

TOLUCA LAKE TIMES

Volume 10, Number 3

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May 26, 2016



WORDS OF WISDOM

"The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called "truth." ~ Dan Rather



*I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks.
~ William Shakespeare*



Farewell Ms Miya & Ms. McDuffey!

by - Astrid Garcia, Belen Velasco, Emily Rodriguez, Jan Morales, Diane Aldana, & Monica Ghazaryan

We interviewed two amazing teachers, Ms. Miya and Ms. McDuffey, who are retiring this year. They have been teaching at this school for a really long time. They have dedicated their lives to helping kids have a good future. Ms. Miya has been teaching here since 1978, and Ms. McDuffey has been teaching since 1989. We all appreciate what they have done for us.

Ms. Miya went to UCLA for college. She started teaching in 1978 because it was her childhood dream. As a child, she would play teacher with her siblings. She thought she could be creative and help children be the best they can be. Her parents were her best influence because they wanted her to go to college and have a great education. She advises kids to always try their best, and to give their best effort. Her favorite part of teaching is that it's an opportunity to show her creativity, to help the community, and to help kids. While working as a teacher, Ms. Miya has done lots of extra work including drill team, the emergency committee, and helping new teachers as a mentor. When she retires, Ms. Miya says that she might want to be a volunteer at a museum.

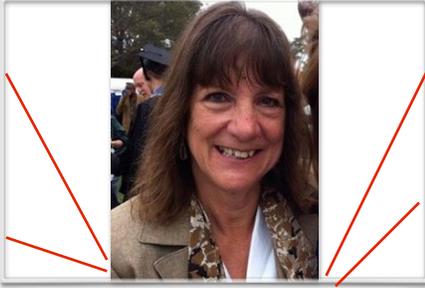
Ms. McDuffey attended Cal State Dominguez Hills. Ms. McDuffey came to California to go to school and look for a new adventure because she grew in a town that wasn't fun. She would like to have more time to work with students because she feels like it's not enough time. She likes when the kids learn and understand because she feels like she accomplished something. She has been working at Toluca Lake for 27 years. She was inspired by her childcare teacher, Ms. Newman, who told her, "You need to be a teacher." Her heroes were her mom and her older sister. During

that time, Ms. McDuffey has touched the lives of many children. In addition to teaching her class, Ms. McDuffey taught Drill Team, took students on two trips to Washington D.C., and led her students on field trips all around the city.

Ms. Miya & Ms. McDuffey have touched the lives of many students for many years. We thank them from our hearts!

If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job.

- Donald D. Quinn



Principal’s Message:

As the year ends, we at Toluca Lake are extremely proud of the many accomplishments of our students. They have grown tremendously in their learning and are well prepared for the next grade. Of course, none of this would be possible without the wonderful support provided by you, their parents. With your help, we have a beautiful garden for our students to learn about healthy food choices, we have a psychomotor program for our students to practice playing games as a team and we are able to provide many hands on activities either here at school or on field trips due to your generosity during our fund raisers. As you can see, we are working together as a team and truly prove our motto that “together we achieve”!

- Carol Reo-Bove

Calendar

- May 27 = ELAC Meeting
- May 30 = School Closed
(Memorial Day)
- June 2 = Kindergarten Celebration
Fifth Grade Activity Day
- June 9 = State Preschool
Culmination
PTA Meeting
- June 10 = Fifth Grade Culmination
(Early Dismissal - Summer!)
- July 4 = Independence Day
- Aug. 16 = School Starts
- Welcome Back !!!
- Sept. 2 = Admissions Day
(School Closed)
- Sept. 5 = Labor Day (School Closed)

Comcast Gives!

by - Astrid Garcia, Belen Velasco,
Samuel Chiloyan, & Rasek Chowdhury

On Saturday April 30, Comcast Gives visited our school with tools and imagination. They painted new murals all over the place! About 500 people volunteered to help our school. We are very thankful to Comcast and all of its volunteers for taking their free time to paint our school to make it even more beautiful for all the children to see.

Upper Grade Hallway

In the upper grade hallway, there are many new murals based on STEAM. The “S” in steam means science, which has a triangular bottle with green liquid and purple bubbles making it feel like it’s going to burst or explode. The “T” stands for technology, which has a computer plugged into the Earth. The “E” stands for engineering which has a green calculator, orange ruler, and yellow protractor. The “A” in steam stands for Arts; it has an actor’s mask, musical notes, and paints. The “M” stands for mathematics; it has a pencil with the signs of multiplication, division, addition, subtraction, and an equal sign. These STEAM murals inspire students to become aware of these subjects.

Lower Grade Hallway

The lower grade level hallway is based on Dr. Seuss stories. There are many quotations on the wall like, “Don’t give up. I believe in you all. A person’s a person no matter how small” from Horton Hears a Who. One of the pictures on the wall is the Cat in the Hat reading a book. Another picture has the Lorax with his furry, orange mustache saying, “Unless someone cares....” Finally, one mural has Fox on Socks being happy and excited standing on one hand. The lower grade hallway is important because it inspires others to read.

Outside

The outdoor murals are based on our world. There is also a color-coded map of California with many colors to represent the different areas. For example, Toluca Lake is light blue on this map. There is also a color-coded map of The United States with all of our 50 states. The continents, Asia, North America, Africa, South America, Europe, Australia, and Antarctica are shown on the World Map.

Ms. Bové

Ms. Bové is very happy about these great murals. A mother from Toluca Lake Elementary told Universal Studios about our school. Then, Ms. Bové applied for and got the grant! There are about 25-30 new murals at our school. In addition to the murals, Comcast gave our school a check for \$15,000! The \$15,000 is going to be used to coat the murals so they don’t get destroyed in bad weather. Any leftover money will be used to buy new benches and chairs for the students. We are so happy to have these murals because it inspires students to learn at this school.



Toluca Students Visit Watts Towers Art Center

by - **Ethan Sanchez, James Goedde,
Helen Lopez, and Bryant Gutierrez**

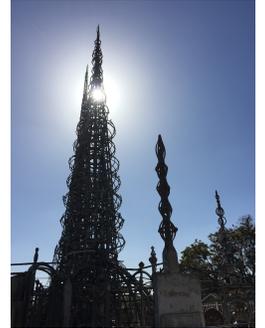
On Friday April 1, 2016, students from Room17 and Room13 went to the Watts Towers. The person who created the Watts Towers was Sabato Rodia. He came from southern Italy at the age of 15. He came to America to work in the coal mines. When his brother died, he moved to California.

Rodia made his towers are from unused metal, chicken wire, concrete, and seashells. For decoration, he put bottles, broken glass, and pieces of tiles. It took him 34 years to make the tower. He used simple hand tools like a

hammer and a pick axe.

During the trip, the students created an art project about the Watts Towers. It was a print using ink, foam, and sketch paper.

It was fun to get a chance to be creative after seeing Rodia's unique towers. At the end of the trip, the docents showed us turtles in a new garden being created adjacent to the arts center. We all loved this trip, and think that this a great place for all students to visit.



Poet's Cafe

by - **Rasek Chowdhury and Ryan Lopez**

Pianists, musicians, and poets came to Toluca Lake Elementary's Second Annual Family Poetry Night this month. They showed their unique talents by sharing tons of creative poems, and even some live music.



The students recited poems written by famous poets like Langston Hughes and e.e. cummings. They also read poems that they had written. Their poems used figurative language and descriptive words. The students did lots of different types of poems. They read haiku, diamante, song lyrics, and more.

Some students acted out their poems. One student even sang a beautiful song from his poem. It was a great night! Mr. Murphy's brilliant second grade students memorized and recited haiku as a whole class. One of their students played an awesome guitar solo.

Fifth grade students from Mr. Hagen-Smith's class displayed cool poetry boards they created in class. These cool pieces of art were very original. Their class got a Donors Chose grant to pay for all of the materials. Some of the students' relatives

made this grant possible. The poetry displays we're exquisite and stunning. It was an inordinate (great) time and experience.

One fifth grade student, Marcos Rojas, played a great solo on the piano. He has a pair of gifted hands. One parent, Ms. Fabiola Grey, even recited a poem in Spanish. We all had fun saying our poems and listening to each other. The PTA even brought hot chocolate and baked treats. It was fun and important to go to Poetry Night to really express yourselves. We had an amazing time at Poetry Night!



Third Grade "Honesty" Essays

Annette Jones
Room 10



Honesty

Abraham Lincoln said, "You can fool some of the people all the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool the people all the time."

The thing that keeps me honest is my friend Luisa because every time I ask her something I trust her. I know she is telling the truth. I am honest because I want people trust me in what I say.

Honesty is important to me because you will achieve in life. It is better if you tell the truth. I really don't think you should lie because you can hurt people's feelings.

When I was at home I got mad at my brother for throwing an egg at my eye. So I pushed him and he started crying because he hit his head on the doorknob. My mom came in and said, "What happened?" So I had to choose whether to lie or tell the truth. I told her that I pushed him because I got mad at him. In this situation I chose honesty. If you choose to lie to your parents, they will find out and you will get in trouble and if you tell the truth you won't really get in trouble.

You should always choose honesty so your friends and family will respect you.

Erik Gutierrez
Room 10



Honesty

Marilyn Suttle said, "Truth Builds Trust."

Honesty is a very important trait to have. Everyone makes a choice to be honest or dishonest every day of their life. There is no escaping it and it is up to the individual to decide what path to go down.

I care about honesty because I could get to trouble for saying a lie.

When I am honest I feel good about myself.

I was honest when I admitted the truth when I accidently bought a game for my TV in my room.

I have chosen the path to always be honest.

Julian Spinola
Room 14

Honesty

Honesty is important. You should be honest because if you are not honest it could lead to discipline. Lying is the worst thing to ever do. If you tell the truth you won't get in as much trouble as you would if you lie. If you lie a lot you will lose people's trust, they won't believe anything you tell them. If people don't trust you that will make you feel sad. Being honest is the best thing to do because that is what you want people to do to you.

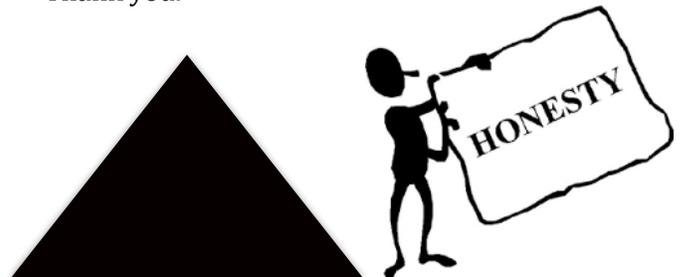


Ricardo Martinez
Room 14

Honesty

It is always good to be honest. If you're honest you can be trustworthy. And people will like you. People can tell you secrets and be able to trust that you won't tell anyone. It is important to be an honest person because that will help you have a good life.

The most honest person I know is my grandma. She has worked cleaning houses all her life. People trust her to do her job when she is alone. If she finds \$100 or 1 cent she puts it right where she finds it. She says what's not yours is not yours! If she wasn't honest she wouldn't be working. So you have to be honest too. Thank you.



Awesome Alumni: Ryan Lopez Reports

Long Beach State Graduate Attended Toluca Lake!



Johnny Paz is a former student. He was in Mr. Hagen-Smith's sixth grade class back in 1996.

He was only here for 5th grade and 6th grade. His 5th grade teacher was Ms. Rose. He remembers that she was very strict and cared about kids. His 6th grade teacher Mr. Hagen-Smith. He was outgoing, smart, and his favorite teacher. After graduating from Toluca Lake Elementary school, he attended nine other schools: Walter Reed Middle school, Woodrow Wilson & Glendale, and North Hollywood high schools, Valley Community College, and finally graduated from California State University at Northridge (CSUN).

He is now a shop Manager and Works at Image Crafts Productions. His biggest obstacle was trying to manage school and a full time job with only 3-4 hours of sleep. The accomplishment that makes him the most proudest is being a TV engineer for a TV show. His advice to the students is to stay focused in studies and "The harder you work now the better the outcome will be." He said he was lazy and learned the hard way. Johnny had many great memories here like meeting his best friend and having some of the best teachers there could be.

Space: The Exhibition

By - Marcos A. Rojas, Bryant Gutierrez, Ryan Lopez
Christine Manachian, & Rasek Chowdhury

Have you ever seen the massive space shuttle, Endeavour? Well, Toluca Lake students, ranging from pre-K to 5th graders, have been going to the California Science Center this year. It has been an experience of a lifetime for those kids. We got to see so many interesting models of space and what it takes to be in space.

The Endeavour space shuttle is about the size of 150 cars put together so if you're in traffic, you could see the size of the Endeavour. we learned so many facts about space safety and the danger of the dark and mysterious place.

When we walked into the first room, there was a simulator in the form of a shuttle in which people travel. A recorded female voice explained to us what people do before going into space. The walls were spinning to represent going in orbit. When we walked out of the simulator, we learned that astronauts have to wear special suits to prevent their bones from stretching out of place.

Later, we walked into the pavilion where they store the space shuttle "ENDEAVOUR"! It is huge and so amazing. One of the guides there showed us what the Endeavour was made of. He also showed us how they transport food they eat it in space. After that, we went to the IMAX theater to see a 3-D movie about space. It was so amazing. It showed the Milky Way Galaxy, stars, moons, and many different galaxies. Going to The California Science Center was an amazing experience. We hope next year and the years after you students can get to see the Endeavour and have this wonderful experience. This experience will be left marked in our future.



UCLA: Light & Sound

by - Ryan Lopez & Edward Mateo

Graduate students from UCLA's electrical engineering department came to our school to teach 5th grade students about light and sound this year. It was a very interesting topic.

We learned light can carry information. In fact, they demonstrated how light particles could power a little radio. This was an amazing thing to see, and it inspired us to go to UCLA.

Cejo K. Lonappan was our lead teacher for the day. He taught us about LED lights, and showed us that science is a fun way to learn. We learned that cables carrying light, called fiber optics, are under the ocean and link the Internet between continents. We got to see how holograms work, too. It was an amazing experience!



Fifth Grade Students More Fit Than Ever

By: Mr. Daniel

Every Spring, students in grades 5, 7, and 9 are given the Fitnessgram, an assessment that evaluates a student’s overall fitness. The Fitnessgram uses Healthy Fitness Zones (HFZs) to evaluate fitness performance. These zones are criterion-referenced standards and represent minimum levels of fitness that offer protection against the diseases that result from sedentary living. The California Department of Education considers a student who meets or exceeds a HFZ as meeting the desired performance goal.

Fifth grade students at Toluca Lake are evaluated in six categories. In addition to measuring their height and weight, students do a trunk lift, push-ups, curl-ups (similar to a sit-up), and a one mile run.

This year, 60% of the fifth grade students (31 out of 52) ran the mile in under 10 minutes – the highest percentage ever! The 31 students received a certificate during the morning awards ceremony on May 9th, with the top three boys and girls receiving a ribbon as well. Congratulations fifth grade class of 2016 for a job well done.

Top Mile Runners 2016 – Students under 10 minute mile

GIRLS

- Maryjane Zazueta - 7:56
- Jacqueline Luis - 8:08
- Odalys Lopez - 8:40
- Monica Ghazaryan - 8:47
- Tania Orozco - 8:52
- Azucena Mejia - 8:55
- Shayla John - 8:59
- Jaymee Martinez - 9:20
- Kimberly Negrete - 9:22
- Helen Lopez-Amaya - 9:34
- Ashley Grande - 9:39
- Stephanie Aldana - 9:52
- Christine Manachian - 9:55
- Parris Rugley - 9:58

BOYS

- Arian Sanchez - 7:50
- James Hodges - 8:04
- Josiah Taylor - 8:08
- Matthew Ramos - 8:09
- Anthony Zavala - 8:10
- Max Knapp - 8:36
- Bronx Casey - 8:50
- James Goedde - 8:57
- Ethan Sanchez - 9:03
- Arman Semerjyan - 9:19
- Bryant Gutierrez - 9:21
- Andrew Grajeda - 9:40
- Jan Morales - 9:47
- Rasek Chowdhury - 9:50
- Cristian Beltran - 9:52
- Aaron Espinoza - 9:57
- Jake Meyer - 9:59

Mario Bello Wins!

by - Jan Morales, Emily Rodriguez, Diane Aldana, & Kimberly Castro

One of our school’s youngest students, Melissa Bello, won the recycled art contest! Melissa Bello is only four years old!

Melissa used cotton balls, cartons, & sticks to create her art. Melissa made a farm with many different species of animals. On her farm, she made a cow, rabbit, pig, and chicken. Her favorite animal is a cow. Melissa likes a cow because she likes to drink milk.



Melissa’s favorite subject is math, but she enjoys art, too. This was her first time winning a contest.

Melissa said that her project took at least five days, and she got help from her mom. She said that her mom helped with the grass and features used in cardboard sticks boxes and cotton. The part she did was painting the animals. Melissa said that she choose to make a farm because she likes farms. It was amazing to meet a great winner from our school.

Ms. Nelson’s Art Amazes!

Our amazing art teacher, Ms. Nelson taught students from Ms. Iuculano, Ms. Miya and Mr. Soroczak's class how to build these cool box sculptures. structures.



Teacher Tips

As the students head into summer vacation, it's important to maintain an emphasis upon education at home. Practicing math skills, writing letter to friends and family, reading for pleasure, and doing projects will help keep the children interested in learning. Family outings and events are still very important for them. Try to keep them actively involved in group activities such as athletics, or the arts to facilitate their transition to the next grade level. And, be sure to encourage the students to read at least one hour each day during their summer vacation; there's still no greater

Ruby, The Dairy Cow

by - Rasek Chowdhury, Emily Sazo, David Acosta, and David Acosta

The dairy cow assembly was an amazing experience. We learned many interesting facts about Ruby, the dairy cow, the assembly. We saw how a cow acted and learned a lot about her.

We learned many facts about Ruby, the jersey cow. We learned that cows have one stomach with four compartments. We also learned that Ruby eats alfalfa because it has a lot of nutrients to produce milk. Lastly, we learned that Ruby has paste on her head to stop her from growing sharp and dangerous horns. Learning about cows is important because it shows you the lifestyle of cows, and that's where we get our milk for breakfast!

We had a great experience at the Dairy Cow assembly. We saw the man squirt out the milk from the cow. I hope this happens again next year because learning about the dairy cow was very exciting and informational.



STORY PIRATES at Toluca Lake!

by: Marcos A. Rojas, Emily Rodriguez, Monica Gharzaryan, Christine Manachian, & Rasek Chowdhury

Have you ever read any story that make you laugh eternally? Or, have you seen a play of your favorite book? The Story pirates do that everyday all around America! One of their big stops is at Toluca Lake Elementary School, where they do a three week residency with third and fifth grade students.

Having Story Pirates at Toluca Lake Elementary is a great experience because they share ideas and thoughts to help kids learn how to write. Then, they steal stories from kids because that is what pirates do: they steal treasure (and treasure meaning our stories). Then comes our favorite part. The Story Pirates act out our stories, in our auditorium.

We get the chance to have them perform in our class three times. The first time they came they taught us to write expository essays. The second time we did persuasive essays, and then they showed us how to write science fiction stories.

There are about 100 Story Pirates in Los Angeles, and 300 in New York. We asked the Story Pirates what inspired them to become a Story Pirates. One of the pirates responded, "Well, I was a teacher and loved working with students and writing, so now I am a Story Pirate." We have learned so many writing skills with the Story Pirates that we are very grateful to them. Keep on helping our imaginations to soar,

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.

BIOBLITZ 2016 sponsored by the National Park Service Friday, May 20, 2016

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Location: [Paramount Ranch](#) (Santa Monica Mountains)
Half the park is after dark! Discover which creatures come out at night and learn about the night sky at our special astronomy program. We'll have telescopes, self-guided hikes, presentations, and plenty of kid-friendly activities. Bring a flashlight and dress appropriately.

Saturday, May 21, 2016

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: [Paramount Ranch](#) (Santa Monica Mountains)
8 years ago, we hosted our first BioBlitz at Santa Monica Mountains and have been hosting science festivals ever since. We will transform Paramount Ranch into an exciting space where you can get your hands dirty (literally) and learn what it takes to be a national park scientist. We'll have demonstrations, live animals, hikes, movies, junior ranger activities, and food trucks!



The Vecmobile Visits!

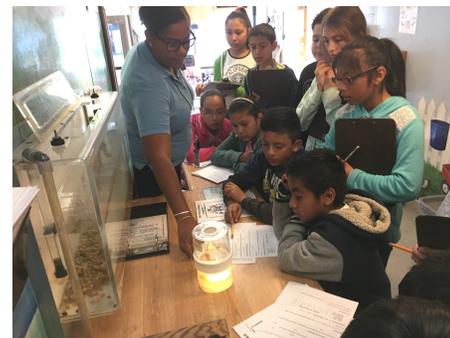
by - Ethan Sanchez, Emily Rodriguez,
Diane Aldana, and Kimberly Castro



On March 10, 2016, fifth grade students visited the Vecmobile from the Los Angeles County Vector Control Department. We learned about the scientific method and vectors. Vectors are animals, or insects, that spread diseases. Female mosquitos are the most dangerous vectors in the world. They spread diseases when they bite people. Some of these diseases, like malaria and Zica virus can be very dangerous. We learned about ways to control the spread of these harmful insects.

There were four stations inside of the Vecmobile. The first station had an anatomy model so we got to put together the parts of a mosquito. Station Two showed the life cycle of a mosquito. Its metamorphosis starts with the egg raft. The second step is the larva, then the pupa. The last stage is the adult mosquito. Station Three had a video about the diseases that mosquitos spread. Station Four was an experiment about which type of fish eats the the most mosquitos. We saw that the mosquitofish's mouth points upward because that's an adaptation that helps it eat mosquito larva.

The Vector Mobile was very interesting because we got to learn about mosquitos and how to control them. We even got to enter an art contest for the Vecmobile calendar. The Vector Mobile was kind enough to teach us all of this so we can help control mosquitos, and maybe become scientists when we grow up.



Juice From Juice: Cal Tech Visits Toluca Lake!

by: Rasek Chowdhury, Bryant Gutierrez, Christine Manachian, and Emily Rodriguez



Have you ever made a solar cell (a piece of glass that can absorb solar energy and use it as electricity) with blackberry juice, or separated water into hydrogen and oxygen atoms? Well, Michelle DeBoever of Cal Tech, came to Room 17 and showed some from 4th and 5th students how to have fun with these experiments. She came to our class because Mr. Hagen-Smith took a Saturday class at Cal Tech to get the program for us.

The solar cells we made were small, but did generate power. They were fun to make. We put blackberries in a plastic bag. Then, we **SQUISHED** the blackberries in a plastic bag and added water. Next, we put a piece of glass with a coating over on side. The coating has a metal that makes it a semi-conductor so it helps the glass conduct electricity so it can pass through. Next, we tested a part that was an insulator so it didn't let electricity flow through it. We tested the glass

with a voltmeter that told us which side was a conductor and which side was an insulator. Next, we used tweezers, goggles, and other tools to clip the glasses together with iodine on the inside. We connected our solar cells to the voltmeter, took it outside, and held it up to the sun. The voltmeter showed the voltage. It was a great time learning about how to make solar cells.

Later, we did an experiment splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen atoms. That was awesome, too. Michelle, an intelligent scientist from Cal Tech, knows a lot about electricity and science. She loves chemistry and science. She earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in chemistry at the University of California, San Diego. USSD and graduated with Bachelor's and Masters Degrees in chemistry and psychology. She loves teaching kids about chemistry because she loves their wondrous expressions and the excitement of discovery. That's one cool thing about science! We're very thankful to Michelle for bringing Cal Tech to our school!



Top Readers Accelerate

By Jeff Daniel, Coordinator



Did you know that Toluca Lake Elementary has an online reading incentive program? It is called **Accelerated Reader** (AR). AR is a computerized progress-monitoring system that promotes guided independent reading practice. The Accelerated Reader software serves three primary purposes:

- 1) AR provides quick and accurate assessments of whether students have understood / comprehended books they have read.
- 2) It assigns point values for each AR Reading Practice Quiz taken. Point values are a factor of book level and performance on quizzes. (For example, an easy book like Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss is 0.5 points while Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling is 32.0 points.) Points accumulate throughout the school year, and are a way for students, teachers, and parents to monitor the students' reading volume.
- 3) The system tracks student performance on AR quizzes over time that helps teachers monitor and guide reading practice to ensure success for the child through goal setting. Best of all, students also earn special incentives/prizes for their reading. Some incentives include: pencils, folders, and bookmarks as well as free kids meals to restaurants like Islands, Fuddruckers, California Pizza Kitchen, and HomeTown Buffet.

Toluca Lake's top readers for the 2015-16 school year are (as of 5/16):

* 200 Point Reading Club *

Bryant Gutierrez – 201.3

(Top 5th grade reader)

* Super Star Reader * (50 to 99.9 pts)

Maryjane Zazueta – 88.3

Jake Meyer – 83.0

Azucena Mejia – 82.2

James Goedde – 75.3

Marcos Rojas Elias – 70.5

Rasek Chowdhury – 69.5

Luisa Goedde – 64.5 (Top 3rd gr. reader)

Astrid Garcia – 64.4

Johnathan Highfield – 61.1 (Top 1st gr.)

Nathan Juarez – 59.4

Odalys Lopez – 59.4

Samuel Chiloyan – 58.6

Christine Manachian – 58.5

Jason Paniagua – 55.7

Arian Sanchez – 54.5

Arman Semerjyan – 54.0

Andrew Grajeda – 53.7

Eliza Araneta – 53.0 (Top 4th gr.)

Ryan Lopez – 52.0

* Star Reader Club * (20 to 49.9 points)

David Acosta – 49.9

Addison Leon-Portillo – 48.9

Sarah Castillo – 48.1

Ephraim Miller – 48.0

Angie Zavala – 44.1

Benjamin Hastings – 41.7

Yadhira Hernandez – 40.5

Ethan Davis – 40.0

Miranda Diaz – 39.3

Veronica Chicas – 38.1

Shamin Ahmed – 37.9

Kevin Santiago – 37.5

Aidan Mora – 36.6 (Top 2nd gr.)

Janelle Bueno – 36.4

Annette Jones – 36.1

Isabelle Vaillancourt – 34.6

Brian Flores – 34.3

Diego Bejarano – 34.2

Shant Titoian – 33.4

Winstly Esquivel – 33.2

Christian Hernandez – 32.8

Jacqueline Luis – 32.6

Paulina Guzman – 32.5

Matthew Fernandez – 31.1

Tatiana Amaya – 31.0

Alan Landeros – 30.8

Richard Ruvalcaba – 30.0

Emerson Salinas – 29.4

Jezebella Alvarez – 29.0

Isabelle Vega – 28.7

Kimberly Castro – 28.2

Jose Cruz – 28.2

Anthony Alvarez – 28.0

Emily Rodriguez – 27.6

Gerardo Ruiz Gomez – 27.5

Chezare Gordon – 27.2

Tsadkiel Grey – 27.1

Emily Sazo-Pineda – 26.7

Isabella Singngam – 25.9

De Di Novi – 25.8

Erik Gutierrez – 25.8

Parris Rugley – 25.7

Edward Mateo – 24.9

Joaquin Estrada – 24.6

Danielle Ortiz – 24.6

Valentino Lara – 24.4

Sergio Sargsyan – 24.4

Jesus Rodriguez – 24.1

Valeria Barranco 24.0

James Hodges – 22.8

Tadeo Campos – 22.7

Monica Ghazaryan – 21.9

Dean Risk – 21.7

Aribel Fernandez – 21.6

Daniel Pacheco – 21.5

Karla Santiago – 21.3

Grecia Cortes – 21.2

Maxximillian Knapp – 21.2

Jayden Nufio – 21.2

Ashley Grande – 21.0

Anthony Solis – 20.6

Congratulations to all of the top readers.

Continue to READ all summer.

Better Hearing & Speech Month

by - Ms. Karen Mansky MA, CCC/SLP

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month. With summer coming and busy Los Angeles parents driving in cars everywhere here's a fun way to practice articulation skills in the car:

LICENSE PLATE GAMES : Have your child scan license plates to see if he or she can spot the letter of the targeted sound. For example, if your child is working on the L sound, he can receive one point for finding a license plate with that reads "LMN123". To make the game more fun, everyone in the car can choose a letter and whoever finds the most license plates wins! As an added bonus see if your child can use the letters on the license plates to make a sentence. For example, "Lynn Makes Noise."

ISPY: To play this game, parents and children take turns describing or labeling things in or around the car that starts with their letter sound. For example if your child is working on the R sound, he or she may say, "I spy something Round and made of Rubber." The players can guess until someone discovers the mystery word "tire".

Practicing articulation skills in the car is a great way to facilitate generalization, and a fun way to get in some extra practice. Children will find these games are fun to play, and they will make time in the car go faster. This idea is from Super Duper Publications # 403.

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Computers: Now & Then

by - Bryant Gutierrez, Ryan Lopez,
Emily Rodriguez, & Ashley Santiago

Computers have changes a lot over the years. Way back in 2001, some 5th grade students from Room 17 visited UCLA for the Digital Divide Conference. The work of these students can still be found online at UCLA.

During the conference, the students predicted the future of what computers would be like in 15 years ... 2016. And, lots of their predictions were right!

Leslie Q., Grade 5, age 10 now 25 said, "Computers will be hung on the wall, and there will be a three inch keyboard."

Alejandra said that computers would be controlled with your mind, but you'd have to wear an electric hat." Thus did not happen exactly, but Siri is like being controlled in your mind, and Google has voice command. Desiree M. imagined that people would buy a computer chip which now comes with every computer. Kids also thought of how they could lower prices and make the Internet more accessible. Patricia W. said that you could check out laptops from the library for free. This really happened, but there is a fee for the iPad or laptop. Courtney C. said that the internet would be paid by taxes, and be free in public places, so people who couldn't afford it could use technology. This has happened in some places, like libraries or Downtown Burbank.

Now, we use computers for many reasons. Even back then, Ramiro V. used computers to download music, play games, and write on it for school. Some things haven't changed that much! One thing for sure: computers have helped to change our world!



Harriet Tubman by - Kye Juarez (2nd Grade)



Many people inspire others, but Harriet Tubman inspires me. Her bravery inspires me. She led 300 slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman was given the name Araminta Ross, but then she changed it. She was born in Maryland around 1820. She was born a slave, and started to work in the fields when she was older. One day, an overseer threw a metal weight at her head when she defended a slave. She fainted a lot because of this. Harriet Tubman always defended herself and others because she was brave.

Before she helped other slaves, she ran away from Philadelphia. That is in the North. Then, she went back to the South to help her family escape. She took her family to Canada because she knew they would be safe there. She was the conductor on the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad wasn't really a railroad. It was a path to safe houses. The safe houses were homes that helped escaped slaves. The safe houses used lanterns in front or candles in the windows at night to let slaves know they were safe.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked as a cook, nurse, and even a spy. Abraham Lincoln made the Emancipation Proclamation. This promised freedom to the slaves in the South. Even though slavery ended, African Americans still had problems because of the color of their skin.

For the rest of her life, Harriet Tubman stood up for equal rights for African Americans and women. She inspires me to be helpful, brave, nice, and always persevere!

Memories....

**Compiled by: Monica Ghazaryan, Christine Manachian,
Marcos A. Rojas and Kristen**

**Good Luck
Graduates!**

My Favorite Fifth Grade Memory is...

- Helen Lopez: Earning many certificates.
- Kristen Figueroa: When I stepped in Mr. Hagen-Smith's class and saw that this year was going to be a good year.
- Andrew Perez: Playing outside with my friends.
- Bryant Gutierrez: Going to the Sepulveda Wetlands and expressing my "inner birds."
- Arman Semerjyan: When I met my best friend, Saki Grey.
- Mr. Reidman: When Ms. Miya moved from room 28 to Room 14 because it was easier to get supplies.
- Crystal Cermeno: Going on so many field trips in fifth grade.
- Ms. Harriman: Working with drill team while having fun, being silly, and perfecting a good routine.
- Alexis Altamarano: Having fun with friends.
- Maryjane Zazueta: When I found out that I was the fastest girl in 5th grade.
- Kimberly Castro: Learning cool writing skills, and having fun with the Story Pirates.
- Azucena Mejia: When we took a walking field trip to the library in 3rd grade.
- Arian Sanchez: When I made my first friend.
- Jaymee Martinez: When I first came to Kindergarten and met all of my friends.
- Mr. Garcia: The first day of class because now I can look back and see the mature, grown-up kids.
- Belen Velasco: Playing with my best friends and having fun.
- Ms. Cottrell: When kids come to the computer lab to learn about technology.
- Monica Ghazaryan: I loved being with my friends and teachers from Pre-k through 5th grade.
- Marcos Rojas: My first day of 5th grade, I sat in Mr. Hagen-Smith's room and listened to "Dog Rules." That's when I knew it would be a fun year!
- Parris Rugley: When I won an award for second grade CST.
- Ms. Friedman: I enjoy watching my Kindergarteners grow from babies to kids.
- Christine Manachian: Getting to do fun projects and assignments with my friends.
- Ryan Lopez: Being in Ms. French's Kindergarten class.
- Odalys Lopez: The Halloween parade.
- Mr. Hagen-Smith: Making solar cells and splitting H₂O molecules with a teacher from Cal Tech.
- Mr. Daniel: Being faster at running than Mr. Hagen-Smith.
- Ms. Reo Bove: Saying good morning to the kids when they come in each day, and hearing them say good morning back!



Toluca Lake Elementary



An Arts Prototype School

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

Principal:

Ms. Carol Reo-Bove

Assistant Principal:

Ms. Patricia Moss

Coordinator:

Mr. Jeff Daniel

Lead Teacher:

Mr. Steve Reidman

Parent Representative:

Ms. Lucy Gonzalez

Newsletter Editor:

Mr. Dennis Hagen-Smith



Riddle Me This!

- Angelina Campos asks:
How do you keep a rhino from charging?
- Ramisa Ferdawsi asks:
I can reach the sky. I can smooth skin. I can destroy rocks. What am I?
- Ms. Buck asks:
How does NASA throw a party?
- Ashley Santiago asks:
Why did Adelé cross the road?

Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

1. What is the theme of the new murals painted in the primary building?
2. What type of materials were used to build Watts Towers?
3. What type of poems did Mr. Murphy's talented students recite at this year's Poet's Cafe?
4. Based upon the outstanding "Honesty" essays printed in this publication, what is one reason why it is important to be honest?
5. What is the name of the space shuttle visited by many of our students this semester?
6. What is the name of the student who won this year's Recycled Art contest?
7. What did Cal Tech's outreach program teach students to make when they visited Toluca Lake Elementary this semester?
8. Why did Harriet Tubman return to the South after escaping slavery?
9. What is one prediction about computers made by students in 2001, that has come true in today's computers?
10. How many compartments are found in a cow's stomach?

Scavenger Hunt: Where can you find this mural?

