



Mendez Minutes

Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School

Edition 3 Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Quote of the Month

By: Josue & Romeo

Journalists, Josue & Romeo, offer you this quote for the month of **February**. *"There is no love without forgiveness and no forgiveness without love"* - Bryant H. McGill

Next issue: March 2025

Meet the staff:

Teacher/Editor: Ms. Elmore

Copy Editor: Mrs. Cortes

7th Grade:

Belen Cabanas

Brandon Diaz

Noemi Garcia Haro

Elias Giron

Isaac Gonzalez Lopez

Melany Guadarrama

Santiago Huerta

Jacob Martinez

Alexandria Melgoza

Andrew Molina

Genesis Mora

Joana Ortiz

Angel Ramos

Josue Rios

Camila Santos

Romeo Velasquez

Aiden Villagomez

Jayden Zerecero

Feature Article

Welcome to Assistant Principal Brandon Peterson!

By: Aiden Villagomez

Assistant Principal Peterson grew-up in Redlands, California and went to Redlands High School. Mr. Peterson's former colleagues and administrators inspired him to become an Administrator. We are thrilled to have him with us at Mendez for his first official role as an Assistant Principal.

In his free time, Mr. Peterson enjoys reading, spending time with family, and playing his guitar while writing music.

A fun fact about Mr. Peterson is that in 2006 he went skydiving in Lake Elsinore. When I asked him if he would go skydiving again, his answer was, "Probably not-I have checked that off my bucket list!"

A quote that Mr. Peterson would like to share with our Mendez Family is from Dr. Viktor Frankl, "What is to give light, must endure burning." He explained to me that this quote means *"...Continue to set up goals for yourself, persevere and strive for the best; you are the future, so be the best you can be in the career you want to pursue."*

Assistant Principal, Mr. Brandon Peterson

Announcements

Valentine's Day = LOVE!



By: Camila Santos & Genesis Mora

We asked as many teachers as we could (based on their availability) two questions: **(1) What do you like to receive on Valentine's Day?** and/or **(2) What do you like to do on Valentine's Day?** Here's what 14 teachers shared with us.

Ms. Bueno: "I love to receive chocolate, eat lots of chocolate, cuddle with my kids, and watch movies."

Ms. Soto: "I love to receive jewelry, flowers, and notes. I also love to spend time with my family."

Mrs. Erhard: "I love to eat and stay home with my family."

Ms. Rubio: "I love to receive candy and hang-out with my best friends."

Assistant Principal Peterson: "I love to receive chocolates and go on mystery trips with my wife."

Mr. Hernandez: "I love to receive chocolates and watch movies."

Mr. Orozco: "I love to receive chocolate and I am looking for my Valentine."

Ms. Martinez: "I love to receive flowers and chocolate and spend time with my family."

Ms. Salas: "I love to receive flowers and



Feature Story

Meet Ms. Leslie Martinez!

By: Joanna Ortiz & Brandon Diaz

Ms. Leslie Martinez is one of our amazing counselors and she has been a Mustang for four years. Ms. Martinez attended middle school and high school in Desert Hot Springs, CA.

Ms. Martinez loves connecting with the students and watching them grow year-to-year. Her advice for Mustangs is, **"...always do your best so that when you look back you'll be proud of what you accomplished."**

Ms. Martinez's passions include trying new foods, baking chocolate chip cookies, going on walks, and spending time with her family. Last year she finished her first 5K run and she looks forward to competing more.

A cool fact about Ms. Martinez is her speciality dish: **fresas con crema** as it's always a request for(family) parties!

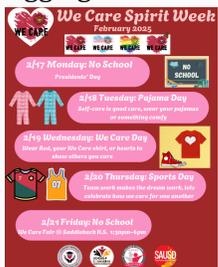


Ms. Leslie Martinez,
Counselor

We Care Spirit Week!

By: Ms. Elmore

Stay up-to-date with what is happening at our school by going to the [Mendez Website](#). You can also find-out what's happening at our school (and in the district) by logging-into [ParentSquare](#). 👍



Feature Story

Meet Mrs. Laura Quintero!

By: Alexandria Melgoza & Ms. Elmore

Mrs. Quintero is one of the outstanding science teachers at Mendez. Although she only has been teaching for four years, she has already done a fabulous job in creating a buzz among our students when it comes to science.

Mrs. Quintero was inspired to become a teacher by her older sister.

When Mrs. Quintero is not in the classroom, you can find her going for a run, watching a soccer game, or watching movies with her family.



Mrs. Laura Quintero, Science Teacher

Shout-Out to . .

Officer Lenin Orozco

By: Joana Ortiz & Brandon Diaz

Officer Lenin Orozco is a DSO (District Safety Officer) at Mendez. Here are some facts that you may not know about him:

1. He attended Villa Fundamental and Century High School in Santa Ana, CA.
2. He enjoys hiking, watching movies, and playing games on his PS5!

Officer Orozco told us that he loves community engagement-- talking to students and protecting the school community.

Officer Orozco's advice for Mendez scholars: **"...Go to college and major in something that will bring in income and feed your passion".**

go out to dinner."

Mrs. Cortes: "I love to receive chocolate, spend time with my family, and watch movies."

Mr. Covey: "I love to receive chocolate and spend time with my loved ones."

Dr. Ponce: "I love to receive chocolate and spend time with my loved ones and friends."

Mr. Terrones: "I love to receive money."

Ms. Elmore: "I love to receive cards, flowers, or a sweet treat and enjoy a delicious meal at home."

Year of the Snake

By: Belen Cabanas

Chinese New Year is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture!

Chinese New Year celebrates a specific animal each year.

2025 is the Year of the Snake.

The color red is worn on the first day of Chinese New Year as it stands for fortune, good luck, and a healthy spirit.

Giving monetary gifts in red envelopes is a common custom at the start of Chinese New Year. These red envelopes can be given to children, family members, friends, **teachers**, and **employees**. (Teachers and Staff, be sure to check your mailbox this month!



Black History Month

By: Elias Giron & Ms. Elmore



Mendez Sports Corner

Here's Max!!!!

By: Andrew Molina

One player on the Mendez baseball team that I wanted to feature in this edition of *Mendez Minutes* is Max Cardiel. Although he is new to this sport, he is a super star. Max's fast speed and no-hit pitching is what helped our team a lot. In addition to great batting, he is good at fielding. One of Max's mantras is, **"No matter what-keep on trying."** This 8th Grader has a big future ahead of him and I was proud to be on the baseball team with him this season.



Max Cardiel, 8th Grader

Boys' Volleyball

By: Jayden Zerocero

Teamwork makes the dream work! At the time that this article was written, the boys' volleyball team played two games and their record was 1:1. Ms. Flores, their volleyball coach said, "For the majority of the students on the team, this is their first volleyball experience." She added, "They learn from everything and they continue to grow." When I asked her who is the best player, she said, **"They all work well together and support one another-it's a team effort."**

Ms. Flores has been coaching volleyball for five years (three years for the girls' team and two years for the boys' team). We wish this Mendez team the best of luck next season!



Mr. Lenin Orozco, DSO

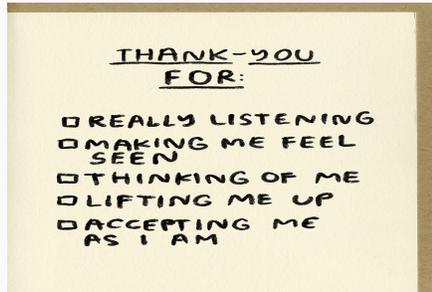
Did You Know?

By: Jacob Martinez

February has so many fun days! **February 20th** is **Muffin Day!** What's your favorite muffin? Yummy! 🍪



February 26th is **Set a Good Example Day.** It's always important to set a good example for others—remember that you reap what you sow! 😊



There's a birthstone for every month of the year! **February's** stone is an **amethyst**, which ranges in color from lilac to deep purple. If your birthday is in **February**, wearing an **amethyst** can be a symbol of **personal empowerment and inner strength.**



February honors **Black Americans who have contributed to our society and culture!!**

Here are some inventions that were created by Black Americans which we still use to this day:

George T. Sampson: invented the clothes dryer June 7, 1892

Nathaniel Alexander: patented and invented the folding chair in 1911

Marie Van Brittan Brown: a nurse who designed a front-door security system in 1966, complete with a camera, speakers, and an alarm.

Dr. Patricia Bath: an ophthalmologist who invented a device and technique in 1981 using a laser for cataract eye surgery

Lonnie Johnson: NASA engineer who conceived the SuperSoaker in 1982

Elias Giron researched the life of **Jack Johnson**, who in 1908 became the first Black heavyweight champion of the world. His fight in 1910, which he won against former white champion, James Jefferies, was called the "fight of the century". After his career he became a successful club owner including one known as the Cotton Club in New York. His hobbies included automobile racing and buying and dressing in fine clothing. He was a big influence on Muhammad Ali and was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1954.

Community Events

What can you and your family do in February?

By: Isaac Gonzalez Lopez

Here are a couple events happening in our Santa Ana community this month

Discovery Cube

**Where: 2500 N. Main Street
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

When: February 2025

Girls' Softball

By: Noemi Garcia & Melany Guadarrama

The Mendez Softball team put up a great battle but unfortunately their season was not a complete success. Mrs. Angelica Garcia has a special shout-out for Melanie Lopez and Rosie Bailon who took on the pressure of pitching at their games. Mrs. Garcia shared this with us, **"It was my team's first year of playing softball. Learning the fundamentals of throwing and catching and maintaining a positive mindset will help them to have a better softball season next year."**

2025: A Great Year for Gaming

By: Santiago Huerta

The most recent gaming announcement is the confirmation of the release of the Nintendo Switch 2! Expect **Switch 2 in stores in April 2025.**

The newest game which will be released alongside the Switch 2 is Mario Kart 9! This game is what the Nintendo fans have wanted since 2020

Let's go GAMERS!!



February = Testing Time at Mendez

By: Angel Ramos

Mendez students will take a few assessments this month. Here is a list of the upcoming assessments.

FEBRUARY TESTS 2025

- Summative ELPAC Speaking Portion
February 3 - 7
Grades 6 - 8
- District Writing Assessment (DWA)
February 11 - 13
Grades 6 - 8
- Physical Fitness Testing
February 1 - May 30
Grade 7

Details: February Events at the Discovery Cube in Santa Ana include: **Solar System Encounter** and **The Great Heart Adventure**

Price: General Admission Price

More Info: Go to:

<https://www.discoverycube.org/orange-county/events/>

Friday Night Munchies

Where: Open Air Street Fair

1301 S. Bristol Street

Santa Ana, CA 92704

When: Every Friday

6PM - 10PM

Details: Open-air street food fair that's kid and pet-friendly.

More Info:

[https://www.travelsantaana.com/event/friday-night-munchies-\(night-market\)/173/](https://www.travelsantaana.com/event/friday-night-munchies-(night-market)/173/)

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