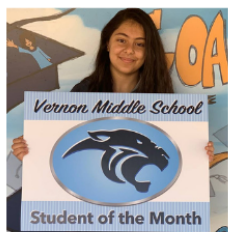


# PANTHER PRESS

## Vernon Middle School

Volume 4, Issue 4, December 2021



### STUDENT OF THE MONTH MIRIAM BESHARA

By Desire Acosta

Congratulations to the Student of the Month, Miriam Beshara!

Miriam's teachers said that she was a top student. She studies hard and gets straight A's in her classes. Additionally, she asks great questions and participates in class discussions.

Miriam would like to attend Cal Poly Pomona and major in Animal Science. "When I grow up, I want to be a veterinarian." Miriam explained, "I've always liked animals and being able to help them in a critical way is amazing to me."

When asked about a person who inspires her, she said, "I look up to my parents, teachers, and my family."

Miriam takes part in AVID and Speech and Debate Club. In her spare time, she likes ice skating, and pottery, both wheel and by hand. She loves to read fiction, animal and space nonfiction, adventure and fantasy.

When asked how she got good grades, Miriam answered, "I have tried my best to establish a study routine for myself. That way, I don't feel overwhelmed. Another thing I've done is talk to Ms. Tello about AP classes [in high school]."

Miriam shared her favorite quote, "Believe you can make it and you're already halfway there."

### Honor Roll

Congratulations to all our hardworking student who received Honor Roll Recognition by achieving a 3.0 or higher grade point average (GPA). Over 300 students are proud recipients of Honor Roll Recognition. These students will receive special recognition in the yearbook at the end of the year.

As an Honor Roll Student, you will have Free Dress Days and Front of the Line privileges during the first week back from vacation. Be sure to have your pass with you at all times that week. Make sure you free dress on the dates indicated for your Group. The dates are as follows.

**Platinum-Jan. 3rd to 7th for 4.0 GPAs**

**Gold-Jan. 3rd to 5th for 3.8-3.9 GPAs**

**Silver-Jan. 3rd to 4th for 3.4-3.7 GPAs**

**Bronze-Jan. 3rd only for 3.0-3.3 GPAs**



FOOD  
DRIVE

#DIFJ

By Zyla Delgado

Due to all of our Panthers' hard work, this year's #DIFJ Food Drive was very successful! It was amazing to see everyone work together and come closer during this event. Our panthers decided to do this drive to collect food, baby diapers, and baby wipes for families in need during the holidays. It's not just that, however, it's about the #DIFJ, (Do it for John). The yearbook team raised about \$560 in cash and food certificates. Thank you to all the staff and students who helped us with this food drive. Special thanks for going above and beyond to Ms. Huerta, Ms. Tovar, Mrs. Haldane, Ms. Westbrook, Mr. Elkins, Mrs. Kranzer, Mrs. Purcell, Mrs. Schneyer, Mrs. Gomez, and thanks to AVID and ASB for all their support.



SPRIT  
DAY

By Alexis Rubio

Hey Panthers! Friday, December 10 was crazy Christmas sweater day. At lunch, there was a crazy sweater contest with a prize for first place! The Craziest Sweater winners in the contest were: 1st Place, Isaiah Gutierrez with "Reindeer Cow;" 2nd place, Andres Mierles with "The Christmas Nutcracker;" and 3rd place, Kevin Flores with "Singin' Shark."

Staff Winners were: 1st, Mr. Moritz with "Everyone Loves a Snowman;" 2nd, Mrs. Verdugo with "Feliz Navidad;" 3rd, Ms. Cox with "Christmas Tree." Congrats to all the winners and everyone who wore a special sweater that day.



STRIVING FOR SUCCESS



Performance is  
Our Passion

Positive  
Behavior  
Intervention &  
Support







# PANTHERS PLACE SECOND IN GIRLS' AND BOYS' SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Matthew Gaitan

By Brianna Valles & Jalyssa Alcasas

Boys' Soccer Team Coach Martinez and his team have had a great season with a 7-1 win record. The boys played in the Championship, Wednesday, December 15, 2021, but came in Second Place to Ontario Christian.

Mr. Martinez is looking for OMSD Championship number four here at Vernon Middle School.

Mr. Martinez said, "I'm proud of the hard work and dedication these boys have shown throughout the season."

The players give everything they've got to win, but they know first and foremost that they are a team. All the boys have been working very hard to play every game.

**Miss Scott and I  
are so proud of our  
Boys' and Girls'  
Soccer Teams.  
They worked so  
hard and had a  
terrific season.**

*Ms. Tovar*

Our Girls' Soccer Team had an amazing season this year! They placed second in the OMSD championships for Girls' Soccer.

Coach O'Neil said, "The girls began to gel as a team in the later part of the season. I expect them to do well in their future playing endeavors."

He went on to say, "The biggest accomplishment is the support that each of them had for each other. I loved to see them support their teammates who do not get as much playing time. The starters have worked to make everyone a part of the team--whether you started or not."

It's important that everyone on the team contributes, because everyone is important. Our Girls' Soccer Team showed that they had talent, teamwork and big hearts all season. Congratulations on 2nd Place. It still took a lot to get there.



## DANCE TEAM ON THE MOVE



The Vernon Panther Dance Team has been having so much fun with all their events and new dances. Recently they participated in **Christmas on Euclid**, a local community event in Ontario. Dance teacher, Ms. Cox said, "The **Christmas on Euclid** performance was a blast. Other than performing in the **Holiday Light Parade**, it was the students' first time performing for a large crowd. I know they were nervous, but also super excited. They did an amazing job, I am so proud of their hard work and dedication."

If people are going to dance on a team, they also need to appreciate the choreography and creativity that goes into a performance. Ms. Cox explained, "It can be challenging to choreograph dances for an entire team. I try to incorporate songs that they enjoy along with genre styles they enjoy performing. It is always so fun to see the end product of a dance. I love when the team collaborates together to create a performance that has a lot of full-out movements and high energy."

Keeping a team together and motivated can be a challenge. Ms. Cox said, "I try to keep the team inspired and motivated by always keeping a positive mindset. I remind the students that as dancers and performers it is our job to entertain the audience and bring smiles to their faces. With this mindset, the students are able to push through when challenging times come and keep focused on the end goal of a fun performance."

Ms. Cox motivates herself with this quote "Dance is the joy of movement and the heart of life." She has this quote up on her wall in the dance studio. She stated, "I love this quote as I feel it embodies the heart behind the importance of enjoying dance and allowing it to be an escape from reality."

Dance Team is a year-round team that will perform all year. Keep wishing the Vernon Panther Dance Team good luck with all of their future performances.

By Jalyssa Alcasas



## TREES: REAL OR ARTIFICIAL

By Miley Posadas-Padron

Should you get a real or an artificial Christmas tree? Here are some thoughts to help you decide.

First people like real Christmas trees because they like to go and get a real tree with their kids and

they just feel the Christmas spirit with their family.

Families also like the smell of pine trees because the pine trees come with their seasonal scents. For many years, the cutting of real Christmas trees was seen as detrimental to the environment, but that may not be exactly right.

Christmas trees are a well-kept crop, and the *Christmas Tree Promotion Board* says, "the Christmas tree farmers make sure planting and harvesting are balanced to protect the environment. After they finish cutting down the trees, they plant one new tree for every tree cut down. Trees are completely biodegradable and recyclable and that means they can be reused for mulch instead of just letting them just go to waste when December comes to an end".

The artificial trees make 3 times the impact on climate change. They are also made from plastic and steel which require more energy to produce and are mostly shipped over from China, and they will eventually sit in a landfill once gotten rid of (according to a life-cycle assessment of the comparative environmental impact of real or fake Christmas trees). However, a fake Christmas tree can have a smaller negative impact on the environment if the customer keeps it for five years or longer. But even still, once that tree is out of use, it can't be naturally reused or recycled easily.



## December Holidays

By Giovanni Nava Padron

Did you know that many people out there have different holiday traditions?

Many Americans have similar traditions with family and friends. Some cultures have other traditions as well.

Here are some of the fascinating ones. To start with, in Brazil the holiday is on Christmas Eve rather than on Christmas Day. Those who are religious will go to church in the evening and then come home to dinner and open presents at around midnight or so. Some families will even wait until midnight to have dinner!

In the Jewish culture, Hanukkah is celebrated every year and this year it was from Sunday, November 28-Monday, to December 6. It is a celebration of Light. Judaism is the world's oldest religion dating back nearly 4,000 years. Judaism is rooted in law, culture and deep traditions.

Kwanzaa--a relatively newer holiday tradition was established by African Americans in the mid-1960s during a time of racial unrest. Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration of African American culture and heritage. This holiday takes place every year from December 26 to January 1 and is observed by millions of people in the United States and around the world.



Vernon Middle School received National Recognition as a school leader in recycling programs from **Pepsico Recycling**.

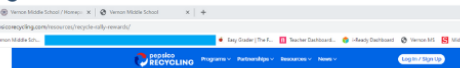
Congratulations to ASB, who has been involved in Green Team since 2017. Their motto is CRI, they conserve energy, recycle plastic, and work to improve our environment.

The first year ASB participated, Ms. Tovar bought a large mural reflecting the hard work of the green team. Vernon administrators have been especially supportive of the Green Team efforts, this has made a huge difference. Everyone knows the danger of climate change, so being a part of the Pepsi Recycle Rally is just a simple way for us to help live a better life.

"Pepsi recycling rally has given us a lot of support over the last 4 years, especially during the pandemic. We hope everyone understands the importance of recycling," said Mrs. Purcell, "That's why we created a Green Team here at Vernon."

## VERNON & GREEN TEAM GAIN NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SCHOOL RECYCLING

By Marissa Munoz



National Recognition for Vernon's Leadership on Recycling at School.



The Pepsi Rally Rewards is a national award given to schools that have demonstrated leadership in recycling. Schools are recognized for their efforts in recycling and for their commitment to the environment. Vernon Middle School was recognized for its leadership in recycling and for its commitment to the environment.



- AVID is getting ready to go through the recertification process for National Demonstration status. This means that our AVID program is one of the top in the nation. Work samples may be collected from classrooms. Even more exciting, some classes have been or will be filmed to share the good things at Vernon with the AVID committee.
- AVID is gearing up for second semester. 7th graders should start thinking about whether AVID is a good program for them to start their path to college and careers, whether you are currently an AVID student or not. Signing up for next year will happen soon.
- 8th graders are getting ready for high school. In fact, there will be presentations soon from the Montclair High School AVID Coordinator, as well as presentations by Ms. Tello about A-G requirements, high school grades, and credits. Most high schools Vernon students attend will have AVID programs. Consider joining for school work help and to make good friends.



# HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH

By Desire Acosta



CANDLE CHRISTMAS COOKIES COLD  
FOOD FAMILY GIFT HOLIDAY KWANZAA  
LIGHTS HANUKKAH OMISOKA TREE SNOW  
STAR TRADITIONS WREATH



12/16/21 Early Dismissal 12:45

12/17/21 Non School Day

12/20/21- 1/2/22 Winter Break

1/3/22, Monday-Return to School

1/3/22, Monday Starts Free Dress Day/Front of Line Pass for Honor Roll Recipients; check the front page article for specific information.

1/10/22, GATE Parent Meeting @ 12:30 p.m.

1/14/22, Friday-Anime/Cartoon Character Day-  
Wear your favorite Anime Shirt

1/14/22, Friday-Lunch Activity in the Quad

1/17/22, Monday-Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Birthday Holiday-No School

1/24/22, Monday-Basketball @ Vernon

1/26/22, Wednesday-Basketball @ Vernon

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

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

2/9/22, -Basketball @ Vernon



## SPIRIT DAYS ARE COMING!

### CHECK THE CALENDAR.

We appreciate everyone  
for making the  
DIEJ Food Drive  
a huge  
success.



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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