



Mendez Minutes

Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School

Edition 13 Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Quote of the Month

By: Joseph Martinez



I would like to offer you this quote for the month of **February**:
"All of our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." —**Walt Disney**

Meet the Journalism Staff:
Ms. Yolanda Elmore, Editor
Mrs. Yvette Cortes, Co-Editor
Stacy Colin
Daisy Fernandez
Diana Gallegos
Alyssa Garcia
Rosadelinda Gomez
Paola Guillen
Lylah Lamas
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Mia Lua
Jacob Martinez
Joseph Martinez
Ariannie Mendez
Darian Mendoza
Guadalupe Merino
Guadalupe Pintor
Melina Romero
Hanna Salagado
Juliana Vargas
Mila Zamarripa
Yoselin Zuniga

Feature Article

"Love Your Brain this Testing Season"

By: Ms. April Salas

February is a month for hearts and for showing love to your learning!

As ELPAC, MAP, and CAASPP approach, remember: preparation is an act of self-care.

Study smart: review a little each day, get plenty of sleep, and eat a healthy breakfast.

Take brain breaks, ask questions, and practice your skills with confidence. Attend tutoring, find online practice tests (they're out there), and study with a buddy.

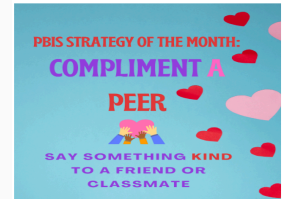
On test day, breathe in calm, breathe out doubt. Read carefully. Take your time. Don't rush. Do your best- one question at a time.

These tests are a chance to show what you know, how far you've grown, and how hard you've worked all year long.

We do not expect perfection, but only want to see that you have grown. We

Strategy of the Month "Compliment a Peer"

By: Dr. Laura Castro



February is all about kindness, friendship, and showing people that you care, especially with Valentine's Day coming up! This month, our PBIS focus is **Compliment a Peer**. A compliment is when you say something nice and true about someone. It could be about how they helped you, how hard they worked, or the way they treat others. When you give a compliment, you can make someone feel proud, confident, and included.

Something as simple as:

- "You did a great job in class today."
- "Thanks for helping me."
- "You're really kind."

Compliments can make a big difference in someone's day. We never know what someone is going through, so we should always lead with kindness. Words have power,

"Mendez Minutes Updates"

By: Yvette Cortes



Have you seen *Manny the Mustang*? He's the new face on the Mendez Minutes logo and he's ready to help us navigate being resourceful! It's 2026 and we're ready to showcase the QR Code option!

You can now read your favorite monthly newsletter from the comfort of your own screen.

Simply open your camera app. on your personal device and scan the QR code to find your favorite Newsletter, *Mendez Minutes*!

Start looking for QR codes around campus for the most up-to-date news, current events, and more!

Mendez Minutes QR Code:



Black History Month Black Inventors

By: Alyssa Garcia & Jacob Martinez



In February we celebrate **Black History Month** from Sunday, 1 February through Sunday 1 March.

believe in you.

Trust your heart, trust your mind, and give your best effort.

You've got this!



Ms. April Salas, Assistant Principal

February Song of the Month - "You've Got a Friend in Me"

By: Darian Mendoza



I chose this song because it's about friendship and love which are amazing gifts not only in the month of February but all year round.

I also chose this song because the lyrics are easy to remember and its message of loyalty and support makes me cherish the friends I have here at Mendez Fundamental.

What qualities do you **love** about your friends, Mendez Mustangs?



and kind words have the potential to transform a person's day or mood.

Valentine's Day isn't just about cards and candy—it's about spreading kindness. Compliments are one of the best ways to do that. When you give a compliment, you are showing respect and helping make our school a happier place. This month, challenge yourself to notice the good in others and say it out loud. Let's fill Mendez with positive words, one compliment at a time! ♥♥



Dr. Laura Castro, ELA Teacher

Community Events

By: Paola Guillen



Santa Ana's **3rd Annual Tết (Lunar New Year) Festival** takes place on **Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Centennial Park**. It is an opportunity for families to celebrate the Lunar New Year together. **Tết** (Vietnamese: [te̞t̚], chữ Hán: 節), short for **Tết Nguyên Đán** (chữ Hán: 節元旦; lit. 'Feast of the first day'), is the most important celebration in **Vietnamese culture**. Tết celebrates the arrival of spring and families look forward to celebrating a new year.

If you love tacos, you definitely want to attend the **Love & Tacos Fest** on **Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Heritage Museum of Orange County**. Please click here for more information about this fun event.



Jacob and I wanted to find-out about Black Inventors of the 20th Century and here is what we found.

A. Dr. Mark Dean was a computer engineer and inventor who co-created the IBM personal computer (PC) in 1981. He holds three of its original nine patents. The personal computer is definitely one of the most important inventions of our generation.



B. Garrett Morgan invented the traffic light. The traffic light is important because we use it everyday to help us get to our destinations safe and sound.



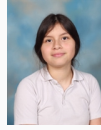
C. Benjamin Banneker invented the first wooden clock. Analog and digital clocks are all around us. The important question is. . .Can you look at the analog clock in your classroom and be able to tell the time?



Please note that although we only researched three inventors for the

Journalist Spotlight

February showcases three amazing journalism scholars.



“Good-bye USA, Hello Europe!”

People describe me as nice, quiet, calming, and a potato chip lover.

My dream is to travel with my family to Paris to see the breath-taking Eiffel Tower.

When I am not in school I love watching movies and playing with my puppy, Canelo.

My career goal is to become a doctor or a librarian and live in Prague or Vienna.

-Diana Gallegos

“Pets are Great!”



I am a 7th Grader, and I am a Journalism student.

I would describe myself as quiet.

I have always loved animals, especially cats and hamsters.

I want to attend Santiago High School in two years—I can’t wait!

-Tobias Lopez

“Cupid Beam”



Artist: Guadalupe Merino

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/love-tacos-fest-2026-tickets-1978077769858>



“Seahawks or Patriots?”

By: Melina Romero



Will you be one of millions of Americans watching **Super Bowl LX (60)** at **3:30PM from Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, CA on Sunday, February 8, 2026?**

The two teams playing for the title are the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots.

Whether you’ll be watching for the love of football, the half-time show entertainment (on different channels), or memorable Super Bowl commercials, there will surely be a lot of people staying at home this Sunday.

Here is an interesting fact: The low-end price of a ticket to the Super Bowl is approximately \$4,500, and the high-end/VIP price of a ticket is between \$20,000 to \$40,000.

There is surely no doubt that those in attendance may be planning to attend merely for the spectacle of it all or because it is so expensive (i.e. the bragging rights of having attended a Super Bowl game).



February issue of *Mendez Minutes* we recognize that there are significantly more Black people to celebrate in the world of sports, politics, education, science, and entertainment. If you are curious for more, please click on the link below to learn and grow!

https://youtu.be/ZsKPi4vYu_4?si=B6wx-fkS5kiK2V-p

“Celebrate LOVE Even if You’re on a Budget”

By: Mia Lua



Here are four different ways to celebrate **Valentine’s Day** if you are on a strict budget this year.

1. Spend the day with a loved one and enjoy a movie marathon. Stay in your pajamas all day and enjoy eating yummy comfort foods!
2. Have a picnic in the park and bring board games or sports equipment!
3. Host a puzzle or game night and invite your loved ones!
4. Make personalized cards or heart-warming letters for those you love!

Any of these ideas are sure to bring a smile to the faces of those you love all year long and especially on **Saturday, February 14th**.



Guadalupe said, *“I was inspired to draw this because I really like the feelings associated with Cupid.”*

Beanstack Reading Challenge



Mendez Library QR Code:



Mendez Mustangs, please remember to **log your SSR minutes each day**. In addition, don’t forget to write at least one book review each month and submit it in Beanstack. Mrs. Cortes **loves** reading your reviews!

“Thank you, Ms. Padilla”

By: Juliana Vargas



Liliana Padilla worked as a student support provider (SSP) at Mendez for three years.

Her time at Mendez Fundamental was rewarding for the students, teachers, and staff.

Ms. Padilla worked with students in the classrooms of Ms. Ree (former Social Studies teacher), Mrs. Reyes (ELA), Mrs. Ngo (Science), Mrs. Nguyen (Social Studies), Mr. Salazar (Science), Dr. Castro

“The Winter Olympics begin this Week”

By: Hanna Salgado



The **Winter Olympics** will take place in **Milan and Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy** from **February 6 to February 22, 2026**.

Three events that I am looking forward to watching are: Figure-skating, Ice Hockey, and Snowboarding.

It would be more fun to take a field trip to see the Winter Olympics in-person. Oh, Mrs. Laurenzi, “Let’s Gooooo!!!!”



There are several important tests happening in Semester Two. Please scan the QR Code below to remind yourself of our busy testing season at Mendez Fundamental.

Mendez Testing Dates QR Code:



Two Holidays that Honor Former Presidents of the United States of America

By: Stacy Colin



SAUSD recognizes two holidays in February in which all schools and offices will be closed.

Friday, February 13, 2026 honors Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States (POTUS).

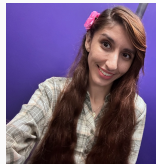
Monday, February 16, 2026 honors George Washington, the 1st President of the United States (POTUS).



(ELA), Mr. Lubba (Math), Mr. Chang (Math) and Mr. McDonald (Math).

Ms. Padilla completed her role as an SSP last month so that she could complete her credentialing journey in Physical Education and Mathematics. While pursuing these two credentials, Ms. Padilla also plans to earn her Masters Degree in Education.

When Ms. Padilla was not serving as an aide in the classroom or tutoring in the library, she would delight in visiting Disneyland, baking at home, or working-out.



Your Mendez Family wishes you the very best, Ms. Padilla. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Mendez Scholars

Are...

Respectful

Responsible

Ready

