

Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary School: An Arts Prototype School / 818.761.3339

Sept. 28, 2010
Vol. 4, # 1



Words of Wisdom

"Study the science of art. Study the art of science. Develop your senses - especially learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else."

- Leonardo Da Vinci

Toluca Lake Elementary
Celebrates the
Arts Prototype program

Student Scores Soar on State Test!

Parents, we have had an excellent start to our new school year. The best school news is that our students' scores have once again risen dramatically on the California Standards Test administered at the end of last year. The Academic Performance Index (API) for our school is now up to 807! This great success could only be achieved with the help of all stakeholders: students, parents, teachers, and community members. We need to maintain our mutual support to continue to attain this remarkable success. Remember, our school motto is: TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE!

The wide array of outreach programs offered to our students is another important vehicle that supports our students' growth. As an Arts Prototype School, we give our students the opportunity to express their learning in a variety of modalities, as well as inspire their oral and written language skills.

We are very proud of the dynamic growth shown by our students and look forward to another exciting school year!
- Ms. Carol Reo Bove

Toluca Lake Elementary's Interactive Website!

By: Mr. Jeff Daniel - Coordinator

Toluca Lake Elementary School has remodeled its web page! The web site is now interactive ... awesome, and amazing! It offers a live calendar of events, a list of parent committee members, our school's performance goals, and much, much more. There are also numerous resources including a list of high frequency sight words as well as the California State Standards. Please be sure to save the website in your browser's favorites for easy access. You can type in our site address: <http://toluca.weebly.com> or find our link from the <http://www.lausd.net> website. The website is constantly being updated so be sure to view it often.

Our Children

Take a moment to listen today

to what your children are trying to say.

***Listen to their problems, listen to their needs,
praise their smallest triumphs, praise their smallest needs:***

***tolerate their chatter, amplify their laughter,
find out what's the matter, find out what they're after.***

***But tell them that you love them, every single night
and though you scold them, be sure to hold them tight.***

***Listen today, whatever you do
and they will come back and listen to you.***

Skymobile visits Toluca Lake Elementary School!

Toluca Lake Elementary School is excited to welcome the SKYMOBILE to our campus during the week of September 27. Visiting from the L.A. County Natural History Museum, this special program immerses students in an interdisciplinary study of geology, biology, and astronomy as it takes them on a simulated journey to Mars.

We are very fortunate to receive a visit from the SKYMOBILE to kick-off our school year. The SKYMOBILE is in high demand throughout the county with schools waiting several years for a campus visit. In addition, the SKYMOBILE will remain open during Back-to-School Night to provide parents and families an opportunity to visit and learn more about this exciting program. We are very grateful to the L.A. County Natural History Museum and the generous funding of the Maxwell H. Gluck Foundation for making this special

Although the SKYMOBILE focuses upon upper grade students, they are extending their program to include 2nd & 3rd grade for our school. Youngsters in Kindergarten and 1st grade will also have a chance to visit this traveling science center.

By participating in this program, we plan to teach students the importance of scientific investigation and basic process skills including data collection, classification, and drawing conclusions. Students will learn that studying the geology of a planet, including rocks and landforms, helps us discover important clues that reveal the planet's history. Students will learn to investigate life science concepts by categorizing living things on Earth and comparing those to what we might expect to find on Mars. These inquiry skills promise to help students learn to think more analytically about their surroundings.



Awesome Alumni: Jasmin Morales

by - Ashley Godoy

Jasmine Morales attended Toluca Lake Elementary School for 4th & 5th grade starting in 1998. She graduated in 2000. Her 4th grade teacher was Mrs. Caplan, and in 5th grade it was Mr. Hagen-Smith. Jasmine said that Mrs. Caplan was strict, but a very good teacher. She said that you get to learn a lot from Mrs. Caplan. Jasmine also said that Mr. Hagen-Smith was a fun, creative person who's always involved with the kids. She said that you get to learn a lot from him, too. Jasmine really liked our school, and learned a lot while attending here.

Jasmine had lots of fun here at Toluca Lake. Her favorite subject was science because she loved doing cool



experiments. She also loved playing handball at school. Jasmine's favorite project was doing the "Community Treasures" book in Mr. Hagen-Smith's class. Students read about our community history. Then, they got to travel around their neighborhood taking photographs of important places. They used these photos to make a book about important places in our community's past and present. Each

student received one of the books. Jasmine had a great time here at Toluca Lake.

One of her heroes is her dad. She says that her dad is very supportive in everything. He gives their family good examples through his life. Her dad is a hard worker, and he believes in Jasmine all of the time. Her dad has a big heart, is very kind, and responsible.

After elementary school, Jasmine went to Walter Reed Middle School, and North Hollywood High School. Then, she attended two colleges: Pasadena City College and Los Angeles Valley College (where she goes now). All of her classes keep getting harder and harder, but Jasmine works hard to face each of the challenge.

Jasmine has had to face some tough obstacles in her life. For example, she has to manage her time between school and her job, while still getting good grades. She always tries her best to achieve her best.

Jasmine is very proud of two accomplishments: finishing her General Education requirements in high school, and getting called from UC Merced. She advises all of us kids, "Never give up your dream. You should keep studying until you reach your goal, so study hard and try your best." Jasmine followed her own words and has now almost achieved her goal. Jasmine has always been a person that believes in herself. She makes us believe in ourselves, too.

Teacher's Tip

There is a free program in our area called "Story Line" from Book Pals. Students may call (818) 239-3111 seven days a week to hear a 10-minute story read to them by a professional actor (from the Screen Actors Guild Foundation).

There is no charge for this local phone call! After students listen to the story, have them practice dramatic readings of the books that they are reading. When possible, encourage students to make a recording of themselves and listen for ways to increase the drama by changing their pitch, adjusting their speed, or extending pauses. They can even share their recordings with the class at school!

The kids will have a lot of fun with this activity, while improving their reading fluency and comprehension. Remember, reading together, we all achieve!

Calendar

Sept. 28 = Tuesday early dismissal begins

Sept. 28 = Back-to-School Night

Sept. 27 - Oct. 1 = Skymobile visits from

Natural History Museum

Oct. 12 = Local Leadership Council Meeting

Oct. 14 = "Biomes of the World" (L.A. Zoo)

begins series of 5 workshops



Geffen Playhouse Brings Story Pirates to Toluca lake!

Toluca Lake Elementary School is very happy to announce the continuation of our partnership with the **Geffen Playhouse** in Westwood. In the past few years, the **Geffen Playhouse** has brought a number of performances to our school, including "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," "Mukashi, Mukashi," and "Ferdinand the Bull." Each of these plays was very popular with our students. The most popular show was one presented by the Viking Story Pirates two years ago. For this show, the *Geffen* provided buses to transport our 4th and 5th grade students to their playhouse. For many of our students, it was their first visit to live theater. The trip was a great success.

Centered in New York City, the **Story Pirates** are now expanding to Los Angeles. Toluca Lake Elementary School is one of two schools in Los Angeles to receive this amazing program! The **Geffen Playhouse** is sponsoring 15 workshops with the **Story Pirates** for our 5th grade students! In addition, the **Story Pirates** will be presenting two live performances at our school. Scheduled to take place during the second semester, the second performance will feature our students' writing ... brought to life on the stage by the **Story Pirates**! The **Story Pirates** believe that in kids' ideas, "their words, and their stories are important ... (they) make kid's own stories the basis for a big, loud, outrageous, musical sketch comedy show, because (they) believe kids' imaginations are worth cultivating & ought to be celebrated."

The **Story Pirates** are a respected arts and creative writing organization founded in 2003 to celebrate the words and ideas of young people, to promote literacy as a vital part of early childhood education, and to preserve the spark of youthful creativity often lost in the transition to adulthood. The cornerstone of the company is *the Play/Write Program*, a series of creative writing and drama workshops that lead to a musical sketch comedy show acted by adults and comprised entirely of stories written by our students. The award winning show has been seen by hundreds of thousands of children in live assemblies, recognized by "The Daily Show's" Jon Stewart, invited to present a show at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. in honor of President Obama's Inauguration, and has popular videos on YouTube. Now, the **Story Pirates** will be resident artists at Toluca Lake Elementary School!

We are very grateful to the **Geffen Playhouse** and their supporters (including the **Parsons Foundation**) for providing the financial support necessary to bring this incredible opportunity to our students. Look in future issues of the Toluca Lake Times for more information about this exciting educational program.



The Getty Center Garden

Fifth grade students recently visited the Getty Center to view art inside the museum, and in the garden. It was a terrific day. The amazing waterfall located in the garden was gorgeous. You could hear the sound of trickling water go down the tall, brown wall, and then flow through the garden. You could also hear birds chirping in the trees, and see beautiful flowers. You could smell the flowers' aroma in the air. Oh, and if you think my description is good, imagine it 100 times better ... that's how beautiful the real waterfall looks! The colorful flowers almost hypnotized me with their beauty. We enjoyed our day at the Getty very much; some kids even designed their own gardens. - Edwin Duke

Free Garden

by - Cassandra Cordova

All gardens are great, but mine is fabulous. People can walk in and lay down on the grass. My garden is public, so it's free to everyone who comes. My garden is very soothing. You can hear the water running down the tunnel and the birds singing. My garden is a great place to relax and enjoy nature.

My Flower Garden

by - Alondra Gongora

My flower garden is very beautiful. It has streams, fountains, and bridges. My flower garden has a grassy hill for kids to roll down, or for families to have a picnic. When you have a picnic on the hill, you have a wonderful view of the city. My garden has all kinds of flowers, like roses, lilies, & sunflowers. My flower garden is very wonderful because it surrounds you with beauty.

Waterfall Garden

by - Cristian Escobar

My awesome garden is the best garden in the whole world. It has a huge waterfall. Many people like my awesome garden because of its flowers & trees. When you are close to the waterfall, you can see the mist coming towards you. There are a lot of bright flowers, and trees in the surrounding forest. There are actually over hundred redwood trees in my around my awesome garden. There is even a maze of trees where you can explore or play hide-and-go-seek. These are reasons to come to my cool, fun, and awesome garden.

My Awesome Garden

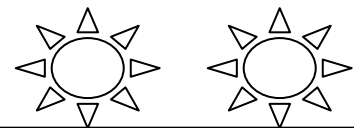
by - Kaylee Elijah

My garden is full of fascinating and beautiful objects. My garden has a big water fountain with carved spirals in it. It has big trees, green bushes, and colorful flowers. My garden is also a good place for animals. It has animals like birds, squirrels, rabbits, bunnies, and ducks that live in the pond. My awesome garden is a great place to relax and enjoy nature.

Shooting Arrow Garden

by - Brandon Vielman

My garden looks like a work of art. It's full of statues, plants, and animals. The ponds are clean so that birds won't be poisoned. The statues are made of stone. The plants look like beautiful rainbow bushes. There are also deer and birds in the garden so that people will be amazed when they visit. My garden is important because it'll help save the environment.



Celebration Garden

by - Trisha Terry

My flower garden is beautiful. It has many blue ponds and green plants. You can see beautiful animals that won't harm anybody all around the garden. Sitting in the garden can help you relax from its sweet scents, beautiful ponds, and adorable animals. Sometimes, you get to pet the animals. But, watch your kids: don't feed the animals unless we give you animal food to feed them. Feeding days are every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We also have a restaurant where our chefs make the finest people food. The Celebration Garden is important because it brings joy to all of its visitors. People love this garden so much that some couples get married or celebrate birthdays here! The parking and admission are free. It's a perfect place to propose to the one you love!



Toluca Lake
Elementary
School:
An Arts
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Principal:

Carol Reo Bove

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Coordinator:

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Newsletter Editor:

Dennis Hagen-Smith

Parent Representative:

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://toluca.weebly.com>

Featured Faculty: Office Manager Vilma Sabido

by - Kaylee Elijah, Briana Madera, Mario Rivas, & Nathaniel Duarte

We are very happy to welcome Vilma Sabido to our school as our new office manager. She began working here on June 29, 2010. Her job as office manager is very important to the entire school. She helps make sure that everything runs smoothly for everybody here at school.

When we interviewed Ms. Sabido, we discovered that she's a very interesting person. She loves reading, listening to music, walking at the park, working with computers, watching old movies and television shows like "I Love Lucy." Ms. Sabido also likes to relax at home after working hard at school.

Ms. Sabido likes her job because she loves children, teachers, and parents. Ms. Sabido has had to overcome many challenges during her life. She had to take classes to prepare myself for the tests needed to become an office manager.

Ms. Sabido has many heroes. She admires President Barack Obama "because he came a long way to be where he is at." He can be a role model for kids who have to overcome hardships and inequalities. Ms. Sabido advises all students to "study hard and do your homework because junior high is different from elementary school."

Ms. Sabido makes a wonderful addition to the Toluca Lake family. We are happy to have her here.



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.

- **San Fernando Valley Audubon Society offers free, family bird walks at the Sepulveda Wildlife Area** on the second Saturday of each month. Come and see white pelicans, great blue heron, egrets, cormorants, and so many other species. These popular walks are designed especially for beginning birders and school-age children. **Directions:** exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Meet across the road from the parking lot at the low buildings. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer for more information (818) 885-7493 for more information (before 7 p.m. please). Walks start at 8:30 a.m. Rain cancels walks.

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 Korte, 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
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