

Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary: An Arts Prototype School <<http://toluca.weebly.com>>

April 7, 2011
Vol. 4, # 6



Words of wisdom

Si se puede!
(Yes we can!)

- **Cesar Chavez**
President of the
UFW United Farm
Workers
Environmentalist
Civil Rights
Leader



Fifth Grade Students Gear-up for the Fitnessgram!

by - Mr. Jeff Daniel (School Coordinator)

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

Fifth grade students at Toluca Lake Elem. are evaluated in six categories. In addition to measuring their height and weight, students will need to do a trunk lift, push-ups, curl-ups (similar to a sit-up), and a one-mile run. The passing range for a fifth grade student is a 9 to 12 inch trunk lift; 8 to 20 push-ups for boys and 7 to 15 push-ups for girls; 15 to 29 curl-ups; and a 8:30 to 11:00 minute mile for boys and a 9:00 to 12:00 minute mile for girls. On your mark ... get set ... go!



Garden Party

by - Bisu Bantu, Alex Hodeib, Karisma Molla,
Stephanie Hernandez, and Brandon Vielman

On a beautiful Saturday Morning in March our school held its annual garden party. This year more than 100 people came to volunteer at our school. They all helped make our school beautiful by taking out weeds, raking leaves, and cleaning the classrooms.

Ms. Grigsby was one of the main organizers of this big event. The PTA set up tables for beverages and snacks for us to eat. Some teachers were there to help as well. Ms. Miya, Ms. Grigsby, Mr. Soroczak, and Mr. Murphy all helped at the garden party. All of the volunteers did their part to help our school by planting flowers, guiding the children, preparing everybody, giving out tools, and cleaning up afterwards. We planted sunflowers, chili peppers, violets, and much more. We also had a kids' raffle. The kids who won received a ball and a red bag.

Our principal, Ms. Bove, is very proud of all the students, parents, teachers, and the PTA for cleaning up our school and making it more beautiful. Green days are here again!

The Wonderful World Of Arts

by

Gerardo Alvarado, Michelle Gray,
Thaly Rivas, and Ethan Zamora

Third grade students in Room 28 had a fun four-day lesson study with the arts teachers. Each of the teachers, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Miltenburger, Ms. Walsh, and Ms. Holden, came to show us how to make a tapa cloth. First, we made a design for our tapa cloth using a cardboard rubbing and a paper bag. Then, we put the rubbing under the paper bag and rubbed the black crayon on the side over and over again, and we made the beautiful tapa cloth.

On day two of our lesson study, Ms. Walsh taught us a song called "Hawaiian Rainbows." She also taught us a dance similar to the hula dance. It was fun because everybody learned a new dancing style.

On the third day, we learned another dance with Ms. Milltenburger. We used asymmetry, symmetry, locomotor, nonlocomotor, energy, and percussive movements in the dance.

On the last day, with the help of Ms. Holden, we were able to use what we had learned over the last three days by performing a play called Pua and the Menehunes. We used the tapa cloth as our costumes, and some of us sang the "Hawaiian Rainbow" song, with the help of Ms. Walsh. We all performed the dance taught by Ms. Milltenburger. We only rehearsed it once and then we did the actual play in front of the arts teachers, Ms. Bove, and Mrs. Miya.

Now we can prove that, the arts help children grow into the next generation of adults. This activity expanded our minds. We explored a world of new ideas and dreams. Our expectation is for the adults to allow

us to experience all of that. And if you do allow us, before you know it, we'll be ready for life. That is why arts are so very important to children all across the world.



Our Awesome Arts Teachers



Awesome Alumni: Michael Hodeib

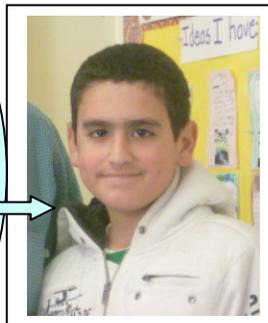
by - Alexander Hodeib

Michael Hodeib attended Toluca Lake Elementary between the years 1993 to 1999. His favorite subject in school was math because it was very easy for him. He says that his fifth grade teacher, Mr. Hagen-Smith, used to explain math very clearly. Michael remembers Mr. Hagen-Smith, Mrs. Sturgess, and Mrs. Miya. He remembers that Mrs. Sturgess had lots of animals in her class, Mrs. Miya gave the "evil eye" to bad students, and Mr. Hagen-Smith made school fun with lots of awesome field trips. His favorite memory from Toluca Lake was going on a field trip to Camp Clear Creek outdoor science camp for an entire week! After going to elementary school, Michael moved on to Walter Reed Middle School, North Hollywood High School, and finally to Pierce College. Now, Michael is attending Concord University in West Virginia. Michael is proud of himself because he got a scholarship to play football at the university. He had to stand up to many obstacles to achieve his goals. Michael had to go through multiple injuries, surgeries, a lot of football practice, and studying. Michael's hero is his dad because he can do anything. He's like Michael's own Superman. Michael says, "Never let anyone or anything stop you from making your dreams come true." Michael is a super big brother, and an Awesome Alumni!



Michael
(right)
in 2001

Alex
(2011)



Michael
2011

Principal's Message

Toluca Lake Elementary has a new **recycling program!** We are collecting plastic bottles and aluminum cans. The program is provided by LA Corps, and the funds are given to the school to enhance the learning of our students. We started out with four recycling bins and have now increased to eight! Some of the boys and girls are bringing bags of bottles and tins from home and carry them on to the campus. Our local leadership team has decided that a good idea would be to put a bin out on the sidewalk next to our Valet Program. That way, when you drop off your child, you can drop off any tins and bottles you have collected at the same time. Please support us in our endeavor to teach our boys and girls about the benefits of recycling.

- Ms. Carol Reo Bove

Kaiser-Permanente Educational Theater's *Amazing Food Detective*

by

Adelaida Rivas, Ali Freas,
Brennen Lamb, & Cristina Jercan

Kaiser-Permanente's Educational Theater group brought their "Amazing Food Detective" presentation to our school this month. They did two wonderful performances: one for the upper grades and one for the primary ones. Their play was really funny and informative. The actors, Sarah Cook, Margie Lara, Nate Mobley, & Jacque Herman, each did a terrific job. They are gifted actors with amazing talents. We are thankful that they performed for us.

They taught us many things about eating healthy and exercising. They taught us that being active and healthy is part of a good and energetic life. Eating from the five food groups every day is a very important part of being healthy. Drinking a lot of water is also important. That prevents you from getting dehydrated.

The whole play was about a contest for being the healthiest city. Three kids wanted to make a video to show that their city, Wellville, was the healthiest. Then, the Amazing Food Detective came on a mission because there was trouble in Wellville. The protagonist, JP, and the Amazing Food Detective joined together to find out what was troubling Wellville. It turns out that it was television commercials causing trouble. Lady Lala and the Jamaican Dude were sponsoring advertisements for *Alligator Ade* and *Healthy Bar*. Two characters, Tyler and Martha, were persuaded to eat and drink the unhealthy snacks. They ate them and became hyper and sleepy. Then, JP and the Amazing Food Detective came to the rescue and told them to drink water and eat fruits and vegetables instead of the unhealthy snacks.

The presentation taught us important lessons in a fun way, and the actors let us interview them following the show. That was very cool. We hope they come back soon to save the day again!



Around the Town

- On April 9 at 11:00 a.m. Burbank will be celebrating its **annual parade**. This year's theme is "**Burbank's 100th Birthday Bash**." The event starts on Olive Ave. between Keystone and Lomita so come out and join the free family fun!
- April 30 - May 1:
L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC
This annual free event celebrates the written word on the USC campus. There are many panels and discussions. Some require tickets (free at Ticketmaster). Parking costs about \$10.00 on campus).
- Fly on over to the **Skirball Cultural Center** on Sunday, April 17 for a bevy of bird-related activities! Meet live feathered friends, talk with specialists from the L.A. Zoo and the Audubon Society about the best places around town to bird watch, the best ways to help injured birds, and create your own take-home nest in the Skirball's art studio. At 1:00 p.m., join eleven-year-old bird artist & ornithologist Olivia Boulter as she shares her passion for birds and tells of her rewarding efforts to make a difference following the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Be there as Olivia signs her book *Olivia's Birds: Saving the Gulf*, which earned her an ASPCA Kid of the Year award in 2010. And, return to the Skirball after April 28 for the new exhibit, *Houdini: Art & Magic*. Many students have free passes from their field trips to the Skirball this year!

Attention Writers!

*The Toluca Lake Times is holding a
poetry writing contest*

*Any type of poem is okay!
All entries are due in the office by
Friday, April 29
Win Big Prizes!*



Featured Faculty: Amazing Ms. Lacayo

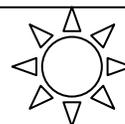
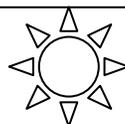
by - Stephanie Hernandez, Alessandra Rugamas,
Cindy Ortiz, Diego Gutierrez, and Kevin Romero

This month's *Featured Faculty* member is an amazing teacher, Ms. Lacayo. She started to teach here at Toluca Lake Elementary School in 2005. Before that, she received a Bachelors Degree in Liberal Studies and a teaching credential in both general education and in special education.

She loves working at our school and overcoming obstacles. The toughest part of her job is when some parents are not supportive enough. She also said that the recent budget cuts are making the school's job much more difficult.

Some of her hobbies are reading, spending time with her family, traveling, going to museums, doing cultural activities, teaching, working with children, art, and music. One of her heroes is her mother. Her mom was hard working, positive, patient, and always encouraged Ms. Lacayo to do her best. Her mother came from a different country and didn't know English, but still worked hard and lived the American dream. Her mom also taught her sons, Ms. Lacayo's brothers, the same positive characteristics.

Ms. Lacayo likes to help affect students in a good way. She hopes to plant seeds of good self-esteem and a love for learning within each child. Ms. Lacayo says, "Don't give up. Always try your best, believe in yourself and never give up; stay positive and you will accomplish anything if you put your mind to it." Ms. Lacayo wants all of us students to do our best, and to have a good future. We students are thankful to have such an amazing teacher as Ms. Lacayo at our school!



Teacher's Tips

As we head into the final part of the school year, some students find themselves more easily distracted by thoughts of summer and the joy of becoming young adults. It is very important for parents to talk with the children about their feelings, and to remind them to stay focused upon their academic development. Some specific recommendations for students include:

1. Studying for exams
2. Using their criteria chart to assist them with writing
3. Rereading their written work prior to turning it in for a grade
4. Using the text to clarify information when responding to questions
5. Using the key words "by" and "because" to help them write complete, convincing responses
6. Practicing math skills and concepts at home with family members
7. Reading for pleasure for at least 30 minutes each day
8. Remaining focused upon academics rather than social concerns
9. Remembering that they are capable of excellence and should always strive to achieve that excellence

Remembering not to be afraid of failures because you can learn a lot from them; and that *"around here ... we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."* - Walt Disney (excerpted from "Meet the Robinsons").

Our Favorite Ducks!



Ducks

by

Ashley Godoy & Karisma Molla

Quack up the party ... the party of the ducks, that is! Early on the morning of March 3, 2011, we found two ducks wandering around on our playground. They were the most beautiful things in the world. We knew that one was a male mallard because it had a green head, white strip on its neck, and a black body to attract females. We knew that the other was a female because it was all brown to be better able to camouflage itself and protect its chicks from predators. These wild ducks flew all around one small area of the playground looking for food and water. When we went to recess we were sad that the first ducks ever to come to this school had left. Hopefully, we will see them again or maybe even their chicks. Now everybody quack up the party so they can come back. This spectacular day and these delightful ducks will always stay in our minds.

Saturn

by

Ben Robel
(1st Grade)



I know a lot about Saturn. Saturn's rings are the planet's shining halo, first seen by Galileo Galilei (1564 - 1642), who invented a special telescope in 1608. Its rings are made of countless billions of tiny chips of ice and dust, few are bigger than a refrigerator, & most are the size of ice cubes. The rings are incredibly thin (not more than 164 feet (50 m) deep, yet they stretch way above Saturn's clouds, 4,350 miles (7,000 km) high, and over 46,000 miles (74,000 km) out into space. Saturn's rings occur in broad bands, referred to by the letters A to G. In 1675, the astronomer Cassini spotted a dark gap between rings A and B. This is now the Cassini Division, after him. Now, you know about Saturn, too!



Korean Cultural Center

by

Edwin Duke, Cynthia Elias,
Andrea Oliva, & Alondra Gongora

Fifth grade students recently visited the Korean Cultural Center, and learned about Korea's culture and arts. We saw examples of many of Korea's customs and arts. We had a wonderful docent who attended us while we were at the center. He showed us what they ate, how they dressed, the types of rooms they had, and their ceremonies. One of Korea's main religions, Buddhism, teaches the importance of respecting the elderly.

Something very important to Koreans is entertainment. Korea's entertainments include Manga and animation. These are shown all over the world. In fact, you've probably seen these cartoons, but not even known they were from Korea: Pucca, Pottoyo, and Pocoyo are examples of these cartoons. Not only does Korea feature great animation, but they are masters of visual arts. Korea is very talented in art.

We also learned that Korean people eat unique foods like kimchee (a spicy cabbage dish). Also, we learned that they have a unique language that was created 635 years ago, and that Chinese and Japanese could not speak and write their language. This was a very fun trip that we all enjoyed very much.



Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

Name - _____

Room - _____

1. What were two things planted at the garden party?

2. Where does Awesome Alumni Micheal Hodeib now attend college?

3. How did unhealthy snacks affect the characters in the "Amazing Food Detective"?

4. Who first observed Saturn's rings?

5. What is one way that the arts help children grow into the next generation of adults?

6. Where is this image located on our campus?
(Hint: To see this image, you have to look up).
Where is it located?



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

818.761.3339



We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

Riddle Me This ...

The answers to these amazing riddles may be found on our fabulous new web page: <http://toluca.weebly.com/>

- What do you call cheese that's not yours? - Jonathan Lozano
- Where do cats go on field trips? - Luismi Camacho
- What do you call a handful of fruit? - Zacheria Ambartsumyan
- What is the end of everything? - Zachary Miles

A special thank you to all of the wonderful parent volunteers for making the morning valet drop-off, the copying program, & lunchtime supervision successful! - Ms. Lucy Gonzalez (parent rep.)

Calendar

- 4/8 = ELAC/CEAC Parent Meeting (8 am)
- 4/10-15 = Geffen Playhouse brings Story Pirates Writing Workshop to Toluca Lake
- 4/11 = Hit the Target Assembly
- 4/12 = Open House
- 4/12 - 4/15 = Book Fair
- 4/14 = Spring photos
- 4/15 = Early dismissal
- 4/18 - 4/22 = Spring Break
- 4/26 = NASA Presentation (5th Grade)
- 4/15 = Leonardo da Vinci's Birthday (1452)
- 4/23 = Earth Day
- 4/29 = Poetry Writing Contest Deadline
(All submissions to main office)
- 4/30 = Arbor Day (Plant a tree!)
- 5/9 = First day of State Testing
- 5/20 = Last day of State Testing



MEETING

Wednesday, April 27, 2011
8:00 am in the Parent Center
and

Thursday, April 28, 2011
6:00 pm in the auditorium

The PTA now has two monthly meetings for you to choose from!

- Free Childcare
- Refreshments
- Door Prizes

Please find and "like" the "Toluca Lake PTA" on Facebook to keep up on the latest events at our school!

PTA HOTLINE: (818) 870-0448

**\$ Free MONEY \$
for our school!**

Sign up with eScrip and everytime you shop at any of the over 6,000 merchant locations (including Vons, Pavillions, 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!"
-Juliane Kurtz, PTA President, Blossom Valley, El Cajon, CA

eScrip It's completely free!
It's easy!
It's powerful!

Brought to you by the Toluca Lake Elementary PTA.