Venado Middle School Newsletter

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Events for November 2017

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<td>10/30-11/03</td>
<td>We “Scare” Hunger Food Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/01</td>
<td>Minimum Day- School Ends at 12:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/01</td>
<td>Fall Conferences, 1:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/02</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/02</td>
<td>Modified Late Start – School Begins at 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>11/03</td>
<td>Spirit Day: Black &amp; Gold Dress-up Day</td>
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<td>11/05</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/06</td>
<td>PTSA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>11/07</td>
<td>English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting, 3:15 p.m., Room 113</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>No School: Veteran’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>Venado Spelling Bee, 3:15-5:00 p.m., The Commons</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>Mock Disaster Drill</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>Title I Parent Breakfast Meeting, 8:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>11/17</td>
<td>GATE/CAC Meeting, 9 a.m., 3387 Barranca Pkwy, Irvine</td>
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<td>11/17</td>
<td>Spirit Day: Pajama Day</td>
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<td>11/21</td>
<td>Minimum Day</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break - School Resumes on Monday, November 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>First Trimester Grades Posted</td>
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Principal’s Message

Fall Conferences:

It’s not too late to sign up for Fall Conferences held Wednesday, November 1 and Thursday, November 2. Conference slots are still available! Click on the link below to sign-up for individual 15 minute conferences with your child’s teachers:
Please see my previous emails about Fall Conferences for all of the specific details. This is also a friendly reminder that Thursday, November 2 is a modified late start day (school begins for students at 10:30 a.m.) EDPE (0 Period PE) does not meet on Thursday, November 2. We look forward to seeing you at Fall Conferences.

Direct Donation Drive:
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all parents who have donated to our PTSA’s Direct Donation Drive thus far. As of Tuesday, October 31, we have raised $16,420. Since we were confident that we can reach our goal of raising $17,000, we extended our drive until Friday, November 3. If you have not had the opportunity to donate yet, I urge you to donate now and help us raise the outstanding $580. For just 56 cents per school day this year, you can make a significant impact at Venado at the classroom level. To donate, visit this page on our website: https://goo.gl/kDSgB2. We’ll accept donations of any size. Once again, thank you so much for your ongoing support and generosity.

First Trimester Grades:
First Trimester report cards will be posted on November 27, 2017. To view your student’s grades, please sign in to your Parent Portal account at www.myiusd.org.

New Staff Members:
We would like to welcome several new instructional assistants to Venado. We are excited to have Ms. Berenice Lopez, Ms. Regina Huerta and Mrs. Lillian Lew join the Venado team. These individuals bring with them a diverse set of educational and work experiences. We are grateful of the support they will provide to our students and teachers.

Re-wiring Project Update:
About two and a half years ago, the district upgraded the internet connection to our school from Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) from 500mbps to 1gbps. However, one of the challenges we face is the aging data wiring system within the school building. This wiring system significantly reduces speeds to about 10-50mbps. Imagine a traffic jam caused by a 4 lane freeway which narrows to two lanes. Our wiring system creates electronic “traffic jams,” thus preventing us taking full advantage of our super-fast connection with OCDE. This is not a problem that is unique to Venado, but to other schools in the district as well. I am excited to share that contractors have been on site since August to rewire the entire school. Rewiring at Venado is expected to be completed this month. When the project is complete, students and staff will be able to experience the new ultra-fast upload and download speeds. This infrastructure also supports the recent proliferation of computer devices at Venado. These investments were made possible through IUSD’s Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). For more information about the district’s LCAP, click on this link: https://iusd.org/about/our-district/lcaplcff.

Thanksgiving Break:
This is just a friendly reminder that there will be no school on Wednesday, 11/22/17 through Friday, 11/24/17 for the Thanksgiving break. Instruction resumes on Monday, November 27. On behalf of our entire staff, I would like to wish the entire school community Happy Thanksgiving. It is a distinct
pleasure and honor to serve this great community. Thank you so much for all that you do to support Venado. If you are traveling during the Thanksgiving break, safe travels to you and your loved ones.

The school newsletter is produced collaboratively each month by a number of staff members who write various brief articles. I would like to thank this month’s contributors: Mrs. Adelman, Ms. Belarge, Ms. Matthews, Ms. Mariani, Mrs. Cammarato, Mrs. Sarmiento, Mrs. Leimback, Mr. Teel, Mrs. Godley, Mrs. Van Dam, Mrs. Collins and Ms. Botana. I would also like to especially thank Mrs. Ruki Charna, Office Assistant, who rounds up the articles, creates the layout and edits the newsletter each month.

~ Luis Torres, Principal

**We “Scare” Hunger- Food Drive**

We will be holding a Food Drive for Families Forward October 30 - November 3 to help provide families in need, with food to celebrate Thanksgiving this year. Participating students should bring their items to their 1st period class during the drive. We will be holding a competition between 1st period classes, and the class with the most cans/boxed food will win an ice cream party. Here are some items Families Forward is requesting:

- Boxes of Stuffing
- Jars of Gravy
- Cans of Cranberry Sauce
- Boxes of Muffin or Corn Bread Mix
- Cans of Sweet Potatoes or Yams
- Cans of Soup (Broth & Cream)
- Cans of Fruit & Vegetables
- Cans of Evaporated Milk
- Cans of Pumpkin Pie or Other Pie Filling
- Boxed Pie Crust Mix
- Canned Chicken, Tuna Meat
- Soups: Hearty Chowders, Tomato, Minestrone, Chili, Stews
- Pasta
- Canned beans: Kidney, Black, Pinto, Baked
- Rice
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Peanut Butter, Jelly, Honey

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

~ Cory Adelman, ASB/Leadership Teacher and Advisor

**Spirit Days**

Thank you for encouraging your students to participate and show their school spirit with our School Spirit Days. November Spirit Days are as follows:
November 3: Black & Gold  
November 9: Red, White & Blue  
November 17: Pajama Day

~ Cory Adelman, ASB/Leadership Teacher and Advisor

**Daylight Savings Time**
Daylight Savings Time is the practice of setting the clocks forward one hour during the summer months, and back again in the fall in order to make better use of natural daylight. This is a friendly reminder to set our clocks back 1 hour beginning at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 5.

~ Peggy Mariani, Administrative Assistant

**PTSA Updates**

*PTSA Meetings:*
Our first (of only 3) PTSA Association meetings will take place on Monday, November 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Venado. This is your chance to vote for our proposed budget for the year and to get a closer look at how PTSA helps our students. We want to hear from our community, and we need your votes to get several items approved. The meeting is expected to be less than 1 hour. Be sure you are a current PTSA member (if not, you can still join by completing this form) and feel free to bring your child with you, especially if they too are a member of our PTSA.

Our PTSA Parliamentarian, Angel Lau, is actively seeking PTSA members to be on the nominating committee. This requires very little time and most can be done by email. This committee is responsible for helping us secure the incoming PTSA Officers for 2018-2019 and works best if we have members not currently serving on the board to ensure fairness and diversity of the board. If you are interested, please email venadoptsa@gmail.com. If you know incoming 7th graders that have parents who like to be involved, please have them contact us so they can be considered for a position on the board.

*PTA Reflections:*
We would like to commend the 15 students who participated in the National PTA Reflections contest with a total of 17 entries from Venado. The theme this year was, "Within Reach." Each student received a Starbuck's gift card and 3 students from each section moved on to the district Level. Thank you for your participation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art Category</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature:</td>
<td>Jocelyn D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Sarah A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Kavleen K.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Srishti P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Samantha L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Samantha L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Hope W.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photography  Jocelyn D.
Visual Arts  Maya S.
Visual Arts  Medha M.
Visual Arts  Andrew H.
Visual Arts  Breanna I.
Visual Arts  Ashley B.
Visual Arts  Audrey L.
Visual Arts  Meghaa S.
Visual Arts  Sachi L.
Visual Arts  Victoria N.

~ Theresa Collins, PTSA President

**English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)**

If you are a parent of an English Learner, we would love to have you join us for our second ELAC (English Learner Advisory Committee) meeting of the year on Tuesday, November 7, from 3:15-4:15 p.m. in the school library. Our meetings cover many topics that are important and relevant to parents of English Learners including: programs and services that are available at the school site, school policies and procedures, and information regarding identification, placement, and reclassification of students. In addition, we provide input to the school as to how best spend school funds in support of our EL students. Our ELAC meetings are also a forum for parents to ask questions and talk about the school and how best it can meet the needs of our students. It’s also a great way for parents from many different cultures to get connected with the school and with each other. At this meeting, we will be discussing questions generated by parents at our last ELAC meeting, Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), and School Site Council (SSC) meetings, and ways parents can help at home with homework and language acquisition. We hope to see you there!

~ Sherilyn Cammarato, EL Coordinator

**Scripps School-wide Spelling Bee**

The English Department will be hosting our school wide Spelling Bee on Wednesday, November 15 at 3:15 p.m. in The Commons. English classes conducted Spelling Bees during the month of October and the top three spellers from each class are moving on to the School Spelling Bee. We wish them the best of luck, and look forward to the contestants receiving support and encouragement from all their friends.

~ Rebecca Belarge, English Department Chair

**Mock Disaster Drill**

Venado will practice its emergency preparedness procedures during a mock disaster drill on Thursday, November 16. The purpose of the drill is to mobilize our emergency teams and practice our protocols so that in the event of an earthquake or other emergency, our students and staff will be more prepared. The students will report to Homeroom class after lunch. We will conduct the disaster drill from approximately 1:40 to 3:00 p.m. Students are encouraged to wear hats, appropriate clothing, and sunscreen for the duration of the drill. Students should come prepared with a reading book, homework,
or other activity to pass the time. Students will not be permitted to use cell phones or other electronic devices.

We will also practice our reunification procedures during this drill; therefore, parents are invited to pick up their students from school from 2:15-2:45 p.m. If you choose to participate in our reunification drill, please bring your driver’s license or other government-issued photo identification and be prepared to wait in line. Only persons listed on the emergency contact form will be allowed to sign out a student from school (this also applies to carpool parents who are signing out other students.) All students will be released at the regular dismissal time of 3:00 p.m. at the conclusion of the drill. Thank you for your support.

~ Shannon Van Dam, Assistant Principal

**Title I Parent Education Workshops**

How would you like to know everything about navigating your child’s CANVAS account? Please RSVP to attend our second Title I Parent Education Breakfast on Thursday, 11/16 at 8:45 am. Mr. Bui and our Intervention Team will be leading a parent training on Chromebooks. Attend this informational meeting to engage with your child’s Title I teachers, administration, and learn how we can all work as a team to enhance your child’s success.

| ★ Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided |
| ★ Childcare will be provided |
| ★ Interpreter upon request |
| ★ Raffle Prizes |

This year’s workshops will feature education and parenting experts, IHS Academic Advisors, and VMS leadership to offer valuable tools in helping you optimize opportunities for your child. If possible, please reserve the following dates on your calendar for the rest of this year’s meetings: 11/16, 12/14, 1/18, 2/15, 3/8, 4/19, and 5/24. Most meetings will be held on Thursday mornings, while others will be offered in the evenings. Look for more information in the monthly newsletters. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings, including the November meeting. A special thank you to those who were able to attend our October workshop. Please click the links below to access the information covered and to complete the parent survey. Your feedback is appreciated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Click Link</th>
<th>Or try URL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October presentation</td>
<td><a href="http://bit.ly/2gTAPyC">http://bit.ly/2gTAPyC</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>RSVP form</td>
<td><a href="http://bit.ly/2hRqQt5">http://bit.ly/2hRqQt5</a></td>
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~ Susy Sarmiento, Title I Coordinator
**GATE Parent Representative**

All parents of GATE students are invited to attend the district Community Advisory Committee-Gifted and Talented Education (CAC-GATE) meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2018, at 6 p.m. at IUSD Learning Center #1 (3387 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92606).

We are continuing to look for Venado’s GATE Parent Representative for the 2017-18 school year. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please get in touch with me at shelbymatthews@iusd.org.

The GATE Parent representatives are also hosting a book club. They will be reading *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth. They are meeting at the IUSD Learning Center #5 (3387 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92606) from 9:00-10:30 a.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 15
- Wednesday, February 21
- Wednesday, April 25

All who are interested are welcome to attend the book club meetings.

~ Shelby Matthews, English Teacher/GATE Coordinator

**PE Reminders**

The Venado PE Department wishes you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. The PE Department recommends that all students take their PE clothes home to wash over the Thanksgiving Break. Additionally, it is important for students to never keep valuables, such as purses, wallets, mobile phones, etc., in their lockers overnight. Even though the break is only a handful of days, we suggest that students write their locker number and combination down in a safe place, just in case it is forgotten over the break.

~ Natalie Leimback and Chris Teel, PE Teachers

**OCSPCA: Monthly Therapy Dog Visits**

Venado’s Special Education Department is excited to announce a program which brings therapy dogs on campus for monthly educational visits. The organization, Orange County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OCSPSA), offers programs at schools, nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals and children’s homes to support people with disabilities. OCSPCA will be working with a specific group of students in order to teach them how to care for animals, and to act responsibly and safely around dogs, as well as to foster kindness, empathy and respect for animals. Their therapy dog program brings joy and encouragement to those with a wide variety of disabilities. The organization is expected to visits classrooms and work with students one time per month for the 2017-2018 school year.

~ Dawn Godley, Speech and Language Pathologist

**Free & Reduced Meal Program**

Venado Middle School wants to support your efforts to provide your child with daily access to nutritious meals, including breakfast and lunch. If your family has a limited household income, now is the time to
apply for The Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Learn more about the wholesome and balanced breakfast and lunch menu options for your child. Qualifying for the program is confidential, as well as beneficial to your child and our school.

- or - your child receives Food Stamps, CalWORKS, KIN-GAP, and FDPIR Benefits,

- or -
your child is a foster child.

You may apply online at Free and Reduced Lunch. A new application must be submitted for each academic year. Please visit our school district’s FAQ page for more details or find information in 33 languages at http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications or contact us at 949-936-6819.

~ Susy Sarmiento, Title 1 Coordinator

**Harvest Cup 2017**

Congratulations to the Venado Boys and Girls teams for participating in the 37th Annual Harvest Cup Soccer Tournament. The boys and girls played two games each at the Great Park soccer fields, and despite their best efforts, were unable to advance in the tournament. We would like to commend all the players for showing true Venado spirit, and doing their absolute best in the tournament.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the players and parents for their enthusiastic support and cooperation in making this a fun and exciting event, and to the Irvine Public Schools Foundation (IPSF) for hosting this great event. We would especially like to thank Mrs. Theresa Collins for volunteering to be the Girls team coach, as well as Mr. Kurt Cutler and Mr. Craig Pinkerton for coaching our Boys team. We truly appreciate all their time and hard work with the teams from Venado.
Parking Procedures

Please take a moment to review the following procedures and guidelines for Venado’s parking lot, which has been designed to accommodate quick student pick-up and drop-off. Safety is always our number one priority. As a neighborhood school, students are encouraged to make a healthy and environmentally conscious choice to walk, scooter or bike to school. This will also help our parking lot be less congested.
● Drive-thru Lane — this lane is designed to allow vehicles to “drive-thru” to either access a parking space or to exit the parking lot ONLY.

● Drop-off/pick-up Lanes — these lanes are for cars stopping to drop-off or pick-up students at the yellow curb. There are two drop-off/pick-up areas available for your use. One is located inside the parking lot; the other is located on Deerfield Avenue, in front of the school. When using either drop-off lane, please pull as far forward as possible to allow other vehicles access, and to reduce traffic in the parking lot area and the streets around the school. If you do not see your child, or anticipate having to wait, please park your car in a parking space to wait for your son or daughter. For safety reasons, students are not to enter the parking lot to come and meet you at your car. They are to wait along the curb until you enter and stop in the drop off lane.

● Bike Lanes – Please do not stop in the bike lane on Deerfield Avenue. The bike lane is not to be used for stopping to drop-off or pick-up students. Use the drop-off zone in front of the school next to the Venado sign, or enter the parking lot.

● Service Road — the service road between Deerfield Elementary and Venado is only for access to the tennis courts and the CDC. It is not a drop-off/pickup area for Deerfield or Venado. This is a thoroughfare for students walking, riding their bikes, skateboards or scooters to and from school. This area becomes highly congested before and after school. The Irvine Police Department cites autos parked in this area.

● No Left Hand Turns — Due to the high volume of traffic entering and exiting the parking lot and traffic on Deerfield Avenue, the Irvine Police Department has designated times the “no left hand turn” will be in effect. Left hand turns are not permitted from our parking lot during the following times: 7:30-9:30 a.m. and 2:45-3:30 p.m.

● Cell Phones — please refrain from using your cell phone as you drive through the school parking lot. With the number of students and adults walking to and from the building, safety is our number one priority. 

● Student Safety — Students are to always use crosswalks when commuting to/from school. When using a crosswalk on Deerfield Avenue, and once on the Venado side of the street, student are to stay on the sidewalk and not cut through the parking lot to access the school. When riding a bike to school, students are to walk their bikes in these areas.

~ Shannon Van Dam, Assistant Principal

**City of Irvine Middle School Program (MSP)**
The goal of the Middle School Program is to engage youth in positive social-recreational activities during non-school hours. Students are encouraged to participate in the development and implementation of program activities that focus on community service, personal skill development, and social recreation. Services are provided in cooperation with the Irvine Unified School District.

- **Youth Action Team (YAT) – Mondays & Wednesdays**
  YAT is a free afterschool program where students go on volunteer projects throughout Orange County. Meetings are Mondays afterschool from 3:00-3:45 p.m. in The Commons, and projects are
Wednesdays after school from 3:00-5:30 p.m. If your child is interested in joining YAT, please have them come to a Monday meeting so I can give them the necessary paperwork to sign up.

- **Ugly Sweater Making Party – Friday, November 17**
  Let’s get creative as we celebrate the holidays by making your very own ugly sweater! Throw some tinsel around, add a few bells, you can even put a bird on it! The sky is the limit. The class is from 3:00-6:00 p.m., and the cost is $30 which includes supervision, supplies, transportation, and a pizza dinner! Space is very limited! *Course ID#: 192526*

- **Bakers Gonna’ Bake – Friday December 1 & Friday December 8**
  Celebrate the holiday season at *Color Me Mine*, and by decorating sugar cookies! On December 1st students will go to *Color Me Mine* and paint a holiday cookie plate. On December 8th students will get their plates back and decorate sugar cookies to put on their beautiful plates! The cost is $30 which includes transportation, supervision, *Color Me Mine*, and cookie supplies. *Course ID#: 192371*

**Online Registration:** To register for any of these programs online go to [www.IrvineQuickReg.org](http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org) and use the Course ID for the specific class.

~ Ashley Botana, MSP Venado Site Coordinator
abotana@cityofirvine.org  or (949)724-6746