

Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary School: An Arts Prototype School / 818.761.3339

Spirit Week

by- Elsie John, Ethan Zamora, & Savannah Mintz-Turner

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Words of Wisdom

*Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.*

- Langston Hughes
American author & poet



During the first week of March, Toluca Lake Elementary School had its annual Spirit Week. This is always a fun time!

First, we had Pajama Day. It was incredible to see all of the children dressed in pajamas. There were many cool designs on the pajamas. The following day we had Team Jersey Day. Many kids love this day! We had Laker fans, Heat fans, Dodger fans, and all other kinds of other magnificent teams represented. After Team Jersey Day, we had Crazy Hair Day. We think that this was the best of day of Spirit Week. Lots of kids really had crazy hair. Even teachers like Ms. Harriman, Ms. Gonzalez, and Mr. Daniel had their hair all dolled up. It was amazing! The next day, we had Twin Day. We'd never seen so many twins in one place. It was pretty cool. We even had teachers dressed like twins (Mr. Reidman and Mr. Murphy). We really liked this day. Crazy Hat Day was the last day of Spirit Week. Lots of kids and teachers had either custom hats or manufactured crazy hats. We loved all the beautiful, crazy, and creative hats.

Hopefully, next year the next generation will have a chance to have Spirit Week, too. But, we encourage all of the younger students to be well-behaved students to earn this privilege.



PTA Writing Contest: "Harriet Tubman"

by - Savannah Mintz-Turner

Harriet Tubman was a woman of justice. She was born in 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland. No one knows what day she was born because she was born a slave, "Araminta Harriet Ross." Her parents were Harriet Rit Green and Ben Ross. She had four sisters and four brothers. Three of them were sold away from the family. By the time Harriet grew up, she had witnessed many of the cruelties of slavery.

One day while going to the store, Harriet met a slave trying to run away. His overseer came asking Harriet to hold back the slave. She refused, and the angry overseer threw a two-pound weight at the slave. It hit Harriet instead. From that day on, Harriet suffered from seizures, headaches, dream experiences, powerful visionary, and seizure attacks.

Working as a cook and nurse, Harriet was a busy woman. She had escaped slavery in Maryland in 1849. Her helper was the **Underground Railroad**. The Underground Railroad was a secret passageway for the slaves to escape. After making her escape, Harriet returned to slave territory in the South and freed more than 300 slaves using the Underground Railroad. She was the conductor, and as she said, "I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years and I can say what most conductors cant' say; *I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger.*"

Do you sometime wonder about, or have you heard about the Civil War? That was the war between the North and the South of the United States. It was the war that led to the end of slavery. And, guess what? Harriet Tubman worked as an armed scout and Union spy in the war. She didn't carry a gun, but she still fought for slaves rights and protection. She was another *Moses* from 1820 to 1913. She was a hero of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Harriet Tubman was the first woman to lead an expedition in the war and guide the Combahee River raid, which liberated more than 700 slaves. After the war, she retired to a family home in New York. Then she took part in the Woman's Suffrage Movement to get equal rights for women.

Harriet died from pneumonia (Pronounced ne-mone- ya) on March 10, 1913. Pneumonia is a disease caused by the cold weather. Everyone was sad to see her go, but they knew she went to a better place, and they kept that in their hearts.

Harriet Tubman inspires me to go far in my life. She risked her life for others. She stood for what she believed in, and deserves every award there is to give a person. Harriet Tubman is my conductor and she can be yours, too.

Here's a poem dedicated to Harriet:

*Moses, Moses, you led them to the Promised Land, but you did not enter.
Harriet, Harriet, you led them to freedom, but went back for more.
Moses, Harriet, you are savers of the world as it is being turned around today.*

Principal's Message

At Toluca Lake Elementary school, we have been working very hard to provide a safe and secure place for your boys and girls. On January 17th, we sent a letter to inform you of the very important rules that have been decided and approved by all stakeholders. In that letter we again reminded all parents that the parking lot is for staff only and that a traffic ticket will be issued to all violators. The rules for parking are located in various parts of the lot and have been in force for a number of years. We have also reinforced the fact that the valet program needs to be used to drop students off. Parking on the street in front of the school is regulated as well and if there is a violation you will be ticketed. Once again the following rules are enforced at our school on a daily basis:

- **All visitors to our campus will go through the main office at all times.**
- **Visitors will carry proper identification when requesting to go on campus.**
- **Entrance through any other gate is prohibited before and during school hours.**
- **The Valet program must be used to drop off students. The parking lot is for staff only and a traffic ticket will be given to violators of this law.**

As always, thank you for your help and support!

- Ms. Carol Reo-Bove, Principal

"Creating the United States" at the Skirball by - Giselle Piceno & Jeremy Luna

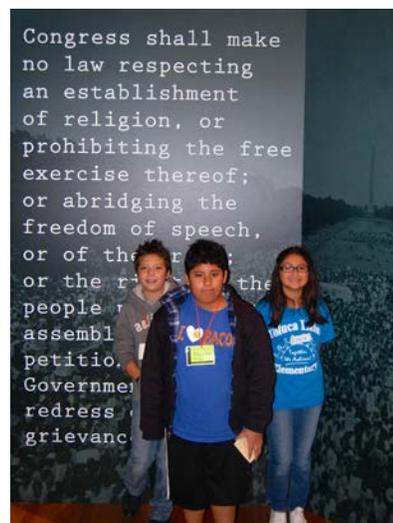
Fifth grade students went on a field trip to the Skirball Cultural Center to see an exhibit called "Creating The United States." It was the best museum exhibit we've ever seen! We learned many ideas about our country's past by looking at actual historic documents and artifacts.

The Skirball Cultural Center provides many exhibits to discover different things about American history and culture. This exhibit is their best, yet! We had a great time learning about the basic ideas of the United States. We saw historical documents about many important events like the Revolutionary War. There were also portraits of people that were important in the past like John Adams and Chief Joseph. We enjoyed seeing all of the different and marvelous artifacts. Learning about the past is important because it will help us on skills throughout our lives. It also helps you if you want to apply for a job, because they will know you have many experiences. If you go to visit the Skirball, you can also discover new ideas and enjoy the exhibit that the Skirball organized for everyone to enjoy. It is the most wonderful thing ever. Maybe you should go to see it and how you will get new ideas about how the United States was founded.

Our class learned and liked many things from the field trip and had a magnificent time. We learned many ideas about different heroes in the past like Cesar Chavez, Fredrick Douglas, George Washington, and many more.

We also learned different ideas about many rights that people have as American citizens. For example, we learned that a lot of people weren't able to vote because of their skin color, where they came from, or if the person was a woman. In the past only white rich men only voted because some people were unfair. Learning new ideas is important because you can become a better scholar, and can help to make positive changes when things aren't fair.

We enjoyed going to the Skirball Cultural Center. We hope you can go and make your own memories, too. We had an amazing time because the Skirball treated our school very well. It was an amazing adventure.



Featured Faculty: Ms. Ross

by - Seuz Trabucco and Yamile Flores

We just interviewed our new Pre-K Teacher, Ms. Ross. She was very nice and kind when interviewed. We really liked interviewing this wonderful teacher.

She began working here on the first day of school this year (August 13, 2012). The type of education she needed to achieve her career was an A.A. degree, and Bachelor's Degree from college. She has many hobbies and interests like sewing, cooking, going to church, working around kids, and educating young children. One of her heroes was her grandmother because of her encouragement to stay in school. Now, Ms. Ross is what she is because of the encouragement of her grandmother. The hardest part of her job is not being able to come here when she is not feeling well because she enjoys her job so much.

Her proudest professional accomplishment was going to school, and earning her Bachelors degree in public administration. One obstacle she had to overcome to achieve her goal was having time to finish her career. The best part of working here is working with staff and children because of all their support. One thing she would like to change about our school is getting more information about activities in school shared publicly. Some advice she would give students is "to stay in school, get as much education as possible, and pursue your true dreams."

We had fun interviewing this extraordinary person and teacher. We're very happy to have her join our school!



Calendar

- March 20 = Spring Photos
- March 21 = Emergency Lockdown Drill
- March 25-29 = Spring Break
(school closed)
- April 1 = Cesar Chavez' Birthday
(school closed)
- April 3 = Vecmobile Visits (5th Grade)
- April 6 = Burbank on Parade (Drill Team)
- April 9 = Open House (5:15 - Auditorium)
- April 13 = Spring Clean-up (9am-12pm)
- April 16 = CST Kickoff Assembly
- April 18 = Star Party (7:30 pm)
- April 20-21 = Festival of Books (USC)
- April 22 = Earth Day
- April 22 = State Testing begins
- April 23 = Local Leadership Council
- April 24 = Armenian Genocide
Remembrance Day
- May 3 = End State Testing
- May 3 = Multicultural Festival
- May 5 = Cinco de Mayo
- May 12 = Mother's Day

Teacher's Tip

How to overcome "Writer's Block"

1. *Read what you've written so far (or talk about your idea) to a friend or family member.*
2. *If you're writing something long, stop when you know what you're going to write next. This way, you'll have momentum when you start again.*
3. *Take a break and read something good.*
4. *Just start writing, even if it's bad. It'll turn good once you warm up.*
5. *Promise yourself a treat when you finish. I did when I started this list. Now I get to have some tasty asparagus!*

Awesome Alumni:

Diana Mercado

by - Giselle Piceno, Julianna Happacher, and Savannah Mintz-Turner

It was a pleasure interviewing this month's Awesome Alumni, Diana Mercado. Her family is from Bolivia, but she was born in Los Angeles. She is bilingual: able to speak, read, and write in English and Spanish. She attended Toluca Lake Elementary School from 1994 until 1996. Her favorite school memory is going on field trips with Mr. Hagen-Smith. Her favorite subject in school was math because she liked to memorize her times tables, and compete with everyone!

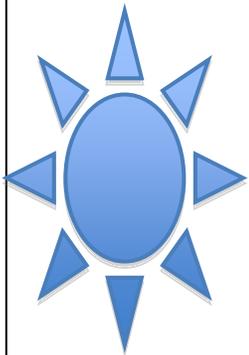
Her heroes are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Amelia Earhart because they stood up for what was right and went beyond their limitations. One of the faculty members she remembers is Mr. Hagen-Smith. She remembers him giving her Supernova awards and making learning fun.

The schools she attended after Toluca Lake Elementary were Walter Reed Middle School in 6th grade, before moving to Palmdale. Now she attends San Diego State University studying mathematics, biology and chemistry.

She is working on an internship and wants to become a physician's assistant in the future. She used to work as a tutor at Valley College in Antelope Valley. That job made her proud because she persuaded kids to do many activities and achieve their goals.

In order to achieve her goals, Diana had to face some obstacles of her own. She had to deal with financial problems to buy a car and get to school.

Some advice she gives to kids is to "like you and me, always try your best, never stop giving up, go to school, and feel proud of yourself." And, for those of you who don't like homework, Diana says, "Try to look at it, not as a chore, but as a positive outcome of achieving things in your life." Diana Mercado is an awesome alumna because she is smart, talented, and a wonderful person!



Lincoln's Birthday

by - Joshua Pepper (3rd Grade)

I pray to God for President Lincoln,

Only if you're not sleeping,

That you have the best birthday,

In generations,

That you helped us win the Civil War,

*And everyone who died must have been
poor,*

So on this day you're 204,

The Greek Gods

by - Martin Reyes

- Zeus - God of Gods
- Artemis - God of the hunt
- Poseidon - God of the sea
- Hades - God of the
Underworld
- Daedalus - Architect of the
Labyrinth
- Pan - God of nature
- Hermes - God of thieves
and a messenger
- Ares - God of war
- Apollo - God of light
- Aphrodite - Goddess of love
and beauty
- Athena - Goddess of wisdom

Los Angeles Electric 8

by - Cindy Lopez, Maxwell Walker,
Savannah Mintz-Turner, and Luis DePaz

The Skirball Cultural Center invited some of our fifth grade students to see a unique musical presentation by the Los Angeles Electric 8. This amazing band is made up of different types of electrical guitars like mandolins, bass, & eight-string guitars. We learned that each guitar can play different notes. The mandolin plays a higher note than regular electrical guitars, and is smaller than most other electrical guitars. The bass, on the other hand, is larger and plays lower notes.



The Los Angeles Electric 8 has eight musicians in its group. They met in college. Now, they play music from all over the world. They played songs are from Java and Bali in Indonesia, the Central African Republic, and Ghana. The music they play was slow and calming, but also fast and had a very good rhythm. All of the audience loved all of the music and sounds of the guitars

Their music is based on different cultural influences, and uses the different instrument's sounds to create unique sounds. They also take different beats from drums and play them on their guitars.

This was an amazing field trip. We were amazed by the music of Los Angeles Electrical 8's. Listening to and learning about different types of music helps people understand and respect different cultures. That's really good for the world.

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. This month's selections include:

- Pershing Square in Downtown Los Angeles will feature a free Easter Egg Hunt with prizes, inflatables, children's entertainment, and food available for purchase on Saturday, March 30, 2013. Registration at noon. Egg hunt for kids 4 and under 12:30pm; Ages 5-7 1:30pm; Ages 8-10 2:30pm; Ages 11-12 3:30pm. **The event takes place at 532 South Olive St. in L.A.**
- Michael Ghostcrow Bracamontes (Tongva/Purapecha) will share his knowledge of shells and stone carving, and demonstrate how to apply feathers to traditional hair ornaments worn by maritime cultures. Plus, enjoy traditional music by **Dennis Garcia** (Chumash/Tataviam) at the Autry National Center on Sunday, April 7 (1-4p). Call 323.667.2000 for more information.
- The City of Pasadena and the Armory Center for the Arts invites you to its 11th annual celebration of the Earth and the Arts! This special event includes live music from local bands, dancing and an interactive drum circle. Kids and parents can get creative with art workshops, see displays by eco-friendly exhibitors, sample tasty treats from popular food trucks, take part in a "skill share" swap meet, learn to jam your garden fruits, take a bicycle tour of Pasadena's sustainable sites, enter to win a smart Irrigation controller and landscape audit, and enjoy an outdoor movie screening on Saturday Night. This event takes place on Saturday, April 20 from 11am – 5pm at the Armory Center for the Arts (145 N. Raymond in Pasadena). Call 626.792.5101 for more information.
- The Festival of Books will be held during the weekend of April 20-21 at USC. This free event features a children's area and many, many books. It's a celebration of the written word. More information is available at <http://events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks/>.

Family Reading Night

by - Anisa Karneh, Andrew Amarni,
Erick Rocha, and Jackie Gedikyan

On February 28 Mr. Hagen-Smith hosted his annual Family Reading Night in Room 17. Everyone loved it! We learned many new ideas about reading. First, Mr. Hagen-Smith and his son, Zachary, demonstrated guided reading of the story, "The Raven" (by Edgar Allen Poe). They asked each other questions about the text as they read. Some of the things Zachary said were funny.

Then, Mr. Hagen-Smith showed a Power Point with a lot of new ideas about reading at home. Next, the class got to fold a piece of paper in the shape of a hat and write titles and characters from their favorite books on the front and the back. Mayra Luis Juan, the amazing teacher assistant, helped with this activity.

Finally, we watched an Academy Award Winning Cartoon called, "The Fantastic Flying Books of Lessmore".

We had lots of fun with reading and ate lots of good snacks. Then, Andrew Amarni won a raffle for a \$25 gift at Target. It was a fun night!



Michelle's Movie Reviews by- Toluca Film Critic Michelle Gray

The Toluca Times is proud to kick-off our new film review column. Our inaugural edition features Toluca film critic Michelle Gray's insights into some upcoming family films!

- **Oz The Great And Powerful: RATED PG**
Oz the Great and Powerful is a film about a small-time magician named Oz (Actor: James Franco) who magically travels to an enchanted place called Oz. In Theaters March 8, 2013 (Action/Adventure/Fantasy)
- **The Croods: RATED PG**
The Croods is a film about the first family ever who lived during prehistoric times. When the cave they have always hid from danger in is destroyed, they abandon their home in search of a new living area. During their journey, their perspective on life changes. In theaters March 22, 2013 (Animation/Adventure/Comedy)
- **Monthly Film Trivia Question:** What are the name of at least three witches from *Oz the Great and Powerful*?

Want to read up about more 2013 movies for families? Read the next volume of *Michelle's Movie Reviews* in the April issue of the Toluca Lake Times!

Poet's Corner

The Leaves

The leaves
in autumn
are blue and red.
They get sad
when they're upset.
They get upset
when they are
blue and are
happy when they
bloom. The leaves
in summer are red
and yellow. They turn
brown in the winter
time. AND they smell
like lime.



- Ashley Grande (2nd Grade)

Fun Page



We're on the Web!
See us at:
<http://toluca.weebly.com/>

Principal:
Carol Reo-Bové
Assistant Principal:
Carla Miller
Coordinator:
Jeff Daniel
Lead Teacher:
Steve Reidman
Parent Representative:
Lucy Gonzalez
Newsletter Editor:
Dennis Hagen-Smith



Free MONEY for our school!

Sign up with eScrip and everything you shop at any of the over 6,000 merchant locations (including Vons, Pavilions, and BROWN'S), a percentage of your purchases will go to Toluca Lake Elementary! Really!

- Go to www.escrip.com and click on "Sign Up".
- Enter our Group ID: 164438465
- 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 over \$10,000!

Adrian Kwan, PTA President, Mission Valley, El Cajon, CA

eScrip It's completely free!
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Brought to you by the Toluca Lake Elementary PTA

Riddle me this...

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

- Why don't animals take tests? - Cindy Lopez
- Why didn't the duck eat the soup? - Leslie Duke
- How do spiders communicate? - Michelle Gray
- How does Darth Vader like his toast? - Zachary Miles

Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

The Toluca Lake Times is happy to announce the start of an exciting new contest for kids: *The Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt*. Here's how it works:

Find the answers to the *Super Sleuth Quiz* by reading this edition of the Toluca Lake Times. Look around school to find the location of the Scavenger Hunt items. Write the answers on this sheet of paper and give it to your teacher by _____ to be entered in the monthly raffle for big prizes!

Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

Name - _____; Room # - _____

1. What was the Underground Railroad? _____
2. Who won the raffle at this year's Family Reading Night? _____
3. Who was the Greek God of the Sea? _____
4. Which school does this month's Awesome Alumni attend? _____
5. Where was the "Creating the United States" exhibit displayed? _____
6. What was the last day of Spirit Week? _____
7. How old would Abraham Lincoln be if he were alive today? _____
8. Who is allowed to park in the staff parking lot? _____

This image is located _____

