

VEGAS VALLEY ADVENTIST ACADEMY

CALENDAR

Dec. 12
School Picture Day
Dec. 14
Christmas Extravaganza
Dec. 15
2nd QTR Ends
Dec. 18 - Jan. 1, 2024
Christmas Break
Jan. 2
School resumes
Jan. 3
Class Shirt Picture Day
Jan. 10
9/10 Field Trip
Jan. 15
MLK Birthday (NS)

VVAA MERCHANDISE

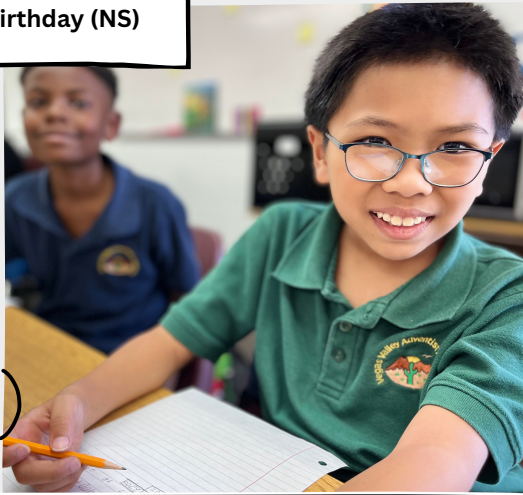
-JUNIA STAMP

Hey VVAA! We have new, nice, uniform friendly hoodies that Miss Contreras is selling right now! She has sizes of plenty for both adults and kids so any and everyone can stay warm! You can even match with your friends if they get one as well along with that. Not only will you be sold a comfy hoodie, you will be helping for the 9/10th grade(s) funding for the Biology-class field trip! For purchasing please contact Miss Contreras via email: mcontreras@vvaa4u.org
Pre order by December 15 to get yours ASAP!

GLOBAL CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS

-MARIÉ ENTERINA

Christmas is celebrated worldwide with popular traditions like decorating trees, exchanging gifts, and singing carols. Unique customs vary by country. In Sweden, St. Lucia Day on December 13 involves the eldest daughter dressing in white with a candle crown, waking her family for a candlelit breakfast. In Finland, families visit saunas on Christmas Eve, listen to the national "Peace of Christmas" broadcast, and also visit gravesites. In Norway, the birthplace of the Yule log used in ancient Norse celebrations marking the return of the sun at the winter solstice. Each country's distinctive traditions add diversity to the global celebration of Christmas! Christmas traditions worldwide, from Sweden's St. Lucia Day to Finland's sauna visits and Norway's Yule log, showcase our diverse cultural celebrations. Despite our differences, the importance of the season unites us in joy!



A FLUFFY APOLOGY

-JAMES W. GILLEY

For many years wolves in Colorado have been hunted because of their nature of killing prey on farms which make farmers really angry. So they retaliated against the wolves which caused the population to decline. The population had decreased so exponentially to the point where they had to pass a law or Proposition 114 that required wolves to be reintroduced back into the state in 3 years. They voted for this in 2020 so that means this year of 2023 before it ends the wolves will be back into Colorado. But will the wolves do the same things they did all those years ago of hunting animals and cattle. They probably and most likely will because it is not easy for animals to lose their instincts of their hunting nature. But the wolves are predators that keep some of the prey populations down from overpopulating the ecosystem. This also helps the ecosystem to thrive as their plants may grow more.





PROJECT UNLONELY

-JOSHUA M. SILVER

"Just like thirst is a signal you need hydration, loneliness is a signal that you need human connection." This is what Dr. Jeremy Nobel, the author of Project UnLonely, has to say about loneliness. Practically all of us have felt some form of loneliness in our lives. Project UnLonely is a book that gives advice on how to combat that. Loneliness is a sign that you need human connection, so sharing ideas with others can start a deeper connection and prevent loneliness. One thing you can start off with is being curious. Being curious opens you up to different ideas from people of different backgrounds. Taking a risk to start conversation and learn can help you meet more diverse people, as well as people that have the same interest as you. Something else you can do is share something you made. It doesn't have to be art; it could be a story/poem or random drawing. Being lonely isn't healthy, but interacting with others and understanding each other can greatly combat that.

CAN WE GROW VEGGIES ON MARS?

-ALEX GUZMAN

According to research, humans have landed on the moon but not Mars...not yet. An issue with sending a group to Mars is the amount of food because Mars is a long journey, it takes 150-300 days to go to Mars. It isn't possible to grow veggies on Mars due to the rocky and lacks the right organic matter. But Emmanuel Mendoza is experimenting with mixing Martian soil and poop from fly larvae(maggots) in order to find the right recipe for growing plants on Mars. Martian soil is missing some certain macronutrients that contain nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulfur. The poop from maggots can break down almost any biomatter and they can turn it into really useful byproducts. And the different plants that used the soil started growing, but most didn't. Due to Mendoza's experiment, he made it possible to grow plants on Mars.

DISAPPEARING ISLAND

-MCRYLEIGH PIERRE-LOUIS

Nyangai Island in Sierra Leone was a paradise for the people who lived there and its beauty is rapidly decreasing because of sea levels and climate changes. After two decades the rising sea level has taken houses, farmland, and lots of peoples lives. The people always struggle with constant flooding and they are unable to find shelter. "The island's chief, Mustafa Kong, estimates that 20 years ago there were more than 500 homes on Nyangai, with an average of 8 people living in each. Now there are barely 70." Most people had no choice but to leave for nearby islands. "The sea is eating our island," said Chief Kong with resignation. "God will decide what happens to us. We're in his hands now."



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better."

-Maya Angelou

EVERY WIN MATTERS

-ROBERT CASTRO

This week of sports came with a lot of upsets and surprises. Starting on Saturday as the (9-3) UNLV Rebels faced the (7-5) Boise State Broncos for the Mountain West Championship Game at the Allegiant Stadium. This game ended in an upsetting loss for the Rebels, as they lost 44-20. Later that day the #8 Alabama shockingly upset the #1 Georgia for the SEC Championship Game with a score of 27-24. Before this loss Georgia held on to a historic 29 win streak. With this pace, Georgia were looking to win their 3rd straight National Championship. But instead the College football committee put Georgia at the #6 spot to replace them with now the #4 Alabama.

On Sunday something very questionable happened, the official rankings were announced for the College Football Playoffs. Only four teams were able to qualify for the playoff, with the top two being undefeated teams. Finally, the #4 spot was taken by the (12-1) Alabama Crimson Tide instead of the undefeated (13-0) Florida State! Fans were angered at the committee for this selection as Florida State worked very hard for their Playoff spot, but what really affected this ranking was the season ending injury of Florida State's QB Jordan Travis. Overall a QB's injury should not be the reason why a successful team does not get the spot they deserve. But at least this year's College Football Playoff will be packed with talent by these teams.

SILLY GILLEY

What do you call a disrespectful reindeer?

Rude-olph

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