

# Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary School: An Arts Prototype School / 818.761.3339

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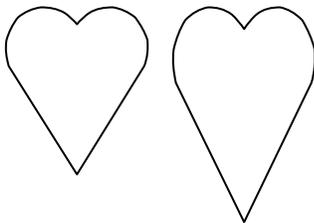


## Words of Wisdom

"Everything you've learned in school as "obvious" becomes less and less obvious as you begin to study the universe. For example, there are no solids in the universe. There's not even a suggestion of a solid. There are no absolute continuums. There are no surfaces. There are no straight lines.

- R. Buckminster Fuller  
Scientist/Philosopher  
(around 1960)

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## Principal's Message

Many of you are aware of the job cuts that the district is making in order to meet the severe financial short fall for the upcoming school year. Unfortunately, Toluca Lake will be affected by these changes.

First of all, our wonderful Assistant Principal, David Esquenazi, has had his position cut. He came here in 2006 to an extremely difficult task. His organization, knowledge, and understanding of our Special Education Program is evidenced by how smooth and well-run every aspect of the program runs today. He also implemented a safe school program with a behavioral component. His infectious love of dancing, and children has inspired all of us. We will all miss him greatly.



We have three outstanding, dedicated, and beloved teachers that will be leaving us, too:



Debra Cain has been here at Toluca Lake in many job capacities. She began her work here as a Teacher Assistant, and upon finishing her credential, came on board to work with our children as a 3rd grade teacher. She's dedicated many extra hours to her job. Her love of the students is evident in everything she does. Her students will be the first to tell you that they love learning in her room because of all the hands-on

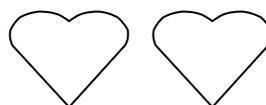
activities they do. She will be greatly missed.

Rachael Steele has brought a wealth of knowledge to her fifth grade students. Her patience and love for her students has inspired many of them to apply and be accepted into outstanding middle school programs. Her vast experience in many different fields before coming to the teaching profession has given her a unique understanding of the difficulties our students face in today's world. In her short few years here she has endeared herself to all and will be truly missed as well.



April French, our Kindergarten teacher, comes from a family of teachers. She seemed to know how to deal with the little ones from the second she stepped into the classroom. She is dedicated, hard working and extremely positive. Her contagious smile puts her little ones at ease. They are willing and eager to learn in such a loving environment. We are deeply saddened by her departure as well.

We wish all these wonderful staff members the best of luck in their futures. All our love goes with them to their new careers.



- Ms. Carol Reo Bové

## Teachers Picket LAUSD

by

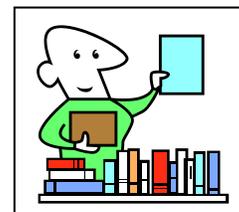
**Irish Go, Sofia Azarpira, Alan Aklyan, & Marco Luzquinos**

Earlier this month our teachers held a protest outside of our school. Even though our teachers voted *not* to walk out of their classrooms, they still are not happy about the decisions of the school district. The purpose of the protest was to make people aware that the district is making cuts that'll hurt students. Our teachers realize that there is a budget problem in our state right now, but they'd rather see money taken from the downtown offices than from local schools because cuts at the schools directly help students.

At our school, budget cuts are going to mean that we lose money for art supplies, art lessons, and field trips. Worse yet, we're going to lose our Assistant Principal, Mr. Esquenazi, and three great teachers: Ms. Cain, Ms. Steele, and Ms. French. We think it's wrong to lose those people because they are nice and try to help kids learn all the time.

We interviewed our school's Lead Teacher, Mr. Reidman. He said that teachers don't think it's a good idea to increase class size, or fire teachers because those things hurt students. He said that the protest is important for public awareness of what is happening in the Los Angeles educational system. People need to know how important this situation is for our schools. We children are the future. We are the next generation for the world.

We learned that all of the teachers were wearing black to show that all of the teachers are standing together. It is upsetting that some great teachers are going to lose their jobs. All of the teachers are worried about it. We are, too. LAUSD is making our school lose teachers, making classrooms more crowded, hurting education for students, and giving us less supplies that we need. By walking in front of the school holding signs of protest, our teachers hope that LAUSD decided to do the right thing and make students come first. We think the protest is important because expressing your rights can make a huge difference to our school!



## Summer Journeys

*With summer travels approaching quickly, some fifth graders reflected upon past journeys:*

- I went on a long trip to Las Vegas. We stopped at McDonald's to eat some McNuggets and fries. When we arrived at our hotel, the Union Plaza, we went to the pool and swam in the cool, fresh, water. **- Jesus Lopez**
- I went on a journey to Armenia with my family. It took 16 hours to get there by airplane. It was fun because I'd never been on an airplane before, and I got to meet my grandparents in Armenia. They said they're going to come and visit me this year. I'm very excited about that! **- Alan Aklyan**
- I went on a journey to Chile. I flew on an airplane called Land Chile. It took one day get there. We flew over the ocean, many mountains, and grasslands. I had a great time in Chile because I got to spend time with my abuelita, Chica, Maxy, Meriam, Carlos, Francisca, and Elias. **- Sofia Azarpira**
- I went on a journey with my family to Salinas, California. It was a really long trip. We took food for snacks, but we stopped to eat at a restaurant, too. After that, Salinas was still one hour away. It took six hours to get there. **- Erika Avila**
- I went to New Hampshire. The food I ate there tasted like it has the Earth in it. It was cold at night, but so many stars popped out that it made me feel excited because everywhere I looked there were different stories in the sky. **- Tony de los Santos**

## Nutrition Fair

by -

**Jeffrey Gaona, Ismael Garcia, Angel Diaz,  
Daisy de la Rosa, & Deja Sangster**

We just held our annual Nutrition Fair at Toluca Lake Elementary. During the Nutrition Fair we had a lot of healthy activities, and ate lots of fruit and vegetables. The activities included tug-of-war, an egg race, bean bags, hula-hoop, steal the bacon, jump rope, dance, basketball, soccer, and the clown throw. They were lots of fun.

Did you know that nutrition is an important part of your health? It is! If you just keep on eating all the stuff that is not healthy, like hot cheetos, you'll won't be as healthy as you could be by eating healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, grains, and dairy. Eating healthy foods makes your whole body and mind feel better, and keeps you from getting sick.

The Nutrition Fair was organized and set-up by Mr. Brent. He used 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the Nutrition Advisory Council to help him run the fair. Mr. Brent thinks that it's good to eat healthy. He says that we can be role models because if someone else sees us eating healthy foods, they'll be more likely to try the same things. Our principal, Ms. Bove, thinks that the Nutrition Fair is an excellent learning experience. She says that it's nice to see us eat healthy foods.

The kids loved the Nutrition Fair, too. Kindergarten student, Jazzlyn Sanchez says, "It's really fun and entertaining." First grader Christian Faber said, "Basketball is my favorite activity because I liked it when I was really small." Fifth grader Angel Diaz said, "I liked when Ms. Bove and Mr. Brent danced with us because they taught us new moves." Cynthia Melendez, another five grade student, added, "I learned to exercise for an hour because your heart will be healthy ... it's fun staying in shape. Learning to be healthy is important because you want to be strong when you're grown."

Eating fruits like peaches, cherries, apricots, watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew melon is tasty and healthy. We think this was a very great Nutrition Fair because there was lots of healthy food, fun activities, and even prizes. Eating healthy food and exercising is important because that keeps your heart running, your life balanced, and your body in shape. We think that Mr. Brent and the students from the Nutrition Advisory Council did a great job with the Nutrition Fair!



## The Community Garden Party

by - Cynthia Melendez & Sofia Azarpira

*On May 3, 2009, Toluca Lake Elementary School hosted a very special Community Garden Party. This special event was created by Mrs. Grigsby, and supported by lots of faculty members, the Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, parents, and students. Everyone had a noble time. Jessica from the Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, helped us plant our garden by showing us how to dig in the dirt and plant seeds.*

*Most people thought that it was very enjoyable to volunteer at the Garden Party. Mrs. Maya said, "I think this is a wonderful opportunity to get together for the school and the community. It gives the parents a chance to get together to see other parents and discover new ways to help make our school a wonderful play to be." A third grader from Mrs. Cain's class, Juliana Joya said, "It was fun going to the Garden Party because I got to plant a little tree and a flower." Mr. Reidman said, "There is no greater activity then people getting together to make their community better. Our community garden party brought all members of our community, staff, volunteers, and parents to the school. The goal of beautifying our school was a huge success. Let's all work together to keep it that way."*

*The Garden Party was really a special event. We're thankful for all of the volunteers, and for their hard work, Ms. Bove for her support, and Ms. Grigsby for coming up with this great idea. Mrs. Grigsby said, "Wow! Everyone who came did a great job of making their school the coolest and greenest place ever." Our Community Garden Party actually was a huge success and we should always keep it that way. Thank you teachers, staff, parents, and students!*



## The Spring Show

by - Angel Diaz, Cynthia Melendez, Nancy Sendejas, and Rocio Lopez

Toluca Lake Elementary School hosted its annual Spring Show. It was full of wonderful performances. The performance included Hip-Hop, the drill team, and chorus.

Hip-hop started the show off right by dancing to "Party People." Then, chorus sang "Jim Along Josie," an American folk song. Teachers often use folk songs to help children learn how to sing.

The drill team danced to "When I Grow Up" and "Get Down On It." with members of Hip-Hop. Chorus also sang a song call "La Primavera" which means springtime. Then, they finished the show singing "There's No Business, Like Show Business."

Six of the chorus students performed at The Hall of Liberty at Forest Lawn Mortuary last week. They were Esther Tovar, Javier Favela, Alexandra Silva, Brandon Urdianivia, Brandon Mondragon, and Emily De Paz. Fifth grader Esther Tovar said, "I liked doing the show because I like to dance."

Students really enjoyed the Spring Show. Fifth

grader Alex McQueen said, "The chorus sang five fabulous songs and I enjoyed it." Another 5th grade student, Emily De Paz, said, "I really love the song "Good Night" because it sounds very soothing and nice. I also liked the drill team because they danced very good." Fifth grade student Nicole Nuclease said, "I liked the show because it had exciting songs and was fun. I've got to remember that song." A 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student, Ali Freas said, "I liked the drill team because their dancing was amazing. We all loved the show!" It was amazing!



## The UCLA Arts Bridge Program

by - Irish Go, Angel Diaz, Jesus Lopez, and Javier Solis

Students in Room 17 have been participating in the UCLA Arts Bridge program this year. As part of this program, UCLA sends an instructor and graduate students to work with students. They use the arts to create a "bridge" to help students better understand the curriculum.

Earlier this year, we worked with Ms. Lauren Silva. She taught us lots of activities related to the book we're reading, *The Call of the Wild*. We painted landscapes, designed unique sleds, and made dioramas of *The Call of the Wild* using many different artistic styles like Impressionism, Expressionism, Dadaism, and Surrealism. It was lots of fun!

This semester we've been working with Vanessa Mizone, Allyson Sawyer, Dagmar Weaver Madsen, and the director of the program, Pat Harter. We interviewed Vanessa Mizone to get her ideas. She thinks *art* means *expression* meaning a way of showing your emotions. Art can show emotion, conflict or problems, peace, and ideas.

Vanessa taught our class how to create a patchwork quilt about slavery, the Underground Railroad, and freedom. The quilt represents our ideas of freedom.

Vanessa was inspired by her high school drama teacher. That's when she decided to take theatre classes instead of chorus. Vanessa likes how art tells stories. Meryl Streep, a famous actress, and Professor Harter have also inspired her.

Vanessa thinks that the most important thing about art is to effect people because you can make them think and feel about art. She loves bringing art to young students. She says that one way you can express your feelings through art is performing a story that's important to you. Art can even help you in real life; it can help you appreciate other cultures and people that are different from yourself. We think that art is so freeing, and that there is a limitless amount of possibilities you are able to create with it.



## Featured Faculty: Mr. Murphy's Melodies Make Us Merry!

by - Irish Go and Esmeralda Pinal



Mr. Murphy is this month's *Featured Faculty* member. He is one of the funniest and best singing teachers at our school. He began working at our school in 1998. First, he had to earn a teaching credential and bachelor's degree at California University of Berkeley to become a teacher.

He has many hobbies and interests such as playing his guitar, watching different types of movies, writing, washing dishes, making children cry during class, and picking on Mr. Reidman. One of his heroes is Woody Guthrie. He admires Guthrie because Woody had a hard life, but still persevered to write many great American songs like "This Land is Your Land."

The toughest part of Mr. Murphy's job is meeting the needs of children that have different abilities. The professional accomplishment that makes him the proudest is getting a Master's degree in English. Obstacles that he had to overcome to achieve his goals are working hard and going to school at the same time. The best thing he likes about working at our school is "REIDMAN! REIDMAN! REIDMAN! ... I mean Mrs. Miya." One thing he'd like to change about our school is having children treat each other with kindness and respect. Advice that Mr. Murphy would give to our current students is to read everyday. We all think that Mr. Murphy is a fantastic teacher for all of his hard work and jokes!

## Alexander Washer: Organic Family Farmer

by: Nancy Sendejas, Irish Go, & Daisy de la Rosa

Alexander Weiser is an organic, family farmer who recently visited our school. Our school's Health & Nutrition Coordinator, Mr. Brent, invited him to our school to tell us about how fruits and vegetables grow, their nutrition value, and the importance of exercise and healthy eating.

Mr. Weiser grows seasonal fruits and vegetables on his family farm. Potatoes, onions, beets, carrots, peppers, and melons are his favorites. The problems he faces while working are unpredictable weather, drought, and pesky animals like birds, gophers, and deer. Mr. Weiser loves to eat what he grows. He eats as much fruits and vegetables as he can.

Mr. Weiser has been working on his farm for 32 years! He has had many interesting experiences while farming, and knows that "there's still so much more to learn." The best experience he had while farming was when his family first bought the farm when he was a child. Alexander wanted to become a farmer because there are new things to learn on a farm, and because it gives him freedom. "Farming is basic," he said. He added that he likes working outdoors. Also, working with plants is his "passion."

The best thing about Mr. Weiser's job is that he enjoys the people he meets, and they love to eat his

food. "There are so many things to enjoy. I like everything," he commented.

After the presentation, fifth grade student Evelyn Romero remarked, "There are many healthy foods that come from many different types of plants. They need to wait for the right time to harvest the fruits and vegetables or else they will rot." We think that Alexander Weiser is a dedicated, hardworking farmer.



## **Awesome Alumni: Stewart "Alex" Williams**

by - Charles Hernandez, Todd Phipps, & Marco Luzquinos

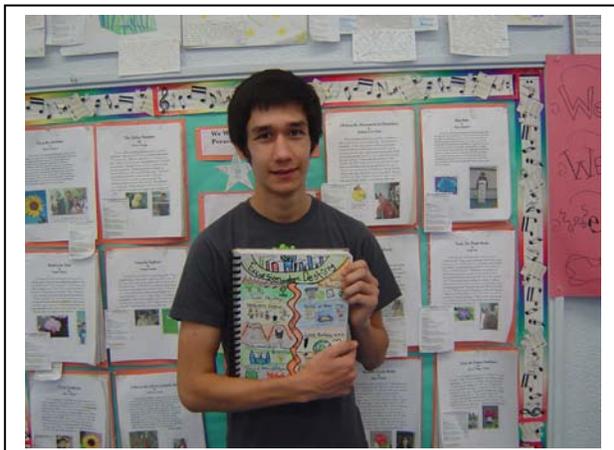
We interviewed a former student named Stewart "Alex" Williams. He went to Toluca Lake Elementary School from 2000 to 2002 for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. His favorite memories were going on lots of field trips (like the weeklong trip to Camp Clear Creek where he got to learn about the outdoors doing science activities).

His favorite subject in school was science. He liked science because there were a lot of cool experiments with electricity and matter. Gordon B. Hinckley inspired him because of all of the things he accomplished in his life.

The people that give the most confidence to Alex were Mr. Daniel, Mr. Reidman, and Mr. Hagen-Smith because how much they admire and care about the students. After graduating from

Toluca Lake Elementary School, Alex attended Northridge and Los Alledandes Middle Schools, Los Alledandes, Whitener and Delos schools. He did so well in high school that he was able to graduate when he was just 16 years

Now, he is now a student at UNLV (University of Nevada at Las Vegas). He is interested in studying biophysics to become a doctor. He says that "learning to be self-sufficient to do your best" is very important. He advises us current students, "Don't underestimate your knowledge; knowing things in this world will help you a lot."



## **Positively Powerful Parents: The Life of Lucy Gonzalez**

by - Frank Gonzalez

This month's *Positively Powerful Parent* is my mom, Lucy Gonzalez. My mom has been helping at Toluca Lake Elementary School for ten years.

Her favorite activity at our school is going on field trips with classes. Her favorite field trips have been to the Japanese American National Museum and the Getty Art Center. My mom would like to see more activities on Saturdays, and more teachers to be involved with them.

My mom is proud that she can spend time with her kids and still work. She actually quit her full time job to work at our school.

My mom's favorite subject when she was in school was math because she loved finding out new things and solving new problems. Her hero is her mom (my grandmother) because she had to raise seven children on her own with little to no help from her family.

My mom advises students to give stay in school, never give up, and do what you love to do. My mom is a big help at our school, and a great mom, too!



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Memories

Compiled by - Kevin Zuniga, Crystal Tespan, Cynthia Melendez,  
Jesus Lopez, Daisy De la Rosa, & Charles Hernandez

The fifth grade class of 2009 will be moving on to middle school following their culmination on June 19. We've had many wonderful experiences at Toluca Lake Elementary School. Here are a few special memories:

- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade physical education test because I was the only girl in my class who did 50 curl-ups.  
– **Alize Medina**
- When I got my 415 Alliance Award. I was happy because that award made me feel smart and bright.  
– **Artashes Semerjyen**
- The beginning of the year when I got to meet my friends again.  
– **Karla Avila**
- The 2008 nutrition fair because we got free, healthy food.  
– **Adrian Vasquez**
- When I went to UCLA because we saw a great performance (by the Klezematics). – **Ana Almeda**
- In third grade I learned my decimals and found my best friend, Carla.  
– **Brittany Zelada**
- When I met my favorite teacher ... a fun woman named Ms. Mc Duffey.  
– **Isabella Caputo**
- Bugging Mr. Hagen-Smith because it was fun, and because he'd bug us back, too. – **Sean Yomsarn**
- The water coloring paintings inspired by Alvin Ailey because that's my favorite subject.  
– **Gustavo Diaz**
- The L.A. Zoo's *Biomes of the World* program because we got to learn about animal's adaptations, different environments and endangered animals.  
– **Daisy De La Rosa**
- Going to the observatory because I like to learn about stars and space. – **Charles Hernandez**
- The Cinco De Mayo Festival because I got to dance and learn about my culture. – **Pablo Montiel**
- When I went to the Philharmonic Orchestra.  
– **Elijah Knox**

- Going to the Peterson Auto Museum to see different cars from different times. – **Cynthia Melendez**
- The San Pedro Harbor tour because I experienced what it's like to be on a boat. – **Ismael Garcia**
- Going to the field trip to Museum of Tolerance because it was about different families.– **Rocio Lopez**
- Working on dioramas because I got to work with my friends and learn many things. – **Nancy Sendeja**
- Doing butterfly experiments in 3rd grade & having fun learning about their life cycle.–**Sahara Rodriguez**
- Doing math groups with Coach Ward because she did fractions by cutting pieces of yarn. – **Vanesa Ruiz**
- The Fossils Festival because finding the fossils was fun.  
– **Nicole Nukpese**
- Going to the Geffen Playhouse because of all the plays ... especially "Mr. Crazy" by Deja Sangster.  
– **Madeline Thompson**
- Going to Tree People because I got to learn about trees and plants.  
– **Erik Gomez**
- Going ton the Skirball in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade because we got to learn about different cultures.  
– **Ivan Casas**
- Dancing to "Monster Mash" in the Halloween Parade because I scared a lot of little kids with my mask.  
– **Anthony de los Santos**
- Going on field trips to new places. – **Alan Aklyan**
- The House of Blues because we learned the history of music.  
– **Robert Blanco**
- When we went to Vecmobile because we saw the mosquito's life cycle. – **Brendon Urdaniuia**
- Going to Stunt Ranch because we got to sing with a Chumash leader. – **Mayra Luis Juan**
- Room 17 winning the grant for *The Call of the Wild* and the Obama Inauguration.  
– **Ms. Bové**

# Toluca Lake Times Journalism Awards

2008 - 2009

*This is the second 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 Thomas Paine Editorial Award for Persuasive Writing

"Change the Wars"

by

Khavla Blanco

"How to Write a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay"

by

Katherine Rodriguez

## The William Saroyan Award for

### Best "Featured Faculty" article

"Mrs. Steele: A Caring Teacher"

by

Pablo Montel, Robert Blanco,  
& Charles Hernandez

## The Maya Angelou Award for

### Most Awesome "Awesome Alumni" article

"Leslie Quejada"

by

Sofia Azarpira

## The Ruben Salazar Award for Best Tributes

"My African American Role Model:

Mrs. McDuffey"

by

Chelsea Logo

"My African American Role Model:

Ms. Hinton"

by

Crystal Snow

## The Phyllis Wheatley Award for Best Poetry

"Seasonal Haiku"

by

Kayla Johnson & Edward Rodriguez

## The Maya Lin Award for Art Design

"The Creatures" CD Cover

by

Madelyn Thompson

## The Mark Twain Award for Best Fiction

"The Big Bad Wolf Meets His Match!"

by

Ali Freas

## The Will Rogers Award for

### Best Feature Articles

"The Big Read of The Call of the Wild"

by

Angel Diaz, Irish Go, Kevin Zuniga, & Diana  
Collado

"The Adventures in the Spooky House"

by

Michelle Elizabeth Gray

## The Edward R. Murrow Award for

### Best Interviews

"Positively Powerful Parents: Martha Silva"

by

Alejandra Silva

"Windows-on-our-Waters Environmental  
Education"

by

Nicole Nukpese, Robert Blanco, Javier  
Solis, & Brittany Zelada

"Cal Tech Doctoral Student, Tara Gomez,  
Visits Toluca Lake Elementary"

by

Irish Go, Deja Sangster,  
Cynthia Melendez, & Todd Phipps

## Editor's Award:

### Most Prolific Writer & Editor

\*\*\*\*Irish Go \*\*\*\*

## Written Responses to Music

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students in Room 35 & 36

### Miles Davis' "Round Midnight"

- I feel happy and sad together...and excited.
- It sounds like it is from Africa. It has a piano and takes place at night.
- I think the music is peaceful and I like the beat. I can picture in my mind that everybody is whispering to each other. People are wearing black and red coats
- It feels like it's dark. The music sounds like someone is tap dancing...like someone is playing and running around...like a bee is flying. It sounds like a bird is humming.
- I feel like it is the night time. The man is sad, and then he is happy. Then he goes into a dark parking lot at midnight.
- I feel like a happy girl on a very big green high mountain on a summer day looking at the high white clouds. I am running really fast or playing music really fast. I can feel the high and low beat. A woman dances really fast with a man. The man and woman are in a beautiful palace in the dancing room with their parents...every time the flute comes, the woman kicks. There is a bird finally getting to fly off its nest like his brothers and sisters.
- It looks like you're in the middle of nowhere. He's dancing on the grass playing a piano in the dark. Then somebody sees him and they're alone. They are dancing together alone.
- It sounds like people snooping around at night doing something bad.
- There is a poor city above. There is a rich city below.
- It is night and sad. They were crying but they were happy.
- A fox and a rabbit are starting at one end of the Grand Canyon. And they are almost bumping into each other. The fox is hungry because the fox wants a rabbit snack.
- At a restaurant in the 90's. Fast and jazzy, old, fast and scary...in a jazz bar.
- At a show where it looks like a party. The music is so slow but the beat is fast.
- It sounds like music when you are at a restaurant and they play music while you are eating. The music is called "Round Midnight." They are playing the instruments called piano, drum, and the trumpet.
- It makes me feel happy and sad because this girl was going to a party, and when she was getting ready it started.
- It sounds like the movies.

### Brian Eno's "On Land"

- It has no rhythm and looks like a scary song. The song is slow. It feels like a nightmare.
- It takes place at night. It has no rhythm and no beat. I can hear creepy noises, and I feel it is going to get me. And I think everybody outside is scared too!
- [There is] A girl named Judy and she got lost in the scary woods.
- It is just some normal music.
- In a haunted house with ghosts slow and loud. A little bit sad. A little bit scary if you ask me.
- Nothing is funny. Someone is getting chased. Then you have gotten really scared. The window blooms. A glass breaks and a ghost is hunting you. A thing rolls over; a thing goes down the stairs. That would be scary. But it was just a dream after all. And everything is okay.
- It sounds like a waterfall. I heard a lion RRRR. I went to a cave. There was a bat and an owl at night in the dark.
- It sounds like an owl. It also sounds like wind blowing by water. Someone is trying to sneak up on you. The music sounds like someone is walking very slow.
- It sounds like a man is scuba diving in the ocean and a big whale swallows the man whole.
- It is like the waves going slow.
- It sounds like the blue wavy ocean. Also kids playing in the summer twilight. Birds flying, owls howling, people walking. The fishes swimming, the whales sleeping with their sons and daughters. Also like scary ghosts walking. People sleeping putting their hands in the water. The piano playing going beep-beep while the birds are chirping chirp-chirp. The people are going back and forth dancing. Ducks are making their own sounds.
- It's nighttime and there's an old man in a wheelchair falling out of the tree.
- It sounds like you are underwater and somebody's walking away from you.
- It sounds like thunder and a roar and trickling water...like someone is walking in your house. Like a robot with eyes.
- A bear is racing to catch a rabbit.
- No one is out except one person who is alive.

## 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:

<u>25 or more points</u>	<u>18 - 24.9 points</u>	<u>10 – 17.9 points</u>
LOGO, CHELSEA - 35.6	PEREZ, BRYAN - 21.7	D'ARIES, JAKOB - 17.7
SILVA, ALEJANDRA - 31.5	RANGEL, CORY - 21.4	GO, IRISH - 17.1
SOUKOUNIAN, ASHLEY - 29.5	GONZALEZ, FRANK - 21.3	ABRILIAN, YEPREM - 16.9
SNOW, CRYSTAL - 27.8	WILLIAMS, AMARII - 20.6	GACULA, XAVIER - 15.2
DE PAZ, EMILY - 25.3	GONZALEZ, VANESSA - 20.0	ROUSE-WELLS, DERON - 14.8
	CARMONA, XIOMARA - 19.8	LIPSEY, PERSEUS - 14.5
	MURILLO, CHRISTOPHER - 19.5	HERNANDEZ, ALAN - 13.3
	VILLACORTA, LAUREN - 18.6	GARCIA, MICHAEL - 13.2
	VIDAL, NICHOLAS - 18.2	TERRAZA, JOHAN - 12.8
		BANTU, BISU - 12.7
		DUKE, EDWIN - 12.0
		STROUD, KALEI - 11.6

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.

## Hit the Target Awards

Toluca Lake Elementary School instituted its first Hit the Target awards this school year. The Hit the Target program encourages students to master a state standard appropriate to their grade level. Those students who Hit the Target (pass the standard criteria) receive a special certificate acknowledging their accomplishment at our school assembly. Then, their names are put into a drawing to win a \$25 gift certificate. This semester's Hit the Target winners are listed below:

Kinder	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Students read grade level sight words</b>	<b>Reading Fluency: 65 wpm Numbers to 200</b>	<b>Identify Parts-of-Speech in a Paragraph</b>	<b>Spelling Demons: Spell 200 difficult words</b>	<b>Writing a Personal Narrative</b>	<b>Writing a Five Paragraph Narrative</b>
Ayman Asgar Chris Gonzalez Aleggra Talley Mher Tofanyan Ed Consuelo Carlos Lemus Crystal Sanchez Natalie Amaya David Amaya Sierra Burgos Mario Cordero H. Fernandez Jaylen Harvey Kath. Martin Ava Martineau Giovana Aldana Angel Almeda Damaris Amaya Tatia. Caballero Millie Caro Nikolos Flores M. Guandique Karen Paz Jazlyn Sanch A. Maldonado	Andrea Jimenez Myriam Orocio Maya Grafman Seuz Trabuco Alexis Casas Valeria Gonzalez Sergio Gonzalez Javier Fernandez Chris Faberpatener Tia Stroud Luis DePaz Thaly Rivas Jackie Gedikyan Jovce Contreras Jenny Lix Carlos Terraza Anisah Karneh Giselle Picano Melanie Flores Sharen Katanosaka Michelle Gray Kyler Phillips Zard Diaz Lily Hernandez Jaylyn Aragon Benjamin Kersh Lameline Terry Jade Nichens Savannah Turner Helen Getner Bailey Blake Habib Hanna Savannah Anderson Lucas Ireland Ruby Hagerman	Milena Tofanyan Brian Sol Josue Merchan Alishia Sandoval Richard Chicas Alessandro Rugamos Ali Freas Ashley Zavala Brayden Armes Brennen Lamb Caden Dreyer Danielle Heflin Evan Gordon Gabriel Alaniz Giovanna Burgos Jack Hanaford Julian Arcila K. Thianthong Kylie Pasco Sebastian Soto Stephanie Hernandez Tyler Kovacs Jazelle John Imain Phipps Kayla Johnson Kyana Garner Britney Arana Jonathan Amaya Oswaldo Diaz Jorge Chris Emiliano Angel Mendez Delaney Negroni Hunter Ragle Fatima Rodriguez Pricilla Shahsavari Matthew Teodoro Anthony Garcia Christopher Chavez Christopher Vasquez Caity Molina Dylan Angel Edward Rodriguez Samantha Zepeda	Alexis Salinas Amani Cummings Cynthia Elias Diego Martinez Leslie Hernandez Melissa Lopez Odrin Nazarians Pamela Medina Rebecca Nomura Bisu Bantu Angel Lepe Ashley Godoy Briana Johnson Cory Rangel Kaylee Elijah Diego Aguilar Adelaida Rivas Edwin Duke Brandon Tamazian Cristina Jercan Karina Barrientos Jerry Chaiyasid Mario Rivas Angelita Quintanilla Andrea Oliva Jonathan Lozano Juliana Joya Roberto Alvarado Jose Lopez	Javier Favela Victor Blanco Lisa Grafman Eder Meza Lemise Saud Alex Castillo Laura Fregoso Jorge Reyes Jr. Michelle Huerta Samuel Rodriguez Xiomara Sharis Galeano Georgina Zamora Xiomara Carmona Jakob D'Aries Xavier Gacula Frank Gonzalez Alan Hernandez Chelsea Logo Serge Manachian Yohji Murillo Alejandra Silva Crystal Snow Ashley Soukounian Kalei Stroud Amarii Williams	Erika Avila Sofia Azarpira Diana Collado Daisy De la Rosa Jeffrey Gaona Angel Diaz Ismael Garcia Irish Go Charles Hernandez Marco Luzquinos Cynthia Melendez Sarah Sandoval Javier Solis Nancy Sendejas Sean Yomsarrn Angel Chavez Brittany Zelada Daniel Torres Elijah Knox Bryson Salazar Maxael Tomas Artashes Serreryan Vanessa Serrano Alex McQueen Karla Avila Jennifer Lagos Ana Almeda Peter Zepado Eduardo Garcia Kath. Rodriguez Madilyn Thompson Sahara Rodriguez Nicole Nukpese Erik Gomez Brendon Urdanivia Alice Paz Evelyn Romero Claudia Talley Robert Blanco Giselle Muga Cesar Martinez Vanessa Ruiz

## What is the Promise of America?

by  
Fifth Grade Students

- The promise of America is freedom. One part of this dream is to help poor people have freedom, too. They need freedom so they can be happy. Freedom is important because if we don't have freedom we will not be able to do anything, even vote for a new president like Barack Obama. **- Diana Collado**
  
- The 'Promise of America' is freedom. One part of this promise is equality. People should have the right for a fair life. This, to me, is the greatest 'Promise of America'. I could have picked "joy" to be the "Promise of America, but there's really no difference. Fairness makes me feel joyful. I think the "Promise of America" is that everyone is equal to one another. **- Anthony De los Santos**
  
- The promise of America is freedom. One part of this promise is that all people have the right to vote for whoever they want. Another part of this promise is for people to be able to ride bikes or skateboards outside as long as they have a permit. **- Ismael Garcia**
  
- The promise of America is to have hope. Part of this hope is to have freedom, happiness, and a good education. **- Jeffrey Gaona**
  
- The promise of America is freedom. One part of this promise is that we have freedom to build our own restaurants or anything else we'd like to build. Another part is that we can go anywhere we want. Freedom is important because no one has the right to tell us what to do (except our parents & teachers, of course 😊!). **- Nancy Sendejas**
  
- The promise of America is equality. One part of this promise is that everyone is the same and needs to be treated the same. Another part is that everyone is special, unique, and important. One more part of this promise is that if you're black, white, or yellow, you'll always be respected, as long as you're respectful to other people. The promise of America is important because we need to live in a fair country. **- Irish Go**

<p>Tired</p> <p>Exhausted, fatigue</p> <p>Hoping, dreaming, riding</p> <p>Wishing to be free</p> <p>Sadness</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Jeffrey Gaona</p>	<p>Fatigue</p> <p>Tired, exhausted</p> <p>Running, struggling,</p> <p>giving</p> <p>Running in the wild</p> <p>History</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Javier Solis</p>	<p>Tears</p> <p>Sad, depressed</p> <p>Struggling, hurting,</p> <p>running</p> <p>Painful the whole way</p> <p>Sorrow</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Ismael Garcia</p>
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Toluca Lake  
Elementary  
School:  
An Arts  
Prototype  
School



Principal:  
Carol Reo Bové  
Assistant Principal:  
David Esquenazi  
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://www.scholastic.com/classpages>

Classroom Username:  
**TolucaLake**  
Classroom Password: **Read**

## 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 Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History** is hosting "A Sense of Wonder, A Sense of Place" from June 13 – 21. The program encourages visitors "to view nature through the images and words of our children." Go to [www.cni-kids.org/blueberry](http://www.cni-kids.org/blueberry) for more information.
- **The Autry National Center of the American West** is hosting "Let's Make History" events on June 13, 21, and 28. Family members can create star whirlers, Father's Day mobiles, and dragon boat puppets at these free events. Call 323.667.2000 for more information.
- **The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)** is hosting free Sunday events for families on July 5 and August 2 (1 – 3:30 pm). Each event features hands-on, artist-led workshops and museum tours. Call 213.626.6222 for more 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.

**Pompeii** June 7, 14, 21, 28 | 12:30–3:30 pm  
When archeologists uncovered the ancient city of Pompeii, centuries after a volcano covered it with ash, they discovered amazing things. In art workshops with artists Enzo Fina, Angel Kwan, Alberto Valdez, and Marylene Camacho, make works inspired by the villas of Pompeii. Travel to ancient times by touring LACMA's collection of Greek and Roman art. NP | Free | Children 12 and younger plus family

## Calendar

- June 8 = Awards Assemblies: Volunteers Students  
*Hit the Target*
- June 12 = Fifth Grade field trip to Santa Cruz Island
- June 15 = Student-Faculty Softball Game
- June 17 = Screening of student film, "The Call of the Past"
- June 19 = Last day of school; 5th grade culmination

## 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

### **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](http://www.escrip.com) and click on "Sign Up".
- Enter our Group ID# 164439465
- Ask family and friends to register, too!

*"This is, by far, the easiest fund-raiser that our school has. Our monthly contributions continue to gradually increase. Last year our school received close to \$10,000!"*

-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.  
TolucaLakePTA@aol.com