

Robotics: Elemental Madness & Nemesis

by Samantha Waltermire



With cold early winter skies, the sounds of drills, “How can I help?”, “Are tools ready to go?” enveloping their beings, Perris High School Robotics Team prepared for they’re first robotics competition. On December 6th, the first Tech Competition of the semester at Monrovia high school ended it with both teams taking home the pride of being in the Top 10.

Elemental Madness came in 8th place but with difficulties. As the team was ranking 3rd for 6 matches, they lost points by picking up more debris than what was demanded. Adding to the tough luck, the next match time was closing in, clocks were ticking and you

could hear “Elemental Madness, we’re now calling you again; you’re up for the match.” BOOOM! Smoke was coming out, the circuit chip system blew up. Fortunately the team managed to borrow a new one from another team and continued with the competition. Overall, team members learned to work together under pressure and achieved new experiences in what it truly means to work as a team with the masterful skills that they displayed.

“Win or lose, we come back better and wiser,” Captain Angel Tovar expressed. Even though they didn’t win, they learned from their mistakes and will be ready for the next competition.

With more than four months of hard work and preparation, Team Nemesis showed the impressive skill set that they have in making an alliance and coming in overall 7th place and 3rd place for an alliance. Team Nemesis slowly worked their way up and with 30 matched, managed to stay above Elemental Madness by just one way.

The date December 6, 2015 shall be remembered within the Panther Nation that their Robotics Team showed what they are made of. FTC was filled with both anticipation and joy.



Tovar? Why so puzzled?

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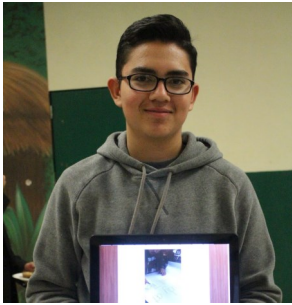
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Competition of Calculus

by Jose Salas and Vong Yang

Every year our Perris High calculus students gather round to what is claimed to be the Mother of All Events. . . Elena Gartel's infamous calculus extravaganza - the Calculus Competition. This semester's competition will be during finals week during each respective class period. Calculus AB's competition will be occurring during second period and third period on Tuesday and Wednesday while Calculus BC's will be occurring during fourth period on Thursday.

During that time students will be showing off their calculus skills (derivatives, integration, everything!)

and battle it out to see which group knows how to derive and integrate the best. As a treat from Gartel herself, after the competition she will give her students some questions of her own dubbed "Gartel's Questions," which revolve around a combination of related rates, optimization and polar coordinates.

This competition is used as a stress reliever for the final exam even though the exam is taken before that. What this also does is give hope to those students who have undesirable grades. Gartel is trying to help her students pass through this event—and what a fun way to do so!

So, if you feel like you want to take Calculus AB or BC and have Gartel - but are afraid to fail the class . . . do not worry. As long as you derive, you will find a way to survive. (Math humor—you had to be there...)



FFA Winter Banquet

by Johanna Orozco

FFA celebrated student success on December 10th at the Fall Awards Banquet held in the MPR at Perris High School. FFA members who truly exemplified the core meaning of what it is to be an FFA member: Leadership, Personal Growth, and Career Success were recognized.

As the members received several awards in many

different areas from Outstanding Livestock Showmen, to their Greenhand and Chapter degrees. These members go above and beyond as they light the way through the rest of the school year in our amazing FFA Program.



PHS Students to Enter The Enchanted Forest

by Amber Guzman

Winter Formal is taking place Friday, December 12th at the Life Arts Center in Downtown Riverside from 7:30-11:30. Enjoy the Enchanted Forest themed dance with drinks, a candy bar, dessert bar, and an unlimited photo booth! Arrive early to admire the Festival of Lights that consist of 4 million lights! You can even take a romantic carriage ride around Downtown Riverside with an amazing view of all the lights. Also consider a visit to the Ice Rink! Cherished Memories will be there for professionally photographed memories for purchase and don't forget your IDs to enter the dance.

Winter Formal will be a magical event that encourages you to attend to share unforgettable memories.

CARRIAGE COMPANIES:

Cyndi Cinderella Carriages
Contact: Stan Fury
Contact Number: (951) 529-5269
Email: mustang1998fury@yahoo.com

Fairytale Carriages
Contact: Dave Zoetemelk
Contact Number: (951) 712-6752

Email: Fairytalehorses@aol.com

Savannah Rose Carriages
Contact: Karen Liblin
Contact Number: (909) 238-8411
Email: Savannahrosecarriages@gmail.com

ICE RINK:

Friday: 4 – 11 p.m.
\$12 per hour per person and \$3 skate rentals
Frequent Skater Cards* are also available for \$50 and are valid Sundays through Thursdays.



Fallbrook Field Day

by Johanna Orozco

On December 5th - yes, it was a Saturday! Twenty amazingly dedicated FFA members woke up early and ready to go to compete in Fallbrook for the FFA Annual Field Day. They had been training hard all week whether it was learning different weeds to learning to vaccinate animals to how to identify different plant species these members were excited to show Fallbrook what they had!

Five Career Developing teams were taken and it was a very successful day for PHS. The Horticultural Team took home 3rd place team and junior, Adrian Diaz and senior, Johanna Orozco both placed Top 10 Individual bringing home new ribbons to FFA instructor, Aaron Nering's Wall of Fame. Tradition carries on as members start off the year in a great tradition!



SENIORS!!

Special Ad for the
2016 yearbook:

\$5—baby picture

Pay Lori Hays, ASB Accountant in the Administrative Bldg. then send your picture (jpg format) to Debbie Georgianna.



Avoid Waste at PHS

Waste is a word that is thrown around a lot lately. It's almost like the word save, we all want to waste less and save more but to me there's only a few people who really do believe in these two words. I am one of those people. I believe water goes to the plants and unwanted foods should go to the people that don't have it. I believe if there is water dripping there should be a bucket underneath it and it should be used for plants. These are the types of things I see and these are some possible solutions.

The most important foods (fruits and vegetables) are the most wasted at PHS. Every day, far too many people get breakfast and lunch just for the main course not the bananas, apples, carrots or celery sticks that are required for students to take. I confronted some of the

students who disregarded their veggies and the two most common answers I received was "I didn't want them" or "I don't like vegetables."

Personally my generation shouts BIGGER DUMPSTERS.

Los Angeles Unified serves 650,000 meals a day while students throw out at least \$100,000 worth of food in just one day. That amounts to \$18 million a year in lunch food thrown away. William J. McCarthy, a UCLA health professor, cites studies that show repeated exposure to fruits and vegetables will eventually lead children and teens to eat more of them in their future and that in turn will lower future generation obesity rates.

Will it really though?

Now that we are all aware that PHS offers bottled water during lunches there are obviously more recyclables around campus.

Over the last few weeks I have begun to notice fuller and fuller water bottles after lunch is over and just recently I have seen several administrators dumping out the water onto the concrete instead of into the planters. These types of actions are contributing to the drought-ridden California and are slowly adding to the burden we have with the state's drought condition.

I just want to say to all students and staff of Perris High School that if you plan on wasting to do it responsibly, dump your waters in the dirt, give your veggies to a friend or save them just incase you do get hungry and always always throw your trash in the garbage cans.

Danica Everett

Co-Editor in Chief



Enjoy One Another

Christmas is finally around the corner and with it come the holiday parties, warm family moments, and time to finally spend a day doing what you think best. But, there is still another thing that comes along with Christmas.

Greed.

Yes, it's that time of year again, where everyone goes out looking for the best deals on the newest products and stories of angry mobs fighting for the smallest of gifts are being sensationalized. It seems the old Christmas spirit you hear about in carols and specials on TV are no longer true of the holiday.

Instead of being satisfied with just being together and sharing in a magical holiday, we become distressed when we don't receive

exactly what we wanted. Can we blame dear old Saint Nick, or is the problem just within us and the hostile society that expects only the best?

I'm not one to point the finger and not look to myself first. I have been guilty of this selfish act on multiple occasions. I get my hopes up for a spectacular gift and then become disappointed when the giver does not deliver. I have gone so far as to throw a tantrum for not getting the newest toy. Now I see how rude and obnoxious this behavior is and am working towards correcting it and enjoying the time I spend with my family more than being bitter about the wrong gift.

Today there is the idea that kindness is shown through buying gifts, but surely any gift will do. Christmas has become so commercialized that it is becoming rude to not spend as much as possible on gifts. Many people from different backgrounds have the herd mentality that they just need to "Spend! Spend! Spend!" but this is not what Christmas should be about. Christmas should be about people enjoying each other's company and making memories with the people that love you most.

These people that you can call your family will not always be there and it is important to be there for one another while you can.

Luis Saldivar
Co-Editor in Chief

Our Voices...

Dear Seniors

When we first arrived here we were the underdogs. Now after making our way through the ranks we are less than six months away until we head into the next stages of our lives.

The previous three years of high school went by in the blink of an eye and senior year has been no different. With less than 200 days until graduation, seniors are anxiously awaiting (*and dreading*) their final walk across the field.

So what does senior year have in store for us? For all of us it will be the year of many "lasts"; our last school dance, last high school football game, and even our last time walking these halls as students.

Undoubtedly, this year will be filled with many great moments, from finally asking that special someone out to earning your driver's license. You'll stress over college applications, exams and graduation. You'll also experience disappointment -- whether it's a college rejection or losing a big game for the last time. Nonetheless senior year will be as unforgettable as you make it.

As we head into our last semester we have

much to look forward to. Everything we expect of senior year will finally arrive such as Prom and Senior Night, and ultimately graduation. Before we know it high school will be over with. After June 8th we will no longer be students but now alumni.

Now some of us will return, whether it be to the Homecoming game or even as staff members ready to teach the next generation. But no matter where we head off after we leave, we will always be Perris High Panthers.

Kaicey Santacruz
Yearbook Editor in Chief

Campus Safety

As we all have heard, there was a recent event on that involved a Perris High student being shot right next to our campus, we all can't stop to feel some sort of insecurity around our campus. The shooting took place right across the street from our campus in the parking lot of Jenny's restaurant and that is very concerning. Perris is no stranger to violence, in fact years before Perris was home to several gangs and there was violence. Albeit there has been trouble and damage, but none, as of recent years have occurred so close to home. Which is why we should be careful during these times. And to the students or people out there that feel as though they can get away with anything, to the people that

disregard human life, remember that your actions will always be carried by you. We may not all have the same opportunities, but we all get to make our own choices. Let's make those choices positive, if not for our community then at least for our own good. Have a good day Panthers.

Jose Salas
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Married to Homework?

On an average, a student spends 8+1 or 2 hours in school. In a recent survey, I asked students in a class how many of them were in after school activities and usually got home around 5 or 6pm? 80% of them raised their hands. Homework assignments are 30 minutes to 1 hour (not counting AP classes). As you all know, this year we have been assigned an extra class which is good, but it can be bad when all those 7 classes add up to 3 or sometimes 4 additional hours. It's already around 9 and notice I didn't include a time for a shower, chores, dinner time, family time, or self-improvement.

They got that right! In a Cage the Elephant's song they quote, "Ain't no rest for the wicked". The definition of wicked is evil or morally wrong. Have you thought to yourself—"Am I wicked? News flash . . . you might be without even knowing it.

A human being is supposed to sleep 9-10 hours a day. So what happens when we have

all-nighters finishing that homework or studying for that test. There's a chance of becoming sleep deprived. Sleep deprivation is a condition from not having enough sleep and the effects are symptoms associated with ADHD, risk of heart disease, memory loss, excessive yawning, decreased temperature and these are just some.

Did you know that in a survey many dropouts were asked for the reason and most responded with this partial answer "excessive homework". These students knew what the difference between hard homework and unnecessary homework.

So I ask again are you wicked? You may be harming yourself without the knowledge of knowing. My point isn't to ban homework, don't get me wrong i'd love that but we also have to view the realities that we need that extra practice. How about for a change we get less homework and maybe more time for ourselves where we proceed with our passions. Thank You to all staff teachers and everyone else who gives students assignments to improve their knowledge it's not so bad but maybe a change of method would be different for a change. Goooo Panthers!!!

Samantha Waltermire



Greetings Panthers, I want to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. As you come up to the end of the first semester, I ask that each of you take time to stop and reflect on all that you have accomplished and set goals for what is coming up next. It is important that you take this time to celebrate and be thankful for all that you have done, all that you have yet to do, and those important people who are in your life and make your days that much better for having them there.

The holidays are always a stressful time of year. I believe this year is especially bad with all that has gone on in the last couple of

weeks. Before you know it, the frustrations and pressures of everything can consume you and have a negative impact on your well being. Remember to take a step back from time to time to make sure you are maintaining your perspective.

On a different note, part of having Panther Pride is taking care of our school. Over the last several years I have seen a gradual increase in the amount of trash and messes left behind during both lunches. Our school custodians have been doing a phenomenal job in helping to keep the campus clean but it is not their job alone. There are trashcans every few feet on campus, please use them! I see many wrappers and containers left carelessly behind for someone else to worry about on a daily basis. We must take pride in ourselves and pride in our school. One of the simplest ways to do so is to clean up after yourself.

Please do your part to keep our campus clean.

I will close by wishing you all a healthy, happy holiday season and an outstanding new year. Seniors, you are on the home stretch, keep up the hard work and don't let up even for a second. I look forward to shaking each of your hands as you walk across the graduation stage in a few months.

Nick Hilton

PHS Recognizes Students of the Month

by Luis Saldivar

As we near the end of the semester, PTown Press would like to recognize the recipients of the Student of the Month award. This is an award given to seniors who show outstanding leadership, respectful character and have resonated well with teachers. To be eligible, a teacher must nominate you for being extraordinary during your time at Perris High. So far since September, our recipients have been Carlevon Manuel, Angel Carrillo, Anthony Young, and Eduardo Campos, respectively. These three students are prime examples of how leaders carry themselves, each in their own niche at school. Manuel, the first recipient for the class of 2016, was nominated by Matt McDonagh, football coach, for his excellent growth since starting his career at Perris High. From his freshman year, Manuel has gone up an entire grade point and continues to strive to better himself and his community. Not only has he been a leader on the

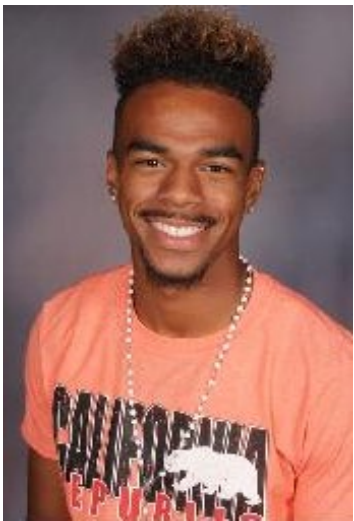
field, but also at school by lending a helpful hand to his close friends and peers. Carrillo, who was nominated by Krystal Thomas, FFA teacher, has been involved in the Future Farmers of America program since beginning at PHS. Since then, he went from being an ordinary member to becoming Southern Region Vice President and Riverside Section President, a position received after being voted in by his fellow members. In this position, he has duties to help plan and run events meant to teach other members the importance of becoming a leader in a program such as this. Angelica Osuna, Link Crew advisor, nominated Young for the award for his tremendous comeback from being at The Academy Day School. He has since become an excellent leader with grades that follow. His involvement with ASB and being on the varsity football team are just the start as he has also been a mentor for stu-

dents who have been down in his position. With college in his near future, he has a long way ahead of him. Campos was nominated by Debbie Georgianna, the adviser for Journalism, for his involvement in ASB and Yearbook. Campos shows excellent dedication in his work and takes his assignments seriously. Stepping up to the position of Photo Editor, Campos supervises the photographers and looks over the pictures used in the school's yearbook. Campos also helps to solve any problems with Journalism's cameras and gives the class tutorials on how to capture the perfect picture. Once again, on behalf of the school, PTown Press would like to congratulate you four on your hard work and dedication. Keep it up and LET'S GO PANTHERS!

Contest Winner



The Riverside County Transportation Commission is continuing construction of the Metrolink 91/Perris Valley Line in Riverside and Perris. RCTC sponsored a poster contest for students in selected Perris and Riverside schools, which included Perris High School. A committee judged the posters and announced the following winner: First Place: Desiree Avalos, PHS senior. Avalos received a \$100 gift card and was recognized at the Perris City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 8th.



White Ribbons

by Danica Everett



This winter rally was a success, there was glitter, fairies, sports team games and dance proposals. All of PHS was ready for the unveiling of winter formal with an ASB Productions Video of our own peers at the location explaining some of the things you should be prepared for, what will offered around the Life Arts Center the night of December 18th and of course this years theme, Enchanted Forest. In between both rallies we had two winter formal proposals, asking Jasmine Hernandez and Daniella Martinez, both with an attached side-show of couples selfies and sweet words all but together by Armando Gallegos and Juan Martinez. Both couples wrapped up the proposals with beautiful "say yes" flowers and posters initially sealing their dates to winter formal dance. PHS Dance performed an elegant tandem dance while getting students in the mood and spirit for Winter Formal. Also PHD and ASB incorporated the enchanted forest theme with the passing of a great hard working teacher and an even better friend, Coach Mandeville. For some

of us he pushed us to pass P.E. in middle school and for others he supported us in the process of making it to championship games. This winter rally was his dedication, he was with us again pushing and supporting ASB, Dance, Cheer, Band, and our winter sports to represent and try our best throughout this coming year. Coach Mandeville was with us all in our PHS gymnasium on December 4. He was with us all in Panther spirit.



SHOP WITH A COP

by Samantha Waltermire

Each year, on the second Saturday of December, Walmart makes a generous donation. 30 kids from low income homes or who have suffered from a tragic accidents from Menifee and Perris receive \$100 to spend on themselves—while shopping with a cop. This experience is run down from 8:00-3:30. This also includes lunch at Perris Skydive. The aspect that surprised me the most is that these kids didn't waste the money on themselves; they chose to spend that money on their parents, sisters, brothers and other family members and, in most cases, the cops that are with the kids usually give their own money so at the end they do purchase a gift for themselves as well. After purchasing their gifts, they usually see an air show right above Walmart and watch sky divers descend; however, unfortunately this year, due to high winds that was unable to happen although four airplanes managed a fly by.

Part of the experience with a cop is driving in the passenger seat of the police car and turning on the sirens as well as 20+ other cop cars in the same street.



During an interview, an officer gladly told me, "I love doing this. It lets me know I can have a positive effect in the community." He continued in a serious tone, "Most of the time when I'm seen or needed is when people are in trouble or have suffered an incident. In this new light, I'm glad people come to see me in a different way. What makes this event so special is that it's not only assigned officers but its sergeants and officers with everyone helping these kids. Many officers told me that in some cases, their kids will invite them to their birthday parties and some write letters. This is a gift that keeps giving Happy Holidays.

Passion Project: 20time

by Eduardo Campos

Princess Choi's students worked on their 20Time project throughout the semester. They were able to do their presentation Friday, December 4th from 6pm to 7pm. Family members were invited to the event. In addition, cookie donations were requested so parents could enjoy their children's work with refreshments and not have to buy anything.

20Time project is where students identify existing problems in their lives and try to solve the problems. For example, a student might notice that there are many students with low self-esteem. She might come up with fun activities during lunch with encouraging messages in balloons to make students feel more confident about themselves.

Other students might notice that students in general do not participate in after school activities. They might create posters throughout the semester and post them on walls to promote different clubs.

The presentation allowed students to explain to others what they perceive as a problem around them and explain what they did to try and solve the problem. 20Time projects are really important for students since it forces students to be aware of their surroundings and it empowers them since they get the opportunity to contribute to society in a positive manner.

Math is about looking at a problem and trying to come up with the best way to get to the solution. 20Time project does the same thing, but it does not include actual math, which makes it more appealing to

many students.



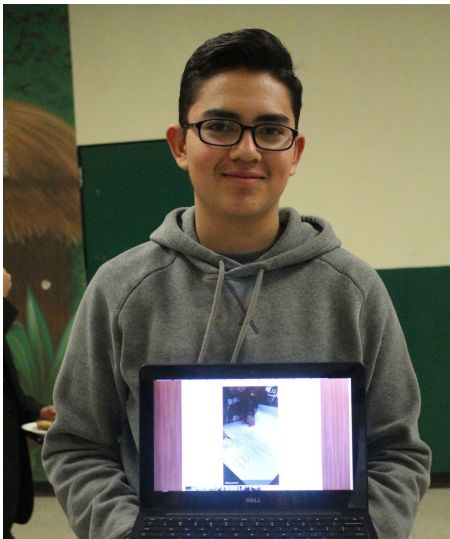
Choi, Math Teacher

Q: What is 20Time Project?
A: *Students Devote 20% of their class time to a subject to solve a problem they identify around them.*

Q: How long have you been doing it?
A: *This is my second semester doing this project and I will hopefully continue to do them each semester.*

Q: By getting the parents involved, do you think it helps influence the students? If so, why or why not?

A: Yes because parents help motivate students and every project I try to make it a community event to help students be more involved.



Carlos Guerrero, sophomore (above)

Guerrero participated in the project. He explained how this project helped get them involved in class and it was a unique yet exciting assignment; he hopes to see more of it in the near future.

SSA Slated to Return to PHS

Safe School Ambassadors is a program sponsored by an organization named Community Matters. The entity SSA was created in response to the school violence in Columbine. The program teaches students a variety of intervention techniques which they put to use in an effort to keep the school community safe.

Recently, Debbie Georgianna, SSA Site Coordinator sent an email to all PHS students giving them information about the program. Students will be selected by nomination as well as self referrals. Both staff and students may nominate candidates for the training & program.

Schools across the country have recognized the importance of having students provide leadership in setting the emotional climate on campuses. Students are very influential with their peers and are instrumental in setting the norms. They really know what is going on behind the scenes in school; they often know who needs help, who is angry, and who is being left out. Historically, adults haven't taken advantage of the power of student leadership to help create a positive, caring culture in schools. This program is an attempt to harness the power of positive student influence to make our campus a more safe and nurturing place.

Georgianna has been working closely with Jasper Lucas, assistant principal, to schedule training for the program. They anticipate that training will take place in latter February once funding has been approved by the district.

The nomination process will take place during January. Applications may be picked up from room 4103 (next to the Career Center).

Skate Shop Opens in Perris

by Damian Becerra

Olliewood Street Gear had their Grand Opening event this weekend on December 12th; it included a guest appearance from Civilian Skateboards' Professional Skater, Christian Sereika.

This signing event had a great turn out with over thirty skaters coming to the shop. Many Perris skaters are very excited to have their very own shop here in Perris. Gabriel Martinez, PHS junior, says, "It's great that Perris finally has a board shop. Now we don't have

to go out to the next city to buy parts for our boards."

This is the exact reason Julio Marmolejo, owner of OSG, opened the skate shop here in Perris. "I just want to give back to the community I was born and raised in."

Marmolejo advertised his grand opening by asking Civilian Skateboards to make an appearance at the shop. Not only did they sign autographs and boards, but they hosted a small best trick competition and went out to skate with the kids at Triple Crown Park. Marmolejo says, "I really wanted to give our young skaters of the city a chance to be able to skate with someone



who does professionally and give them hope to make it big."

Christian Sereika was very impressed with all the young skaters that showed for the signing event. "This is really cool. You have a good skate shop in the area; it'll definitely bring the skateboard community together. It's kinda rad, I like it. To all the young skaters—just

keep skating. The more you're on your board, the better it'll be and don't let anything bad distract you. Keep skating and it'll take you to where you need to be."

So for all you skaters looking for an affordable skate shop OSG is your place to go, located in the Perris Indoor Swapmeet at 440 E 4th St, Perris, CA 92570.



Winter Break: December 18—January 10

Have a fun and safe HOLIDAY!

See you on Monday, January 11, 2016

Man on the Street

Do you have any Christmas Traditions?

MOS Reporters— Danica Everett & Jackie Lopez



We usually celebrate at my grandmas house and make traditional Mexican food
Veronica Estrada, senior



My family and I stay up until midnight on Christmas Eve to open presents.
Jose Chavez, senior



On Christmas, me and my family get together at my grandma's house, make food and open presents..
Art Orange, senior



We gather together a day before Christmas Eve and make tamales.
Yvette Saguach, senior



We spend time and go shopping in Beverly Hills and eat typical Mexican food.
Daniel De La Cruz, junior



Hanging around the Christmas tree and eat tamales with my family.
Christian Acosta, sophomore



My family makes tamales and we stay up until midnight.
Marilu Godinez, freshman



My family makes tamales.
Arturo Torres, freshman

How do you spend Christmas?

MOS reporter Jose Salas



I spend it with my family... open presents and eat a whole bunch of tamales.
Adolfo Corona, senior



We count down for Christmas like if it was New Years.
Jonathan Sanchez, freshman



We wait until twelve o'clock to open presents - but I usually open them before.
Rebecca Zuniga, senior

What Do the Holidays Mean to You?

Happiness and warmth. It is a time for my whole family to get together and enjoy each other's presence. We do not get to see each other very often so when we do we cherish it dearly. Family is the meaning of the holidays. Tiffany Valdez, senior

The holidays to me means spending time with the peo-

ple you love. It's not all about presents. It's about enjoying the time you have while you are still on this earth. But most importantly it's about forgetting negative feelings you have towards a person or situation, and celebrating the birth of Christ, Jesus, with the world no matter who you are. Lyazanee Timmons, junior

Happiness and joy around the ones you love because

moments like that won't last forever. Appreciate the ones we have around us and everything we have. Esme Sigala, senior

The holiday is the best time of the year. I love how they bring us together with family and friends. Holidays to me shows how much someone appreciates me and my family. It's time to forget about the struggles we have in our lives and just cherish the people we have in our

life at the moment. It's a piece of happiness that you feel every once in a while if you are always busy with work or school. Alma Ramos, senior

The holidays are very special to me because you make memories with all your friends and family members. The best thing about the holidays for me is all the food my family makes. Cesar Quezada, senior

No Bake Peanut Butter Pie

Shared by Imelda Llamas

Ingredients:

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 ½ cups confectioners’ sugar
- 1 cup of peanut butter
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 (18 ounces) package frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crusts

Directions

Prep time: 20 minutes, Ready in: 2hrs and 20 minutes

Beat together cream cheese and confectioners' sugar. Mix in peanut butter and milk. Beat until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Spoon into two 9 inch graham cracker pie shells; cover, and freeze until firm.



DIY: Gift Basket

by Alma Rodriguez

During Christmas everyone wonders what gift can they give to someone. Well a pretty easy gift for anyone, boy or girl, is a gift basket. Usually everyone likes candy, so a candy basket would be a great idea.

What you need:

- Basket
- Candy (candy bars preferred)
- Scraps of paper (enough to fill the basket)
- Popsicle sticks
- Tape



done. Once you are done you can start arranging the candies by tallest to shortest (or biggest to smallest). When you are done you can put a gift card in the middle, but it is only optional.

First, put in the scraps of paper into the basket. Then start by taping a popsicle stick on the back of a candy. Continue taping popsicle sticks on the back of the candies until you are

What else other than the tree and gifts?

by Angel Carrillo

Yes, we all know that decorating the tree can be one of the most common things before Christmas day or even wrapping the gifts in secret so the small young members in your family cannot know what we have in store for them. Or how about the fun activities that we do with our family and friends such as Secret Santa, making wreaths, or even having an ugly Christmas sweater contest. Even the feeling when you just finished putting together all the Christmas lights on your home, and at last being able to connect the last plug to finally see the lights’ shining glory. But what about all those families that can’t afford a Christmas dinner or children that don’t always receive a Christmas gift?

We all enjoy the holiday season to its fullest and have so much that we appreciate. We do the most we can to make this the most spirited holiday. Now who says we should keep this Christmas spirit all to ourselves? Let’s use it to make a difference within our community.

Shouldn’t everyone have the chance to celebrate a Merry Christmas?

Simple things such as giving a toy to a local toy drive, donating to the Salvation Army, or even visiting older people who are housebound and lonely on Christmas can and will make a difference.

Take the initiative and online for ideas or even create new ones to make a positive difference in everyone’s holiday season. Many people live a joyous holiday season, but why don’t we help those that can’t? With this cheerfulness, let us use it to give a helping hand.



The Meaning of Christmas!

by Amber Guzman

It’s that time of the year again!

The smell of pine makes it’s way through the house and the sound of a burning log in the fireplace crackles along with the Christmas music echoing through the halls. The lights outside of houses light up the streets and the smoke from chimneys disperse into the sky. Is this what Christmas is?

Is it really just a holiday feeling?

It would seem so. With all the gifts people receive each year, you have to ask yourself if it is the presents we all look forward to

receiving. We would all assume so since in this generation, individuals crave new things constantly. But opening presents is just one part of this special day.

For the whole month, we have something even more special. Our family and friends. This month of December and the holiday season should be made up of the warming time with our loved ones. This December spend time with close acquaintances and enjoy the real meaning of the holiday season.



Strawberry Santas

Tools: Whisk, Metal Bowl, Knife, Plate, Refrigerator

Ingredients:

- Strawberries
- Poppy seeds
- Whipping Cream
- 1 tablespoon of sugar
- ½ cup of whipping cream

Prep: Place metal bowl and whisk in the freezer for 10-15 minutes. Cut out strawberry leaves and cut each strawberry about halfway.

Directions:

Combine ½ cup of whipping cream and 1 tablespoon of sugar together in a large mixing bowl. Whisk just until the cream has stiff peaks. Take a spoonful of whipped cream and put it into the bottom and top of the thicker side of the cut strawberry. Place the end of the strawberry on top of the strawberry to make a santa hat. For decoration dab a small amount on the hat portion of the strawberry and down the front to make buttons. Use the poppy seeds for eyes. Place each Santa on a plate and refrigerate until ready to eat. Enjoy!



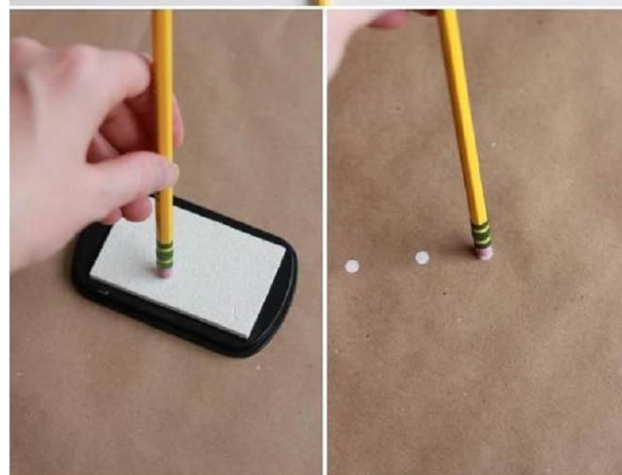
CHRISTMAS DIY'S

by Samantha Waltermire

Rainy days are coming, leaves are on the ground, lights are everywhere, cinnamon pinecone scented candles are passing through your nose. Is your Christmas tree up and you still haven't purchased a gift? Let your heart beat rest for a second, diy ideas are on the way!

Let's face it - even statistics show that 54% of American residents do shopping on Christmas eve or the day of. The average adult spends \$780 on gifts for their family on the other hand a teen spends \$50-200. So what could be a solution to this madness on spending less money but still giving decent gifts!! "DIY"!!!! Pinterest to the rescue. Here's some of my favorite finds

Ideas





PANTHER SPORTS



Cross Country Banquet

Written by Kaicey Santacruz

Perris High Girl’s Cross Country team held their annual banquet Thursday, December 3rd. Head Coach Kathryn Perez and Assistant Coach, Troy Stenlake recognized several athletes for their accomplishments over the past year both on and off the field.

It was truly a momentous night as the team gathered for the last time to look back on the past season with a video filled with over 400 pictures col-

lected from all the meets and team bonding activities.

Before the ceremony could begin, Coach Stenlake said, “This season was one of the best teams we’ve had; it was hard to choose only a few girls for these awards but that shouldn’t discourage any of you girls from joining again next year.”

Trophy recipients included :

Most Improved

Mayte Campoy
Lucy Ramirez

Fast Cat Award

Tanya Loreda
Cindy Tapia
Xaela Cuellar

Coaches Award

Kaicey Santacruz
Monserrat Ojeda
Irma Lopez

MVP

Elva Vera



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sing or Dance? Give Me A Chance!

by Angel Carrillo & Vong Yang

What an amazing set of auditions for this year’s extravagant musical Hairspray. Auditions were held in the Multi-Purpose Room on Thursday December 10, 2015. All Perris High students were able to audition for a part in the musical. They were asked to prepare either a 30 second acapella song or 30 second choreographed dance routine for the audition. And what can we say? Wow! Perris High certainly does have talent, in which they used this audition as an opportunity to show it off. With over 30 auditions, these students will be making the group starring in Hairspray. Auditioner Santiago Ceja, junior, stated that the best part of auditioning was “Being able to be yourself.” Now what is

a musical without its director? William Walters, Perris High Drama Teacher, was asked “What are you most excited about this musical?” He clearly responded “What makes me excited of this musical is that it gives students the opportunity to shine on the stage.” Well there you have it! Even the director is motivated by the students’ passion for participating in this musical. Assigned parts are expected to be posted on Monday, December 14. Next semester, the cast will be constantly rehearsing in preparation for the big show day! More information about the musical will be given throughout second semester, so make sure to follow up and even plan to attend the event!



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