

# TOLUCA LAKE TIMES

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## WORDS OF WISDOM

*The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not "Eureka!" (I found it!) but "That's funny..."*

~ Isaac Asimov  
(Author & Scientist)



## Family Science Day at UCLA

by - Valentino Lara, Karla Santiago,  
Nayema Sciaky, Emily Sazo, & Ulises Celis



On November 6, 2016, families from Toluca Lake Elementary School hopped aboard a PTA-funded bus and headed to UCLA's Family Science Day, "Explore Your Universe". It was an amazing day at UCLA! We had a great time doing lots of different science activities.

One of our favorite activities was touching REAL HUMAN BRAINS! They felt soft and smushy. After the brain touching, we enjoyed visiting the Dark

Room. UCLA students taught us about photons and about how you can describe gas by its color. For example, a white gas is krypton (watch out, Superman!). There was also an optical illusion where there is this mirror that looks like a tube, but when you look at the other side, it's just a flat mirror!

We also had fun making silly putty. After that we went to see why are plants green. We were watching how dams have big fans (turbines) that rapidly spin with the water force to generate electricity. We also got to learn about astronomy, fiber optics, genetics, shoot off rockets, touch fossils, and examine rocks. It was an awesome day!

## Visiting the Autry Museum on the Way West!

By: Kevin Santiago, Tiffany Ramos,  
Sarah Castillo, Veronica Chicas, and Eliza Araneta

Westward Expansion, the Oregon Trail, and art! Bringing back memories from the 1800's to the early 1900's at the Autry Museum's Western-themed exhibits and galleries was a fun way to learn about history! Fifth grade students had a great time visiting this amazing museum.

During one interactive activity, we learned how risky and dangerous it was to travel on the Oregon Trail to move west for new opportunities. We worked in groups and pretended to be part of a family moving west. One of the docents gave each group scenarios from the journey. Each group had to make decisions to help people survive while traveling on the risky trail. One question was, "One family member got a serious disease that spreads quickly. It might spread to other family members, what do you do." Our choices were, "Leave him on the road to die, or stop the calistoga wagon to help him." One family chose to leave him to die, while another group chose to stay to help him. The correct answer was to let him die so that our wagon could progress towards Oregon and not get caught in the winter in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The Oregon Trail activity was an amazing experience teaching us about history, and how to work together to make tough decisions. After lunch, we did a cool scavenger hunt and learned more about the museum. It was a terrific field trip!

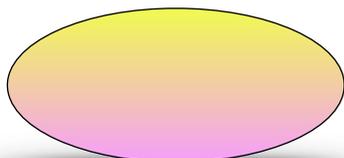


**Principal's Message:**

*The entire staff of Toluca Lake Elementary would like to wish all of you a wonderful New Year, 2017. The Parents of Toluca Lake are very special to us because of all of your help in supporting the goals set for your children.*

*We are really proud of our P.T.A and the many Parents who are working so hard to organize the meetings, provide support to the students and do anything they can to further the learning of the students. If you are interesting in joining please look forward to our big registration drive in January.*

*Once again have a holiday season full of joy and warmth with your families! - Carol Reo-Bove*



**Calendar**

- Dec. 16 - Jan. 9 - Winter Break
- Jan. 12 - PTA Meeting
- Jan. 16 - Dr. King's Birthday
- Jan. 17 - Dr. King Assembly
- Jan. 17 - GTLNC Meeting
- Jan. 17 - Local Leadership Council
- Jan. 21 - Million Women March
- Jan. 27 - PTA Walk-a-Thon
- Feb. 16 - GTLNC Meeting
- Feb. 20 - President's Day
- March 2 - UCLA's Project Brainstorm

**Featured Faculty:**

**Mr. Lee Brings his Best Everyday!**

**by - Tiffany Ramos, Richard Ruvalcaba, & Eliza Araneta**

Wow! TA, Mr. Lee has now become an official teacher at Toluca Lake Elementary School. From 2010-2013, Mr. Lee was one of our spectacular teacher assistants. Now, he has become an awesome fifth grade teacher!

Mr. Lee was born in Elmhurst, Illinois in 1971. He grew up in Southern Missouri. Mr. Lee's hobbies are Brazilian Ju-jitsu, reading, watching movies, and guitar. One specific quality trait he likes in people is keeping their promises and being true to their word. He loves to learn. That's why he is working on earning his Masters Literature Degree at CSUN. He enjoys working with kids because learning new things makes life very cool. "Just seeing the educational growth of children over the years is always exciting," says Mr. Lee. What an amazing guy!

Mr. Lee appreciates how the staff and teachers at Toluca Lake are supporting him as a teacher. Being the first person in his family to go to college must be amazing! The most challenging thing about working in education is that teachers never get everything they have to do done in the day. There's always more work for them.



"One change I would like to see at this school is that I think 4th and 5th students should stay until 3:00 p.m. in L.A.U.S.D.," said Mr. Lee. The toughest part of his job is finding a creative way of teaching everything he is supposed to teach in the short time available each day. Getting his teacher credential was a proud accomplishment for Mr. Lee.

He advises all students to always try your best and take advantage of resources given to you such as the program, Education City. Mr. Lee is happy to be back as this school as a teacher.

He was nervous at first because he had never taught 5th grade before. But, Mr. Lee works hard, faces challenges, and is a model for us kids. He helps make our school great and being in fifth grade kids a fun experience.

**Seeds of Stem Program Visits Toluca**

**by - Addison Leon, Jilianne Ebeung, Daniel Pacheco, & Sarah Castillo**

**SCIENCE!!!** The L.A. DWP brought the Wildwood Foundation's "Seeds of Stem" to Toluca Lake's fifth graders this semester. The program director, Ms. Paula, taught us many new ideas about different science techniques, and showed us that environmental studies can lead to jobs while helping our world be healthier. During the Seeds of Stem visits, students did fun activities to learn about the role of water in our community. We even got to take a field trip to the L.A. Water Filtration Plant to see how water is cleaned before being sent to our homes.

Ms. Paula recommends that students work hard in school and go to college. UCLA is her first choice because that's where she went to college to learn about science. Understanding science and engineering is great to help us in the future.

During the first activity we were part of a food web. We were all assigned an animal or plant, in the food web. To make believe, we pretended one of the animals died and the impact of how that animal dying would affect the other animals and the whole food chain. Then we reversed jobs and instead we were humans in different jobs. Some people pretended they were firefighters, pilots, engineers, and actors. We learned that each job helps another. Overall, teachers help everyone; without them we wouldn't learn anything. We learned but still had fun at the same time.

Learning about plants, science, engineering, and the environment is important because it will help us in the future. *Seeds of Stem* inspired us to be engineers and scientists! We hope she inspired you too.

## Kaiser Permanente Educational Theater

**Writers: David Acosta, Kevin Santiago, and Eliza Araneta**

**Interview Team: Jeanette Franco, Marisha Legan-Johnson, Nate Moluley, and Anthony Cloyd**

Actors, healthy ideas, and a whole lot of fun came to Toluca Lake Elementary School when the Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre group visited our school this semester. They showed students the *Amazing Food Detectives*, a performance filled with great choices concerning our health and bodies.

Food Groups! Yummy selections can balance your diet and protect your health. We learned that grain, dairy, vegetables, fruits, & poultry/meat are all delicious and nutritious! When eating a snack, make sure to look at the back of the package to see which ingredients your snack contains. Make sure to drink 8 glasses of water a day since H<sub>2</sub>O, aka water, helps your joints, muscles, and organs. You need to stay hydrated to be able to use body parts and move freely.

If you can move freely, try exercising. It helps to keep your body in top physical and mental condition. Running, stretching, lifting weights or groceries, and playing a sport are all helpful exercises. Basketball, baseball, football, tetherball, and even handball are sports that can keep you active and exercised. Facts: when you play you sweat; sweat is the water coming from your body to keep you cooled down while active. It keeps you healthy. Sweat is another reason to drink lots of water.

The actors, Anthony, Jeanette, Nate, and Marisha, enjoy working in the theatre because acting is fun and serious.

Jeanette was inspired to start acting because of the Hispanic actors and actresses she watched while growing up. Marisha was inspired to start acting because it seemed like a fun experience to start with as a career, and learned it was an amazing activity to take up as a job in life. Anthony chose to work at Kaiser so he could act, learn more about health, and play in theatre groups. Nate started working with Kaiser in 2008; he felt that it was an amazing and rewarding opportunity in performing and that it was pretty fun too.

The *Amazing Food Detectives* was a wonderful chance to learn more about our health, including ways to keep our bodies in top shape. Thank you to Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre team for this amazing way to detect good choices for our healthy bodies!



## **ACCELERATED READER & EDUCATION CITY ROCK!**

**by - Emily Sazo, Kevin Santiago, Richard Ruvalcaba, & Genesis Smith**

Have you ever taken an Accelerated Reader test? Well Accelerated Reader is a test that we take on the computer after reading a book. Let's tell you more about it. Each of our students is in the program. We all have a special username and password. When we type in that information, we can look up the book we just read. Then, we get to take a test with 5, 10, and 20 questions. If we get 60% or better, we pass the test and earn points. Those points help us earn good grades in reading, and win prizes from Mr. Daniel (our school's coordinator).

The prizes are great. We win certificates, bookmarks, ribbons, and free meals at places like Fuddrucker's, In & Out Burger, and Hometown Buffet. At some of those places, like Islands, the manager comes to your table and congratulates you for reading so well.

Our school also has a program called Education City. Education City is similar to Accelerated Reader because it's all played on the computer. It's different because Education City has math, science, and language arts games. Also, we can play Education City at home to get more educated and have lots of fun.

We learned more about these programs at a special assembly in our auditorium. It was fun because Mr. Daniel wore a Cat in the Hat hat and told us all about the prizes!



## Scary Story Contest

*Jason Navarro — Rm. 8, Kindergarten, Winner*

### The Little Boy & Haunted House on Halloween Night

It was a dark and stormy night. In a haunted house there was a ghost creaking through the scary stairs. In the basement there was a skeleton. But in the haunted kitchen there was a zombie.

A little boy walked up to the house. He went into the kitchen and saw the zombie. The zombie saw him and was so scared he ran away.

The little boy went outside where he saw a witch soaring through the skies. Once he saw the witch he said, "I am scared, I am scared."

The witch heard him and said, "Well, well my dear. Do you want a pot of tea?"

The little boy said, "No, it's poison."

"Well, yes, it is poison," the witch said. "It's going to kill you."

The little boy ran from the witch into the woods, never to be seen again.

*Oscar Martinez — Rm. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Winner*

### Scary Story

During the day, the monster could be my friend; he was kind and gentle. We played together; we talked about whatever was on our minds. We would laugh and create wonderful memories together. But as soon as the night arrived, he would become upset.

He was afraid to leave for fear that he would never return.

As soon as the sun would go down, I would run to my room and hide under the covers. I'd pull them up to my head and close my eyes as tight as possible. I knew if I were to open my eyes, I'd see him inside the wall.

At this time he was no longer my friend; he was an ugly, scary monster with bright red eyes like fire. He was as black as the night, and so, hiding came easily for him; therefore, making it easier to scare me.

I knew he lived for the day he could scare me. I knew that if I pulled the cover off, he'd attack me! How scary! I knew no one would believe me.

*Kemani Saunders — Rm. 27, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade*

### Amira and the Vampire

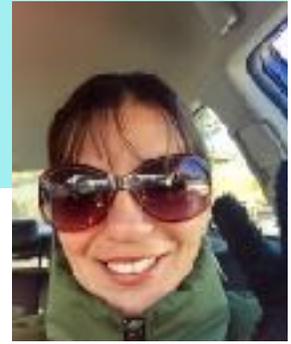
One spooky dark Halloween night, all you can see was a big full moon with a black one eyed crow sitting on it. Meanwhile in a small town there was a seven year old girl named Amira sitting in her room scared because she hated Halloween. Then all of a sudden she heard a noise and she got out of bed and went to the kitchen to check to see what it was. It sounded like someone cutting something, she was hoping it was her mom. But to her surprise it was a creepy vampire making a smoothie! Then the vampire turned around and said, "Would you like some"? She almost screamed but covered her mouth because she didn't want to wake up her baby brother. The vampire had long fangs and on the tip of them was drops of blood. She did a big gulp and ran as fast as she could to her bedroom and quickly put the covers over her head. Then she heard loud and hard footsteps coming towards her room. Her room door creaked open slowly and then the footsteps got closer and closer, she felt a hand reach out and pull the covers off of her head and she screamed as loud as she could then she opened her eyes. To her surprise she saw her mother with this green night mask on her face, eating ketchup fries and a smoothie. Her mom said, "What? I asked if you wanted some." Then they both burst out laughing. So now Amira was no longer afraid of Halloween anymore. Halloween is now her favorite holiday and she loves their new tradition of eating ketchup fries and drinking smoothies. Plus she gets to spend time with her family.

*Dylan Wyke - Rm. 10, 3rd Grade Winner*

### Happy Halloween Poem

Jet-black cats prowling in the night.  
Witches scaring on there brooms  
Mummies raveling up to scare.  
Ghosts haunting their old houses.  
Jack-o-lanterns scaring too.  
Vampires awakening to feed  
Were wolves howling,

# Happy Halloween!

**Awesome Alumni:****The Story of My Mom: Daniella Hartley**  
by - Valentino Hartley

“Who do you think is the best student ever to come to Toluca Lake Elementary School?” Well, it might surprise you, but I think it’s my mom! Yes! My mom, Daniella Hartley used to be a proud student of our school, Toluca Lake Elementary School!

Though she only attended two years, 1990 and 1991, she was known all around the school! My mom attended for fifth and sixth grade (fun fact: before, elementary school was up to sixth grade instead of fifth grade!)

My mom’s favorite memory from Toluca Lake Elementary School was actually in my classroom, but with her favorite teacher, Mrs. Lee. My mom’s favorite school subject was history because she loved to learn about the past. One of my mom’s heroes is my grandma because my grandma fought with cancer and was able to still be loving and happy until her last day.

One of my mom’s favorite faculty members was the nurse because the nurse was really nice. None of the teachers working at our school were at Toluca Lake Elementary back in those days. My mom’s next school after Toluca Lake was Walter Reed Middle School.

My mom’s current occupation is a roster specialist. That means that she helps give actors get jobs for the movie industry. My mom had to work hard to learn about the movie industry. Her greatest professional accomplishment is doing her job so well because it helps her give actors get jobs. My mom advices students to always study hard, and always be kind. I’m proud of my mom; she is a great Awesome Alumni of Toluca Lake Elementary School!

**Our Trip to the San Pedro Floating Marine Lab****by: Tiffany Ramos, Veronica Chicas, David Acosta, and Angie Zavala**

Toluca Lake Elementary School’s fifth grade students went on a field trip to a floating marine lab in San Pedro this semester. We saw many animals and learned many things about marine life.

We learned that a stingrays’ tail is made of the same material of our nails. We also learned that fish have a lateral line, which is used to sense other fish in schools. Fish also have counter shading. That is an adaptation used to blend in with the water and sun: when they are light on the bottom, predators think they are the sun, and they are dark on the top so some fish think they are the sea floor.

We went to several stations, to examine, view, and feel the marine life. One of the many in which we partaken was the mud station where we got to feel the

consistency of the deep ocean floor. We also

went to a station where we examined the amount of plankton in a cup of seawater with a microscope. We saw many microscopic creatures, such as copepods, diatoms, and isopods. We also visited a station where we could touch marine life such as kelp fish, shrimp, and a flounder. We even got lucky enough to catch a seahorse and butterfly ray with a gigantic net!

The boat took us to a rocky shore where we saw herds of seals and sea lions. They were sitting still as we watched them settle in their habitats.. We watched their every move, as they flopped across the shore and rocks.

It was an amazing field trip, and we genuinely hope to come back again, and recommend it to all people who are interested in marine wildlife. This trip was a terrific way to learn science!



# Scary Story Contest

## Upper Grade Winner

### ***“THE CLOSET” by Ephraim Miller (Rm. 13) - 5th Grade Winner***

I was going to bed one night when I suddenly felt cold, so I got out of bed, and I went to get a blanket in my closet. I saw the blanket on a shelf right in front of me, but for some reason, I couldn't reach it. I tried to reach farther into the closet, but still could not reach the blanket. Then I saw a swirling yellow light and boom, just like that, I was in a swirling hole that felt like I was being pulled in a bottomless pit. I was screaming for my mom from inside the hole, but I did not hear a sound from my mouth. I was in a void! Then I saw a door, and I wondered should I open it, or should I play it safe, and wait for someone to find me?

I decided that I was going to open the door, when I opened it what I saw was indescribable! I saw kids in the hundreds or even millions playing in the water, snow, grass, and courts. To the west were the courts. To the south were the mountains to ski and sled on. To the east were the rivers, ponds, lakes and beaches, and to the north were forests and fields. I was stunned! Everything was so peaceful, and there was not an adult around! I could do anything!

I heard laughing and screaming from kids playing around. I sat down on a bench to take it all in because this had to be a dream. Out of the blue I heard a voice say “hello” behind me. I spun around alarmed that someone was behind me! It was a boy. He had long black hair covering one of his eyes and he looked Latino.

“Hi!” I said.

“Hello.” the kid said.

I was entirely confused! “What’s your name? Where am I? Why am I here? How did all these kids get here, and how can I get home?” I asked back-to-back.

“Ariel. Ariel Lopez.” He said proudly. “This place is called “The Dimension of Happiness”. I don’t know where it is. All of us kids get here the same way you did, through our closets. The doors when they are ready to open all have an aura around them, and you can feel that aura from the door that is yours from a certain distance.

“Okay” I said shaking my head violently from side to side. I was still trying to make sense of it all.

“Is this your first time being here?” Ariel asked.

“Yes!” I said calmly. Should I have been here before, I thought. Why hadn’t I been here before?

“How many times have you been here?” I asked.

“Are you kidding? I have been coming here for years. At least since I was five, I think. I am ten years old now. Anyway, this is so cool that it is your first time. You are lucky that I am here.” he said. I can give you a tour. Come on!”

“Thank You!” I yelled as he ran away happily.

“By the way, what’s your name?” Ariel yelled back.

“Kevin.” I said.

“That’s a nice name Kevin.” Ariel said.

“Hey...do you want to play?” I asked.

“Yes!” Ariel yelled.

We went to every side of the park, playing and laughing. We played tag, climbed trees, went sledding, and even went in the interdimental Olympics for kids. I won 1<sup>st</sup> place. I got a trophy and a medal. Ariel got 2<sup>nd</sup> place. He got a medal and a trophy.

“We did a lot today.” Ariel said exhausted.

“Yeah.” I said tagging him exhaustedly.

“Look!” Ariel screamed.

“What?” I asked.

“The sky!” He screamed!

I thought the sky was going corrupt and making things disappear or there were monsters falling from the sky by the way he looked. I turned and only saw the beautiful hazelnut sky.

“That is what you’re worried about?” I asked

He looked paranoid.

“It’s getting dark!” Ariel said “we have to go back!”

“Why?” I asked.

“Something’s going to happen if we do not get out now!” He said in a low but worried voice.

“Fine you go, but I want to play more.” I said

“I will and I think that you should follow me.” Ariel said, and ran away.

It was cold that night. No one was around, not even Ariel, and I was scared. Then I saw a part of the world zip open. After the metal spikes zipped open the ground, they turned into what looked like black mambas. Then I saw a giant man step out of the hole and he looked hungry! He looked like a man that has not washed himself in a 1,000,000,000,000 years and his eyes were red. His voice sounded like a screaming lynx from one of the nature shows I watch on TV.

“I think I found myself a lunch!” The tall man screeched.

I started to run, but as I was running, the tall man summoned a pack of black wolves, and they started to run after me. I was scared and wanted nothing more than to get away from the tall man and wolves.

“Great. Just what I need!” I said sarcastically looking behind me only to find the wolves and the zipper snakes chasing me.

How I wished I could run like a cheetah. No sooner did I think that, I was riding on the back of a cheetah. I guess that is the next best thing to actually running like a cheetah. I could not believe my thoughts came true! This place was amazing and frightful. If that wish came true, I thought why not make other wishes also. Then I wished that I had a pack of white wolves by my side, and that came true.

“Cool!” I said.

I thought light (white) always prevails over the dark (black). Now I was sorry that I did not listen to Ariel, and left sooner. I had to find my door before it was too late and the tall man ate me. Suddenly, as I thought about my door, I started to feel a tingling sensation in my body. Could that sensation be my door’s aura? In the far distance, I suddenly saw a small white light. My cheetah friend and wolves must have seen the white light too because they suddenly changed their course and started running faster toward it.

It was my door, as I could see my bedroom through the opening. I got to my door. I realized how lucky I was that my door had not permanently closed at sun down. It seems as if the door had been held open by my fallen baseball bat. All the animals I summoned went through the door. When I was out of there, I had a surprise, I was in my bed and it was still night. Also all the animals I summoned to protect me in the dimension were still with me. I knew that if my mom found out that I had wild animals (which are tamed) she would flip! I wished that I could turn them into coins so when I needed them I could call them. Just like that, I was able to turn my animal protectors into medals. I don’t know how that happened, so don’t ask me! I guess it was some magic or something. Before I went to sleep, I checked my watch. “2:00 am. Great” I moaned. I forced my eyes shut and went to sleep so I could rest. This night was hectic enough.

In the morning I was moving really fast! I had gotten everything done before my mom even finished getting dressed. I was running out the house when I bumped into a kid.

“Sorry. I was running to fast.” I said

“It’s okay.” he said

Then I looked at his face.

“Ariel?” I asked.

“Kevin?” the kid asked.

## Teacher Tips

Visiting educational websites is a terrific way to share new learning experiences with your children. Students may learn about the world.

- You can explore the relative size of both the largest and smallest items in the universe at: <http://htwins.net/scale2/?bordercolor=white>.
- Another fascinating website, the Encyclopedia of Life, provides "global access to knowledge about life on Earth" at <http://eol.org/>.
- The icivics website offers interactive games that teach about the rights and responsibilities of citizens. It includes a number of fun, educational games as well: <http://www.icivics.org/games>.
- The WatchKnowLearn website offers a variety of free educational videos ... organized to make them easily accessible. You can check it out at: <http://www.watchknowlearn.org/>.
- You can hear hundreds of bird songs, and learn about the habitat and characteristics of each species at: <http://www.birdjam.com/learn.php>.
- "A Walk in the Woods" from the University of Illinois takes students on an interactive walk through the woods to explore nature ... from inside your home. You can go for this interactive stroll at: <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/woods/>.
- You can even have a live bird's eye view of bald eagles on the Channel Islands at <http://www.nps.gov/chis/photosmultimedia/bald-eagle-webcam.htm>.
- You can become more informed about the new Common Core State Standards at: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/5/>
- Newsela offers news articles and comprehension questions geared towards upper grade students at: <https://newsela.com>

## STUDENTS VISIT UCLA!

by - Sarah Castillo, Janelle Bueno, Eliza Araneta, & Genesis Smith

Toluca Lake students from Mr. Reidman's third grade class, and Mr. Hagen-Smith's fifth grade class took a great field trip to UCLA.



As part of UCLA's Design for Sharing program, students got to see a concert by the Kronos Quartet. The musicians played a wide variety of music from each corner of the world. They played songs from far-away countries such as Mexico, Kenya, India, China, and Canada. One Irish song, "Satellites," made us imagine traveling to space.

The four musicians played all sorts of instruments such as the viola, violins, friction tubes, and drums. The first song, from Syria, was called "How to Stop the Hunters from Hunting You." It made us imagine the journey of refugees trying to escape from the war there. The concert was very alive with exciting music!

After the concert, the third grade students got to tour part of the UCLA campus. The fifth grade students went to the Physics building to see the c. elegans lab with college students from Dr. Katsushi Arisaki's *Elegant Minds Club*.

C. elegans are microscopic organisms that are used to study everything from the human brain to outer space. The college students show us gave us a presentation and a tour of their lab. We got to see some of the tools they use for their research. One of the most amazing things was a computer-tracking device designed by Steve to automatically follow c. elegans for observation.



By observing the results of their experiments, the UCLA students discovered that c. elegans prefer just the right temperature to meet their needs. They also respond to light and electricity. Their lifespan is up to 3 to 4 days, and only have about 302 neurons in their brain unlike the billions in human brains. That means that studying c. elegans is much easier than analyzing the human brain. It was cool seeing how the students created all of these experiments, and see what they've learned about science.

UCLA is a very great college for all subjects including the arts and sciences! We hope all the children who read this article will be able to go to visit UCLA, and attend a great college someday!





## Family Reading Night

by - **Daniel Pacheco, Veronica Chicas, Kayden Flemming, & Diego Bejarano**



During the month of October, families visited Room 17 to enjoy Family Reading Night with their children. During this night, we had fun doing many cool activities. Some activities include making and coloring paper hats, watching a presentation, and eating yummy snacks.

The first activity we did was making paper hats. When making these hats we had to choose books that we really enjoyed reading. Then, we got to draw and color characters from the books we read on the hats. Then, we put the hats on and the kids got in a group and took a picture.

Another activity we did was watch a presentation about reading. The first presentation was about a kid, James, that didn't like to read books. Then, James read the books became magical and then he started to read books. Another presentation we saw was about a dad and kid reading a graphic novel together. The dad discussed some reading techniques with his son. One reading technique was putting your finger on the line of text you're reading so you don't get lost.

This family reading night was very fun and exciting. We got to spend time with our parents. These activities were very fun and interesting. Maybe next year you could come!



## 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.

- Dec. 24 (3:00-6:00 pm - line starts earlier): The **57th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration** is held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. This annual free event features a diverse selection of musical performances celebrating the holidays. You can obtain more information at: <<http://www.lacountyarts.org/holiday.html>>.
- Dec. 10-11: The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is hosting **Los Angeles' 12th Annual International Children's Film Festival**. This special event features films for a variety of ages ... and it's free! While you're there, sign up for the Next Gen program at LACMA. Next Gen provides free admission to LACMA for all children, and one adult per child. You can obtain more information about the film festival at: <<http://www.lacma.org/series/11th-annual-los-angeles-international-childrens-film-festival>>.
- Jan. 2-3: You can view **Rose Bowl floats** up close and personal. Bring your walking shoes ... there's quite a few of them! Find out more at <<https://www.tournamentofroses.com/events/post-parade>>.
- Brighten up your holidays with an all new yuletide tradition, as parts of the **L.A. Zoo** are transformed with highly original animal-themed LED light displays and decorations for the winter holiday season. In addition to the amazing light shows of the past two years, new this year is a laser show set to music boasting majestic screens of water with projections of fanciful animation and an animal shadow puppet installation complete with interactive photo-op and a new waterfall feature in the Children's Zoo: <<http://www.lazoo.org/visit/>>.

## Scary Story Contest

### “SUSPENSE STORY”

by *Eliza Araneta (Rm. 17) - 5th Grade*

Hey, you’re cheating!” exclaimed Ami.

“Nuh uh!” replied Gabe. These children were playing games and enjoying life... or so it seemed. Siblings ages 10 and 13, Gabe and Ami, aka-Amerada, were about to experience an 8-bit cheat in a little arcade shop.

Click click clack click... jammed buttons and swishing levers on a game controller. “I’m going to win this round!” Ami competitively shouted. Gabe, the youngest, suggested they go to the arcade. Why do you want to go there all of a sudden?” asked Ami.

“I don’t know cause’ I feel like it...”

“Fine... we’ll go, but only because I want to try out a new cheat code on Pac Man.”

“Yay, we’re gonna play arcade games should I put on my sneakers?”

“Yes and dress into something decent, like jeans and a white t-shirt.”

As they walked towards the arcade away from the house they alerted their parents to where they were headed. “We’re going to be at the arcade, kay’,” alerted the children. ...No reply, so they repeated. No voices replying, creeping towards the counter, their parents were not there. However a white thin slip took their place: “We’re at another meeting, sorry we’re too busy! Go ahead and make yourselves sandwiches, have fun and play games just don’t play for more than 2 and a half hours okay. Hope you’re asleep by 9:30! Love you!

Sincerely,  
Mom and Dad ”

Considering the note, they walked to the arcade.

“Did you bring your roll of quarters?” asked the both of them at the same time.

“JINX!” they replied.

“Ami, Ami, Ami!” Gabe repeated.

“Ugghh, of course we both brought our quarters, now you play your game, and I’ll try that new cheat code on Pac-Man I’ve wanted to try!” Ami exclaimed from across the game sections.

As Gabe walked over to *Qubert* he noticed a strange marking behind it. He couldn’t quite make most of what seemed to be, “< > ^ > < ^” or “left, right, up, right, left, and up.” The smudged writing at the end of the code looked like up then left/ ^ >. If it weren’t for his curiosity, he wouldn’t have inserted 2 quarters and entered what he had made of the cheat in the game. Shhk shhkh shhk tckk tckk vrrrrr, He screamed out to the clerk and his sister that the machine was shaking. The clerk wasn’t there and only his sister came to help.

“What did you do!” a worried Ami asked.

“I just entered a cheat I found...”

“Why would you enter a random cheat?”

“I thought it was safe, here look it’s behind the machine!”

A distressed Ami noticed the dangerous cheat, what gamers considered the Game Over cheat. “Gabe, you really don’t know anything do you....” exhaled Ami. Vrrrr, vrrrr, shhk, shhkh... it shook even more. The cable connected to the machine let out blue sparks. With no one else in the arcade or at home they tried to unplug the machine. “It’s not working!” cried out Gabe as they tried to pull the plug out of the outlet. A vortex appeared sucking them into the *Qubert* arcade machine...

Screams of the two siblings followed... and Gabe woke up in his bed screaming. “It was just a dream,” he let out in relief. But everything looked weirder than usual, Ami approached, however Gabe saw a message:

\*Your sister, Ami has approached you...

- A.) Great her
- B.) Tell her about your dream
- C.) Tell her to leave your room
- Or
- D.) Inform her that you feel weird...



Toluca Lake Elementary



An Arts Prototype School

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Ms. Carol Reo-Bove

Assistant Principal:

Ms. Dori O'Shea

Coordinator:

Mr. Jeff Daniel

Lead Teacher:

Mr. Steve Reidman

Parent Representative:

Ms. Lucy Gonzalez

PTA President:

Mr. Martin Portillo

Newsletter Editor:

Mr. Dennis Hagen-Smith

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# Riddle Me This!

- Kayden Flemming asks: How do cells communicate?
- David Acosta asks: Why is the nucleus not married?
- Eliza Araneta asks: How does the Man on the Moon cut his hair?
- Danielle Ortiz asks: What do you call a cow with no legs?
- Genesis Smith asks: What comes every year, twice a week, and never in a month?
- Tiffany Ramos asks: A man goes on vacation for three days. He leaves on Monday, and returns on Friday. How is it possible if he was only gone fo® three days?

## Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

1. Name one activity from UCLA's Family Science Day.
2. What did Issac Asimov say is the most exciting phrase to hear in science?
3. What does Mr. Lee study at CSUN?
4. What topic does the *Seeds of Stem* focus upon?
5. Which group did Toluca Lake students see perform at UCLA?
6. Where can you see the 57th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration?
7. Who was the favorite teacher of this month's Awesome Alumni?
8. What is the name of one microscopic organism viewed on the Floating Marine Lab at San Pedro?
9. In which scary story can you read about the Dimension of Happiness?
10. According to the Amazing Food Detectives, what is one way to keep your body healthy?

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

