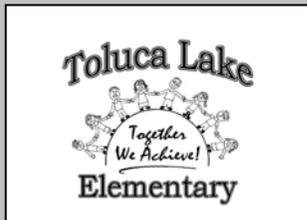


Toluca Lake Times

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

March 3, 2011
Vol. 4, # 5



Words of Wisdom

"The noblest question in the world is: 'What good may I do in it?'"

- Benjamin Franklin (1737)
Poor Richard's Almanack
Scientist, statesman
printer, & writer



Black History Show

by - Brianna Madera, Kaylee Elijah, & Leanne Anderson

Toluca Lake Elementary School held its annual Black History Show last week. The students experienced amazing performances by many classes. We saw and heard poems, songs, and spectacular dances by our proud drill team.

To start off the show, Amani Cummings and Juliana Joya led a warming flag salute, and sang the African American national anthem. The chorus performed two songs relating to African Americans. Ms. McNeely's class sang, "Eyes on the Prize" about the winning equality during the Civil Rights Movement. After that, Ms. McDuffey's class became followers of the North Star, doing a great job reciting their lines by heart, and singing a song of hope. They helped us learn a bunch of things about civil rights!



Mr. Hagen-Smith's class sang songs about equality, "What Can One Little Person Do?" and "When the Rain Comes Down" with the cute and talented first graders from Ms. Harriman's class. Ms. Miya's class did a fun song called "If you Miss Me at the Back of the Bus" ... I'll be sitting in the front about desegregation. Mr. Murphy led his second graders in a bunch of cool poems and songs by Langston Hughes.

Some students also read their essays from our Black History Writing Contest. Alex Hodeib memorized his work about the poet Maya Angelou, Kayla Johnson taught us about Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall, and Savannah Mintz Taylor read us her biography of the writer Alex Haley. Each of these students did a great job! It was also amazing to see Mr. Reidman's students, Ali Frees and Kayla Johnson, present their Power Point presentations on Queen Latifah and Madame C. J. Walker.

The big show also featured exciting presentations by our drill team. They did awesome dance routines that featured rhythm and gymnastics! Ms. Bove provided closing remarks to end the show. We are all very proud of one another for doing such a great show. We're also very thankful to Ms. McDuffey for doing such a great job organizing such a spectacular show!

The L.A. Jazz Society Visit Toluca Lake

by - Briana Madera, Gabriel Alaniz, Adelaida Rivas,
Diego Martinez, Leanne Anderson, and Danielle Pedroza

The L.A. Jazz Society, a magnificent jazz group, just came to our school. They performed lots of jazz tunes including the "Pink Panther," "Linus and Lucy," and "It Don't Mean a Thing, if it ain't got that Swing." The musicians: Rahmlee Davis, Lovahn Lowe, Charles Owens, Clayton Cameron, & John Belzagu, each taught us about their instruments and played their wonderful jazz music.

Charles Owens likes to improvise and started playing the saxophone at the age of 14. Lovahn Lowe likes jazz because it helps you express yourself and your feelings. Rahmlee Davis started playing in a band at the age of 14 with Earth, Wind, and Fire. Clayton Cameron likes to play the drums and has been playing them for 46 years. Charles Owens likes other music besides jazz. He enjoys Latin, classical, and Brazilian, music, too.

The L.A. Jazz Society played many

different tunes. We learned that a piano is a part of the percussion family because you jab the keys with small hammers within the piano. Also, we learned that there is a tuner for the drums because there are different ways you can play it in orchestras and jazz. We really liked when they paraded their instruments all around the auditorium. We had a jazzin' good time!



Cal Tech Scientist Visits Toluca Lake

by - Diego Gutierrez, Kaylee Elijah, Nathaniel Duarte, & Brianna Madera

Toluca Lake Elementary School received a visit from a very special person, Dr. Tara Gomez of Cal Tech. She helped the 5th grade students in Mr. Hagen Smith's class learn about botany by doing experiments. She taught us about how species adapt to their environment, co-evolution, and pollination. We even got to dissect flowers, and look at them through an electronic microscope.



Dr. Gomez grew up in Los Angeles, and attended both Catholic and public schools. She wanted to be a lawyer, but then decided to be a scientist because she loves to investigate things. Dr. Gomez says the best part of being a scientist is being able to constantly learn new ideas. As a scientist, Dr. Gomez has an interest in all of the world's creatures including tropical fish, snakes, pigeons, mice, and dogs.

Dr. Gomez is an explorer, too. She's always seeking new ways to understand the world. During the past year, she discovered the last known enzyme involved in Vitamin C synthesis! Vitamin C is an important enzyme. Dr. Gomez is always doing things to spread knowledge. We're very happy that she was willing to come to our school and expanded our knowledge by doing such fun activities!

Awesome Alumni: Jamie Jones

by - Trisha Terry, Leanne Anderson,

Kaylee Elijah, Cindy Ortiz, & Brianna Madera

The *Scoop Reporters* from the Toluca Lake Times recently interviewed Jamie Jones, a student who attended our school from 1992 - 1994. Her favorite memories from our amazing school include the time when she performed "Another Christmas Carol" with her 6th grade class for the holiday program. She liked it because it was funny, musical, and taught a lesson about taking care of the environment vs. the fictitious villain, Abigail Scrooge (*the Energy Baron*).

As a student, Jamie was elected to Student Council. As part of her campaign, she started an incentive box to give students prizes for doing outstanding work. Jamie's favorite subject in elementary school was creative writing because she wrote a lot. She liked it because it gave her "freedom to explore, take chances, and challenge" herself.

The people that Jamie remembers from elementary school are Mr. Hagen-Smith, her 6th grade teacher, because he was very challenging; and Ms. Green, the principal, because she gave her encouragement by writing her a note saying what a great student she was on the last day of school.

Jamie Jones: NOW and Then



After she graduated, Jamie went to Walter Reed Middle School for one year, to Sepulveda M.S for two years, and then to Cleveland High School where she starred on the swim team, and then graduated as the school's valedictorian. Jamie graduated college from NYU (New York University). Then she earned a Masters Degree in psychology at Fordham University.

Jamie believes that travel can be an "eye-opening experience." She even spent a semester studying in Italy. And, her husband is a professional tennis player from Italy. They're expecting their first baby in May! Jamie's most recent trip was to Egypt to see and explore the Great Pyramids in person.

Jamie's heroes are her parents because they've helped her a lot and always support her whenever she needs help. Jamie's hobbies are track, yoga, and exploring the city that never sleeps, New York City. Her occupation is as a psychotherapist. She loves her job because she gets to help people who are going through depression and emotional problems. She spent almost two years working at Bellevue Hospital's emergency room in New York City.

Jamie has had only one hard obstacle: she had to learn that she could achieve her goals no matter what "bumps" were in the way. She advises students to "always make new mistakes." That means "if you're not making mistakes, you're not challenging yourself." She says that it's always good to try something new. "If it doesn't work out, that's okay because you have learned from your mistakes."

We think that Jamie's advice is full of hope and power. She's one Awesome Alumni!

Featured Faculty: Mr. Soroczak's Got Heart!

by - Alex Hodeib, Hunter Ragle, Cassandra Cordova, & Danielle Pedroza

This month's Featured Faculty member is Mr. Soroczak. Mr. Soroczak began teaching at Toluca Lake Elementary on October 19, 1997. That means he's been teaching here for 14 years. Mr. Soroczak's number one hero is Albert Einstein. Mr. Soroczak admires Einstein because he was very *creative and smart*. Before becoming a teacher, Mr. Soroczak earned a Masters degree in college. Then, he earned a teaching credential from LAUSD's District Intern program.

Mr. Soroczak has many interesting hobbies. He loves to go out into nature. He is also interested in photography. He loves to take awesome pictures for the school, and sometimes just for fun. He likes using and working with Mac Computers. In fact, Mr. Soroczak is the teacher who is in charge of putting our school yearbook together!

Mr. Soroczak has had to stand up to many hardships to become a teacher. As a child, Mr. Soroczak had a learning disability. But, he never let that stop him; he never gave up. He says that the hardest part of his teaching job is that there is so much work to do in such little time. He also said that it's hard to get the whole class focused on one thing.

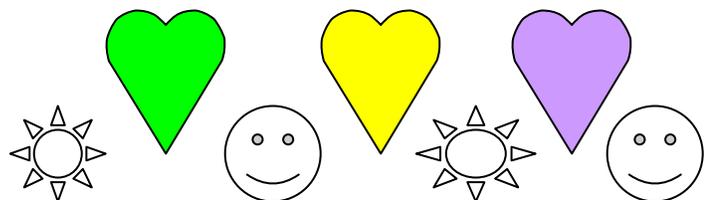
Mr. Soroczak said he likes the other teachers because they're supportive & caring. He also

wishes that more parents became more involved with the students, and our school. Mr. Soroczak had lots of advice to give us. Most importantly, he recommends that we work hard to "develop the thing we love" and do our best at it! We think that's great advice. We're very happy to have our own *creative and smart* Einstein-like teacher at our school: Hooray for Mr. Soroczak!

Teacher's Tip

Math. It's all about numbers & relationships ... and they're everywhere! Here are some strategies to help students succeed at math:

- Be positive & provide motivation
- Play family games that use math like "Monopoly", "Go Fish", & "GeoSafari"
- Study sports statistics from the newspaper together
- Expand your child's horizons in terms of career choices involving math
- Encourage the use of puzzles & problem solving books
- Make a game out of memorizing basic facts such as addition & multiplication.



Black History Show Essay Winners

Thurgood Marshall

by - Kayla Johnson

Thurgood Marshall was a famous African-American. He was the first African American Supreme Court justice. Thurgood Marshall was born on July 2, 1908, in Baltimore, Maryland. He died on January 24, 1993 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He died of heart failure.

Thurgood Marshall was a Supreme Court justice. What got him in? He went to the Howard University School of Law, where he was the first of all his class to graduate. In 1937, he joined the NAACP. He was also a civil rights litigator.

Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland on July 2, 1908, the great-grandson of a slave who was born in modern-day Democratic Republic of the Congo. His original name was Thoroughgood, but he shortened to Thurgood in second grade because he disliked spelling it. His father, William Marshall, a railroad

Alex Haley

by - Savannah Mintz-Taylor

Alex Haley was born in Ithaca, New York. The one thing that influenced him most was his grandmother's colorful stories about his ancestors. They dated from a long time ago. Alex Haley was inspired to become a writer because as a U.S Coast Guard, he had caught himself writing love letters to give to his shipmates to send home to their wives and girlfriends.

Alex Haley wrote books later in his life. He co-wrote The Autobiography of Malcom X. His next book was Roots, a book about the family story of Kunta-Kinte. He took a trip to Africa to find the documents about his ancestor Kunta-Kinte. Roots became a television show, which comes on once a year during Black History Month. He started a book called Queen, but did not live long enough to finish it.

Alex Haley took many risks to become a writer. One risk he took was getting on a plane trip to Africa to interview people. The risk of interviewing people is he did not know if they were going to tell the truth. Another risk he took was plagiarizing other people's stories. One of the author's whose story he was accused of stealing was

porter, instilled in him an appreciation for the Constitution of the United States and the rule of law. Marshall was married twice: to Vivian "Busters" Burey from 1929 until her death in 1955, and to Cecilia Suyat from 1955 until his own death in 1993. He had two sons from his second marriage: Thurgood Marshall, Jr. who is a former top aide to President Bill Clinton, and John W. Marshall, who is a former United States Marshals Service Director.

In 1925, Thurgood Marshall graduated from Frederick Douglass High School. Later, he graduated from Lincoln University in 1930. He also became a civil rights litigator. One of the major accomplishments of Thurgood was that he won 29 out of 32 governmental arguments. He also became a Supreme Court justice.

Thurgood had strong support for the constitutional protection of individual rights. He made a controversial speech. I think Thurgood Marshall is a person I am very proud of him now!



- Thurgood Marshall



Margaret Walker. He had to pay Harold Courlander 500,000 dollars for stealing from The African.

Mr. Haley inspires me because I love to write just like he did. Also, I like to find out about my family history just like he went to find out about Kunta-Kinte. Maybe one day I'll find out if Nat Turner is my relative. Alex Haley had planned to write a biography of Madam. C.J.Walker, but he never got the chance. He died on February 10, 1992 of a heart attack. He was buried on his homestead in Henning.

More Contest Winners: Inspirational African American Heroes

Maya Angelou

by - Alex Hodeib

Maya Angelou is an inspiring African American to me. She was born on April 4, 1928, and grew up in Arkansas. Maya Angelou had many careers. Maya was a fantastic singer, writer, actress, and dancer. She was also active in the Civil Rights Movement. Being all these things was very important because as a singer, writer, and dancer you can express how you feel, what you are thinking, and your creativity.

I admire Maya Angelou because I also want to be a writer or poet, and if I read some of her poems and books, I might get some ideas for what I want to write about. Two works of Maya Angelou are, The Heart of a Woman, and Letter to my Daughter. One quote I like that she wrote is, "Love is like a virus. It can happen to anybody at anytime." I think this quote is very true because love spreads all over the world like

a virus eventually, everyone will find someone to love and will be loved.

Maya has been honored with many awards. One award was the National Book Award. Maya received it for her book, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. It amazes me that she could have so many wonderful talents that all made her life fun and worth living. To me, to grow up with only a brother and grandma seems pretty hard, but Maya got through it with reading, going to school, and with her families love. Maya had a very good life but she had to stand up to many hardships like growing up without her parents. Maya will always be a role model to me and will be loved by many people forever.



Maya Angelou -



Madam C.J. Walker

by - Leslie Hernandez

Madam C. J Walker was born on December 23, 1867. Her real name was Sarah Breedlove. She was born into slavery. Her parents and elder siblings were slaves on a Madison Parish Plantation. Robert W. Burney owned them. Her mother died on 1872, possibly from Cholera. Her father remarried, and died when she was only seven years old.

Many women of Sarah's era experienced hair loss. Most Americans lacked indoor plumbing, central heating, and electricity; they bathed and washed their hair infrequently. The problem they had with their hair was that they had scalp disease. She experimented with home remedies and products from the stores. Finally she came



- Madam C.J. Walker

up with her own shampoo and ointment that would make their scalp healthier for hair growth. She went on selling her products and made a lot of money.

On May 25, 1919 she died. She was 51 when she died. Madam C. J. Walker helped many people with scalp disease. She also helped their hair grow healthier. Now you know about Madam C. J. Walker.

Audubon Society President Visits Toluca Lake!

by

**Ashley Godoy, Cindy Ortiz,
Autumn McMurray, Alex Hodeib, & Adelaia Rivas**

Dave Weeshoff, the president of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, visited our school in January. He loves to talk to kids like us about birds. He also likes to study and help birds. He brought a slideshow & some bird models to share with our class.

Mr. Weeshoff decided to volunteer at the Audubon Society to help conserve natural areas, and to protect the environment. He began volunteering after he retired from selling computers because he's concerned about endangered birds." Instead of sitting in an office, Dave gets out every day to try to help birds, and to talk to people about the importance of taking care of the environment. Sometimes, his bad ankle makes doing field work hard, but he still tries his best to help birds. He taught us that different birds have different adaptations to help them survive in their particular habitats.

Mr. Weeshoff says, "I think it's important to take care of the environment because it's so amazing ... I want to save the environment for a long long time. He says that after you destroy it, it's a lot harder to can't fix it. "If we didn't have the Audubon Society," Dave said, "the natural world would not be as nice, and there would not be enough birds. People would still kill birds for their feathers." Dave taught us that the world is an important place and we should do whatever it takes to save it. One way is to stop pollution! So for all you kids and parents please try to save the world and its beautiful animals. Remember when you help just a little you, can change the world. Please care about the birds and other animals.

Mr. Weeshoff is also very funny. One joke he told us was, "Why does a seagull go to the sea?" The answer is very simple because if the seagull would go the bay he would be called a "baygull." We're very thankful to Mr. Weeshoff for sharing his time, humor, and knowledge with us.



Artwork by Kayla Terry -Kindergarten



PTA Update

Did your child participate in the Black History Month Writing Contest? Students submitted excellent writing about inspirational African Americans like Alex Haley, Stevie Wonder, Maya Angelou, Sojourner Truth, and more! It is great to know the important history of African Americans, and how they helped create the United States as we know it today. Please look out for the next opportunity for students to show their best! The PTA will create a special book with all of the essays available for all students to see. Congratulations to all of the participants and the raffle winners! Each student received a certificate from Islands, and one winner from each class won a \$10 gift certificate to Border's Bookstore! Thank you to teachers, and parents for encouraging your students to WRITE, WRITE and WRITE!

Thank you to all parents and teachers who have attended PTA meetings this year - we are growing! For the next PTA meeting, we're trying something new. Many of you have said you could not attend evening meetings, while a good number cannot attend in the morning. Our next meeting will be held TWICE, once in the morning, and once in the evening, so you can attend the one that best fits your schedule! Join us at either 8 am (in the Parent Center) or 6 pm (in the auditorium) on Thursday, March 24th. At our evening meetings, we provide food and quality childcare from the YMCA. At the morning meeting we have coffee, and younger kids are welcome to join us (there are toys in the Parent Center). Let your voice be heard and help plan events with the PTA. Come see how our money is helping the school during these tight budget times!

Don't forget to attend the Garden Party on March 5th. The PTA will provide lunch and drinks. (If it rains that day, the Garden Party will be cancelled.) See you at our next meeting and thank you for supporting the PTA!

Around the Town

3/7 = Cabrillo Museum & Aquarium Educators conduct tours of the Point Fermin State Marine Park. Attend an informative slide show, then come along on the naturalist-led ramble on the rocks to see animals in their natural habitat. Outdoor clothing and sneakers advised (8:30 AM - 10:00 AM).

3/11 = Family Craft Program:
"Creative Recycling" at the Buena Vista Library in Burbank (7 pm).
Call 818.238.5610 for information

Free on Sundays = LACMA

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art offers free programs for families each Sunday. Youngsters have the opportunity to make art, explore the museum, or join a bilingual gallery tour (12:30 - 3:30); call 323-857-6000

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Downtown Los Angeles and the Long Beach Museum of Art both offer free admission and fun family events on the third Sunday of each month.

Celebrate Our Runners!

The Youth Development Program (YDP) will be leading some of our Toluca Lake students in the Los Angeles Marathon starting at Dodger Stadium on March 19, 2011. Come out and cheer them on ... or join in the run!

Principal's Message

Many parents are excited about coming onto campus to visit our gorgeous **Parent Center**. Our Community Representative, Lucy Gonzalez, has been working with wonderful volunteers to provide a relaxing and interesting place for parents.

The center has computers available for your use, as well as information about what the community has to offer. Classes are scheduled according to the needs of the parents, and our ESL program is running throughout the entire year.

Our Parent Teacher Association is also working in the Parent Center and has a

computer for their use in order to provide you with the latest information on their program.

At Toluca Lake Elementary, our motto is "Together We Achieve". This means that all of us, parents, teachers and students, work together, so that our students reach their highest potential. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our Parent Center, please put it on your "to do" list. We need your input and support so that we have a variety of viewpoints and ideas. Remember, you are welcome at any time here at Toluca Lake Elementary.

- Ms. Carol Reo Bove

Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

Name - _____; Room # - _____

1. What did Ben Franklin say was the "noblest question"? _____
2. Which "Einstein-like" teacher oversees the school yearbook? _____
3. What is the name of the L.A. Jazz Society's saxophone player? _____
4. What is one tip that can help you do well at math? _____
5. Who was the first African American Supreme Court Justice? _____
6. Where is this image located on our campus?
(Hint: You've got to go out into the sunlight,
to see this yellow _____ that
helps us make our future bright).

This image is 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/>

- Why did the rooster cross the road? - Kaylee Elijah
- Why did the ice cream have so many friends? - Cassandra Cordova
- What has four wheels, a hand, and flies? - Zachary Miles
- What are ducks' favorite snacks? - Diego Gutierrez
- What is a hyena's favorite vacation spot? - Brandon Vielman
- What gets bigger the more you take out of it? - Nathaniel Duarte
- Why doesn't the ocean say hi? - Christian Escobar
- Why didn't the skeleton hear his friend? - Briana Madera

Calendar

- 3/5 = Garden Party
- 3/7 = Awards Assembly (primary)
- 3/8 = International Women's Day
- 3/14 = Awards Assembly (upper)
- 3/15 = Amazing Food Detectives - upper grades (Kaiser Permanente)
- 3/15 = Local Leadership Council Meeting
- 3/17 = Vecmobile (5th grade)
- 3/17 = St. Patrick's Day
- 3/19 = Vernal Equinox (1st day of Spring)
- 3/22 = School Site Committee Meeting
- 3/24 = PTA Meeting
- 3/25 - 3/31 = Parent Conference Week
Early dismissal (except Tuesday)



MEETING

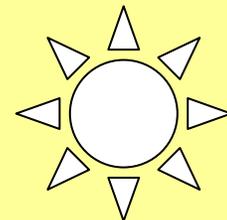
Thursday, March 24, 2010
6:30pm - 7:30pm in the auditorium

Do You Have 1 Hour for Your School?

*Don't Miss This
PTA Meeting!*

- Free Childcare
- Refreshments
- Door Prizes
- Homework Pass for kids

*Support The
Toluca Lake PTA
4840 Cahuenga Blvd.
N. Hollywood, CA 91601
PTA HOTLINE: (818) 870-0448
Email: tolucalakepta@gmail.com*



\$ 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!"

- Julane 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.com