

THE TIGER PEN

YOUR NUESTROS NEWS AUTHORITY



In School, On Time, On Track #EveryDayMatters

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Black History Month

By: Perla Casillas

Black history month began in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, an African American historian. Black history month began as “Negro History Week” but then became a month in 1976. February became the month of “Black History Month” in honor of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. The

month of February was chosen because it was the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The black population of the United States in 1870 was 4.8 million. In 2007, the number of black residents of the United States, including those of more than one race, was 40.7 million. Some

memorable African American figures are Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Coretta Scott King, Maya Angelou, Harriet Tubman, and Malcolm X. Rosa Parks was an American Activist in which the U.S. congress called “the first lady of civil rights.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Minister and Activist who was a leader in a civil rights movement. Coretta Scott King was an American activist, civil rights leader, and the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Maya Angelou was an American Poet and civil rights activist. Harriet tubman was an American Abolitionist and spy for the U.S. army. Malcolm X was a African American Muslim minister and human rights activist. The civil rights movement was a popular movement for all African Americans to have equal access for opportunities, privileges, and rights for all American citizens.



Mardi Gras

By: Jackque

Let me ask you something, do you know what Mardi Gras is? Mardi Gras is actually a Christian holiday that dates back thousands of years to Pagan celebrations of spring and fertility. Mardi Gras takes place on the last Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, after this you have to be good for 40 days.

If you have a dog then he can have fun at the parade at Mardi Gras with treats and more just made for the dogs witch is called Krewe of Barkus.

Many historians believe that the first Mardi Gras festival took place in Louisiana on March 3, 1699. These days leading up to lent people binge on meat, eggs, milk, and cheese before they give it all up for 40 days.



Ni**er By The Tiger Pen Staff

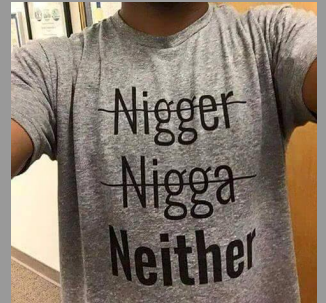
"You and her are very bright ... but y'all act like niggers ... seriously."

This comment, made by a black woman named Brandi Johnson, was directed to her co-worker Rob Carmona, a black male, in a New York City office. This exchange between two black individuals is actually common practice, not just inside an office in New York City, but within the walls of Nuestros Valores.

The Tiger Pen explored the meaning and use of the n-word and why or why not it may be inappropriate to use. This is an awkward topic to bring up. But it has been brought to the attention of the staff at The Tiger Pen that the n-word has been used excessively by students during school. We hope you learn more about the n-word and refrain from using it or, at the very least, remind others to stop using the word.

Teaching Tolerance, a website dedicated to removing racial prejudice from the country, describes two modern meanings of the n-word. Over time, according to Teaching Tolerance, the n-word meaning has changed and has become "a popular term of endearment by the descendants of the very people who once had to endure it. Among many young people today—black and white—the n-word can mean friend."

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Student of the Month



Andres Dominguez, a sophomore and captain of the basketball team, has been nominated and selected as February's Student of the Month. When told he had been selected as Student of the Month, Dominguez was shocked, to say the least. Actually, he was speechless for a moment. "I don't even know," said Dominguez when he was first told of his award. "It feels great," he proclaimed after gathering himself. Even though he was speechless, the surprise of being Student of the Month was great for Dominguez, as he never thought he would win the award, not even nominated for it. Dominguez continued, saying "[I] never thought of myself as being student of the month."

Andres was nominated for many reasons, but mainly for his new dedication to academics. Andres' "effort to keep his grades up, including putting in extra time after school," said one teacher, who nominated him. "He has really had to dig deep to change his self-defeating thoughts and behaviors," said another teacher.

Andres Dominguez wanted to give thanks to his teachers and coaches for pushing him, but also offered words of encouragement to other students to work hard and stay strong. "Just try hard and you can accomplish whatever you want," said Dominguez to every other student in the school.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

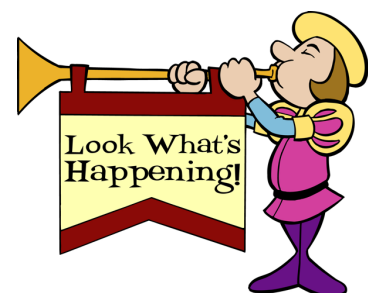
President's Day-- February 20th NO SCHOOL

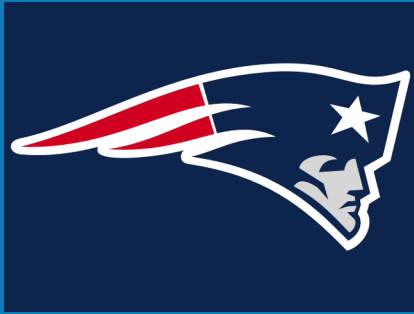
Round House West Side Day- Field Trip to Santa Fe- Thursday February 16th

Parent Conferences- Half Day of School, February 24th

Teacher Inservice-- March 3rd NO SCHOOL

Basketball Playoffs- Begin Monday February 20th. Schedule to be announced





SUPER BOWL

By Luis Angel



We all have heard about the "BIG GAME" or better known as the super bowl. During the first super bowl the Green Bay packers beat the Kansas City by a score of 35-10. However, both teams get paid. Green Bay Packers got \$15,000 and Kansas City go \$7,500 per player. Nowadays the winning team gets \$97,000 and the losing team gets \$49,000 per player. The 1st and 2nd super bowls weren't known as the super bowl. It didn't get its name until the third super bowl. The first two super bowls were known as AFL vs NFL. The games weren't broad-casted live, the games were recorded but the film was erased by soap opera. The tickets for super bowl I started at \$12.00, however that price increased over the years. Now the lowest super bowl ticket is at \$2,700 at is cheapest. If your family member is ever drinking or eating during the game that is only one tiny fraction of what Americans consume. It is estimated that Americans will consume 1.25 billion chicken wings and drink 325.5 million gallons of beer. The NFL may be an American Game but it is broad-casted all over the world and is translated in 34 different languages. If buying a diamond ring is expensive for you well a super bowl ring can cost up to \$5,000. A team will usually get 150 super bowl rings for a super bowl victory. If that's not enough for you the Lombardi trophy is worth \$25,000, stand at 21 inches, and made by Tiffany & Co. Super bowl commercials are well known. One of my favorites is the puppy monkey baby commercial. A 30 second commercial cost \$4.5 million this year. All of this stuff is just a part of the big game, but the game itself was actually amazing. Now a bit of a recap on the super bowl LI. The Atlanta Falcons had taken a major lead of 21-0 and taking a lead of 28-3 going into halftime. After halftime, the Falcons had a big lead and lead the Patriots made a major come back and eventually won. This Super Bowl also made history as it was the first time the game had gone into overtime. Finally the Patriots had won the game with 34-28.

Many say this game was the biggest choke ever, but others say it was the best comeback ever.

What do you think?

Valentine's day shout outs By: Liz Monarrez

Every year on February 14th couples of all ages buy each other gifts; from teddy bears, chocolates, roses, candy, etc. Valentine's Day is not only limited to couples, but also to friends and family. Many times they will buy each other gifts to show their love, appreciation and gratefulness for each other.

I, Liz would like to wish my Valentine, Shasta, a Happy Valentine's day. You are my very first real best friend and I am happy that I was able to meet you. Also I don't know what I would do without you. Love you Luvbug!!!!

Salas to Tom Brady : "Thanks for being the best quarterback in America; and for being an inspiration to all of the world. To children and adults."

Tyler Hartom would like to wish his valentine, Mr. Griego a Happy Valentine's day.

Mrs. Chavez said "I love the genius of all my students! Happy valentine's day to all #BeAwesomeToday"



Spongebob Did it Better

By: Stefani Germanotta



What usually comes to mind when you hear that the Super Bowl is coming up? No, not football, keep guessing... the halftime show! "Who's going to sing?" "Hopefully it's better than last year's!" 2017 Super Bowl halftime had a lot of talk. Celebrities, like Migos, demanded for a change in the performer to have them perform instead. Many say that the performance was a success and others say it was a total fail. Starting off with a patriotic song and ending with one of her biggest hits, you can say that others have given much better performances. Her performance was dull compared to the top ten halftime shows of all time. According to Detroit News the top ten best super bowl halftimes are; 1. Prince 2. U2 3. Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band 4. Beyonce' 5. Michael Jackson 6. Paul McCartney 7. Madonna 8. Diana Ross 9. Rolling Stones and 10. Bruno Mars. Lady Gaga gave one of the worst performances in Super Bowl history. Her wardrobe, jumping off the stage, and her going back and forth did not all go together. Her performance was a sloppy hot mess that had no concept to it. Compared to the top 10, her performance was not really one set or one idea but multiple that did not connect with each other. With everyone being hyped up about her coming out, many of her fans were let down and disappointed.

Can't You Just Be Nice?

By: Jasmine Casillas

Random Acts of Kindness Day, observed on February 17th in the United States, is a day when you're supposed perform random acts of kindness throughout the day. Also known as RAK, the day was originated in New Zealand in 2004 and celebrated on September 1st. Although the day was originated in New Zealand, the Random Act of Kindness Foundation was founded in 1995 in the United States and its nonprofit headquarters is based in Denver, Colorado. Some ideas for the day is to pay for the person behind you at a drive-thru, let someone go ahead of you in line or in traffic, post uplifting sticky notes around the building, or even send someone an encouraging text. It is observed on the 17th but it's actually a week long celebration from February 12th-18th.

So do something nice everyday, even if it isn't a national day.



Ni**er (continued from page 1)

However, the translation of the word to mean friend is shortsighted. Many ignore the historical context of the word, where it comes from, and why it became widely used. "We know that as early as the 17th century, "negro" evolved to "nigger" as intentionally derogatory," said Sean Price, the managing editor of Teaching Tolerance. The word has a "bloodsoaked history" that ties the meaning to slavery, extreme racism, death, and brutality. The n-word is a reference to a time when African Americans were considered inhuman, or not of the human species. Basically, what this means is that the n-word was used to degrade and bring down black people during an era where they were mistreated, verbally and physically abused, and murdered.

People use the word in different settings today. But that does not mean the n-word is appropriate to use. D. Watkins, a writer for the website Salon and a professor at the University of Baltimore, says there is no reason for anyone to use the n-word, regardless of meaning, unless you are a part of the black culture. There is "no need to use the N-word," says Watkins. "The ones who use the word," continued Watkins, imply want conflict. It's not their word, so they want to control it---they want to cause a stir, offend or be a part of a culture that they can never fully understand."

Others argue that the use of the n-word needs to be outright stopped by everyone, even within the black community. This would include the use of the word in music, media, and culture. Many feel that the use of the n-word in rap/hip-hop lyrics, for example, make other people feel like they can casually use the word, regardless of their race.

Currently, we have three black staff members at our school. The Tiger Pen recently sat down with them to talk about the use of the word in society and at school. Mr. Adkins, Mr. Curry, and Ms. Jody are all in agreement that the use of the n-word in the media, music, and, especially, at our school is completely inappropriate and excessively misused. The n-word "was never used in my house," said Mr. Adkins. "Personally, I don't say it," continued Mr. Adkins, saying he understands the historical meaning and use of the word and therefore refuses to use it. Though Mr. Adkins does understand that today's cultures use the n-word a lot, he does, however, completely disagrees with it. Flat out, "it bothers me," said Mr. Adkins.

Mr. Curry, who mentioned he had grandparents that grew up in the South and were raised in the environment where the use of the n-word was simply meant to degrade people, said "the biggest problem is these kids don't know the history of the word and that is why they use it so much" in and outside of our school. Mr. Curry, at one point, had to pull a students aside and speak with him briefly after he used the n-word in class and talked to him about the meaning of the n-word. Both Mr. Adkins and Ms. Jody agree that kids these days just don't know the history and the meaning of the word and that blinds them from the impact the use of the word can have.



Ms. Jody, went even further, saying "I don't think we have moved that far from the derogatory meaning of the word to be able to use it." What Ms. Jody means here is that racial tensions in this country still exist, so the casual use of the n-word still carries negative and derogatory meaning. "The use of the word is deplorable," said Ms. Jody, and "kids should be fully educated about the history of the word."

So students of Nuestros that use the n-word...you should reconsider your use of the language. Ask yourself, if someone referred to you as an offensive term (spic, beaner, cracker, etc.), and you didn't consider them part of your culture, would you be upset? If you are not from the culture, you have no right using cultural language... PERIOD.

The best general rule is to not even use the word. Don't ask your black friend if it's OK if you use the word when you talk to them...just stop.

