

# Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary School: An Arts Prototype School / 818.761.3339

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<<http://toluca.weebly.com>>  
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### Words of Wisdom

*The safety of the world depends on your saying 'no' to inhumane ideas...*

*Standing up for one's own integrity makes you no friends. It is costly. Yet defiance of the mob, in the service of that which is right, is one of the highest expressions of courage I know.*

- Congresswomen  
Gabrielle Giffords (AZ)  
\*\*\*\*\*

## The Holiday Program

by - Kaylee Elijah, Danielle Pedroza, & Autumn McMurray

This year's annual holiday program was terrific. Every grade level did a performance. Classes read poems, sang songs, danced, and made meaningful speeches.

The show started with Bisu Bantu, Vannia Gutierrez, Diego Gutierrez, and Joshua Herrarte doing a great opening. Then the drill team did their rockin' dances. After that, the Kindergarten classes sang to *December Is a Time, Christmas Cookies*, and *Angels in a Band*. They did a wonderful job and were very cute, too. The third grade sang a great song called *Winter Fantasy*. Then, Ms. Harriman and Ms. Lacayo's first grade students joined together to sing the Hawaiian song, *Mele Kalikimaka*. They did it beautifully. Ms. McDuffy's fifth grade class sang several songs. Their part of the show was called *A Motown Christmas Extravaganza*. They did a real rockin' job, too! All of the fourth grade classes got together to sing *Christmas Jingle Bells*. That put everybody into the holiday spirit! Mr. Hagen-Smith's fifth grade class sang an original number called *Silver Bells of Peace*. Actually, the melody is an old song, "Silver Bells," but they used student-authored lyrics in which the "silver bells" represent *peace and love 'round the world*.

Our wonderful principal, Ms. Bove, did the closing remarks. We're all very thankful to one of the coolest teachers in the world, Ms. McDuffey, for organizing this great show! We hope your holidays were very happy!



Happy 2011!

## Awesome Alumni: Anthony Morales is the Absolute!

by - Briana Madera, Jasmin Johnson, & Aaron Aguilar

This month's Awesome Alumni is Anthony Morales. He attended Toluca Lake Elementary from 1995 until his graduation in 2002. He has many happy memories from our school, but his favorite is participating in a play called "The Wizard of Paz." It was a musical mixing parts of Don Quixote with "The Wizard of Oz." He performed it in Mr. Hagen-Smith's fifth grade class. They did so well that they even got to perform at the NoHo Arts Festival!

Anthony's favorite school activities were sports because he feels that it's good to exercise. The Student-Faculty softball game was his very favorite sports event at our school because he beat everyone there! His heroes are his mom and dad. He knows that he wouldn't be where he is at right now without all of their support.

Mr. Hagen-Smith and Mr. Reidman are two of the faculty members that Anthony remembers from his days as a student here. Mr. Reidman was a New York Knicks basketball fan, and Mr. Hagen-Smith did a lot of stuff at the school. After graduating from our school Anthony attended Jordan Middle School and John Burroughs High School in Burbank.

Anthony is very proud of the hard work he did to graduate from high school. Following graduation, he went to college at Pasadena City College. Anthony now works at Chucky Cheese pizza

restaurant, and is looking forward to becoming a police officer in the future. He says, "If you stay focused and you do what you're supposed to do in life, you'll be fine." He added that if students stay focused in school, we can do anything we put our minds to.



### Happy Valentine's Day from the PTA

Happy Valentine's DAY! The PTA will be selling Valentine's Day treats and cards that will be delivered on Monday, February 14th. The price will be \$1 for a simple card like flower and a lollipop. We will sell a fancier card and treat for \$2. You can order a Valentine's gram for your friends and teacher (s) as well. The order forms will go home next Thursday, and you can even write a personal message that will go on the card. We will also sell V-Day cards/treats on Thursday February 10th after school, near the dismissal gate.



Thank you for supporting the Toluca Lake  
PTA!

### Principal's Message

As the second semester is upon us, we are working very hard to be sure your boys and girls are thoroughly prepared for the California Standards Tests coming in May. A really important part of this preparation is teaching them **self-discipline**. They need to understand the importance of completing **all** of their homework on a **daily** basis, coming to school **every day**, and coming **on time**. You, as the role model, have the biggest influence on your children. Talk to them about all of the tasks you must complete on a daily basis in order to provide for them and the family. Explain that if you often came to work late, you would lose your job and that is why they need to **learn the habit of being on time on a daily basis**. As always, our door is open for you to come in and talk if ever you have any concerns. We love our parents and are very lucky to have so much support at our school. - Ms. Carol Reo Bove

## **Featured Faculty: Ms. Gillette is Kinderful!**

by - Cristina Jercan, Adelaida Rivas, Luismi Camacho, & Cassandra Cordova

Ms. Gillette is one of the best Kindergarten teachers in our school, and in Los Angeles ... and in California, and in the United States, and in the world! She began working at Toluca Lake Elementary school in 1997. She has a Bachelors degree in science and a California teaching credential. She earned her credential at National University.

She has lots of cool hobbies. She likes to read, garden, do yoga, and mountain bike. Her hero is her mother because she was very smart, but had to quit school at the age of 16 to take care of her younger sisters and brothers. Later, her mom went back to school, got her high school diploma, and started a sewing machine business. Then, her mom went to Penn State University. Throughout that time, her mom worked hard to put Ms. Gillette and her brothers through college. Ms. Gillette is very grateful of her mother for being there for her.

Ms. Gillette feels that the toughest part of her job is that she has to do so much in so little time. It's very challenging to try to meet all the individual needs of her students. The professional accomplishment that makes her proudest is that after her husband died, she worked hard to get her teacher's credential and put her two daughters in college. The things that she likes the best about working at our school is seeing all of the kids she had as students grow up and develop into wonderful students. She loves seeing how smart they've gotten as they've grown up.

One of the things that Ms. Gillette would like to change about our school is that she'd like to see more consistent parent participation. She believes that parents are very important to their child's education, so she'd like to see more involvement in all of our school's activities.

The best advice Ms. Gillette gives to our current students is "to read for a reason, to read for no reason, and best of all to read for fun!!! READ! We're very happy to have such a great teacher as Ms. Gillette teaching our Kindergarten kids to read!



### **Teacher's Tip**

Organizational skills are paramount to a student's academic and social success. Teachers and parents need to think about which organizational strategies work best for students. Some helpful techniques include:

#### **Prioritizing Tasks:**

- Provide assignment pads monitored by parents & teachers
- Provide a desk or wall calendar
- Play games (example: estimate how long an activity will take)
- Use checklists
- Create and maintain structured routines
- Use timers for deadlines
- Use Post-Its to remind students to complete tasks

#### **Backpacks:**

- Empty once a week.
- Implement a system for deciding which items are important to keep in the backpack and which need to be left at home

#### **Bedrooms:**

- Need to be kept organized
- Designate specific areas for specific functions (ie; study area)

Involve the student in finding solutions to the problems.

## Writing Contest!

Don't forget to submit your paragraph (or more) about an African American hero that inspires you. The due date is February 16<sup>th</sup>. Remember there will be two winners from each grade level, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. Each winner will receive a cash gift certificate to Border's bookstore worth ten dollars! Let us know who your role model is and how they inspired you.

## 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 San Fernando Valley Audubon Society hosts a free family bird walk on Sat., Feb. 12 at the **Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area**. Bring the whole family, borrow binoculars, and see the awesome wildlife. Call Muriel Kotin at (310-457-5796 for more information.
- The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) offers another Target Free Monday in honor of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 21 (12-8 pm). Free tickets to the museum (all day!) & enjoy a live performance by the Bohemians. 12:30 and 2:45 pm.

## Calendar

Feb. 8 = CHP child I.D. photos  
Feb. 14 = St. Valentine's Day  
Feb. 14 = Accelerated Reader reading log due to teacher for Magic Mountain tickets  
Feb. 15 = Local Leadership Council  
Feb. 16 = Writing Contest Deadline  
Feb. 17 = L.A. Jazz Society visits!  
Feb. 21 = Presidents' Day  
(School Closed)  
Feb. 22 = School Site Council Mtg.  
Feb. 24 = PTA Meeting  
Feb. 25 = Black History Show  
March 3 = NASA scientist Sandy Kaszynski visits 5<sup>th</sup> grade



The next PTA meeting is February 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have a special presentation about kid's fitness and yoga. We will also discuss Open House and the Upcoming Garden Party. Please come and support your PTA! Thank you for attending the last meeting: we had a great turnout!

*Do You Have 1 Hour for Your School?*

*Don't Miss This  
PTA Meeting!*

*Support The  
Toluca Lake PTA  
4840 Cahuenga Blvd.  
N. Hollywood, CA 91601  
PTA HOTLINE: (818) 870-0448  
Email: [tolucalakepta@gmail.com](mailto:tolucalakepta@gmail.com)*



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- Go to [www.escrip.com](http://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!"*

*- Julane Kurtz, PTA President, Blossom Valley, El Cajon, CA*

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Brought to you by the Toluca Lake Elementary PTA.  
[Tolucalakepta@aol.com](mailto:Tolucalakepta@aol.com)

Toluca Lake  
Elementary  
School:  
An Arts  
Prototype  
School



Principal:  
Carol Reo Bove  
Assistant Principal:  
Joyce Miles  
Parent Representative:  
Lucy Gonzalez  
Coordinator:  
Jeff Daniel  
Lead Teacher:  
Steve Reidman  
Newsletter Editor:  
Dennis Hagen-Smith



**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

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

## Super Sleuth & Scavenger Hunt

### Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

Name - \_\_\_\_\_; Room # - \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does Ms. Gillette advise students to do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who said that "standing up for one's own integrity ... is one of the highest expressions of courage I know"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the name of the play that this month's Awesome Alumni starred in as a fifth grade student at Toluca Lake Elementary?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where can you go for a free wildlife walk on Saturday, February 12?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is one "tip" that may help to keep you organized and successful at school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Where is this image located on our campus? (Hint: you pass by this magical windmill on your way to lunch whenever it's a rainy day).

This image is located \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Riddle Me This ...

- Why did the skeleton go to the barbeque? - Jerry Chaiyasid
- What do cows do on Saturday nights? - Brandon Vielman
- Why did the chicken cross the park? - Brianna Madera
- What did the dog say when being chased by a lion? - Zachary Miles