



The Tiger Pen



- NUESTROS VALORES -

VOLUME II ISSUE VI

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School Name Change

Mark Armijo Academy Potential New Name

Nuestros Valores Charter School is considering changing the school name to Mark Armijo Academy. Why? Because this school wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for him. He is one of the founders of the school since it opened in 2001 and was the Governing Board President of Nuestros Valores for a few years prior to his death. Mark Armijo was the man that envisioned the success of this school. Mark is the roots and the foundation of this school. He always had faith that our school would one day prosper. NVCS went from worrying about making it to the next year, to making plans for the next ten years. The name change of the school is dedicated to honor the man that started it all.



Sadly, Mark passed away from cancer a couple of years ago, but his death gave Nuestros and the schools' Director, Monica Aguilar, the chance to carry on his legacy beyond his passing. To make the name change permanent, however, it must be approved numerous

organizations. First, the school board of Nuestros must approve the name change. If approved, then the Albuquerque Public Schools board has to approve of the name change. This process can take time, but Mrs. Aguilar is hopeful it will be finalized by the next school year.



Many students have expressed their admiration for the current name of the school, however, Mark proved himself just as admirable as his ambition, dedication, and vision made his name worthy of hanging above a school. For those who knew Mark, and even for those who had only heard of him, the name change signals a continuation of the never ending vision Mark had for the students of Nuestros Valores and the community he served so well.

An envisioned look of the marquee with, potentially, the new name of the school.





STAND OUT TIGER OF THE SEMESTER

Congratulations to Mariah Cruz on being selected and nominated as the Stand Out Tiger Of the Semester! She received many nice and touching comments. Mariah was nominated for making a complete change in her perspective of school. This change completely improved her grades as well as recognition. She feels really good with herself about being selected because that's some reassurance that she is doing good. After reading the comments she got extremely happy and said, "It feels really good that the teachers are recognizing how hard I'm trying." One of the comments that really touched her heart was, "She has made a complete 180 turn around with her work ethic. I don't know what she is like in her other classes but she has been a stellar student all semester. Takes notes, asks all the right questions, turns her work in on time. Shows willingness to assist her class mates with assignments and models good behavior and responsibility. She is literally kicking some tail and making great gains in her academic progress." If anyone needs advice for success her's is "Always try!" So, the big change I was describing in the beginning that she committed to was coming to school more often. Attendance is a major key to success. Mariah finally decided to make this commitment because she realized she wants to be something and have a bright future. There were many other nominees who also had wonderful comments but it was based on number of votes. HONORABLE MENTIONS: George Pacheco, Armando Meraz, Marisol Venegas, Jonathan Mejia, Alexis Garcia, Esperanza Ortiz, Miriam Cortez, Crystal Mancilla, Tereza Armenta, Jesus Hernandez and Jesus Diaz.

Memes

WTF fun fact #158

If you search for "241543903" in google images, you will find a lot of pictures of people putting their heads in refrigerators

wtf-fun-facts.tumblr

Me after missing every lecture of the year but then showing up to the final one right before the exam

Me

I hope you like this present better than I did when I received it.

someecards



ENDANGERED SPECIES

Did you know animals are going extinct at an alarming pace thanks to humanity? There are more than 1,200 endangered species in the United States alone. Believe it or not, we are the second country with most endangered numbered of species. We need to do something about this, it's now or never. There are many things us humans do that hurt animals, but there is good news we can stop this. First of all we can start by stopping deforestation. Deforestation is the action of removing forests or trees for agricultural to urban use. Deforestation causes animals to lose their habitats and having to move somewhere else. Not only does it hurt animals but it also hurts the earth and increases climate change. The polar bear is mostly affected by the climate change and is at risk of disappearing. To stop this we can donate money and time or use certified sustainable wood product. Another problem is poaching, which is the illegal hunt of animals on land to either sell them for their fur or other valuable parts. This problem can be avoided by not buying any of these animals and finding programs that can help stop this. Also looking for local species that need help and find out information on how to help. We can limit the amount of trash we accumulate and in this way stop polluting the oceans, rivers and lakes. The Tasmanian tiger went extinct for many reasons such as habitat loss and getting killed by people. There are many animals that have gone extinct just like the Tasmanian tiger and there will be many more. This problem is in our hands and it is our choice to stop it.

Extinct
Animals -

Tasmanian tiger

Western African

Black Rhino



FAREWELL, VP

An English teacher for three and a half years now, Mr. Ver Ploegh, Mister, Ver Ploegh, Ver Plow, or whatever you call him, has decided to move on from Nuestros and venture into the realm of administration, taking a Vice Principal job at both Mitchell and Janey Kahn Elementary Schools.

The Tiger Pen had the chance to sit down with Mr. Ver Ploegh and talk to him about his time at Nuestros, his successes, challenges, and memorable moments.

It all began with a decision nearly four years ago to begin his teaching career at Nuestros. "I wanted to help students be able to choose their future and not have to settle for anything less than their goals," said Ver Ploegh and what motivated him to become a teacher. Early on, though, Ver Ploegh had his mind set on one day running a school as a principal. He soon began taking classes to receive his administration license; the document needed to be eligible for a principal position. "As a principal, I can help even more students by making sure their teachers have all the training and resources to succeed," continued Ver Ploegh. Thus, his motivation to become a principal: to better serve students in a broader way.

The decision was undoubtedly difficult for Ver Ploegh as teachers and staff at Nuestros tend to grow close together, much like a family, and they develop strong relationships with students in their classrooms, as coaches, and advisors. That is what propelled Ver Ploegh into teaching at Nuestros. "I heard about the amazing students we have here and I wanted to work with them and help them recognize their true potential," said Ver Ploegh on why he decided on Nuestros.

As the years went on, Ver Ploegh accomplished many things and had numerous successes, but none were as big "having students get into college and wanting more out of themselves [than] they initially did when I [met] them," continued Ver Ploegh. But life as a teacher is not always full of successes, but instead offer challenges unique to the profession. The hardest lesson for Ver Ploegh was "learning that sometimes a student needs to fail in order to achieve greatness later." This is a difficult lesson nonetheless, for the student and teacher alike.

As Ver Ploegh exits Nuestros he has both lasting memories and parting advice for students. Some memories that will forever last with him will be the publishing of the Writing Journals for his Creative Writing classes,

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Fire the cannons! VP is now a fallen tribute!



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reaching the semifinals as basketball coach, and, what may prove to be the most memorable, “just [the] random discussion in class where I could see the students literally get the information right in front of me.”

A work ethic, a strong one at the least, is a mantra Ver Ploegh will be remembered for. His advice to students as he leaves falls along the lines of working hard for what you want. “If you really want to accomplish things in life, you have to work for it. Would you rather have great reasons and excuses [as to] why you didn’t achieve your dreams?” says Ver Ploegh. This is what he vigorously repeated throughout his tenure at Nuestros, even at the expense of students liking him. “I never cared if the students like me,” he continued. “I cared if they learned lessons that could help them in the future.”

Take in the lessons you have already learned from Ver Ploegh or predict the lessons that will occur in the future and join the Tiger Pen in wishing Brian Thomas Ver Ploegh all the luck in his future endeavors.

Try not to make the young children cry, please!

VP when he started



VP now



The transition from a new teacher, full of hopes and dreams, eager and excited-to-a seasoned teacher has been rough on Ver Ploegh. The amount of gray hairs cannot be counted.



MAY THE ODDS BE EVER IN
YOUR FAVOR



THANK YOU, TIGER PEN STAFF

An Open Letter to the Tiger Pen Staff

I want to take this moment to thank each and every one of you for writing for the Tiger Pen. We are at the end of the semester and, typically at actual newspaper, like the New York Times, they celebrate all staff for their hard work. We are not the New York Times, but I do want to thank you for your hard work and for making this semester in journalism class so enjoyable for me and, hopefully, yourself.

Thank you, Stephon. I know you entered the class late, but you seamlessly joined the collaboration of the class. You brought a new style and sense of humor to the class and I thank you for that. I hope you write for the Tiger Pen in the future

Thank you, Isaiah. Sometimes you drive me crazy. On C-days, you have 4th, 5th, and 6th period. I'm sorry. As much as you drive me crazy sometimes, but just as much as you drive me crazy, you make me laugh and have taught me to not take things so seriously. Thanks for taking the time to write stories for the Tiger Pen.

Thank you, Miriam. This was both our first encounter with each other and, I have to admit, I have been quite impressed with you. You have a strong work ethic, a diligent focus, and it has been a pleasure getting to know you (and, yes, you are way cooler than your brother. Please don't tell him). Thanks for writing a story in Spanish.

Thank you, Karina. You have had some really cool ideas that you were able to effortlessly transform into written words for the Tiger Pen. Your sarcasm, sense of humor, and ability to engage in an argument with me will not be forgotten (neither will the headaches you have given me). It has been an honor to work with you.

Thank you, (hip, hip, Jorge!) George. My right hand man in journalism. You have taught me things about our class' software that I had yet to figure out. I respect you for that. You have brought a certain type of energy to the class that made the semester fly by. I appreciate you for being the page editor and allowing the newspapers to look flawless. You are da man!

Thank you, Elizabeth. The only return from last year, I want to thank you for writing such cool stuff. The piece about your mom was amazing! Your memes, though sometimes borderline offensive, made me laugh. You are, by far, the schools' all-time best meme-maker. That is an honor that trumps (pun intended because I know you hate him) valedictorian, highest GA, class President, or most popular student. For that, Elizabeth, I thank you. Your words and visions for the Tiger Pen over the last year and a half will forever be cemented in the legacy of Nuestros Valores.

- Salas



Tiger Pen Holiday Edition!

Holiday Recipes

Snowball cookies!

Walnut Snowball Cookies Recipe



- Prep time: 10 minutes
- Cook time: 35 minutes
- Yield: Makes about 20 cookies

You can make these cookies with wild black walnuts, pecans, hazelnuts, hickory or butternuts -- all will work fine.

Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose or cake flour
- 1 1/2 cups walnuts, finely chopped
- 2-3 Tbsp sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 pound butter (at room temperature)
- Pinch of salt
- Powdered sugar, to coat (about 1 cup)

Method

1 Preheat the oven to 300°F and prepare a large cookie sheet.

2 Mix all the dry ingredients (flour, walnuts, salt, sugar) in a large bowl. Add the vanilla extract. Add the butter in little pieces, and combine everything together with your (clean!) hands until the mixture looks like a coarse meal with nut bits in it. Form the dough into small balls no larger than a walnut and place on the cookie sheet, spaced at least an inch apart from each other.

3 Bake for 35 minutes. When they are still warm, but cool enough to touch, roll the cookies in some powdered sugar. Set aside on a rack to cool completely. When cool, dust again in powdered sugar.

Double Chocolate Chip M&M

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 ounces semisweet or milk chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, cut into eight pieces
- 3/4 cup M&M's
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt; set aside.
2. In a medium microwave-safe bowl, place the chopped chocolate and the butter. Microwave for one minute at 50% power. Stir. Microwave again for one minute at 50% power and stir well. If the chocolate is not fully melted, continue microwaving in 30 second intervals at 50% power until the chocolate and butter are well combined (don't

overheat the chocolate or it can seize and turn hard and unusable). Let the mixture cool slightly, about 2-3 minutes until it is at room temperature or just slightly warm (but not hot).

3. In a large bowl (or in the bowl of an electric stand mixer), combine the chocolate mixture, sugar, eggs, and vanilla. Mix on medium speed until combined. Gradually mix in flour mixture on low speed. Fold in M&M's with a wooden spoon (don't use a mixer as the M&M's will break into pieces and not stay whole).

4. Line baking sheets with parchment paper, silpat liners or lightly grease them with cooking spray. Drop dough onto baking sheets by tablespoonfuls (or use a cookie scoop) spacing them about 1 1/2 inches apart. If desired, place five or six M&M's on top of the cookie dough balls (even perched slightly on the rounded sides). Bake the cookies until they have slightly flattened and there are a few cracks on the surface, about 13-14 minutes. The cookies will still be soft. Let the cookies sit for 2-3 minutes on the baking sheet before removing them to a wire rack to cool completely.



Christmas Etiquette

Karina Garcia



How long do you have to be dating someone to give them a Christmas gift? I think it all depends because if you have been friends with them for a long time before you actually started dating then you should give them a gift. Nothing too expensive, but something small at least because they have been part of your life for a while. You have to realize that if you get them a present and you guys have been dating for a short amount of time there is a chance that you guys will break up. So before you give someone something you have to make sure you are in it for the long run and that they want the same thing you want. If you are dating someone according to Salas and you break up after you got them a gift (if it's

electronics or jewelry) you can ask for the gift back depending on the amount of time you guys were together. If you start dating on December and you get them something very expensive they are going to think that you are needy and you are getting very attached very fast. If you are dating them for one to three weeks you should get them a card and probably some chocolates. If you are dating them for 3-6 months you should spend about \$25 on their gift, 6-9 months you should get them a \$60 gift, Any longer than 9 months should be up to you, you should know what to get them by this point and if the relationship is serious or not. According to an article a girl was dating a guy for one month and the guy got her a ring, she thought it was creepy because they barely started dating and he is already giving her a ring. If that doesn't scream NEEDY I don't know what does.



Re-gifting

Re-gifting: when you don't like what you got so you give it to someone else. Many people do it, too some it's okay, but to others it's bad. Personally I say do it, if you honestly don't like what you received or know you won't use it, re-gift it. I've done it and I don't feel bad, all I feel is relief because one, I'm de-cluttering my room and two, at one point I considered that object precious and now I don't so why not give it to someone else so that they can hold it precious. FYI I only keep what I like and if I don't like something I'll get rid of it as fast as possible.

