

Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary School: An Arts Prototype School / 818.761.3339

<http://toluca.weebly.com>

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Words of Wisdom

*"Deep into that darkness peering,
long I stood there wondering,
fearing, doubting, dreaming dreams
no mortal dared to dream before."*

- Selected by

Christian Escobar (5th Grade)
from "The Raven" by
Edgar Allan Poe (1845)

Toluca Lake Elementary

Celebrates the

Arts Prototype program

Ghouls and Goblins Invade Toluca Lake Elementary!!

by - Kaylee Elijah & Briana Madera

Ghouls, goblins, and all sorts of other strange creatures were seen dancing around our school playground on Friday, October 29! Thrills and chills filled the air as all sorts of creatures marched along the Toluca Lake track in our annual Halloween parade. Luckily, there were some heroic creatures like Wonder Woman and the Ghostbusters to help keep things from getting too crazy! Everyone was thrilled to show off their costumes, even the teachers (except the grouchy one dressed in a bathrobe who just wanted to read his newspaper!). Each class got to participate in this wonderful event. It was so fun to see all of the outfits: from bats, to witches, to princesses, to superheroes, to ice skaters, and even one boy who lost his head! Each of the costumes was unique and fantastic!



Principal's Message:

As parents you are a **vital part** of your student's success at school as well as to their future achievement. You may not know that **attendance** is directly linked to academic success. Poor attendance is directly linked to academic failure. This year at Toluca Lake our attendance rate is very low. We as a staff are very concerned. Please be aware of the following strategies to be sure that your child is here on a daily basis:

- Schedule all appointments for you child after school, on weekends or during student's vacation or holidays.
- If the appointment must be made during school hours, please have your child attend school prior to the appointment and/or return to school after the appointment to complete the school day.
- Birthday celebrations can be held over the weekend. Please do not keep your child at home on their birthday.

-Thank you,
Ms. Carol Reo- Bové

Awesome Alumni: My Dad, Edson Cativo by - Aaron Aguilar (5th Grade)

My father, Edson Cativo, attended Toluca Lake Elementary School from 1984 to 1986. My dad has lots of fun memories from school. In the primary grades, he liked playing with the tricycles. He remembers that his Kindergarten teacher made the entire class popcorn because they were so good.

As he grew older, my dad began to like learning history because we can learn from the past. He knows that it's very important to learn. His favorite hero is Cal Rayborn because Rayborn wins motorcycle races.

After Toluca Lake Elementary school, my dad went to a private school, Saint Elizabeth. Now, my dad is all grown up. He attended college, and is now working as a private investigator. He always tells me to do my best in school. My dad is an "Awesome Alumni."

*Aaron & his dad, Edson,
boating their way forward!*



Featured Faculty: Lights! Camera! ... Ms. Jill is Here!

by - Diego Gutierrez, Alex Hodeib, Autumn McMurray, & Ruth Alvaranga

At Toluca Lake Elem. we are honored to have Ms. Jill Holden as our theatre teacher. We were lucky to interview her as this month's "Featured Faculty" member. "Ms Jill," as we call her, attended different universities, including the University of Wisconsin for her Bachelor of Arts Degree, and the University of Washington for her Master of Fine Arts degree.

Ms. Jill thinks that her job was made exactly for her. In her words, "If the district made a perfect job, it would be this job because it's fun for everybody." Before she became a theater teacher, Ms. Jill had many other jobs. She was a cleaning attendant in a motel, a cashier, a tour guide, and a professional actress. She's been in many shows and movies like "Operations," "Splitzville," and "Fallen."

Ms. Jill's family was very supportive as she earned her education and career. She said, "My parents were very encouraging because my whole family is very artistic and creative." Her brother is an architect, and her dad is a writer. They helped her put effort into her work.

Ms. Jill did have challenges to overcome on her path to stardom. Like many actors, it was very hard for her

to get a job at first. She stuck with it, and never gave up on her dreams. Now, everyone can tell that she really enjoys her work. She said that she loves her job, getting to giggle and being around kids. We love how she teaches us to express our thoughts and feelings. Her classes can be very dramatic, and very funny, too. Most of all, they teach how important it is to be a thinking, caring person just like Ms. Jill. She is the best theater teacher ever!



Scary Story Contest Winners!

Lego Ghost — Ben Robel (Kindergarten) - First Place

I was having nightmares about the Lego projects I never finished. When I looked up from my bed, I saw an unfinished blue Lego ghost staring down at me. I hid under my covers but the half-made ghost caught me. He threw me in a bucket of Lego parts. But then I woke up and it was just a nightmare. Phew!

Next time I will finish my Lego projects before I go to bed.

Halloween Prank — Azucena Mejía (Kindergarten) - Runner-up

One Halloween night, children were preparing to go out trick or treating. All of them put on their costumes and made up their faces pretending to be ghosts or monsters, princesses, and pumpkins. Before leaving, strange things happened. A monster ran inside the house and hid in the room. One of the children returned to his room to change his shoes, and then the boy discovered that a monster was hiding in his closet. The boy screamed very loud and his mother and father did not know what was going on. Everyone started running to see what happened. And then everyone was laughing because they discovered it was his cousin who was dressed like a monster.

Untitled — Anahit Baltanyan (Second Grade) - First Place

It was a Halloween day. I had a fun time at school. We had a Halloween parade where all the kids and teachers were wearing costumes. I came back from school and the time came for me to dress up to of for the Halloween hunt with my mom and friends. We decided to go to my grandmother's house because we knew she would have yummy candies for us. We knocked at the door. The door opened and we saw a scary witch. We started yelling and running away. Then I heard someone calling my name. Guess who was the scary witch? It was my grandmother.



Scary Story Contest Winners:

*Ben Robel,
Azucena Mejia,
Anahit Baltanyan,
Leyla Lopez,
Cristena Jercan,
Ali Freas*



Teacher's Tip

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, it's a fine opportunity to learn about the great diversity, achievements, and spirit of the United States. You and your child may want brainstorm all of the places Americans have come from: Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia, etc. Think of something that people from each place have added to American culture. Make a two-column list, with the country/culture in one column and what it has added to the United States in the other column. You may also want to take a family trip to your local supermarket to see how many different foods there are from different parts of the world. You may even want to try some in a multi-cultural dinner!

Calendar

- Nov. 5 = ELAC/CEAC/Title I Parent Mtgs. -8am
- Nov. 9 = Local Leadership Council Meeting
- Nov. 9 = Story Pirates' Writing Workshops for fifth grade students (provided by the Geffen Playhouse)
- Nov. 11 = Veteran's Day (School Closed)
- Nov. 12 = Radio Disney visits Toluca Lake El.
- Nov. 16 = School Site Council Meeting
- Nov. 16, 18 = Upper grades visit L.A. County Natural History Museum
- Nov. 19 = Early 1:09pm dismissal
- Nov. 22-26 = Thanksgiving Holiday (no school)
- Nov. 30 = School Site Council Meeting - 8am
- Dec. 2 = Hanukkah
- Dec. 7 = Biomes of the World (L.A. Zoo - 5th Grade)
- Dec. 13-17= Parent Conferences/Report Cards (early dismissal all week)
- Dec. 17 - Jan. 9 = Winter Break
- Jan. 10, 2011 = School Resumes



Scary Story Contest Winners

House of Mystery by - Cristina Jercan (Fifth Grade) - Runner-up

One cold and spooky Halloween night Jessica Jones walked alone through her lonely neighborhood looking for houses to trick-or-treat. When she knocked on the front door of the first house, the front door creaked open slowly as Jessica stopped in with feet throbbing and heart pounding. As she walked, she heard soft quiet whispers down the corridor moaning, "Help me. Help me." She gasped as a black cat appeared in front of her. It pounced at her dog costume and ripped it up with its razor sharp claws.

Walking with a puzzled expression on her face, she found herself in front of an old broken frame with a photo of a woman, little girl, and man. Slowly the little girl's and the man's body in the photo started to fade away. The woman's smile suddenly faded away and turned into a furious glare. She eventually disappeared from the photo like the girl and the man. Jessica gently set down the photo on an old glass coffee table, confused, and continued walking down the dark hall.

Smelling a freshly baked cake, she cautiously walked into the old, dusty kitchen full of spider webs with an old cake placed on the table. As she slowly walked toward the cake, she realized it spelled "Get Out." She walked quickly out of the kitchen with a puzzled look wondering where the way out of the house was.

As she walked down the hall, looking for the front door, she stepped into an old bedroom where she found a princess-covered bed with two teddy bears and a rocking chair beside it. She heard a little girl's cry and a mother's calming voice saying, "It's okay, Sasha; it's okay." Immediately, a gusty wind blew through the opened window, rocking the chair at a violent pace. With a sudden stop, the chair stood in silence while a mother's voice cried, "Sasha...Don't...go!" Jessica, horrified, stepped backwards and ran down the hall looking for the front door.

Trembling with fear, she continued walking through the hallway and saw a mysterious shadow move along the wooden floor. She followed the shadow as it disappeared into the floor. In an instant a crack of light shined into her eye. Running with fear locked in her eyes and hope spreading in her heart, she ran toward the light as it grew brighter and brighter. Finally, she saw the front door and opened it with a quick thrust. As soon as she walked out, she heard a soft "thank you" coming from the front porch. Slowly, she turned around and was surprised to see a ghostly image of the family from the old broken frame waving good-bye. Jessica waved back with an uncomfortable feeling about what had happened to the family and why they were scaring her out of the house.

More Scary Story Winners

Haunted

by - Ali Freas
(Fourth Grade) — First Place

One cold October 31st the wind thundered across the land of Burdwell. I sat in bed shivering, not only because of the weather, but because I was still thinking about what had happened that day.

On that gloomy Saturday, I was hearing noises. There was a shrill, piercing cry that sounded like something grinding away at my eardrums. It seemed to be coming from the attic. I was reading a book about ghosts. I thought it was my imagination, but it went on until dinner.

Now I was sitting on my bed staring at the bright green wall overflowing with pictures in my room that was somewhat clean at the time. Here we go again. More noises. This time it was a low, moaning howl: the sort of sound you would hear at the dentist's office when the dentist is yanking out the patient's tooth, but amplified about five times. But it sounded real.

I was shocked! It felt as if my blood turned to ice and my heart collapsed inside my body.

What if ghosts really exist! Was my home really haunted? This is a lot to think about when you're ten and have no idea of what to do whatsoever. But there was a pretty good chance of my home really having been haunted.

I decided to find out. I scooped up my laptop and looked up my address. The screen said my house's name was Maroon Woods, named after the first owner of the house. It also said that it was built in 1912. Maroon Woods was very wealthy and loved to gamble. She died in 1932 while the Great Depression was going on. Maroon Woods lost all of her riches during this time, & her husband moved to try and get a better job to make more money, but he never returned. It also says that the home was vacant until 2004. That's when we moved in!

OH NO! Now I understood. Maroon Woods was the ghost. At that very moment I wanted to jump out of my skin and crawl under my bed to avoid whatever might happen next because I was going up there and getting to the bottom of this.

I grabbed my flashlight and my handy little pocket-sized first aid kit. (It's always good to be prepared!) And I inched out the door and up the silver spiral staircase. It seemed like such a long way. With every step it felt like broken glass on my bare feet.

The door creaked and opened. But it wasn't me who opened it. I froze. I stood there silently trying to contemplate what was happening. My next move was to just keep going. I entered the dark room with only the light of my single flashlight to lead the way. Suddenly I heard a voice saying, "Get out of my house!" At this point I was scared out of my mind. *Why did I go up here?* I thought.

I could barely speak. "Are y-you Maroon W-Woods?" I stuttered.

"How do you know who I am?" She screamed. This time the voice was more fierce and angry.

"I looked you up on the internet. You're dead." I said.

"Are you out of your mind?! I am not dead! And what are you talking about his internet?" All of a sudden a chair flew at me! I started screaming and running and dodging objects that were being thrown at me. "Get out of my house!" she yelled.

"It was on my computer! It said you are dead! You are! I can prove it to you. It says on my computer that you died October 31, 1927."

I jetted down the stairs as fast as I could. I grabbed my computer and did my best to pull up the screen as quick as possible. "Read it! Read it if you can!"

She read aloud, 'Maroon Woods died October 31, 1927. She fell down a flight of stairs and was killed from her injuries.' "All I remember is falling down. I really am dead." She started crying. I felt bad for her.

"I'm sorry. They say that if spirits follow that light" (I pointed to the sky) "they will reach heaven. You should try it." I tried to cheer her up.

"I will. Thank you." It was like I felt her fly off to a better place. It put a smile on my face.

Halloween Night

by - Leyla López
(Fourth Grade) - Runner-Up

*T'was a Halloween night,
The kids in their costumes,
Such scare and fright.
Ghosts and goblins,
Witches with brooms,
Haunted houses with evil rooms.*

*Ring the doorbell,
Trick or treat,
Sweet things for me to eat.
Glowing pumpkins that make me scream,
Orange, blue, yellow, and green!*

*Werewolves howl at the moon,
Cats and lights in the room.
Costumes and make-up cost a dollar,
A ghost that really likes to holler.*

**Toluca Lake
Elementary
School:
An Arts
Prototype**



Principal:

Carol Reo-Bové

Assistant Principal:

Joyce Miles

Coordinator:

Jeff Daniel

Lead Teacher:

Steve Reidman

Newsletter Editor:

Dennis Hagen-Smith

Parent Representative:

Lucy Gonzalez



We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://toluca.weebly.com>

Free MONEY for our school!

Sign up with eScrip and everytime you shop at any of the over 6,000 merchant locations (including Vons, Pavilions, and HOWS!), a percentage of your purchase will go to Toluca Lake Elementary! Really!

- Go to www.escrip.com and click on "Sign Up"
- Enter our Group ID# 164439465
- Ask family and friends to register, too!

*This is, by far, the easiest fund-raiser that our school has. Our monthly contributions continue to gradually increase. Last year our school received close to \$10,000!

-Julene Kwart, PTA President, Blossom Valley, El Cajon, CA

**It's completely free!
It's easy!
It's powerful!**

Brought to you by the Toluca Lake Elementary PTA.
tolucaptaplanet.com



Around the Town



This section of our newsletter features free or inexpensive activities happening "around the town." We encourage you to extend your child's learning by exploring the many cultural activities available in the greater Los Angeles community.

- The Magnolia Park district of Burbank is hosting its annual "Holiday in the Park" on Magnolia Blvd. (east of Hollywood Way) on Friday, November 19 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. This free event includes two stages of entertainment, holiday treats, merchant giveaways, choirs, a double-decker red bus shuttle, and, of course, Santa Claus!
- A Parents-N-Kids Festival takes place on Saturday, Nov. 20 (10am-6pm) on the CBS Studios Backlot in Los Angeles. This free family festival features activities geared towards parents and their kids of all ages – babies, kids and teens --- with emphasis on the importance of being mentally and physically fit through health and nutrition awareness. There'll be free giveaways, product samples, information & prizes, as well as free entertainment and parenting information. This festival also supports First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative. Imaginarium, an interactive space dedicated to spotlighting the latest in educational audio and video games and equipment, will also be on site! Call (818)378-6664 for more information.
- The 6th Annual Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival begins on Nov. 13. Films from around the world: animation, documentary, and live action - made for children and teens, will be screened at the MLK Theater, adjacent to the Santa Monica Main City Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd in Santa Monica. See <http://www.lachildrensfilm.org> for more information.

Riddle Me This...

1. Aaron Aguilar asks:
What starts with an "e" and ends with an "e" and only has one letter?
2. Robert Magee asks:
Why did Dracula go to the orthodontist?
3. Briana Madera asks:
What kind of bow can't be tied?
4. Zachary Miles asks:
Why does the ocean roar?

