

TOLUCA LAKE TIMES

Volume 14, Number 2

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

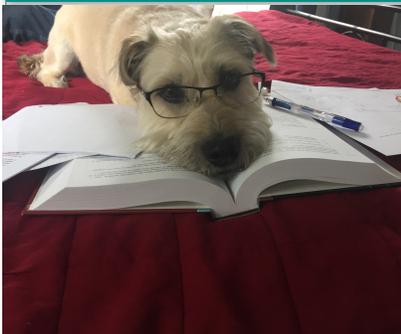
May 2020



Words of Wisdom

"Laughter: The best human sound, and kid laughter is the best of the best."

- Chet the K9 Detective
in To Catch a Thief
by Spencer Quinn



**Family Astronomy
Night March 4, 2020**

Global Warming Strikes Back

By: Jaden Eljie Susi, Derek Gutierrez, and Dylan Chantawong

Did you know that global warming is changing our world? Well, global warming is causing major problems in the world such as harsh wildfires, deforestation, a huge decrease in animal populations, ice melting, and more severe weather. Recently, there was a massive bushfire in Australia. Firefighters risked their lives to save Australia and put an end to this bushfire. About 113 species of animals in Australia struggled to survive the fire, and about 1.25 billion animals died. At least 28 people died from the fire, too. In the state of New South Wales, more than 3,000 homes were destroyed or damaged from this outrageous fire. This fire has had an enormous impact on Australia.

These fires have torn through wooded areas, bush lands, and multiple national parks, like the Blue Mountains National Parks. This has destroyed many animal habitats. Some animals that have lost their species are the Christmas Island Forest Skink, the Christmas Island Pipistrelle, and the Bramble Cay Melomys. These extinctions have occurred over most of the Australian continent. There is WIRES, a wildlife rescue nonprofit that is rescuing and helping animals that are sick and injured. You can donate to this and help the Australian animals that are being ambushed by the massive fires that are killing them.

Global warming has been caused by human action. Burning fossil fuel and releasing carbon dioxide in the air traps heat and causes the planet to get hotter. That's what's known as the "Greenhouse Effect." Ranches are also a big problem because livestock releases big amounts of carbon dioxide. Another thing that causes global warming is deforestation. Large trees contain massive amounts of carbon dioxide. This means that when they're cut down, they release massive amounts of carbon dioxide. We should recycle more to help the environment. Also, recycling paper means we won't need to cut down so many more trees.

Global warming also effects plants and animals that live in the water. For example, warmer temperatures are destroying the world's coral reefs. Also, global warming is now melting glaciers which increases the sea level. This threatens many coastal areas forcing people to leave their homes and move to higher ground. It also endangers animals on land as well because now some places are getting flooded. Scientists agree that the earth's rising temperatures are fueling longer and hotter heat waves, more frequent droughts, heavier rainfall, and more powerful hurricanes. Global warming could turn, say, a category 3 storm into a more dangerous category 4 storm. Global warming is very serious.

Global warming is deadly. It can really harm the future and hurt the environments around the world. Hopefully, we can stop global warming before it does too much more harm. That's a big challenge that is going to take all of our efforts. It will require more scientists to lead the way. Who knows? Some of those future scientists may be sitting right next to you in Toluca Lake Elementary School!



Principal's Message

Hello Toluca Lake families,

I hope that everyone is doing well during these unprecedented times.

I am so proud of our Toluca Lake community. Our teachers and support staff have all quickly adjusted to support Distance Learning for your children. Parents and students have been working hard to complete assignments and utilize technology. I have joined many Zoom classroom sessions and have been pleased to see that most classes have over 80% attendance. And although that is good, we can do better.

As of May 1st, all students have been offered a digital learning device, either an iPad for Pre-K to 2nd grade, or a Chromebook for grades 3-5. Therefore, ALL students should be on their classroom Zoom session(s) every week.

During these times, it is important to establish routines and schedules. Aside from digital resources (of which there are many referenced on our school website), remember to do interactive, non-technology things like:

- Making a homemade board game.
- Counting/sorting collections of coins, silverware, etc.
- Doing science activities with household items – like trying to mix oil with water in a jar, or putting a lettuce leaf in a glass with food coloring.
- Reading books together – I read, you read.

Parents, please know that we realize what you're being asked to do is not humanly possible. Working, parenting, and teaching are three different jobs that cannot be done at the same time. Do the best you can. When you have to pick, choose connection. Pick playing a game over arguing about an academic assignment. Pick teaching your child to do laundry rather than feeling frustrated that they aren't helping. Pick laughing, and snuggling, and reminding them that they are safe.

- Mr. Jeffrey Daniel

Disney Plus

By: Izzy Wood, Isabelle Hoffman, Kennedy Butler, Aslyn Schindler, and Julia Trevino

The Walt Disney Company has become one of the largest media and entertainment companies in the world. They just launched a new network, Disney Plus, on November 12, 2019. For the cost of seven dollars a month, it includes, Marvel, Star Wars, Pixar, National Geographic, and The Simpsons. A few fun shows on Disney Plus are Hannah Montana, Gravity Falls, High School Musical the series, and The Mandalorian.

Disney Plus can also be educational because it includes Nat Geo. For example, there are shows teaching about the many different environments around the world. There is a show called "How Dogs Get Their Shapes". This show talks about how dogs have been bred over the years. It also talks about how dogs have adaptations that help them survive.

Parents mostly buy Disney Plus because they want to get together as a family. We think Disney Plus is worth it because it has a large variety of shows.

Toluca Lake After School Intervention

By: Isabelle Hoffman, Nina Irving, Elizabeth Read, and Isabella Gutierrez

Have you heard about intervention at Toluca Lake? It is an after school program for English, Language, Arts, Reading, and Math. Ms. Ramos, our school coordinator, thinks it's great because she loves teaching children how to read and do math.

Intervention classes help students get caught up in different subjects. In addition to Ms. Ramos, many other teachers have been offering after school classes. Their students are learning lots more. Students never ditch classes because they like learning in the smaller groups after school. Sometimes, it's harder to learn in the regular classes because there's so many students. After school, everybody gets a chance to say something during discussion; nobody just sits quiet or not paying attention.

Intervention is pretty mellow for the most part. It helps kids better themselves at math and E.L.A (English Language Arts). In our opinion, we would recommend this as an opportunity for kids to learn more, and are very happy that Toluca Lake Elementary offers these cool classes.

All of us students really like to learn. We have great teachers here so we like it when we get a chance to have more classes and learn more! We hope you liked learning about Toluca Lake's after school intervention classes!

Visiting the Museum of the Holocaust

By: Ian Castillo, Paul Danna, and Jaden Eljie Susi

Have you ever wondered what happened during the Holocaust and what happened to Jewish people in World War II? In the Holocaust, many Jewish people died. Approximately six million Jewish people were killed and five million non-Jews were murdered by the Nazi's from Germany. The Holocaust started in the 1930's and ended when the Allies (the USA, England, and Russia) defeated Germany in 1945. The Museum Of The Holocaust was made by Holocaust survivors like Jack Tramiel. They wanted to teach about the Holocaust so that people never forget this horrific time. From all of this commotion happening, Jewish people had to hide and some people joined the resistance. Jewish parents wanted to save their kids; some were able to send their kids to England through the Kindertransport program. Unfortunately, many of their families could not escape and suffered at the hands of Adolf Hitler's Nazis.

We learned how the Nazi's would send Jewish people on crowded trains to concentration camps. The tour guide told us that Nazis used cattle cars to transport them. They used it to strip Jewish humanity away and made them feel like animals. When people arrived in the concentration camps, all of their possessions became Nazi's property. Then, the Nazis would sort people to work or die. Another cruel thing they did was stripping their clothes, and shaving their heads. Once there were no more clothes, the Jewish people were forced to wear clothes that were stripped and had numbers with them. But, that's not all. The Nazis burned numbers right onto the bodies of the Jewish people.... treating them like animals! And, it wasn't just Jewish people, the Nazis did their evil to disabled people, gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christians who dared to disagree with Hitler. The Nazi's wanted to "dehumanize" them all so they would lose their identity. But, the people maintained their identity as they tried to survive these horrible situations. Sadly, many innocent people were enslaved, tortured, and killed in these evil camps. They were often murdered in gas chambers, or by bullets, or even fires.

During our visit to the museum, we met a Holocaust survivor, Gabriella Karin. She survived the war by hiding from the Germans. She lost all of her friends and family during that time. Some heroic non-Jewish people helped her by hiding her, and providing food, water, and forged papers. She must have been very afraid in the place she been hiding since it was across from the Gestapo (Nazi secret police) headquarters. She said that Nazis searched all of the houses, but stopped at her house. They never expected anyone to be hiding so close.

Ms. Karin makes ceramic butterflies to express her feelings and honor the struggle of the people who struggled ... and survived the Holocaust. We are very thankful to her and the Museum of the Holocaust for inviting us to their special museum and even paying for our bus!



The Los Angeles Jazz Society Livens Up Toluca Lake!

By:

Ximena Diaz, Izzy Wood, Derek Gutierrez, Violet Flores, and Sky Laws

Did you know that jazz started over 100 years ago in New Orleans, Louisiana? People started off by playing jazz for funerals: they would play sad music on the way to the graveyard, and happy music as they left. Jazz uses lots of different instruments including the bass, piano, drums, flute, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, guitar, and saxophone.

There are different styles of jazz. New Orleans style was created by the great trumpet player, Louis Armstrong. Jelly Roll Morton (piano) and Sidney Bechet (clarinet) were two other early jazz greats. Later jazz styles included swing (Benny Goodman on clarinet and Glenn Miller on trombone), bebop (Charlie Parker on saxophone and Dizzy Gillespie on trumpet), West Coast (Dave Brubeck on piano and Gerry Mulligan on saxophone), fusion (Miles Davis on trumpet and Herbie Hancock on piano) and Latin jazz (Tito Puente on timbales and Dave Valentin on flute).

One of the greatest jazz composers was Duke Ellington. He made many different pieces of music for his big bands for fifty years, and was very influential because he inspired many people around the world. Duke Ellington played swing jazz, too.

The LA Jazz Society is a group of musicians that plays jazz and teaches kids about the history of this important American art form. They are led by Dr. Bobby Rodriguez on trumpet, with Leslie Baker on bass, Ricky Were on saxophone, Maria Martinez on drums, and Bryan O'Rourke on piano. They also knew the grandfather of one of our students: Hubert Laws, Sky's grandfather, a Jazz Master ... probably the greatest jazz flute player!

We really enjoyed their concert ... especially when they played, "When the Saints Come Marching Home" up and down the aisles of the auditorium. They even danced with some of the teachers! This concert was a terrific way to celebrate Valentine's Day and Black History Month!



Black History Month Essay Contest (Part I)

Typed by: Ian Castillo and Derek Gutierrez

John Coltrane

By: Derek Gutierrez

Did you know that John Coltrane has created many popular jazz songs? Well you probably know a few of them. For example "Blue Train," "A Love Supreme," and "Giant Steps." He is a role model to many others that like to play jazz. He died from liver cancer when he was only 40 years old. He also worked with many popular people and created great songs. He was basically a legend at a very young age. His great songs inspired many people from across the globe. He showed black people that they are as talented as white people.

John Coltrane had an interesting childhood. He was born on September 23, 1926. Music was surrounding him everywhere he went. In his early years, he admired Lester Young. Lester Young was John Coltrane's role model. Soon, he started to play jazz. To many people's surprise, he was great on the saxophone. He started to make songs and many people loved his work. He got very successful and started to inspire people. But, he was black. Many white people did not like him for that exact reason. But Coltrane didn't listen to them, he followed his dreams.

Since Coltrane was black, he endured many rough and hard challenges. He received death threats just for being black. He also got negative comments from white people and people made up rumors about him. He received a lot of hatred from the white community. But like I said before, he ignored it and followed his dreams. That is what I find inspiring about John Coltrane. He always ignored negativity and pursued his dreams. He focused on the people who enjoyed his work instead of the negative acts from racism and carried on with his career.

John Coltrane accomplished many goals. He has worked with many popular music artists like Miles Davis, Quintet, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, and so on. His most popular songs "A Love Supreme" and "Giant Steps" are both songs I should talk about. They really inspired people and sound really good. "A Love Supreme" won John Coltrane a whole lot of money. It was easily one of John Coltrane's best-selling albums. His album got awarded two Grammys. That is just unbelievable! He recorded his song in one take in 1964 on December 9. One critic once said that the album was intended to represent a struggle for purity, an expression of gratitude, and an acknowledgement that the musician's talent comes from a higher power. John Coltrane himself once said, "I believe that men are here to grow themselves into best good that they can be - at least, this is what I want to do." "Giant Steps" was another great song and was created a few years after "A Love Supreme" in February, 1960 on February. He got paid a lot of money for that song as well. In fact, his song "Giant Steps" (In 2004), was one of fifty recordings chosen by the Library of Congress to be added to the National Recording Registry. "Giant Steps" attained gold status (which is very rare and worth honoring people who have achieved this), and sold over 500,000 copies. Both of these albums are very well received and I like them myself as well.

John Coltrane was inspired by Lester Young, so he knew he wanted to show the real world who he was since he knew that some people did not believe in him or didn't know about him. He also inspires me because he shows me that all people are equal. He taught me that even if you know that people might not like you, just believe in your dreams and you will succeed if you believe in yourself. Once he became famous, he inspired many people in places known as Africa, Latin America, The Far East, and South Asia. He showed that future generations can be great players and that people should ignore the negativity that people tell, and focus on the positivity. John Coltrane was a great person and also a great music artist. He inspired a lot of people from across the globe. Now, many people are thanking him for what he has done for this community.

The Great Inventor Benjamin Banneker

By: William Twoomey

Did you ever learn about the man of many inventions, Benjamin Banneker? If not, or even if so, I believe you will like the story he has.

Benjamin Banneker was a famous astronomer with very remarkable early years. He was born on November 9, 1731 in Baltimore County, to a free but formerly enslaved woman named Mary Bannkey. He was a free man and his early years were quite fascinating. Benjamin was only named Benjamin Banneker on the family's title deed to their 100 acre farm in the Patapsco Valley at the age of 6. Wikipedia says "The rest of his early life is not well documented". In that case we skip to his teen years were that he "may have" met and furthermore befriended a Quaker named Peter Heinrichs who had actually established a school coincidentally right next to the Banneker farm. Heinrichs "may have" shared his own personal library with Banneker and what's more "may have" also provided Banneker with his only classroom instruction. I found this very phenomenal seeing how he was an astronomer and he had no such education except for later in his life.

Benjamin Banneker had many accomplishments in his life. In 1753 and at about the age of 21, reportedly Benjamin Banneker made a working wooden clock that struck every hour. The model of his clock was designed after a borrowed pocket watch and he made each of the pieces up to the scale of his clock. This clock continued ticking and striking the hour even on the day he passed away on October 19, 1806. After Benjamin's father passed away in 1759, Banneker went up to live with his mother and his sisters. Another accomplishment he has as an astronomer is that in 1789 he properly forecasted a solar eclipse way before it happened.

This inventor, Benjamin Banneker, really inspires me. Things like the wooden clock he built and all the other inventions makes me go "WOW". It's really difficult to imagine being in the place of such an amazing inventor who can make stuff that seems so extraordinary to the child's mind and to some of the early adults. Just so many inventions, life goals, and major accomplishments that I can't even comprehend.

Benjamin Banneker was not only a brilliant inventor and an African American hero who was free, but he also corresponded with the third U.S. president Thomas Jefferson. "On August 19, 1791, after departing the federal capital area, Banneker wrote a letter to Thomas Jefferson"(Wikipedia). The reason they were writing letters to each other is because Banneker was pleading for no more slaves and discrimination. This means to me that even when they talked back and forth together it wasn't all nice things or agreeing but arguing.

Benjamin Banneker was a very amazing man who made many inventions and because he did he became very important to all of history. Which is why most humans around the world, including you and me still remember and thank The Great Inventor.

Black History Month Essay Part II

Typed by: Ian Castillo and Derek Gutierrez

Black History Month: Rosa Parks

By: Gitana Coen Brown

Rosa Parks was an amazing woman in so many different ways. Did you know that Rosa Parks got the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award? She also received the Golden Plate Award, the Congressional Gold Medal, the Spingarn Award, and a movie about her life received the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series. We can all be just like Rosa Parks if we have perseverance.

Rosa Parks was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama. She was born on February 4, 1913. Her Mom's name was Leona McCauley. Her Dad's name is James McCauley and she had one brother named Sylvester McCauley. Rosa Parks went to Alabama State University and worked as a dressmaker before she became an activist for the Civil Rights Movement.

You're probably wondering what the NAACP stands for since The Rosa Parks movie got the Image Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series. The NAACP stands for National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People. Wow that's pretty long! When Rosa Parks died she was the first woman to lie in state at the U.S. Capital. Those are some pretty cool facts about this amazing person!

Some words and sayings that describe her are confident, and she had high self esteem. She was not afraid to say what she thought, and overall was an amazing person. She had perseverance to get things fair. Her brave actions changed America.

Some questions and comments I have for Rosa Parks are: Why did you decide to say what you did at a segregated time in history? What hospital were you born at? You are really my idol in black history. I really enjoyed researching you because there were so many things I didn't know. You are so incredibly amazing!

Rosa Parks was a great person in history. She took so many risks to make the country integrated. I want to make a change in the world also! I really enjoyed researching Rosa Parks. So, do you want to make change in the world?

Black History: Mae Jemison

By: Kennedi Butler

Mae C. Jemison is an amazing woman. She is the first African American woman to go to space. On October 17, 1992 Mae was born in Decatur Alabama. She is the youngest child of Charlie Jemison and Dorothy Jemison. Jemison's education was at Morgan Park High school. She graduated as an honor student going to Stanford University. She was the head of the Black Student Union. She received a bachelor degree in chemical engineering.

Jemison started teaching at Dartmouth, she also established the Jemison group, a company that seeks research to develop and market advanced technologies.

Something interesting about Mae is that after she served in the Peace Corps in 1987, she was one of the 15 people selected for Nasa's space program. Dr. Jemison had so much love for Star Trek and the African American character, Lieutenant Uhura. This inspired her so much that she wanted to go into space. She was featured in Star Trek: The Next Generation. When she finally flew into space on September 12, 1992 with six other astronauts.

Mae C. Jemison seems like the kind of person who does what she believes. She did what most black women were afraid to do because of their race or someone like white men told them they couldn't do it. She fights back and is very intelligent. I would be so happy to meet her because I could learn so much from her.

If I could meet Mae I would have so many questions. First I would tell her how she inspires me because she dreamed it, she believed it, she lived it. Next I would ask her to teach me all she knows. I would also ask her if anyone would try and bring her down, if so what did she do. Next I would ask if she was not an astronaut what would she be?

What I learned is that women can and will do amazing things. African American women own about 1.3 million businesses and they are the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs. So girls really do run the world. "Greatness can be captured by one word: lifestyle. Life is God's gift to you, style is what you make of it." -Mae Jemison

Harriet Tubman

By: Daniel Bosnoyan

The African American I picked for my short essay is Harriet Tubman. Something about her background is that she had lots of brothers and sisters and was 1 of 9 children. During her childhood she got hurt by people. She had dreams that she called it religious experiences. Some of her accomplishments are that she guided 300 people from slavery to freedom. She helped herself and her family escape. Her plan was to go to Pennsylvania but her family was so scared so she had to go alone. I wrote about Harriet Tubman because I already knew a little bit about her. She inspired me because she wanted to free slaves. Lastly, she taught me how to be brave.

Black History Month Essay Part III

Typed by: Ian Castillo and Derek Gutierrez

Sojourner Truth

By: Daphne Chacon

Sojourner Truth was an African American leader. She was born a slave in 1727. When she was little she lived with her mom because her dad had to work. When she was nine she was sold to John Neely. Three years later John said to Sojourner Truth "Your no good. You are lazy. I am going to sell you." So John sold her to Domont. She stayed their for about 18 years. Domont told Truth that he was going to free her in 1926. When her time came Domont refused to free Truth. Truth got mad and was ready to escape the south. 1926. She had already planned her escape since she was 16. She was able to escape. When she was in the north Truth was told her children were in danger. She went back to save her children. She saved them! She was an excellent speaker. She was an important leader in the fight to end slavery. Sojourner Truth inspires me by being brave.

Harriet Tubman

By: Samantha Moussally, Stella Nordquist, and Thiago Bueno

Harriet Tubman was a hero. Harriet Tubman lived long ago, She was born a slave. She started an underground railroad to help slaves escape. Hooray for Harriet Tubman.

Harriet Tubman is a hero. She was courages and brave. She started the underground railroad. She was born a slave, but she got away. I love Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman is a hero. Harriet Tubman helped slaves escape. Harriet Tubman was a slave in the south. Harriet Tubman started the underground railroad. Harriet Tubman was awesome.

Muhammad Ali

By: Luqman Khan

Muhammad Ali was born on January 17th, 1942 in Louisville, Kentucky. His real name was Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. His father's Cassius Marcellus Clay Sr. And his mother's name was Odessa Grady Clay. When Cassius Marcellus Clay was older, someone stole his bike. He meta police man and told him what had happened. He also said that he will fight the person who stole his bike. The police man's name was Joe. Joe told Cassius that he needed to know how to fight. Joe taught him how to box. He kept on practicing and practicing until he had won 100 boxing tournaments out of 105 of his boxing tournaments. He went on to win many heavy weight championships including a gold medal at the Olympics in 1960. In 1961 Cassius Clay Openly accepted Islam at the hands of Malcom and changed his name to Muhammad Ali. He was drafted in the Vietnam war but he refused to join the army. He was stripped off his title and was sent to prison because he said no to the killing of innocent people. He died in June 3rd 2016. Muhammad Ali inspires me because he refused to join the war. "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee, the hands can't hit what theses can't see." (Muhammad Ali's famous saying).

Black History Month

By: Dylan Chantarawong, Ximena Diaz, and Aslyn Schindler

This year's Black History Show was terrific! Ms. Lauer's class did a play about Rosa Parks called, "Go to the Back of the Bus Rosa Parks." It showed how she changed segregation. Mr. Lee's class did a song called "In the Name of Love" by U2. They showed how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought discrimination. Ms. Castro's students did two songs and a poem. The poem about Jackie Robinson. Mr. Wyatt's class did a great presentation about justice. Mr. Hagen-Smith's class showed how Harriet Tubman is a spiritual role model for today's migrants moving north for a better life. Mr. Daniel said, "I am excited to see classrooms performing to represent accomplishments for Black History Month. My favorite people are Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and George Washington Carver. I like Carver because Carver made a huge impact on scientists, and King because of what he did for society." Ms. Ramos said, "I really like the assembly because we celebrated the culture and history of African Americans." The Black History Month show was educational and informative. Performances represented what different black people did for the world. All classes were great, and we will do these performances again.

National Geographic's GeoBee

By - Harmony Cawit, Nereyda Molina, and Haylee Carbajal

After 25 years, the National Geographic GeoBee returned to Toluca Lake Elementary School! That's when Amy Jones won the competition and went on to the regional finals at Dodger Stadium! Most fourth and fifth grade students participated in this big event, but there can only be one winner who will take a test to determine if they will go to the state finals. If they end up winning that, they will be able to compete in the championship rounds in Washington D.C. The winner of this year's GeoBee was a fifth grade student from Room 17, Sky Laws! He was able to outlast a tough group of competitors including Paul D'anna, Mateo Ojeda, Violette Flores, Jaden Susi, Jayden Nufio, Mathew Barragan, and Ella McFalls.

The rules were you only get two tries in round one. During the first round, Mr. Lee asked questions about the states. Jaden Susi won that round, and immediately moved on to the finals. The final round was between Jaden Susi, Paul D'anna, and Sky Laws. The student who won that round was Sky Laws! Jaden Susi placed second, and Paul D'anna placed third.

The GeoBee was a very fun and educational experience. We had to study all seven continents, 50 states, and the four oceans. Everyone tried very hard and did their best. We are very thankful to Mr. Lee for bringing this exciting event back to Toluca Lake Elementary School! And, congratulations to Sky Laws, Toluca Lake's 2020 GeoBee Champion!!



The Dodger's Future Season of Baseball

By: Isabella Gutierrez, Derek Gutierrez, and Diana Flores

Do you think the Dodgers are going to succeed in the next baseball season? Well in fact, the Dodgers just had a really important 3-way trade with the Boston Red Socks and the Minnesota Twins. In that trade they got Mookie Betts, David Price, and some money. They traded away Alex Verdugo and Kenta Maeda to the Twins. David Price is a decent starting pitcher, while Mookie Betts is a great right fielder (which by the way, he has four Golden Gloves).

The people that got traded away from the Dodgers were very good as well. Alex Verdugo plays outfield and Kenta Maeda is a pitcher. We believe that the Dodgers will do better this season than last season because Mookie Betts is a great right fielder and the Dodgers needed a new starting pitcher, so David Price will fit in perfectly for the job.

Also did you know that the Houston Astros and the Boston Red Socks cheated in the 2017 and the 2018 World Series against the Dodgers? During those two World Series, they each had a drum or trash can that they could bang on to tell the batter which type of pitch is coming: a fastball, change-up, or curveball. They used cameras to see the catcher's sign. Since we have that evidence, many people want their trophies taken as a punishment. Right now, Major League Baseball (MLB) is deciding their fate.

Kobe Bryant

By: Nereyda Molina, Harmony Cawit, and Rafael Figueroa

As you all may know, Kobe Bryant, a basketball legend, and his daughter, Gianna, died in a tragic helicopter crash. Kobe was an NBA player for the Lakers, nicknamed Mamba. He wrote a book called "The Mamba Mentality: How I Play" and made an Oscar winning cartoon. He first joined the Lakers when he was only 17. Once, he scored 81 points in a game vs. the Toronto Raptors (the second most points ever scored in a game)! Kobe also led the Lakers to seven championship series, and won five of them in his amazing career. He could shoot, jump, pass, drive, and lead on the court. He was just inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame this year!

Kobe Bryant and Gianna were on the way to Gianna's basketball game. It was a foggy day, but the pilot, Jeremy Bogaisky, thought he could handle it. Sadly, the helicopter crashed and killed all nine passengers.

Ms. Ashley & the STEAM Lab

By: Ximena Diaz and Ludwika Gutierrez

Have you heard about our new STEAM Lab teacher, Ms. Ashley? Well, she is a new STEAM teacher this year for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. She is teaching us about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). Ms. Ashley got interested in science by doing a very cool experiment, which is making elephant toothpaste, and dissecting a frog when she was in 5th grade. She loves science because there's always something to learn. Ms. Ashley attended Valley Academy of Arts and Science and CSUN. She is a wonderful and kind teacher. I hope next year many people will love her wonderful lessons like we do today!



The Mystery of the Falling Tree

By: Janice Garcia and Mr. Hagen-Smith

Have you heard about the tree that fell on our campus? It's an amazing mystery about how one of the oldest trees on campus fell down near the lunch area. Some people said, "It was aliens from the planet Mercury that did it. They took that tree and threw it towards Mercury, but it landed on our playground."

Other kids said, "It came out of nowhere, like a disappearing rabbit in a hat."

"It is a big mystery. Who really knows what happened?" said some kids. We might never know the truth about this crazy mystery. Perhaps, it was the harsh wind of winter, or the Aliens of Mercury, but it may always remain a mystery on the Toluca Lake Elementary campus for ever and ever until the answer is revealed. We know now there is no such thing as Aliens. Wait, is a round saucer-shaped object hovering above the school right now?!? Uh oh!!!!!!

Fifth Grade Students Go To UCLA

By: Marilyn Duran and Ludwika Gutierrez

Toluca's fifth grade classes went to UCLA to see a presentation called *Space Panorama*. This cool one-man performance showed how astronauts Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Michael Collins, and Neil Armstrong first made it to the moon on Apollo 11 in 1969! Andrew Dawson, the English artist, used his two hands and a table to represent the entire moon landing.



Space Panorama was an amazing, educational program teaching students how the three astronauts changed history!

After the show, we visited the lab of Dr. Katsushi Arisaka, an astrophysicist. He taught us about the relationship between mind and the universe. He enhanced our minds by showing how things work in the universe. Now, we see the world differently. The presentation showed how nothing can become something, and how our brains have millions of neurons (just like stars in the universe)! It was an amazing day at UCLA!

Coronavirus

By: Paul Danna and Rafael Figueroa

Have you ever heard of the Coronavirus? Coronavirus is a disease that started in Wuhan, China. Scientists think it was caused by something to do with live bats in a meat market. This virus is very contagious and can be deadly so we have to be very careful. It is effecting people all around the world.

Scientists recommend washing your hands, not touching your face, and social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus. The symptoms of the Coronavirus are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you are feeling these symptoms, then you should get tested.



La Plaza

By: Violette Flores, Belen Garcia, and Paul Danna

La Plaza is a museum located in the oldest part of Los Angeles. Our fifth grade students went on a field trip there this winter. We visited the organic garden. It was calm and full of yummy plants (most were edible). One of the plants was stevia, a sugar substitute that is very sweet. Another plant was mint, a very healthy treat! People used to rub mint on their teeth so their breath smells minty. In the garden, we used all five senses. Like our school garden, it has a compost bin to turn waste into nutrients for soil. At the compost, they showed us a lime tree, and whenever a lime fell they would put it in the compost. They let us spin the compost, because when you spin it the compost, it breaks down (decomposes) faster.

We did a special activity using paper containers to plant seeds. We used the paper containers because it's healthy for the environment since they decompose. After we were done making our paper into a cup, we put soil and added a seed. They let us take them home. Our plants are still alive and well at this moment. Keeping our environment clean and healthy is the best way to go for our earth. Now you can say that plants are more useful than you thought.

Next, we walked to the outdoor kitchen and learned to make Healthy Ballpark Nachos. The first step was to put the nachos on the tray, and put the beans on top. Next, we cut up green onions, tomatoes, cilantro, and avocado. We made sure that the butternut squash was shredded. Once all the veggies were cut up, we put all the ingredients into the tray and mixed them. We could also add the jalapeño, and lime juice on our nachos, and voila! We have prepared homemade Healthy Ballpark Nachos! Making nachos taught us how to make a delicious and healthy meal for family or friends.

After lunch, we had time to tour the museum, too. They have a bunch of terrific exhibits telling the history of Los Angeles!

La Plaza is a great museum to visit: you can check out the garden, the museum, or see one of their special presentations. It's a great place to represent our Hispanic Heritage. We really recommend you go there with your families!

Featured Faculty: Mrs. Curiel, A Terrific Third Grade Teacher!

By: Dylan Chantarawong, Nina Irving, Elizabeth Reed, and Matthew Barragan

Have you ever known what Mrs. Curiel has done as a teacher? Well, we have interviewed Mrs. Curiel with a handful of questions about being a teacher. She has detailed answers about the questions we've asked. Here's our questions and her responses.

Mrs. Curiel started working here in 2016. She was born in Lancaster, California, and grew up in Palmdale, California. Mrs. Curiel really likes to go hiking, especially in Griffith Park. She also really likes to travel. She has a hero that she really admires, her mom. "Why?" You ask? Well, Mrs. Curiel's mom taught her the values of learning and why learning was important. Also, she taught Mrs. Curiel how to be the person she is today.



Mrs. Curiel went to college at UC Davis, and then got her Masters degree at CSUN. She choose to work in education because she likes to work with children and wants to have fun lessons to teach them. Mrs. Curiel really likes the people that she has met at Toluca Lake Elementary, especially the students and teachers. They help Mrs. Curiel learn more about working in education. Her favorite memories from Toluca Lake Elementary School are the small assemblies that we have to celebrate important days. For example, she likes the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly. That assembly helps us bond together, so Mrs. Curiel would like to see more assemblies like that.

There are some obstacles that Mrs. Curiel had to overcome to achieve her goals. She lives far from school, so it's hard for her to see and be with family and have them close. Mrs. Curiel knows that everyday is different. She would like to change some things at school. She would like to see more parents come to classes, and see how their kids are doing in school. Mrs. Curiel says she always challenges herself to do the perfect lesson, but sometimes, the kids don't get the lesson. Then, she has to change the lesson so kids get it. The accomplishment that makes Mrs. Curiel proudest is her Master's Degree. She worked hard and took about a year and a half to get this degree.

Mrs. Curiel has some advice to give to the current students. She wants us to work hard so we can live successful lives. She wants good things to happen in our lives. Mrs. Curiel really enjoys working at this school. She thinks that she has met really amazing students and teachers. As a bonus, Mrs. Curiel has a special talent: she is really good at doodling!

Mrs. Curiel is a hard-working, incredible teacher. She is a kind and hard-working person ... because her mom taught her to be that way. Now, Mrs. Curiel teaches us kids to be kind and hard-working, too!



Space Simulation

By: Rafael Figueroa, Gitana Coen-Brown, Ximena Diaz, and Belen Garcia

Did you know that Derek Gutierrez got a scholarship to go to Space Camp in Alabama? That's right! Derek won a national contest so he's going to space camp in August 2020. He is going because his teacher, Mr. Hagen-Smith, wrote a letter so he could get a chance to enter space camp. Derek is a great student so he got accepted ... beating lots of other kids from all around the country! Only 50 people from the United States get to go to Space Camp! They will be paying for everything: the camp, airplane, food, and the hotel! He will be staying there for ten days to learn about how to be an astronaut. What an incredible learning opportunity for Derek!

Our Field Trip to Sepulveda Wetlands

By: Haylee Carbajal, Nereyda Molina, and Janice Garcia

Toluca Lake's 4th and 5th grade classes went to the Sepulveda Wildlife Basin on field trips with the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. This area gets water from the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, and provides a home for many different animals, especially migratory birds. We saw osprey, double-crested cormorants, heron, egrets, white pelicans, a kingfisher, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, and many other types of birds on the trip.

We saw many plants, an island, and where the wetlands empties into the Los Angeles River. We used microscopes to observe plankton at the base of the pond's food chain of the pond, and binoculars to look at birds. We measured the pond's temperature, clarity, and ph balance. We learned that if the pond gets cold, it's good for wildlife; if the pond gets too hot, most of the plankton will cook to death, and then the food chain falls apart so there'd be no wildlife there.

We learned many important and surprising fact about birds at the Sepulveda Wetlands. All fifth graders enjoyed this field trip. We are thankful to the Audubon Society for sponsoring this great field trip!



AWESOME ALUMNI: Michelle Gray

By: Ludwika Gutierrez and Izzy Wood

Have you heard of the former student, Michelle Gray? She attended Toluca Lake Elementary from 2007 to 2013. Her favorite memory here is being in Mr. Reidman's play about myths. She loves writing because it gives her a way to express herself, and a way to talk about how people interact. One of Michelle's hero's is Carrie Fisher, the actress who played Princess Leia in Star Wars. She likes her because Fisher always did her best in the field she loves, and was never afraid to compete against boys.

Michelle remembers some great faculty members like Mrs. Carlton because she introduced many narratives to her and got her interested in writing. Mr. Reidman always shared theater and the amazing performances. After finishing elementary school, Michelle attended Walter Reed Middle School. She is currently attending North Hollywood High School. Now, Michelle leads an after school tutoring program here at Toluca Lake!

Michelle faced many obstacles to achieve her goals. She needed confidence to overcome her shyness. One of her proudest accomplishments is graduating high school and going to college in the future. Michelle's advice: we can do whatever we want, as long as we don't compare ourselves to others. Michelle is an Awesome Alumni!



The Amazing Maghali Silva

**By: Nereyda Molina, Ludwika Gutierrez,
and Haylee Carbajal**

Maghali Silva is a former student from Toluca Lake Elementary School. She attended her over ten years ago, but still stays in touch!

Maghali has learned many other languages including Korean, Spanish, and French. She learned Korean when she was teaching English in South Korea because she had to understand what the children were saying to her. She lived in South Korea for two years teaching English. She says that she wasn't very fluent, but still tried her best.

Maghali went to school at New York University in New York City. During her college years, Maghali spent a year studying in Paris, France. She learned French so she could understand what people were saying. While she lived in France, Maghali used to send letters to kids here at Toluca Lake. Student reporters would write stories about Maghali for the Toluca Times.

Maghali says that her favorite memory from Toluca Lake Elementary was playing prisoner, handball, and going on cool field trips. Some of her heroes are Mr. Daniel because he was a great teacher and her mom because of her constant encouragement. One of her most proudest professional accomplishments is teaching over 500 kids. Whenever she taught something new and kids understood it, she felt proud. Maghali is a truly Awesome Alumni!





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 Editor

Ian Castillo, Derek Gutierrez, Dylan Chantarawong, Violette Flores, Paul Danna, and 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. What are two negative consequences of global climate change?
2. What does Chet the K9 Detective say is the best kind of laughter?
3. What does Holocaust survivor Gabriella Karin make to honor those who struggled against and survived the Holocaust ?
4. What is the name of one style of jazz?
5. Which university did fifth grade students visit this year?
6. What is the name of one song performed by John Coltrane?
7. What is the name of the student who won a scholarship to Space Camp in Alabama in 2020?
8. Where did Mrs. Curiel attend college?
9. Why does Michelle Gray like Carrie Fisher?
10. Name one country in which Maghali Silva has lived.

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

