

# TOLUCA LAKE TIMES

Volume 14, Number 1

<<https://toluca.weebly.com>>

January 2020



## Words of Wisdom

**"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner." ~ Nelson Mandela Nobel Peace Prize Winner**

**"Education is the Most Powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."**

Nelson Mandela



## Mr. Daniel Returns

By: Violette Flores, Paul Danna, Marilyn Duran, and Raonezha Shabazz

Did you know that our new principal, Mr. Jeffrey Daniel, worked here at Toluca Lake Elementary as a teacher and a coordinator for 18 years before leaving for a position as assistant principal at Arleta High last year? Now, we are happy to say that Mr. Daniel is back at Toluca Lake Elementary, and now, he's our principal! As soon as he found out that there was an opening, he tried to return to our school. When Mr. Prendez announced that he was leaving Toluca, many parents and teachers e-mailed him. On his way, he had to beat four other people trying to become our schools principal. Our school is happy to have Mr. Daniel as our new principal.

We interviewed Mr. Daniel, and asked him some questions. When asked about possible changes to our school, he responded that he is trying to save up money to get an apparatus for the playground on our school yard. He has also listened to student suggestions to fix the basketball net and straighten the volleyball court nets.

Mr. Daniel is also planning to add a science teacher so that all upper grade students (grades 3-5) receive special lessons once per week in the second semester. We will also be receiving additional yard supervision and teacher assistant time for the classroom. We suggested that our school have more fundraisers to raise more money. Mr. Daniel is very supportive. He clearly has big plans for the upcoming future, and he hopes that these changes help out our school.

We interviewed some other people asking them how they felt about Mr. Daniel being our new principal. They mostly said that they very happy. For example, our new student body president Dylan Chantawong said, "Mr. Daniel is amazingly awesome, and it makes him feel like he's in third and fourth grade again."

Coach Erik says, "Mr. Daniel is the right person to make Toluca Lake great." Fifth grader Shaysta Burungi says that Mr. Daniel always makes her feel happy when she is sad. Mr. Hagen-Smith says that he has known Mr. Daniel since he started at our school as a teacher, and that Mr. Daniel will do an amazing job because he cares so much about the kids, knows a lot about getting students ready for college, and is a wizard with technology. Everybody loves Mr. Daniel, and thinks he's a perfect fit for our school.

Mr. Daniel is great for our school and will do his best to keep us safe and help us learn a lot. He gives our school pride to do our best because, in our opinion, he is our role model. We couldn't thank him enough to guide our school towards the future!





## **Principal's Message**

Principal's Message:

Hello students and families of Toluca Lake,

Can you believe our school year is already half over? It has been remarkable to see our students' tremendous progress. Test scores in DIBELS (a reading literacy assessment) are on the rise. Attendance is also higher than the previous 3 years. Although the higher scores and attendance rates are good, we can do better.

So how do we do better? In a word: Perseverance. Our potential flourishes when we push past every challenge. It's okay to experience productive struggle. When we push ourselves to strive for more, that's when the real learning begins.

It's important that all of us have a shared responsibility for all students. The collective efforts of teachers, parents, students, and the community contributes to the success of Toluca Lake Elementary. Our culture is to provide rigorous lessons at every grade level that challenge students to become independent thinkers to support our goal of preparing students towards college and career readiness. I encourage parents to support our ongoing efforts and instill the same level of expectations for your child to be in school each day, on time, with no more than seven absences for the entire year.

Let's continue our success of higher student achievement. And always remember, it's great to be a Tiger!

## **Halloween Festival**

By: Nereyda Molina, Haylee Carbajal, Elizabeth Getnet, and Matthew Barragan

*"Have you come to sing pumpkin carols?"*

Linus Van Pelt asks this question each year during "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown."

Well, most of us don't really sing pumpkin carols, but we do like to dance to the "Monster Mash" and "Purple People Eater" each year at our annual Halloween Festival. This event has many contests and lots of winners including best costume, pumpkin carving, and best suspense story. During the Halloween Festival, everyone dresses up and parades around the track. There is a DJ, delicious food, and a scary maze as well. Many kids and families enjoy this festival because it's a great way to dress up as their favorite character and spend time with family and friends!

There were terrific pumpkin designs from lots of students. The first grade winner was Coco Carter, Sophia Cisneros won for second grade, Andres Figueroa in third grade, Bruno Ginn for fourth grade, and Eduardo Lopez for fifth grade.

Many students wore very creative costumes to the festival. Izsabella McFalls' macaroni and cheese costume won for second grade, Allison Hernandez's tiger claws costume won in third grade, Bruno Ginn's marshmallow costume was the winner in fourth grade, and Jaden Susi's Rubik's Cube was the winning costume in fifth grade.

We talked about the Halloween Festival with many of its participants. Paula Espinoza likes trick-or-treating best because of the costumes & candy. Bruno Ginn said that spiders are the scariest thing on Halloween. Derek Chacon's favorite candy is Twizzlers. Blake Guzman enjoys visiting haunted houses. Liam Barrett likes candy best. Ana S. thinks that clowns are very scary. What about you? What do you like most, or find scariest about Halloween??



# Scary Story Contest Winners (Part I)

Typed By - Ludwika Gutierrez, Janice Garcia, Lydia Guzman, and Jaden Eljie Susi



## The Witch's Plan

*Written by - Declan Gutierrez (Kindergarten)*

One spooky, scary Halloween night, there was a scary werewolf, who was scaring all the trick or trick-or-treaters. "Ahhwoo," howled the werewolf. The witch asked the trick-or-treaters why they were hiding in her house, and they told her about the very scary werewolf. So the witch and the trick-or-treaters came up with a plan to scare the werewolf away. They were going to make a Headless Horseman. He would have a jack-o-lantern head, riding a big black horse with glowing eyes. The witch created a potion called, "The Live Potion," that made the Headless Horseman come to life! When the Headless Horseman found the werewolf, the werewolf, he began throwing small magical pumpkins at the werewolf. The Headless Horseman and the magical pumpkins chased the werewolf into the woods. The Headless Horseman followed the werewolf into the woods to make sure he would never return. The trick-or-treaters were so happy the werewolf was gone and the witch was happy and she made friends. The witch flew over the moon on her broom and said, "HeHeHe! Happy Halloween!"

## Toluca Lake's Red Clip Ghost

*Written by - Charlotte Anderson (1st Grade)*

It was Halloween night and Charlotte had finished trick or treating. She was on her way home when she saw the school's front gate open with fog coming from the hallway. She heard crying sounds that got louder and louder. Then, she went into the classroom and saw the ghosts of all the red clips kids who were trapped at school for life. These ghosts all told stories of how they got trapped at Toluca Lake Elementary. The ghosts had all gotten in trouble and had to move their clips to red for not listening to the teachers, bullying, other kids, not doing their homework and missing and being late to school. The ghosts were trapped for a life of never ending homework and tests with no recess. Finally, this scared Charlotte a lot and she ran out and never got on red again.



# Scary Story Contest Winners (Part II)

## Foreign

Written by - Jaden Eljie Susi (Fifth Grade)

It is mid June in Germany, I'm soaking in the rain, I looked for cover. I saw an alley and a hotel just at the end of it. I was walking down the alley until all of a sudden, I heard a "SLAM!" I looked behind me and it was pitch black, soon enough I heard voices singing in harmony. I dashed through the alley and saw a gigantic figure in front of me, blocking me from going anywhere. I panicked, I looked all around and saw only darkness. There was no escape. From the shadows, a person said in a creepish voice, "Hello Marie." Before I can say a word I felt a burlap sack upon my head.

One year earlier...

I have just built a time machine, but all it can do is to travel you back for one hour. It has been around 12 years since I've been working on it. Troy has been really a great help. I haven't released this in the internet because I'm afraid that someone might steal our idea. Troy said it was a failure because it only goes back one hour in the past. Well today is going to be our 22nd test run and I think it will work properly now. "Okay let's get started!" Troy said while rubbing his hands. We started checking for any malfunctions on the bulky backpack that we were wearing and what we found was amazing.

We saw a spider on one of the cables which was mutating, growing 2 more legs and the abdomen becoming larger. Suddenly it just pop like a squeezed grape. The color of the spider hemolymph ( blood) were white then it changes colors from white to red to blue. We started to wonder how that happened. We started brainstorming hypothesis.

"Maybe the spider took the mixture of water and carbon." Troy said.

"That's impossible, It would just die right away!" I replied.

"Okay, I think it was from the nuclear power core we put." Troy replied.

We decided to put that aside and do a test drive. Everything was okay because we traveled back in time 2 hour ago. When we decided to go back to the present time, I saw something out of the ordinary. It was like I was held captive in a high tech place and the people were asking for something in a foreign language.

"Did you see what just happened!?" Troy shouted like he was speaking with a megaphone.

I was wondering what Troy meant, so I just said the thing I just saw, "The memory of someone else that is held captive."

"No," Troy said in a questionable voice, "I'm talking about the memory were a person was doing research about quantum mechanics."

I had no idea what was Troy talking about. Maybe we saw a memory of a person's life which is a coincidence because this has never happened before when we do our test runs. Now I'm wondering what's going on.

I turned to Troy and said some questions. "Did you heard her voice? Do you know her name? Did you see or hear any close relatives?" He responded with no on the first question, the second question yes, Anna, which I heard from the memory I witnessed, and yes to the last question, which is Isaac. I told Troy that Anna and Isaac was the exact names I heard from the memory.

We started researching on Anna and we found an article about Anna been reported missing in Germany. She was a scientist studying about quantum mechanics. I started to wonder how many people were reported missing in Germany. One of the articles say that around 68 people reported missing in the rain. I found something more interesting, all of the people went missing were scientist.

Present Time...

I felt a creature crawling on me. I tried to roll around, but my legs and my arms were strap together. Unable to roll, I stayed there until I felt like a dozen more crawling on me. I felt like I was in a jagged road and I wonder where are they taking me until I felt a sudden stop. One of the people yelled, "Were here," it sounded like a male. I heard doors opening and felt like I was being dragged onto a cement floor. Then into a room with smooth marble on my legs.

Then someone pulls out the sack upon my head and I was terrified when I saw my abductor. It was my deceased friend that went missing in Germany and his body was found in the river. Then he ripped out his whole body to show his inner demons. It did not look like my deceased friend, but instead a person with no skin and has maggots and flies all around him or her I can't tell. I can't tell if I'm terrified or not from all the things that I witnessed, but I couldn't I help to scream. I looked around and saw the same room from the memory from one year ago. I finally had the courage to say,

"I don't understand why are you keeping me your hostage? What did I do?"

"Our people needed you alive because of the time machine you built and we need you to make it travel 5 years into the past and in the future. With your friend Troy." It explained with a grin on his face.

I didn't understand what he was saying about Troy and suddenly the windows on my right opened and I was surprised to see Troy in here and strapped completely on a metal chair. Then saw the backpacks which are the time machines on my left. Then a little time after that I was dragged into the room with the time machine and also Troy with a broken bone. He had a straight face and frightened because he didn't know what was happening.

When we worked together, he said, "I got one of the gadgets of one of the guards." It seems like a laser cutter or something, but the room was filled with guards to test it. After a long time being in this horrific place we had to go to a cafeteria, I saw a lot of people looking miserable. I tried to look for Anna, but it was so crowded. It seems more than 68 people it was like thousands in this facility. I saw some people getting search before getting their food and if they had something, they were taken to a room to be torched to death. With this gadget is the only hope of escaping. I was next in line and I panicked. I look around and saw a small pocket on the wall. If they find me putting it there I'll be dead. I needed to have a distraction so I asked Troy, "can you get an object and throw it near the guards?." He did and it was my chance to survive. They search for me and I was cleared.

During our time here, we have been tortured many times to work faster on our time machine and I can't tell how many days have I been in this white, bright asylum. We made major changes which it can not go to 5 years, but only 2 years in the past. Also we made a self destruct button for our plan. Both of us can't wait to get out of here, so we called the boss of the place which is the skinless demon. When they came in, they threatened to kill us if it didn't work. We both didn't know if the the self destruction button works and I hope it works because they might learn how to go back into the present. A couple of the guards went with him, in his fun adventure. As soon as they left, we run down the halls finding a wall that leads outside.

We went as fast as we can while activating the laser as we run. I looked behind me and didn't see Troy. I kept running and I look behind me again to see Troy twitching and from my experience he is not the friend I had. I heard his footsteps behind me and sprint as fast as I can. From a sharp turn I finally lost him. I've felt the cold breeze from outside. I managed to cut a small hole and escape the facility. I kept on running until I found a cab and asked him to take me to the nearest airport. I looked behind me and saw a black car following us. I told the driver to speed up. I finally made it to the airport and sprint towards the terminal. All of a sudden everyone disappeared. Then everything went pitch black....

## Flabbergasting Ranger Luke

By - Haylee Carbajal, Nereyda Molina, Diana Flores, and Belen Garcia



Have you ever wondered about our amazing garden? Ranger Luke is our amazing new garden ranger. He helps the garden grow, and helps us learn about the garden, and its living organisms!

Our new garden ranger, Luke, is from Santa Barbara. He moved here a few months ago. His ancestors are English and Irish. Before he moved to Los Angeles to help our school, he helped other schools with their gardens (kind of like Johnny Appleseed!) Luke has worked as a garden ranger for five years. He took gardening classes at UC Davis to learn all of the science for his job. Before becoming a gardener, Luke worked as a chef. He likes teaching kids about gardening because he believes that organic vegetables make food healthier and tastier.

Garden Ranger Luke has lots of interesting hobbies. He enjoys camping and hiking. He loves to be with nature and kids. He goes to the garden to relax and calm down. Garden Ranger Luke has been helping out our garden so we are very thankful to have him join us here at Toluca Lake Elementary.



## Indigenous Peoples Day

By: Ximena Diaz and Ludwika Gutierrez

Did you know that "Indigenous Peoples Day" is a special day to celebrate America's native people? Indigenous Peoples Day helps people remember Native American histories and cultures. It is celebrated in the across United States on October 2nd each year.

Toluca Lake Elementary's fifth graders recognized Indigenous Peoples Day by completing special projects and displaying them in the hallway of the main building this year. Student groups focused upon the cultural traditions found in different regions: the Great Plains, Eastern Woodlands, Pacific Northwest, Desert Southwest, and California.

Each group researched the food, clothing, shelter, ceremonies, and traditions for tribes living in the different regions. We learned that each tribe developed different ways of life to help them adapt to life in their region. For example, in the Great Plains the Cheyenne made clothing, tepees, and ate a lot of buffalo because there were so many bison in the area. In the Pacific Northwest, the Taiga made shelters and totem poles from wood because they have lots of trees there due to all the rain in the area. In the Desert Southwest, people used irrigation to water their crops - corn, beans, and squash because it's dry in that environment. California has lots of different tribal traditions because there are so many different environments in our large state.

Learning about the traditions of Native Americans on Indigenous People's Day helps us gain a more understanding and respect for their history and cultures. Many people enjoy Indigenous Peoples Day because they enjoy learning so many interesting facts about the native people who still make up an important part of America!

## Family Reading Night

By: Ximena Diaz and Ludwika Gutierrez

Did you know we had a Family Reading Night in Room 17 in September? Students and parents from Room 17 got to experience the importance of reading with their families at this special event.

Reading is very important to everyone because you learn to use your imagination. This event helped all the families realize that reading is an important part of a child's life. It was special and fun to learn together as families. We even got to make our own story hats featuring the names of our favorite books. We also got to eat many different yummy snacks.

We had this special event because Mr. Hagen-Smith likes to see families learn about the importance of reading together. He shared strategies that help students read better, even kids who are "reluctant readers". All of the families that came to Family Reading Night all had an amazing time!



## Drop in the Bucket Water Conservation Program

By: Belen Garcia and Ximena Diaz

Fifth grade students got to participate in the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's "Drop in the Bucket" program this year. During this program we did many activities to conserve water.

Organized by the Wildwoods Foundation, this program teaches students about conserving water. We did this program in the back of the school by Strohm Avenue. That's where we got to work together to create a model of the California Aqueduct. Along with the Los Angeles Aqueduct and the Colorado River Aqueduct, the California Aqueduct brings water to Los Angeles making it possible for so many people to live in our city.

Participating in this program is important because we learned a lot about water conservation. We want to do our share to help save Earth. The "Drop in the Bucket" program is special because we get to learn where our water comes from, and how to conserve it. That's why we are thankful to them for teaching us so much!



## Student Council

By: Ian Castillo

*"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."*

- President Thomas Jefferson

Do you know what student council is, or what it does? Well, student council is a group of students elected by their classmates to represent them so they have a voice in governing the school.

Student Council has a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and many representatives. The president is the person who leads the meeting. The vice-president assists the president. The secretary is responsible for taking notes during council meetings. The treasurer is the person who helps take care of any money issues.

This is the first year Toluca Lake Elementary has had a student council in a long time. Mr. Hagen-Smith and Mr. Wyatt are the teachers in charge of the council. Mr. Daniel and Ms. Ramos come to the meetings and help make sure everything is going smoothly.

In the fall semester, we had an assembly so that all of the candidates who wanted to run for office could do speeches. They each did a wonderful job!

Dylan Chantarawong was elected as our new student council president, Kennedy Butler is vice-president, Liam Barrett is secretary, and Zenas Benitez is treasurer. Each upper grade classroom also has two representatives.

Lots of people are excited to have this program back at our school. Mr. Hagen-Smith says that he thinks it's important to have student council so our students learn about the importance of being active and educated citizens in a democracy. That way, students will learn about issues and vote as adults, too. We are all excited about this program, and finally having another student council at Toluca Lake Elementary School!



**Toluca Lake Elementary Student Council for 2020**

## Connor White and Annabeth Bondor-Stone

By: Ian Castillo, Harmony Cawit, and Jaden Eljie Susi

Have you ever gone to an assembly led by famous authors? Recently, fourth and fifth graders went to meet authors, Connor White and Annabeth Bondor-Stone in our school auditorium. It was a very entertaining and educational assembly.

Connor White and Annabeth Bondor-Stone started writing books for kids in 2011. They met at Northwestern University in Chicago. Then, they both became actors and teachers working for Story Pirates. Story Pirates used to run an educational workshop at our school. They help students improve their writing. Then, they act out the students' stories live on stage. They are really funny and teach kids to express their creativity in stories. Now, Connor and Annabeth write books together.



During their work at Toluca Lake Elementary School, Connor White and Annabeth Bondor-Stone met Mr. Hagen-Smith. They have stayed acquainted ever since that time so when Mr. Hagen-Smith read their amazing books, he wrote a Donors Choose grant to purchase a class set of Jaelyn Hyde, and asked the authors to visit our school.

During the assembly, White and Bondor-Stone read and acted our scenes from their first book Shivers: The Pirate Who's Afraid of Everything. They were sooo funny! It made us all want to read their books, and write our own funny stories.

White and Bondor-Stone have written many other books including Shivers: The Pirate Who's Back in Bunny Slippers, Shivers: The Pirate Book You've Been Looking For, and Time Tracer. The authors take a lot of time writing books so they're great for children.

Many of the books they've written were inspired by ideas from kids. They have not written any adult books because they prefer the excitement of writing books for kids. They don't only work as authors, they also write for a television show.

## FEATURED FACULTY:

### **Our New School Coordinator Aidee Ramos**

**By: Gitana Coen Brown, Izzy Wood, Kennedy Butler, and Belen Garcia**

Did you know that our new school coordinator, Ms. Aidee Ramos, grew up in the San Fernando Valley, but was born in Mexico? During her early years, she went to four different schools. She went to Capistrano Elementary School, Cleveland High School in Northridge, and CA State University at Northridge (CSUN).

Like most of us, Ms. Ramos doesn't have enough time to do everything she wants to do in one day. Most importantly, she wants to spend more time and bond with our students. She also wants to make a class for parents to learn English. She is worried that there aren't enough resources to provide for the children and their parents. She wants to help children learn more, and help teachers make a difference so that all of our students achieve their very best in life.

Ms. Ramos' favorite hobbies are to salsa dance and play with her pups. You can see photographs of her cute doggies on the desk in her office. She also enjoys interacting with the many terrific parents and teachers at our school.

Ms. Ramos is a great coordinator, and always will be. She is helping make this school a better place! Being a coordinator is quite a tough job, but she still manages to do it. With Ms. Ramos, we learned that girls can become women who really take lead!



# Toluca Lake Penny Drive

By: Kennedy Butler, Izzy Wood, and Gitana Coen Brown

Did you know the Toluca Lake Penny Drive first started in November of 2017? The first person to start the penny drive at the Toluca Lake Elementary school was Ms. Alyssa Rosetti, who was the PTA. She got this great idea from a website for fundraising.

The penny drive raises money to buy books for the school library. Pennies are helpful, while silver coins are sabotage. You may be wondering, "Silver coins are worth more so why are they used for sabotage?" This is because Ms. Rosetti wanted pennies to be useful since they were not used often. She also wanted students to add silver coins because they're worth more so it would be easier to earn money faster. The penny drive is important because students can select various books from the school library. You know, there is also a famous quote from Dr. Seuss, "The more you read, the more you know, the more you learn, the more places you'll go!"



## Family Science Night

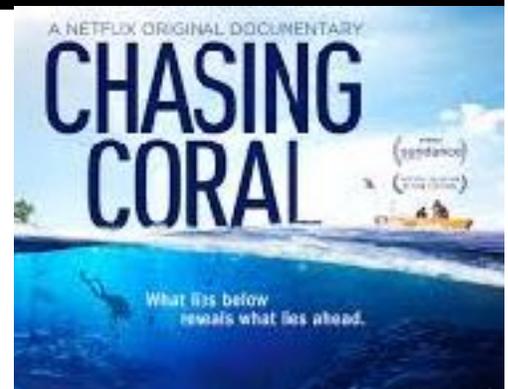
By: Ian Castillo and Jaden Eljie Susi

Did you know that there was a Family Science Night in the auditorium this past semester?!? If you were there, you probably had a great time and learned a lot. If you weren't able to go to this special event, you can learn about it by reading this article!

Mr. Hagen-Smith and Mr. Daniel introduced the topic of the evening to everybody. They explained that we would be learning about the impact of global climate change about the world's oceans. Then, students came to the front of the auditorium to do fun, hands-on activities. These activities taught kids a lot about different parts of oceanography.

Then, we watched an award-winning movie called "Chasing Coral." The film showed how the world's coral reefs are being damaged due to climate change. These reefs create habitats for lots of sea life. If they die, it hurts the entire ocean. We need to top climate change to help protect these reefs. Conserving energy is one way each of us can help make a difference to solve this important problem.

The PTA provided yummy snacks like popcorn and juice for the evening. There was also a raffle to win special prizes. Finally, some students completed a special take-home activity to become Ocean Rangers. These special students are: Ariella Mc Falls, Ximena Diaz, Harmony Cawit, Ludwika Gutierrez, and Violette Flores.



## AWESOME ALUMNI:

**Ms. Adeilada Rivas**

By- Paul Danna and Ximena Diaz

Did you know that our amazing new teacher assistant, Ms. Adeilada Rivas, used to attend Toluca Lake Elementary School as a student!?!? That's right! Ms. Rivas was a student here from 2005 to 2011. Ms. Rivas loved this school as a student, and now as a staff member.

Ms. Rivas's favorite activity at our school was the Nutrition Fair. The Nutrition Fair was an event focusing upon healthy habits that was held here back in the day. Ms. Rivas' favorite subject in school was math because it was her strongest. She says that she did so well at math because she had really good teachers that made math easier.

One of her heroes is her grandma because she took the role of her mother and came to America with nothing. She always worked for hard and cared for Ms. Rivas.

Ms. Rivas remembers all of the terrific faculty members here at Toluca Lake. Some of her favorites were Ms. Carlton, Ms. Gillette, Ms. Lauer, & Mr. Hagen-Smith. After Toluca Lake Elementary, Ms. Rivas attended Walter Reed Middle School, North Hollywood High, Pierce College, and is now going to CSUN.

An obstacle Ms. Rivas had to overcome was that she didn't have her mom in the picture so she had to navigate herself through situations that typically need a mother's help. Ms. Rivas is proud to see students excel since she loves watching students learn. She advises current students to not wait until the last minute to do school work, and to enjoy your K-12 years because the years really do fly by.

Ms. Adeilada Rivas is really a terrific help to the Toluca Lake Elementary team. We are so happy to have her working at our school since she is wonderful!



## National Geographic's EcoBlitz

By - Harmony Cawit, Paul Danna,  
Lydia Guzman, and Mayah Reaves

Did you know that Californians throw away six pounds of trash each day? That means that there is a lot of trash in California. That's why the EcoBlitz program is so important. Toluca Lake Elementary partnered with National Geographic's EcoBlitz to teach students more about being good caretakers of the environment. During the EcoBlitz program, we observed wildlife at our school and at Sepulveda Wetlands. We also picked up trash in both locations.

First, we did the EcoBlitz by our school garden. Each group of students worked in a different section of the garden. We used a special app on our phones to photograph and record the different organisms that we observed in our areas. Then, our teachers, Mr. Lee and Mr. Hagen-Smith gave us gloves and bags to collect the trash. Once we were in our different sections, students picked up any trash they found. By the time we were done, we emptied all of our trash bags onto a tarp. The teachers counted all the trash, and we ended up picking up about 1,800 pieces of trash! That's an incredible amount of trash found in just one small area of our campus! Thanks to EcoBlitz, our school now has a clean campus. EcoBlitz is also important because it teaches kids to pick up trash in their area, and help make our world cleaner.

We continued our EcoBlitz work on our field trip to the Sepulveda Wildlife Basin. Again, we used the iNaturalist and Marine Debris Tracker apps on our phones to record data. After observing many different types of birds and doing various activities with the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, we collected trash for EcoBlitz. We only found 110 pieces of trash in that area, but there was a lot more in the creek. Our teachers said it wasn't safe for us to go down there to collect trash. Participating in EcoBlitz helped us keep the Sepulveda Wildlife Basin clean for animals and people. It's a great program!





**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

<https://toluca.weebly.com/>

**Toluca Lake Elementary  
An Arts Prototype School**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Principal**

Mr. Jeffrey Daniel

**Assistant Principal**

Ms. Anna Valenzuela

**Coordinator**

Ms. Aidee Ramos

**Lead Teacher**

Mr. Dan Murphy

**Parent Representative**

Ms. Carmina Portillo

**PTA President**

Ms. Rochelle Lewis

Ms. Pamela Greer

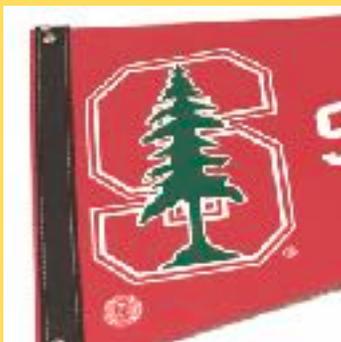
**Toluca Times Founder**

Dennis Hagen-Smith

**Newsletter Editors**

Ian Castillo & Jaden Eljie Susi

\*\*\*\*\*



# Riddle Me This!

- Dylan Chantarawong asks: What flies in the sky, but is not a bird or made by a human?
- Harmony Cawit asks: What is tall and has footprints all around it?
- Artyom Bayatyan asks: Tommy stayed underwater for 10 minutes. How did he survive?
- Violette Flores: There are three houses, a blue house, red house, and a green house. The blue house and red house are made out of brick. What is the green house made out of?
- Coltrane asks: What dog chases something red?



## Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

1. Where did Ranger Luke come from?
2. What does Coach Eric think about Mr. Daniel?
3. What books did Connor White and Annabeth Bondor-Stone write?
4. What happened at the end of Foreign?
5. Where did we do the EcoBlitz?
6. Why do we have a penny drive?
7. What activities were took place at Family Science Night?
8. Where was Ms. Ramos born in?
9. Who organized A Drop in the Bucket?
10. How long has Mr. Daniel worked here?

\* Scavenger Hunt: Where is this location found on our campus?

