library with over 5,000 Books. Vernon currently has a subscription. Check the link in Clever to get yourself started. Be ready for that next book report.

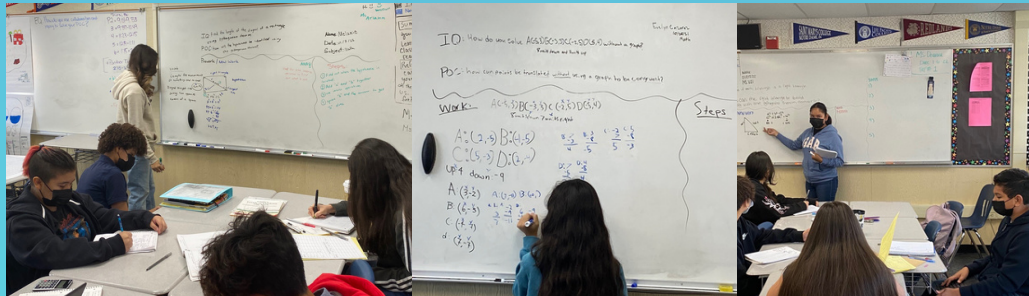


**Are you bored of basic disposable masks? Come and purchase a Vernon double layer cloth mask personally made by our own Mrs. Whitton! Come see Mrs. Gomez by the flagpole in the morning to purchase your very own special mask. \$4 each, 2 for \$7, 3 for \$10 Cash Only**

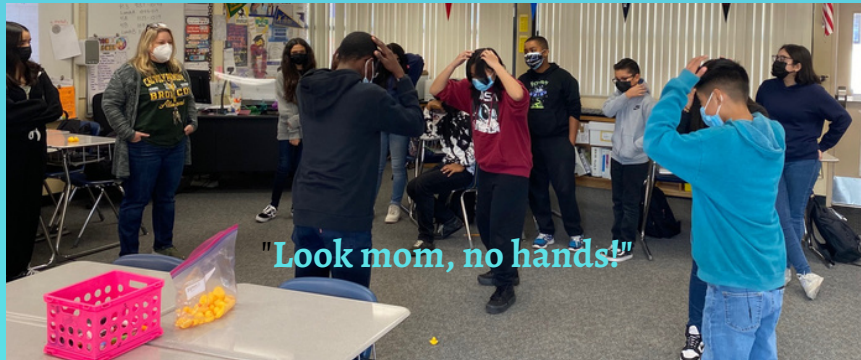
## Important AVID Dates

3/7 @ 6 p.m. Parent-Student Meeting for prospective 7th & 8th Grade AVID students for 2022-2023. Be sure to attend one of the meetings nights for AVID. Website below.  
<https://sites.google.com/omsd.net/2023-avid-recruitment-omsd/home>

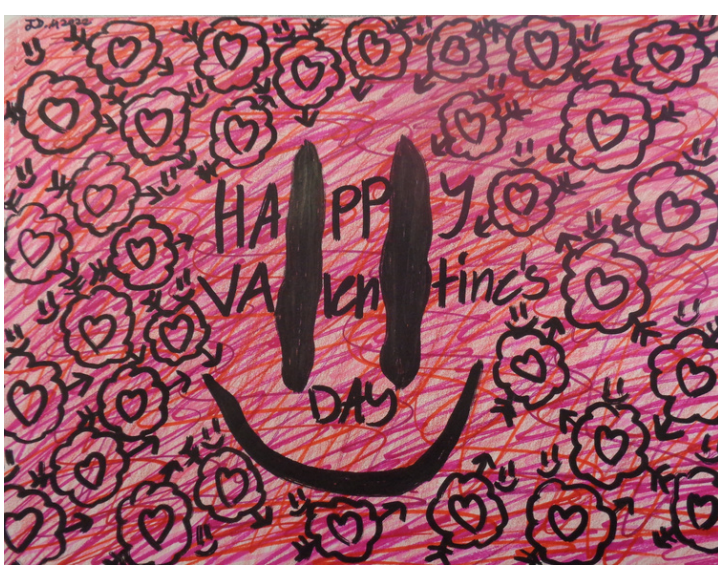
## AVID has been busy with Tutorials in Core subjects.



Mrs. Araneta's AVID students were having fun and working on teamwork skills with "Head, Shoulders, Knees & Duck."







**Happy Valentine's Day to Panthers Everywhere!**  
Art by J.D. Mendez

# February

**1/28/22- Friday-Disney Character Day-  
Wear your a Disney Character Day**

**1/29/22- Saturday-Girls' Basketball  
Showcase @ Vernon**

**2/2/22- Wednesday-Basketball @ Vernon**

**2/3/22- Thursday-Basketball @ Vernon**

**2/7/22-Monday-Basketball @ Vernon**

**2/7-11/22- Valentines fun bags on sale**

**2/9/22 -Basketball @ Vernon**

**2/11/22- Friday-Sweethearts' Day-  
Wear pink or red shirt**

**2/14/22- No School**

**2/16/22- Wednesday-Basketball @Vernon**

**2/17/22- Thursday-Basketball @ Vernon**

**2/21/22- No School**

**2/23/22 Wednesday-Basketball @ Vernon**

**2/25/22- Class color Competition**

**8th wears black, 7th wears blue**

**3/2/22-Wednesday- Basketball @Vernon**

**3/21-25/22- Spring Break**

**3/30/22-Wednesday- Earthquake Drill**

**3/30/22- Wednesday- Pride Store**

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M I L E Y S E T A L O C O H C  
E T U C E I M I S I S A S Z P  
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D E O C O G C G L E E D N D H  
B L I Z U S I D P E W Y G R S  
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**VALENTINE'S DAY**

CHOCOLATE  
LOVE  
FLOWERS  
RED  
PINK  
FRIENDSHIP  
CUPID

ROSES  
TEDDY BEAR  
WINTER  
HAPPY  
BLIZZARD  
HUGS  
CUTE  
DATE

PICS  
HEARTS  
CANDY  
KIND  
SMILE  
LIKE  
SONGS  
LETTERS

Vernon Panthers, you can still join after school clubs. Get a permission slip, have your parents sign it, then turn it into the office. Be sure to listen to the morning announcements for any other updates.

**Manga Mondays**  
Mon. 2:30- 3:00

**Strength Club**  
Mon. & Wed.  
2:30-3:30

**Anime Club**  
Wed. 2:25- 3:30

**Cooking Club**  
Wed.  
2:30-4:00

**After-School Orchestra**  
Wed. 2:30- 3:30

**Theater**  
Thurs. 2:30- 3:30

**After School Band & Percussion**  
Thurs. 2:30- 3:30

**Speech & Debate Club**  
Thurs. 2:30- 3:30

**After School Chorus**  
Fri. 2:30- 3:30

**Just for Fun Club Arts & Crafts**  
3rd Thur. only 2:30 -3:15

**Basketball Clinic**  
M, W, TH, & F 2:45-4:45

