

Toluca Lake Times

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

June 22, 2011
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Words of Wisdom

*"He who plants trees
cares for others
besides himself."*

- Dianne Gray in
Holding up the Earth
Excerpted by
Adelaida Rivas

Night of the Arts

by - Cristina Jercan, Diego Gutierrez,
Alondra Gongora, and Luismi Camacho

Our 8th annual Night of the Arts was a big hit! Many people came to see Toluca Lake's talented students perform. The show also featured our very special guests the Story Pirates (funded by the Geffen Playhouse), Ms. Bove, and the leaders of the Mountain Restoration Trust. The whole auditorium was filled with people. We didn't know that there would be so many people that were that excited about seeing our school perform.

The show kicked off with Mr. Reidman's gifted students did their version of what happened in "1492." It was a very hysterical skit. The whole audience was filled with laughter. Then, Ms. Harriman's first grade class performed, "The Goat in the Chile Patch." It was a cute little play with humor. Next, Mr. Murphy's class sang, "If I Had a Hammer." It is an empowering song. His class also displayed the Greek mythological creatures and Insect Art sculptures that they created.

Mr. Hagen-Smith's gifted students, all 29 of them, did a play about their experiences working in a program called SHRUB (Students Helping to Restore Unique Biomes). "SHRUB: The Musical" was a mix of learning and fun. They sang amazingly, while a Power Point showed them working in the fields.

The show ended with the Story Pirates performance. They were terrific! They performed "Kung-Fu Fighting Ninja Girls." Then, they did "Pen, the Pencil." That's a story 5th grader Diego Gutierrez wrote about Mark Twain. Next, the Story Pirated created a skit using ideas from the audience. Finally, they did a musical number about the SHRUB program. It was based on the persuasive essays of five students convincing a developer not to destroy Headwaters Corner (where SHRUB took place). In the end, the developer came down the aisle singing that he wouldn't destroy nature to build his parking lot!

It was so great to see everyone's support. We think it was a sight to see. We can't wait to see next year's show!



Featured Faculty: Ms. Hawkins, The Awesome Librarian

by - Cindy Ortiz, Cristina Jercan, Ruth Alvarenga, Ashley Godoy, & Karisma Molla

Mrs. Hawkins, our librarian, began working here in 1977. She needed a high school education in order to learn what to do here. She also had to take classes through the school district. Some of her hobbies are reading, skiing, going to the beach, and doing fun things with her family and friends. She says she really enjoys life.

One of her heroes is her husband because he is very well educated and well versed in all subjects. And, he is extremely involved in all community activities. She would like to follow the example that he has set. The toughest part of her job is disciplining children in regards to reading. The professional accomplishment that makes her proudest is seeing boys and girls learning to read. She says, "Reading is one of the most important things in life."

Some obstacles she had to overcome to achieve her goals were learning to be more outgoing and overcoming her shyness. The thing she likes best working at our school is working with boys and girls to see them mature. One thing she would like to change about our school is seeing the parents more involved in the school and with their kids. Some advice that she gives to our current students is stay on track, and go to school to get a good education because you'll make more out of your life. Mrs. Hawkins will always be remembered in our school for being an amazing librarian!



Dairy Cow Visits Toluca Lake

by: Caitline Molina, Aries Montoya, & Alishia Sandoval

On April 5, 2011, we had an assembly presented by Laura LaFayette from the California Dairy Council. She brought a full-grown Holstein cow named *Milky Way*. *Milky Way* is four years old and weighs 1,400 pounds. Her favorite breakfast is hay. The hay is a special type of hay called alfalfa hay. Cows eat alfalfa hay everyday. We'd have to say it's their favorite food!

We all know that cows are mammals, so they produce milk. A female cow gives milk. But, did you know that the female cow has to be completely grown and have had a baby first in order to produce milk. A cow's milk is warm, so how do we get it cold? First, the milk is taken from the cow. Then the milk is put into a container. The farmers pasteurize, or heat, the milk to a high temperature, to remove any harmful bacteria. The farmer refrigerates the milk and it is then placed in cartons for us to buy. Then you can enjoy your milk!

Thank you *Milky Way* and Ms. LaFayette for teaching us about milk, our favorite drink! *Milky Way*, you're a star! We learned a lot from you & hope to see you again next year! Thank you for keeping us healthy!

Awesome Alumni: Michele Cordova, Super Mom!

by - Cassandra Cordova

Michele Cordova, this month's Awesome Alumni, is a dedicated, hardworking woman with many hobbies. She is a woman with many stories to tell. She is a super mom.

She attended Toluca Lake Elementary School from 1973 to 1980. Her favorite memory was her 6th graduation because she liked all the pretty dresses. Her favorite subjects were math and science. She likes math because it really makes you think, and science is a physical activity with plants and animals. My mom remembers Ms. Miya being a teacher here. She also remembers that Ms. Miya was a talented dance coach. These are happy memories.

Today Michele is a mother of three wonderful children. But, that's not all. She's also a real estate agent, and a hair stylist. How did she accomplish all of this? Well, after graduating from Toluca Lake Elementary School, Michelle went to Walter Reed Middle School and North Hollywood High School. Later, she went to Newberry's Beauty School and Valley College (to study real estate. Through all of that hard work, Michelle is managing a great life.

Michele had many problems that tried to stop her, but she kept going no matter how hard she fell. She has accomplished what she needed to in her life. Her advice to kids is to learn as much as you can, set goals for yourself, and always do your best. Michele Cordova is tremendous. She is a great mother and an Awesome Alumni. I am so proud of her!



Hit the Target Assembly

by - Kaylee Elijah, Leanne Anderson, Briana Madera, & Jerry Chaiyasid

In April, our school had a "Hit the Target" assembly. Second through fifth grade classes had to pass a quiz in a special language arts or math skill. If they finish their quiz with enough correct answers, that means they get an award for "Hitting the Target." This idea was originated from the wonderful minds of Mr. Reidman and Mr. Hagen-Smith two years ago. Mr. Daniels helped arrange the assembly. The idea of "Hit the Target" is to motivate kids to learn basic math and language arts quickly so that they'll be better prepared for school.

The "Hit the Target" contest is important because it gets kids to practice basic skills until they really learn them. It's a pretty hard work. Usually, only some of the kids in each class are able to hit the target. Each grade focuses upon different skills. Second grade worked on addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Third grade was all about memorizing times tables. Fourth grade also did multiplication and division. Fifth grade worked on reading comprehension. This contest really helps our nice students learn better. WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE HIT THE TARGET !!!!!

5th Grade Memories

Compiled by - Nathaniel Duarte and Adelaida Rivas

As you all know the fifth graders are going to graduate this year. We interviewed some fifth graders and asked them about their favorite memory. Here are some of their responses:

- Ruth Alvarenga - Making new friends because I met many new people
- Alex Hodeib - Going to all of the SHRUB field trips because I got to learn how to plant native species
- Bisu Bantu - Getting the education I needed from all of my wonderful teachers
- Jose Lopez - Santa Cruz Island because I'd never been there, and it was fun
- Diego Gutierrez - My teacher helped me become a better person
- Jonathon Lozano - Going to San Pedro because I got to go on a boat and see sea lions
- Briana Madera - The "Meet-A-Hero" project because I got to learn about other people's lives
- Rudy Salazar - Going to Santa Cruz Island because I got to hike up the mountain
- Karisma Molla - All of my teachers helped me prepare for my future life
- Dolores John - Making new, wonderful friends in this school because I got to connect with many people.
- Angelita Quintanilla- All of the field trips I have gone on because I got to learn outside of our school
- Leslie Hernandez - All of the teachers I've had because they taught me so many things
- Cory Rangel - The "Diavalo" field trip because I liked the dancing
- Cristian Escobar - All of the projects I did in class because we got to learn about many things.

All of us students will never forget our previous years at Toluca Lake Elementary School.

Jet Propulsion Scientist (JPL) Visits

Toluca Lake Elementary

by - Jerry Chaiyasid and Nathaniel Duarte

On April 26, 2011 Ms. Sandra Kaszynski, from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), came to our school to teach the 5th graders about science. Toluca Lake is very lucky for her to come here. Sandra has been working for JPL for 2 years. JPL is a program that makes rovers for NASA so they can launch into space to discover new things. She's also an environmentalist. She says, "Do the hard things first, so that in the future it will pay off as a good job."

Ms. Kaszynski also says that NASA's number one mission is to protect the Earth. That's why she has been recycling for 35 years. She says that she was inspired by the 1969 moon walk. That's when first person, Neil Armstron, walked on the moon.

She enjoys her job because she gets to work with children 4th grade through 12th grade. In her presentation she spoke all about the Periodic Table of Elements. She gave each student a chart of the elements, and played a game to try to identify each one. Ms. Kaszynski also had a PowerPoint which showed a digital view of what it would look like if we were to see a live video of them working. We enjoyed our time with this very special guest!

Are you an Accelerated Reader? by - Mr. Jeff Daniel, Coordinator

Did you know that Toluca Lake Elementary has an online reading incentive program? It is called Accelerated Reader (AR). AR is a computerized progress-monitoring system that promotes guided independent reading practice. The Accelerated Reader software serves three primary purposes: 1) AR provides quick and accurate assessments of whether students have understood / comprehended books they have read. 2) It assigns point values for each AR Reading Practice Quiz taken. Point values are a factor of book level and performance on quizzes. (For example, an easy book like Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss is 0.5 points while Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling is 32.0 points.) Points accumulate during the school year, and are a way for teachers, students, and parents to monitor the students' reading volume. 3) The system tracks student performance on AR quizzes over time. 4) AR provides a way for educators, students, and parents to monitor and guide reading practice and ensure success for the child through goal setting. 5) Students also get special incentives for their reading. Some incentives include: pencils, folders, Toluca Lake Accelerated Reader bumper sticker, and free kids meals to restaurants like Islands, Fuddruckers, Elephant Bar Restaurant, California Pizza Kitchen, and HomeTown Buffet.

Toluca Lake's top readers for this year are:

70 or more points

* Super Star Reader *

* Trisha Terry – 79.6



30 or more points

* Star Reader Club

Cristina Jercan – 68.3
Ashley Godoy – 56.6
Adelaida Rivas – 49.9
Kaylee Elijah – 48.9
Hunter Ragle – 48.9
Alexander Hodeib – 43.0
Kayla Johnson – 34.3
Ali Freas – 33.8
Arcy Fuentes – 32.2
Briana Madera-Johnson – 31.8
Diego Gutierrez – 31.2
Leyla Lopez – 30.6

20 to 30 points

Danielle Heflin – 27.5
Leanne Anderson – 27.0
Vasena Khosravian – 25.3
Alessndra Rugamas – 25.2
Evan Gordon – 24.1
Edward Rodriguez – 23.6
Gabriela Zamora – 23.2
Brandon Vielman – 23.1
Alondra Gongora – 22.0
Hailei Gonzales – 21.7
Sebastian Araya – 21.1
Gabriel Alaniz – 20.0

13 to 19.9 points

Jameson Stengel – 19.2
Brennen Lamb – 19.1
Richard Chicas – 18.2
Ashley Zavala – 17.8
Karisma Molla – 17.0
Ruth Flamenco – 16.8
Victor Soto – 16.7
Jonathan Lozano – 15.9
Millie Caro – 15.2
Anthony Aragon – 14.5
Milena Tofanyan – 14.5
Robert Magee – 13.8

Congratulations to all of the top readers. Keep up the good work. We hope to have even more top Accelerated Readers next year. Remember, books that you read during the summer count towards next years' points. So READ, READ, READ all summer long because readers are achievers!

Toluca Lake Times Journalism Awards **2010 - 2011**

This is the third year that the Toluca Lake Times has published student work for our school community. In recognition of our students' hard work, we are honored to cite the following outstanding young journalists:

The Will Rogers Award for Best Feature article

“Students Visit Tree People”
by- Diego Gutierrez, Cynthia Elias, Christian Escobar, Alondra Gongora, & Karisma Molla

“Astronomical Star Party”
by - Christian Escobar, Brandon Vielman, Nathaniel Duarte, & Diego Gutierrez

The Maya Angelou Award for Most Awesome “Awesome Alumni” article

“Elias Perez”
by - Amani Cummings, Briana Madera , Jasmin Johnson, & Brandon Tamazian

“Jamie Jones”
by - Kaylee Elijah, Trisha Terry, Danielle Pedroza, Cindy Ortiz, & Briana Madera

The William Saroyan Award for Best “Featured Faculty” article

“Mr. Soroczak’s Got Heart!”
by - Alex Hodeib, Hunter Ragle, Cassandra Cordova, & Danielle Pedroza

“Ms. Gillette is Kinderful!”
by – Cristina Jercan, Adelaida Rivas, Luismi Camacho, & Cassandra Cordova

The Dr. Jonas Salk Award for Best Health Reporting

Kaiser-Permanente Educational Theater’s
“Amazing Food Detective”
by - Adelaida Rivas, Ali Freas, Brennen Lamb, & Cristina Jercan

The Joyce Appleby Award for Best History Report

“Thurgood Marshall”
by - Kayla Johnson

“Alex Hayley”
by - Savannah Mintz-Turner

The Mark Twain Award for Best Fiction

“LEGO Ghost”
by Ben Robel

“Haunted”
by - Ali Freas

The Maya Lin Award for Artistic Interpretation

“The Wonderful World Of Arts”
by - Gerardo Alvarado, Michelle Gray, Thaly Rivas, and Ethan Zamora

The Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Interviews

“Toluca Teachers Earn Grants!”
by - Alex Hodeib, Trisha Terry, Jonathon Lozano, & Alondra Gongora



Santa Cruz Island

by - Alex Hodeib, Adelaida Rivas, Diego Gutierrez,
Leanne Anderson, & Danielle Pedroza

Toluca Lake Elementary's fifth grade students took a trip to Santa Cruz Island in the Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary on June 10, 2011. First, we got on a our bus at 7:00 am. Then, then we drove to Ventura and took a boat. Then, we hiked three miles in the mountains. On our trip, we saw, hundreds of dolphins, sea lions, seastars, island fox, raven, and jellyfish. We all got soaking wet on the boat. We all had a wonderful time on our Santa Cruz trip.



we learned many things during our adventure. We learned how the Chumash used the natural surroundings on the island to survive. For example, the Chumash used diatomaceous earth as sun block. Lemonade berry bush was used to sweeten the Chumash's food and drinks. We learned that dolphins couldn't live in the artic because ice covers the water and the dolphin wouldn't be able to breathe air. Also, we learned that the island fox is endemic to Santa Cruz Island. Finally, we learned that baby dolphins stay with their mothers for protection.

We'll always remember what we learned on our Santa Cruz Island field trip.



We enjoyed many things we did and saw on this special day. We liked all the animals we saw because they were so cute and interesting. Also, we liked going on the boat because for some of us it was our first time at sea. Some of us enjoyed getting splashed with the ocean water as the boat rocked like a roller coaster on the waves. We enjoyed seeing the ocean view from the top of the mountain. Finally, we liked sitting and enjoying the nature because it was very peaceful. This trip was one of the best days of our lives!

Visiting Santa Cruz Island was an amazing and memorable experience. The boat ride, hike, and animal viewing were spectacular. We will never forget the time we went to Santa Cruz Island!



Open House

by - Ashley Godoy, Karisma Molla,
Kaylee Elijah, and Christian Escobar

This year's Open House was terrific. Each classroom had displays of the students' excellent work. We walked around the school on the next day. Here are some of the great things we saw on the tour.

The primary building had lots of cool displays. For example, in Room 3, we saw how kids found ways to save energy. In Room 5, we saw a display explaining the metamorphosis of butterflies. Room 6 had pictures of mother earth and ways to save energy.

Out in the bungalows, we saw lots of interesting displays. In Room 28, students completed timelines, book reports, and magnificent totem poles. In Room 26, we saw types of rocks, shells jazz, music, mobiles, and little people. Room 27 had biographies, arrays, and trees. Students in Room 25 worked with cool fossils! In Room 29 we saw books report, diagram, and some apple trees.

In the main building, we saw some of the work being done by upper grade students. In Room 13, we saw fake paper people of the kids that sit there. In Room 10 we saw class quilts, geometric paper, a mosaic, and the kids' amazing drawings. Room 12 had faces, balloon people and reports. In Room 17, there were "Pearls of Wisdom" poems, explorer books, and energy projects.

We had so much fun seeing the work students have done for Open House. There sure are a lot of amazing things happening in each of the class!



The Friends of the Island Fox Save the Day!

by - Cristina Jercan, Trisha Terry, Jonathan Lozano, & Brandon Vielman

Members of the Friends of the Island Fox came to Room 17 and taught us about the rare, endemic species from Santa Cruz Island, the island fox. It's a very interesting story about how the island foxes' population plummeted to a low amount, but then rebounded in recent years.

We learned that an island fox weighs 3-6 pounds, and is 12-13" tall. When they're born, they're the size of two batteries. When they are in a different habitat, their pelt changes color. They are omnivorous, so they eat insects, berries, and the island deer mouse. It is an amazing animal, but it can't live on Anacapa Island because there's no fresh water there.

The island fox was going extinct because golden eagles were eating them. The golden eagles had arrived when bald eagles began dying due to ddt in the water. National park rangers saved the island fox by reintroducing bald eagles to the island and laws were based stopping ddt. The bald eagles keep their cousins, the golden eagles, away from the island. And, bald eagles eat fish, not island fox! It was a mission accomplished! The island foxes' recovery is a model for all endangered animals. We hope that their population continues to grow! Thanks to the Friends of the Island Fox for helping in this great mission!

Curious Bubbles

by - Ms. Harriman's First Grade Students

I once saw big, blue bubbles floating from the sky. The bubbles were floating around everybody. They had gold and candy inside. I was lucky when the bubbles popped because we got to eat all the candy and keep all the gold. I imagined myself riding on a bubble. I felt glad.

by - Alyssa Mora

I was very curious when I didn't know math. I saw other people doing addition and subtraction. I felt embarrassed because I was the only preschooler who didn't know math. Finally my dad gave me math books so I could learn. Then I started to know some equations. I think math is awesome!

by - Ben Robel

Big, blue bubbles were falling in the park in one area. The bubbles were landing on the trees. The bubbles were going to and fro. Inside the bubbles was maple syrup. If they pop the citizens will get all sticky and covered with syrup. There was a bubble close by and I hopped on it and blew all the other bubbles away to another area.

by - Billy Alvarez



I was very curious when my dog was scratching itself. I sat on the couch and heard a sound like ch,c-ch. Then, I looked at my dog. Everybody but me was doing a chore. Every time I looked at the dog, I felt uncomfortable. Finally, I asked my mom why the dog was scratching itself. She said because he had fleas. Now I'm curious why fleas make dogs scratch themselves.

by - Jazmin Echeverria

Big, blue bubbles were raining everywhere. In side the bubbles there were little baby chicks the people were saving the little Baby chicks because The little baby chicks were going to fall on the ground.

by - Gerardo Rivas

I was very curious when I was learning how to tie my shoes. I saw other people learning how to tie their shoes, I was depressed when other people did it and I couldn't. I finally noticed how people tie their shoes. Now I know how to tie my shoes.

by - Osmarely Soto

I was very curious when I found a golden, shiny, and shimmery diamond. I heard people talking about this diamond, but nobody really picked it up. This made me feel proud and excited. Finally I decided to take it home. Since I was so curious, I went to the library to learn more about diamonds.

by - Rethy Armes

I was very curious when I wanted to ride a bike. All I saw was other people riding bikes without falling down, not even once. Other people were walking, but I wanted to ride a bike, not walk. I felt so so sad about not having a bike. Then my mom gave me a bike, finally! When I got the bike I told my mom, I need a helmet! "I have one right here", my mom said.

by - Samantha Molinari

Big, blue bubbles were flying all over town . At first I did not see what was in there. Then I saw what was in there: ice cream and dogs! If I popped them I would get ice cream, but the dogs would fall. Well I always wanted to fly. So I jumped on a bubble. I popped the bubble! Oh no! But before the bubble could pop, I gave each dog a parachute and the ice cream too.

by - Yasmin Lopez

I was very curious when my rocket ship landed on the moon. I heard a strange clicking sound. It was aliens! I just saw a rock. I did not see any people. I felt proud of myself. I was the first one to land on the moon. I was curious if I would make it back to earth.

by - Zachary Ragle

Toluca Teachers Earn Grants!

by - Alex Hodeib, Trisha Terry, Jonathon Lozano, & Alondra Gongora

A few Toluca Lake teachers earned special grants this year. We were able to interview Coach Ward, Ms. Lauer, Ms. Harriman, and Mr. Hagen-Smith about their special grants.

Coach Ward and Ms. Lauer won a grant from the Fund for Teachers. Coach Ward and Ms. Lauer are going to use the grant to go visit pen pals in Greenland. They will receive the grant at a special orientation. Coach Ward said that they are not the only ones receiving the grant. The grant is only awarded to a small number of teachers. When they go visit their pen pals, they will bring some of our food and show them how to prepare it. They want to study their pen pals' culture. They said that they may be able to see the Queen of Denmark. Their free trip will last two weeks.

Ms. Harriman also received a grant. Her grant will be used entirely for student materials. She is going to buy books and science supplies for her class. A helpful parent, Ms. Deborah Armes, got her the grant by filling out an advertisement for a teacher's grant in Ms. Harriman's name. Ms. Harriman, and her future students, are very thankful for Ms. Armes support and this special grant.

Mr. Hagen-Smith received a "Keeping History Alive" grant from Azusa Pacific University. This is the third year that he's been selected for this grant. All of the money from the grant is spent on the students. It was used to supplement their work with another grant, SHRUB (Students Helping Restore Unique Biomes) funded by the mountain restoration trust (MRT). The grant paid for a field trip to the Homestead Museum, native plant booklets, a class set of books about the Homestead Act, and a visit from Cal Tech's Dr. Tara Gomez' "Budding Botanist" program.

We congratulate Coach Ward, Ms. Lauer, Ms. Harriman, and Mr. Hagen-Smith, and for receiving their teachers' grant. We think it's great that teachers do stuff like this to help students.

The Story Pirates

by - Ashley Godoy, Karisma Molla, & Kaylee Elijah

The Story Pirates are a group of teachers and actors who originated in New York City. They have led 15 writing workshops with 5th grade students this year. They are funded by a grant that Mr. Hagen-Smith got from the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood.

The Story Pirates helped 5th grade students learn to write expository descriptions, comedies, a persuasive essay, and a fictional narrative about a hero. Then, they act out student stories on stage. They did a big show here in June. They also performed at our Night of the Arts.

The Story Pirates are led by Duke Doyle. He's the one who played Jennifer in "Kung Fu Fighting Ninja Girls." The other workshop leaders are Martha Marion and Connor White. Martha and Connor both started with the Story Pirates two years ago. When they were little, Connor wanted to play basketball for the Chicago Bulls. Martha wanted to be an actor or an animal farmer. Martha wanted this job because she says that it's fun, and she loves teaching kids. Both Martha and Connor were musicians. Connor played the bass and piano, and Martha played the trumpet and piano. Music is a big part of their shows.

The Story Pirate shows were funny and some were dramatic. One thing we liked was the play by Gray Russell called, "The Day I Got My Head Stuck in the Stool." There was a lot of sing and dancing. In that play, Martha ate dog food, got her head stuck in the stool, and drank toilet water ... all because she did what her dog did! In another play, they did a story by Maya Angelou in which her descriptive language inspired a girl. Fifth grade student Amani Cummings wrote that story! There were other stories called, "Pen the Pencil" by Diego Gutierrez, "Mumble Gumble" by Omar Rodriguez, "Bat in Space" by Anders Lou, and The Horrible Giraffe Chef by Kaylee Elijah. Everything was fantastic. We loved every single play, and now want to go write some more!

Science Fair

by - Jerry Chaiyasid, Leanne Anderson, and Trisha Terry

Fifth grade student Cristian Escobar (Room 17) and Coach Ward participated in the Science Fair on April 14, at Bassett Street Elementary School. Christian participated in the science fair because he loves science. The point of the science fair is to compete with other students to see which science project is the best. Christian liked the science fair because he got to see what other people did for their projects. Christian's project was about the solar system because he thinks that's interesting. He was confident and nervous because he had to compete against a lot of people. He didn't know if he'd win or lose, but he tried his best. Cristian Escobar had a great time; we all thank Cristian Escobar for representing Toluca Lake Elementary at the science fair.

Recycled Art Contest

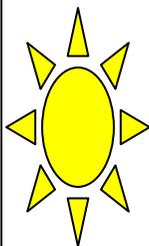
by - Christian Escobar & Danielle Pedroza

At Toluca Lake Elementary School, we had an awesome recycled art contest. Students created art projects entirely from recycled materials. Students from all grade levels were invited to participate in the contest. Awards were given to students for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. All of the entries were winners in our eyes. Katherine Mejia (a 3rd grade student in Room 28) won 1st place. Jenny Lix de Paz (a third grade student in Room 28) won 2nd place. Marcos Rojas (a 1st grade student in Room 5) won 3rd place. Many students participated and made awesome projects. Using recycled materials to make their projects was a great part of our Earth Day celebration. Everybody at Toluca Lake Elementary is proud of these students for their hard work participating in this great contest!

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

by - Danielle Pedroza, Aaron Aguilar, & Jasmine Johnson

Toluca Lake Elementary had a terrific Cinco de Mayo celebration in May. Fifth grade students from Mrs. McDuffey's class read great speeches. There were lots of great dances and songs performed by the primary students. Ms. Lacoyo's class sang a fun song called "Around the Pueblo." One of the highlights of the celebration was when the moms danced to many songs. After they were done, they invited all of us kids to go out and dance, too. It was a great celebration because we had lots of fun!



Toluca Lake
Elementary
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An Arts
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Principal:

Carol Reo-Bové
Assistant Principal:

Joyce Miles
Coordinator:

Jeff Daniel
Lead Teacher:

Steve Reidman
Newsletter Editor:

Dennis Hagen-Smith
Parent Representative:

Lucy Gonzalez



We're on the Web!

See us at:
<[http://toluca.
weebly.com](http://toluca.weebly.com)>

Around the Town

This section of our newsletter features free or inexpensive activities happening "around the town." We encourage you to extend your child's learning by exploring the many cultural activities available in the greater Los Angeles community.

- **The Autry National Center of the American West** is hosting free "Let's Make History" events throughout the summer. Call 323.667.2000 for information.
- **The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)** is hosting free Sunday events for families. Each event features hands-on, artist-led workshops and museum tours. Call 213.626.6222 for information .
- The Burbank Library is hosting a free Summer Reading Club this summer. You can register at the library where you'd like to attend the program. The program encourages children to keep up their reading skills throughout the summer months. The library presents fun-filled events with great entertainers, contests, and chances to win prizes.
- LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art) hosts free artist-led workshops and interactive bilingual tours on Sundays. Call 323-857-6010 for information.

Riddle me this...

Answers found on our school web page at:
<<http://toluca.weebly.com/>>

- Why did Chem sleep on the chandelier? - Kaylee Elijah
- Why wasn't the window cool? - Aaron Aguilar.
- Why did the cat cross the street? - Diego Gutierrez
- Why doesn't the zoo have any tests? - Christian Escobar
- What do birds do on cell phones? - Zachary Miles

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

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

Brought to you by the Toluca Lake Elementary PTA.
tlapta@escrip.com

Teacher's Tip

As the students head into summer vacation, it's important to maintain an emphasis upon education at home. Practicing math skills, writing letter to friends and family, reading for pleasure and doing projects will help keep the children interested in learning. Family outings and events are still very important for them. Try to keep them actively involved in group activities such as athletics or the arts to facilitate their transition to the next grade level. And, be sure to encourage the students to read at least one hour each day during their summer vacation; there's still no greater asset for their future success than reading.

Calendar

June 24 = 5th Grade Culmination
June 25 = 1st Day of Vacation!
July 4 = Independence Day
July 24 = Amelia Earhart Day
Aug. 6 = Wiggle Your Toes Day
Aug. 22 = National Dog Day
Sept. 5 = Labor Day
Sept. 7 = 1st Day of School!