

# TOLUCA LAKE TIMES

Volume 11, Number 2

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

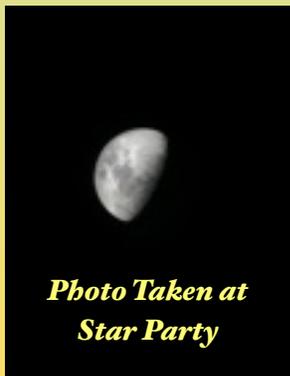
April 6, 2017



## WORDS OF WISDOM

*“The great thing about science is that it’s true whether or not you believe in it.”*

*~ Neil de Grasse Tyson  
Astronomer - Writer  
Director of the Hayden  
National Planetarium*



*Photo Taken at  
Star Party*

## STAR PARTY 2017!

by - Danielle Ortiz, Michael Vega, Sarah Castillo,  
Danielle Quesada, Karla Santiago, and Genesis Smith

Have you ever been to a Toluca Lake Elementary school Star Party? Well, the Star Party is an annual event held at night on campus with friends and family. This community gathering has many activities that allow you to learn at the same time as having fun!

The Star Party had many fun stations and wonderful presentations. As everyone gathered in the auditorium, Mr. Hagen-



Smith (the event organizer) showed us some funny science films. Then he introduced Dr. Brandon Rodriguez, the amazing, scientist from JPL (the Jet Propulsion Laboratory - NASA). Dr. Rodriguez gave an awesome speech about how he overcame hardships when he immigrated from Venezuela as a boy. He emphasized

that as humans we all need to learn and study science. “I can’t believe we can’t talk about global climate change,” he commented about some rules from the new president. This effects everybody, especially the future for us kids. He taught us how important it is to learn about what’s happening in the environment, and to be educated so that we don’t just listen to tv commercials and buy stuff that doesn’t help us.

After the presentation, everyone went to look through telescopes from the Burbank Sidewalk

Astronomers and a scientist from Rocketdyne.

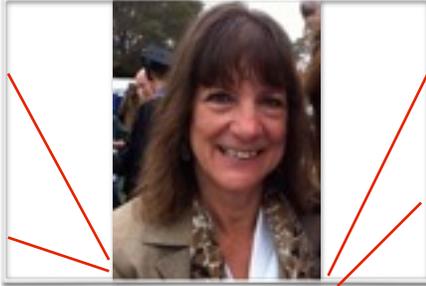
We saw the moon, Mars, and even a nebula where stars are being born. We also went to the open classes to do interactive activities.

Mr. Lee, Ms. Keppel, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Wyatt, Ms. Corbera, and Mr. Hagen-Smith all had rooms open with cool stuff going on. There was also a great station set up outside of Room 10.

That’s where Dr. Massongsong, a scientist from UCLA’s Earth & Planetary Sciences Department was showing films showing Mars and other amazing astronomy stuff.

The PTA also had free drinks, snacks, and glow sticks for everybody. “I really like the Star Party this year. I’ve been to the Star Party six times and I think this one is the best year,” said parent Ms. Fabiola Grey. This particular Star Party was a huge success in our opinion. I hope you can come to our Toluca Lake Star Party next year!





**Featured Faculty:**  
**Mr. Reidman: Superstar Teacher to Retire!**  
**by - Sarah Castillo, Tiffany Ramos, & Emily Sazo**

**Principal's Message:**

*The entire staff of Toluca Lake Elementary would like to thank you for your continued support. The Toluca Lake School Community is a very special place. Each individual comes together to help support the education of our students.*

*We are really proud of our PTA 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.*

*We encourage each of you to come and join the fun here at Toluca Lake Elementary School!*

*Celebrate education by reading and talking to one another about current events. Your actions make us great! - Carol Reo-Bove*



Mr. Reidman has been a teacher at our school for many years. He is amazing at his job, but will be retiring at the end of this year. Although, many kids say he is "strict," he is also very fun and hilarious.

Mr. Reidman was born in Mezrich, Poland and grew up in Sweden, Canada, and America. One of his greatest heroes is his dad because he told him that if you have food on your dinner table, you should have a smile on your face. Mr. Reidman went to school in Los Angeles at Lauren Elementary, Bancroft Middle, Fairfax High School, and Cal State Northridge.



Mr. Reidman has been teaching since 1998. His favorite part of teaching is watching the light bulb go off when students understand a new idea. Every year, Mr. Reidman's class makes a new quilt about what they're studying. He loves to see the kids' faces when the quilt is done. One of the obstacles that Mr. Reidman had to overcome was making administrators (not Ms. Bove) understand that there is more than one way to teach students.

Mr. Reidman would change this school by, "Making parents more involved in their child's education because many think their kids education finishes at 2:09, but it doesn't finish until they fall asleep. The toughest part of his job is thinking that he can make students understand how important their education is to their future. One of Mr. Reidman's professional accomplishments is having students who graduate keep in touch with him because it makes him feel that he has made a difference in their lives. Some advice that he would give to other students is to try and understand each other's feelings and make sure you don't make them feel bad.

"No matter what I've done, teaching has been the best job," says Mr. Reidman. He will continue to enjoy teaching no matter what because that's his passion.

**Heroic Harriet Tubman**

**Calendar**

- April 10-14 - Spring Break
- April 18 - GTLNC & LSLC Meetings
- April 19 - PTA Meeting
- April 21-22 - Festival of Books (USC)
- April 22 - March for Science
- April 25 - SSC Meeting
- May 11 - PTA Meeting
- May 29 - Memorial Day
- June 5 - Student-Faculty Softball
- June 9 - Final Day of School

Harriet Tubman is my hero. Harriet was born into slavery in the south. She escaped slavery when she was young. She helped many slaves escape. Harriet Tubman is a great woman.

- Ariella McFalls  
Room 8  
1st Grade

Harriet Tubman is a great woman. Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in the south. She helped slaves to escape 19 times. She helped the poor and hungry and helped homeless people. Harriet

Tubman was the best helper.

- Victor Barranco  
Room 8  
1st Grade



## **Author Dana Middleton Visits Toluca Lake**

by - **Matthew Fernandez, Miranda Diaz, Angie Zavala and Eliza Araneta**

Dana Middleton, author of the terrific kids' book, The Infinity Year of Avalon James, visited fifth grade students in Rooms 17 and 13 this semester. She taught students about creativity, art, and the process involved in writing her book! The students got to get "behind the scenes" and interviewed her following her presentation.

Many family members had influenced Dana in writing her book. Many of her characters share the same traits as some of Dana's actual family. Atticus, one of the main characters in the book, is based of her nephew. He is loyal, kind, and sees the good in everything and everyone. Elena, the Avalon's nemesis, is based on a mean kid Dana knew in kindergarten.



Dana's amazing book includes a lot of figurative language, humor, symbolization, and foreshadowing; aka great elements to use in a book. Dana plans to make more books for children, including her current project, Open if you Dare. The main three characters in "Open if you Dare" are Ally, Rose, and Birdie; a trio of best friends. Dana loves writing children books because they enlarge on hopefulness and happy endings.

Dana Middleton, a children's book author, thinks of kids as **AWESOME**, loves writing children's book, and is full of creativity. Classes 17 and 13 are very grateful for her visit and hope to get another opportunity to see her again.

## **The Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) Blasts Off at Toluca Lake!**

by - **Veronica Chicas, Daniel Pacheco, Richard Ruvalcaba, Chezare Gordon, and Eliza Araneta**

Dr. Brandon Rodriguez, a scientist working for NASA, visited our school recently. He taught us many things about astronomy. We even got to create our own prototype rockets, ready to be launched to Mars in 2020. Our prototype will carry equipment to Mars that will produce oxygen so that there's a possibility of human life on Mars. We had a lot of fun doing this activity while also learning a lot about astronomy.

The first thing we learned is that NASA is sending a new rover to Mars. We also learned that it takes a rover eight months to go to Mars. Another thing we learned about space was that if you go to Jupiter, its atmosphere will kill you (and the gravity there will crush your dead body). We learned that since Jupiter is a gas giant, it's made of gas, so even if you could go to Jupiter, you would fall to the middle. The middle is a solid because gravity is pulling the gas so tight that it compresses the gas together so you would fall through Jupiter and be crushed by the compressed gas.

Now, let's talk more about Dr. Brandon Rodriguez, the man who made all this information possible. As a child, his family struggled to make a living in the Southwest. As he grew up and entered high school, his teachers and friends helped him. He had an interest and curiosity for solving problems and science. These traits helped him to learn and become a scientist working with Bill Nye "the Science Guy" and NASA.



After visiting with students, Dr. Rodriguez gave a presentation to the teachers. We are very grateful for his visit and the time he took to discuss science with our class. Thankfully, we'll be able to see him again at this year's Star Party!

# Inspirational African American Writing Contest

**Samantha Castillo - Rm. 12, 3rd Grade**

## Rosa Parks

Have you heard of Rosa Parks? Rosa Parks was a bold woman because she did not give up her seat on the bus. Now you will learn more about Rosa Parks.



Rosa Parks was born in February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She went to school at Montgomery Industrial School for Girls. Her parents lived apart in her early life. Rosa married Raymond Parks. One of Rosa Park's hobbies was going to church.

Rosa Parks is best known for not giving up her seat so the white person could sit there *(during the days when segregation was legal in the South. Her actions helped to change those unjust laws).* One

famous quote by Rosa Parks was, "You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right."

Now you know more about Rosa Parks.

**Isabella Zuniga - Room 13, 5th Grade**

## The History of Mae Jemison

Mae Carol Jemison has interesting history filled with much hard work and success. Mae Jemison worked really hard to achieve her goals and get what she wanted. As many people know, Jemison was the first African American woman to be an astronaut and to travel in space. There are many fun facts about her!



Mae Jemison was born on October 17, 1956 in Decatur, Alabama. Her father's name was Charlie Jemison and her mother's name was Dorothy Green Jemison. Mae also had a brother and sister, Charles and Ada Jemison. Mae also had to move frequently and she was very young when she and her family moved to Chicago.

Mae Jemison graduated from Morgan Park High School when she was 16 years old in 1973. A few years later Jemison graduated from Stanford University in 1977. In 1981, Jemison graduated from Cornell University Medical College, then did an internship at the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center and became a doctor in Los Angeles. Soon she had all the education she needed and applied to NASA's astronaut training program.

When Jemison was chosen in 1987 she became a part of the astronaut training program. A few years later Jemison became an astronaut. Mae flew into space on September 12, 1992 aboard the *Endeavour* with 6 other astronauts and became the first African American woman in space. Jemison later said: "I'd love to go into space again if there were a mission to Mars. I'd also love to go to a completely different planetary system out of our solar system" (Biography.com). So we might not have heard the last of Mae Jemison.

**Patrick Lima - Room 11, 4th Grade**

## Elijah McCoy

Elijah McCoy was an inventor and engineer. He was born in Colchester, Ontario, Canada on May 2, 1844. His parents were slaves who escaped from Kentucky through the Underground Railroad and ended up in Canada. Eventually slaves were freed because of President Lincoln. Because McCoy's parents were slaves they wanted him to be educated and go to a good school.

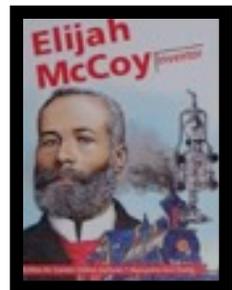
Elijah McCoy grew up in the United States, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He had many brothers and sisters. As a kid, Elijah liked building things, playing with machines and, inventing. Since his parents know he enjoyed this, they got him a box with tools to invent. He went to school in Edinburgh, Scotland and majored as an engineer. That was a perfect major for him because he liked to invent things and take them apart. When he got older it was hard for him to find work as an engineer because he was black. He married Ann Elizabeth Stewart in 1868. She died four years later. Then he got remarried in 1873 to Mary Eleanor Delaney. She also died in a car crash. McCoy felt alone after his two wives died.

Despite the challenges he faced McCoy later on invented the lubricating oil cup. The oil cup is used to make the train run better. He also invented the ironing table, lawn sprinkler, and the metal shoe heel. Later on he filed a patent for his work.

McCoy is thoughtful because he'd let kids in his office to show them his inventions. He is an intelligent man because when he needed to do something hard he invented things to make it easier.

A question I would ask is how did Ann E. Stewart die and how did you feel? Was it hard for him to become an engineer as a black man. You inspired me to be an intelligent person and become the person I want to be. "Work hard, be progressive and, stay in school."

What I learned was that if you listen and pay attention in school you will learn a lot and become the person you want to be. Don't let people say you can't do something just by looking at the color of your skin.



## Students Receive Scholarship to Visit Tree People

By - Chezaré Gonzales Gordon, Janelle Bueno, and Angie Zavala

Toluca Lake's fifth grade class just received a scholarship paying for them to take a special field trip to Tree People. And, let me tell you, it was beautiful and extraordinary. A 13-year-old boy, Andy Lipkus, started the Tree People organization to help the environment by planting trees all over the globe. He has been so successful that Tree People has planted more than a million trees all around the world. Their home base is located nearby in the hills overlooking the San Fernando Valley. It has lots of hiking trails and activities.

During our amazing field trip, we learned so, so much about nature, trees, and the environment. We learned that instead of wasting water, there are a few methods to collect rainwater including rain barrels, rain chains, and putting permeable rocks on the ground. The rain barrels are useful because rain gutters direct water into them which will conserve the water until you need it the most. The rain chains help because they slow down droplets of water to leak into the ground. Permeable rocks above the soil are helpful because then water becomes groundwater instead of evaporating.

We did lots of games and activities to help us learn during our visit. For a reward, we would get a ring based on the subject we were learning about. There were six rings about topics like water, soil, compost, seeds, and a recycling ring. We even made mulch medicine to help trees grow. The best part is that we got to plant a baby tree, and take home to plant in the Earth. This field trip was one of the best field trips we've ever went on. Trees make the world survive!



## Awesome Alumni: Ana Rodriguez Conquers Berkeley!

by: Vanessa Flores, Janelle Bueno, Eliza Araneta, Emily Sazo, & Johana Lopez

Ana Rodriguez attended Toluca Lake Elementary School during 2000-2005. One of her favorite memories at this school was in Mr. Murphy's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, where they would read books like Junie B. Jones after recess. Her favorite subject in school was English because she enjoyed writing and reading about new facts and ideas. Ana's heroes are her mother and older sister because they are strong and independent women. School faculty members that Ana remembers are the history-loving Mr. Hagen-Smith, fun Ms. Rose, Mr. Murphy the musician, strict Mrs. Kritt, and sweet Ms. Grigsby.



After Toluca Lake Elementary, she attended Walter Reed Middle School, North Hollywood High School, and UC Berkley. In college, Ms. Ana Rodriguez had to stay focused on achieving her goals. When she was an after school Spanish teacher, a student thanked her for teaching that class; that meant that the students were paying attention and learning Spanish. This made Ana very happy and proud. Ana advises current students at Toluca Lake Elementary to "do their homework, stay focused, listen, not to talk in class, and to be who you are." That's some great advice from one of our most Awesome Alumni!

# Writing Contest

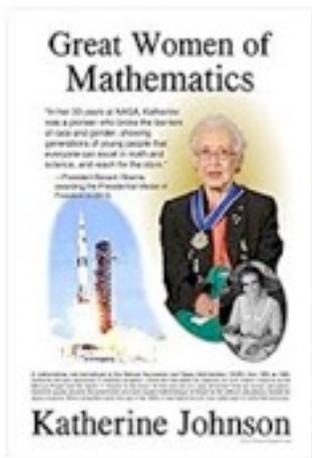


## Upper Grade Winner

### *Genesis Smith - Rm. 17, 5th Grade*

#### The Girl Who Liked To Count

This young lady is a BLACK mathematician that never did give up. She tried her hardest even when times were hard. She even kept believing in herself when it was hard to do so. Her name was Katherine Johnson. This beautiful young lady is a wonderful inspiration to girls of all races, let me explain to you why and how I am moved by her so much.



#### Isn't She Smart?

Katherine Johnson was an awesome pundit in math. Her interest in numbers were developing more and more as a kid. It allowed her to "jump" several grades in school. By the age of thirteen, she was -already applying for the high school on the campus of historically black West Virginia State college. Also at the age of eighteen, she enrolled in the college itself, where she solved her math problems of the math curriculum that she was majorly interested in. Finally, Miss Johnson graduated with the highest honors in 1937 and took a job teaching at a black public school. Learning

about Katherine Johnson is important because it shows that no matter what circumstances you are in, you can still accomplish your dream no matter what.

#### Katherine Johnson Goes to Work at NASA

Since she worked at a public school teaching for most of her life she decided that she was not cut out for teaching. She was 34 years old when she joined NACA (later became NASA). In the 1950s nasa was just starting to discover the mysteries of space, so they needed help. In that case nasa began hiring woman ( including African American woman ), they mistreated them that way and used them basically as "computers". ( spoiler: I think this is when Katherine Johnson comes in). The first time Mrs. Johnson applied, all of the jobs were already taken. I bet she was disappointed but she didn't GIVE UP. So the following year she applied for the job again and she got a job working with a group of woman that were "computers" like her.

#### Katherine Johnson: The Most Important One!

Katherine Johnson was the head master of solving math problems. She was one of those people that were to expected to have the problems finished by *yesterday*. a couple years later she was trusted to become apart of the space team, so she started calculating the flight path, or the trajectory path ,and more complex responsibilities. Katherine Johnson just kept excelling to different levels.

#### Why This Young Lady Inspires Me

am inspired by Katherine Johnson because she did not have limitations for herself. She believed that she could make a difference even when the difference she wanted to make was impossible back then Also, back when she was alive, black women were always mistreated. She didn't believe in those rules, she thought of herself as equal to any other lady. Even though she was black, she still believed her dreams were still possible to achieve. Inspiring is important because you have the courage to do things that might be hard to do. Katherine Johnson was not only a mathematician, she was also a symbol for black girls, a symbol for girls, and a symbol for all people as a whole. The whole point of this article is to give hope to the people that think they don't have the power to do accomplish their wishes. It shows that you can do anything if you simply think you can.

*And yah she still loves to count!!!*

## Primary Grade Winners

### *Malaya Moore - Rm. 27, 2nd Grade*

#### Jackie Robinson

Jackie grew up in a white neighborhood. At school he was great at sports. The YMCA would not let Jackie join because he was black; also, African Americans could only swim one day a week.

Jackie joined the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team in 1947. The owner, Branch Rickey, knew that Jackie would have to deal with a lot of hatred because of the color of his skin. Jackie played so great that the Dodgers won the National League Pennant. He helped his team win the World Series in 1955.

Jackie and his wife Rachel had three children. In 1963, he joined Dr. Martin Luther King's March on Washington D.C... In 1972, Jackie died of a heart attack.

Every year in April, all major league baseball players wear the number 42 to be reminded of Jackie's amazing accomplishments. The number 42 is the only number retired by all of baseball.

### *De Di Novi - Rm. 10, 3rd Grade*

#### Benjamin Banneker

Did you know that Benjamin Banneker was hired by Andrew Ellicott, the brother of Joseph Ellicott at the age of 59 to assist in surveying the area that would eventually become the District of Columbia (Washington D.C.)? Benjamin Banneker is famous for his almanac and letter that he sent to Thomas Jefferson explaining that with education, black men could learn anything. Benjamin Banneker was born on November 9, 1731 and died in 1806.

Benjamin Banneker grew up on his family's farm where he worked hard as a child. He helped with the tobacco crops, chopped wood, and did all sorts of chores around the farm. He had a little opportunity for school. He attended a small Quaker school where he discovered an interest in science and mathematics. He borrowed books so he could keep learning when he could not attend school. Banneker built a clock out of wood after he met a merchant with a watch. First, he made detailed drawings of the internal pieces of the watch, and over the years ,he built a bigger version. As Benjamin Banneker grew older, he began to take an interest in stars. He read books on astronomy and used math to calculate the movement of the stars. Benjamin Banneker even accurately predicted an eclipse of the sun. Benjamin Banneker sent a letter and an almanac to Thomas Jefferson after he found out that he had made a big mistake. The letter explained that with education black men could learn anything. Thomas Jefferson sent the almanac to France and England to show it off, and help make Banneker famous.

I learned that with good education, anyone can learn and overcome hardships like Benjamin Banneker.



## Teacher Tips

*All parents can be helpful in their children's literacy development, regardless of their language, education, or literacy level. Parents who speak little or no English can contribute to their children's education in valuable ways. English language learners may benefit when they develop solid literacy skills in their first language before learning to read in a second one. Through Spanish, they are developing key language and literacy skills that may enable them to become excellent readers in English. Here is a list of specific strategies that may be utilized by parents to assist students at home:*

- "Read" wordless picture books, fiction stories, and non-fiction articles together
- Discuss current events
- Storytelling, songs, raps, and chants
- Insure that you child has a quiet, comfortable place to complete home assignments and to read
- Turn off the television and all other electrical devices when doing homework and reading
- Watch and discuss educational children's television programs together
- Make frequent trips to the public library, and start a home library
- Read maps together; plan a family trip
- Engage in meaningful conversations: encourage your child to elaborate and provide descriptions ... when in doubt ask "why" to inspire critical thinking
- Take a "field trip" to the market. Use this opportunity to teach health lessons (i.e.; reading food labels and discussing the importance of eating fruits and vegetables, and avoiding sugar) and math lessons (i.e.; calculating the cost of various items, weighing produce, and working with a budget.

## Writing Contest Winners!

### *Isabelle Vega - Rm. 12, 3rd Grade*

Duke Ellington

Have you heard "Duke" Ellington? Edward "Duke" Ellington was a gentleman who composed beautiful music, and played jazz piano. Also, did you know he got the nickname "Duke" for his gentle ways? You'll learn more about "Duke" Ellington as you read this article.

"Duke" Ellington was born on April 29, 1899 in Washington D.C. In his early life, he made a song called "Soda Fountain Rag". He called his music "American music." Duke Ellington's early career included playing the piano and composing music for nightclubs (like the famous Cotton Club in Harlem, New York City). His early education was at Pratt. He married Edna Thompson who had been his girlfriend since high school. Together they had Mercer Kennedy, who was their only child.

Duke Ellington

was best known for his composing and his music.

His contribution to the public included his gentle ways. He once said, "Music is how I live why I live and how I will be remembered." That is all you need to know about "Duke" Ellington. I hope you have learned a lot from this essay.



## Our Black History Show

by - **Ethan Davis, Genesis Smith, Janelle Bueno, Jose Cruz, & Kayden Flemming**

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 many classes came together to perform a fabulous show in honor of African American contributions to American History. These performances showed all of the hard work and effort students put into this show. Hopefully all the kids learned and walked away with a lesson from this show.

The second graders in Rooms 2, 26, and 27 had the new Carlos Santana on their side, Mr. Murphy! They sang a peaceful song to accompany Mr. Murphy's mean guitar. Then they sang an energetic song called "Afuga Alafia" which means welcome or bless you. This particular song got our energy flowing. Next, fifth grade students from Room 17 presented a powerful presentation of The Gettysburg Address. They taught about discrimination and the struggle for equal rights for every one. We learned that no matter what race or religion you are, each of us is entitled to participate equally in the American Dream.



*Mr. Murphy leads 2nd Grade Students in Song at the Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. Assembly*

## Figaro's American Adventure at the Huntington Library

by - Winstly Esquivel, Ephraim Miller, David Acosta, Vanessa Pereda, and Eliza Araneta

American Revolution! Theatre! AMAZING history! Visiting the Huntington Library was a great opportunity learning about American history and performance arts. From the opera, "Figaro's American Adventure" to a museum tour of artifacts and important history, the field trip to the Huntington Library was an exquisite experience.

"Figaro's American Adventure" takes amazing experience seeing the actors, costumes, part of the American Revolution. We were able to our studies. We also liked the play because it was nation's past history. Many of the scenes were full of was trying to get two people to wed, and tricking the lady, Rosina. It all came to the climax when Figaro Washington's army to fight in the American



place during the American Revolution. It was an and props in a stage play. We felt like we were a understand what they were saying because of entertaining, and it showed us some of our thrills. For example, during the wedding, Figaro third person that he was marrying a beautiful was able to gain money to send ships for George Revolution.

After all of the fun at the Figaro opera, we had a great time touring the Huntington Library. First we visited "Orbit". That's a large art installation created by NASA. You can hear sounds representing lots of different satellites, including the International Space Station, while you stand inside of it. After this scientific piece of art, we visited one of the art galleries focusing on American Art. We saw amazing artifacts used by Colonial Americans. For example, we saw a quilt with many different colors. We also saw a heart fork that was used by farmers. We also saw an exhibit that connected the poetry of Walt Whitman ("Leaves of Grass") with pictures from a famous photographer, Edward Weston. We had a very good time at the Huntington Library. We recommend that you all go as well because you can learn a lot more about our history, and see the beautiful gardens.

### 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.

- April 21-22: **The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books** takes place on the USC campus. This free event includes a large children's area with many activities. Among this year's presenters are Danica McKellar (star of "The Wonder Years" and "MC Squared" as well as the author of several math books promoting girls' education), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (UCLA & Lakers basketball legend and author of several books), and Senator John Lewis (Civil Rights Activist, colleague of Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom).
- April 22: **March for Science Los Angeles** (part of a nationwide effort) "celebrates the crucial roles science plays in driving our economic growth, preserving our environment, and protecting the health of our citizens" ... supporting science funding and "evidence-based policies in the public interest".
- April 30: **Dia de los Niños at LA Plaza** in Los Angeles promotes literacy and wellness with storytelling activities, culinary, garden, and art workshops, as well as multi-cultural music and performances. You can also walk across the street to visit Olivera Street, the Chinese American Museum, the Los Angeles Fire Department Museum, and the Pico House (national historic landmark). A short walk will bring you to Union Station, Chinatown, the Los Angeles Music Center (including Frank Gehry's Walt Disney Concert Hall), the Los Angeles Cathedral, Angel's Flight, Grand Central Market, the Bradbury Building, Biddy Mason Park, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), the Broad Art Museum, and the metro station!

## Brain Awareness Day at UCLA

By - Chezaré Gordon, Tiffany Ramos, Sarah Castillo, Diego Bejarano, Valentino Lara, and Vanessa Flores

Frontal lobe. Temporal lobe. Occipital lobe. Parietal lobe. Cerebellum. Brain Stem. These six parts of the brain work together to make us function. Both fifth grade classes were given the opportunity to go to UCLA and see real healthy and unhealthy human brains as part of Brain Awareness Week. We learned about and saw the types of diseases that can affect our brain such as tumors, seizures, stroke,

Alzheimer's, and drug addiction. If you want to know more about our amazing trip and the brain, keep on reading! We had a lot of fun doing educational activities at UCLA.

We did lots of educational activities and viewed human and animal



brains during our visit to UCLA. One of the activities was putting on vision goggles that distorted our vision. Our eyes adapted to the goggles because our Occipital Lobe is in charge of our vision. Another one of the activities was sheep brain dissection. We saw the teacher make cuts in the sheep brain so we could view the parts of the brain. The Hippocampus is in the middle of your brain, stores memories, and works with the temporal lobe. A station that was very interesting was when we used electrodes to connect a student with a docent at UCLA. When the student made a fist, the pulses from the student's brain controlled the other person causing him to make a fist! This type of innovation can be used to help people who use prosthetic arms or legs. The prosthetic body part transforms our thoughts into actions like how a neuron (brain cells) does it. We got to feel brains, too. They feel like Jell-O that was left out in the open for a day or two. At UCLA, they keep brains in a preservative chemical so they don't decompose. Then, they study them to learn to help people.

This field trip to UCLA was a very unique, educational, and fun experience. We learned how the brain functions and how diseases and addiction can alter its ability to work. When you get to fifth grade, don't pass up an opportunity to go on this great field trip!



## The Third Annual Walkathon

By - Tiffany Ramos, Sarah Castillo, Ramisa Ferdaws, Jesus Rodriguez, and Genesis Smith

This years Walkathon was so amazing! We raised 15,787 dollars; that is 6,687 dollars more than we rose last year. About 332 students participated, and they all seemed so excited.

The walkathon is a fun way to raise money for our superior garden ranger! Many parents showed up to support their kids and watch them dance and walk around our school track. The reason why it was so fun was because of all the energetic people. The DJ was superb, and our mascot was wearing a Star Wars costume to pump up the crowd. Here are some thoughts about the Walkathon: Ms. Harriman said, "I think it is really cool our mascot is dressed in a Star Wars costume. I am proud our school raised this much money for our garden ranger, especially." Mr. Reidman said, "I think it's fantastic for our school. I am glad to see most kids participating." Rochelle Lewis is a big part of the PTA community. She said, "The walkathon was very successful. We raised much more than last year." Alyssa Rossetti is also an important member of the PTA. She said, "The event was amazing, very energetic, and I think the mascot did a great job pumping the energy." All of the teachers, parents, kids, and PTA thought this was an entertaining activity.

The winning classroom for 100% participation was Mrs. Balbuena. They won a pizza party. Mr. Reidman raised \$2,666 and won four tickets to a Clipper game.

Everyone really enjoyed our third annual walkathon. We hope you participate in it next year!

## 2017 Star Rangers

Michael Vega \* Karla Santiago \* Jose Cruz \*  
 Ethan Davis \* Tadeo Campos \* Genesis Smith  
 \* Danielle Ortiz \* Daniel Caro \* Janelle Bueno  
 \* Danielle Quesada \* Ulises Celis \* David  
 Acosta \* Sarah Castillo \* Veronica Chicas \*  
 Evolet Salazar \* Ema de la Torre \* Liliane  
 Ebeung \* Hugo Bours \* Erick Mata \* Emily  
 Hernandez \* Richard Ruvalcaba \* Emerson  
 Salinas \* Emily Sazo \* Addison Leon \*  
 Geraldine Salinas \* Gisselle Leon \* Jesus  
 Rodriguez \* Diego Bejarano \* Jaedy Bueno \*  
 Mikka Flores \* Dr. Brandon Rodriguez! \*

Toluca Lake Elementary



An Arts Prototype School

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

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

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Principal:

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!

- Eliza Araneta asks: A man is trapped in a room with no doors or windows. There is only a mirror and a table. How does he get out of the room?
- Ethan Davis asks: What do you call a cow that just gave birth?
- Tiffany Ramos asks: Why don't cats complain when other cats make noise all night?
- Janelle Bueno asks: What do you get when you spell "tacocat" backwards?
- Kevin Santiago asks: What did the cloud say to the sun?

## Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

1. According to astronomer Neil deGrasse Tyson, what is the "greatest thing about science"?
2. What country did Dr. Brandon Rodriguez of JPL immigrate from as a child?
3. What is Mr. Reidman's favorite part of teaching?
4. Who wrote The Infinity Year of Avalon James?
5. What did Patrick Lima learn from doing his report on Elijah McCoy?
6. Who was the first African American woman to be an astronaut?
7. How old was Andy Lipkus when he started Tree People?
8. Which university did Ana Rodriguez attend?
9. What are two ways that parents can help their kids with their education at home?
10. Where does this year's Dia de los Ninos take place on April 30?

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

