

# Toluca Lake Times

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

June 3, 2010  
Vol. 3, # 6

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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

We're already at the end of another wonderful year here at Toluca Lake. Our entire staff would like to thank the parents and community for their support this year. We have received many, many supplies of paper, tissues and wipes. Our parents have come out for fundraiser activities, volunteer clean-up and gardening days, and many other functions here at the school. The PTA has become a much stronger group with a focus on supporting the children. The Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council has kept us on their list even though their funds have been drastically cut. Most importantly, parents have been purchasing candy, t-shirts, valentines, and books to help us. Due to the hard economic times, we truly now understand the meaning of cooperation and working together. We now know our Toluca Lake Motto of **Together We Achieve** has never shone so bright. Thank You to all!

## Drill Team on Parade

by - Kaylee Elijah, Briana Madera,  
Crystal Snow, Liliana Tovar, & Tiara Mckinney

Toluca Lake Elementary School's drill team performed in *Burbank on Parade* on Saturday April 10, 2010. The theme was *Big Top*, which means circus. Drill team members danced to the song, "Circus," by Britney Spears that was sung by Kids Bop.

Before the parade, the judges had to view the participants near the Buena Vista Library. After that, we went on the parade to show everyone our dance routine. We wore our uniform: ribbons in our hair, a bowtie with colored polka dots, miniature multicolored pom-poms on both of our shoes, and two pairs of gloves.

We marched for a long time. It was tiring, but actually participating in a parade is worth it! We saw clowns, trained horses, dogs dressed-up, flag cheerleaders, marching bands, floats, fancy cars, fire trucks, ambulance, disaster trucks, and we a fire truck squirting water. The crowd was cheering go "Toluca Lake Drill Team."

Ms. McDuffey wasn't there because she hurt her hand. We wanted to make her proud by winning first place. Ms. Miya worked really hard on getting us prepared for the parade. When Ms. McDuffey came back to school, she was very proud of us because we one first place!

## Featured Faculty: Ms. Carlton is so Cool!

by - Kimberly Del Cid & Sharis Galeano

This month's featured faculty is our first grade teacher, Ms. Frances Carlton. She began working at Toluca Lake Elementary School in December 1997. That means she's been working at our school for 12 years! In order to achieve her career, she earned Master degrees in education and in business.

Some of Mrs. Carlton's hobbies are collecting rare foods like salts and truffles, bike riding, and playing with her dog. Her special interest is to travel. In fact, she's been, to over 25 countries all over the world! She said that her hero is her "mother because she spent her life dedicated to her children and family. She made sure to instill in us values like hard work, education, perseverance, and a positive attitude toward life." Ms. Carlton said that the toughest part of her job is going home to her own children after teaching 25 children all day. It's like "having to go home and start all over again!" She wishes the school days were shorter!

Ms. Carlton's proudest professional accomplishments have to do with being a teacher and having other professional backgrounds. Although she immigrated to the USA as a child, and her parents had "nothing but the shirt on their backs," motivates her to always try her best. She has managed to educate herself and have a successful career. But, the accomplishment she feels the proudest of is being a mom and having a wonderful family. She said that, "I rarely look at obstacles when I focus on goals. I look at strategies and ways to achieve them. If things don't work out, I don't think much about it too much. I move on and view the process as a learning experience."

Ms. Carlton likes a lot of things about our school. She says that all of the wonderful people she works with are supportive, encouraging, and funny when they need to be. She feels blessed to come here everyday and be surrounded by such people. The thing that she would like to change about our school is to increase parent involvement. She believes our school could be much more successful if parents were involved supporting their child's education and teachers. The advice that she would give to our current students is that when you set yourselves goals, stay focused on the strategies and the path that will lead you to attain your goals, and always try to attain a higher level of education. Ms. Carlton is an awesome 1st grade teacher! ©



## The Power of Reading

by: Yoshi Murillo, Lisa Grafman, Adelaida Rivas, & Edwin Duke

In April, Kaiser-Permanente Educational Theatre brought a literacy play to our primary students. The characters in the story were Jay, Letter E, Bookie, Libro, and Ignoramus. The story was about a girl, Jay, who didn't like to read, but her dog, Libro, likes to read.

Jay wanted to play pirates, but Libro wanted her to read a book to him. Libro left to go to the library, and Jay went to go find him. At the library, Libro found a book, Bookie, who could talk. Bookie was an unread book. He wanted Jay to read him so he started singing. When he finished his song, Jay tried to read him, but she couldn't do it. Then she tossed Bookie around. This made Bookie barf out Ignoramus, a pirate that didn't like to read. She wanted to take Jay on an adventure with no end to it. They had to make one up. After that Jay read a book called "If..." to the primary students.

After the play, we interviewed the actors. Jonathon (Libro) went to college for four years and earned a degree in Theatre. They were all sure that they wanted to be actors for the rest of their lives. The team has been working together for eight months and has four months left. They did a great job getting kids to want to read books.

## Awesome Alumni: Mayra Luis Juan

by - Lemise Saeed, Destiny Garcia, Brian Reyes, & Daniel Hernandez

Mayra Luis Juan is this month's Awesome Alumni. She was a student at Toluca Lake Elementary School about 9 years ago. We admire her and she is a role model for all of us.

She was in Mr. Hernandez's classroom in 5th grade. Her favorite subject in school is math because "math stays the same in any language." She says her favorite memory in school was going to Santa Monica Pier in fifth grade for a field trip because it was very fun. The heroes she most admires are her parents because they're hard working and caring. The teacher that she remembers the most was Mr. Hernandez because he was her fifth grade teacher. He always helped her with her studies. She also liked her T.A., Mr. Diaz, because he played with them during recess. The obstacles she had to overcome to achieve her goals were learning English and keeping up with all of the school activities.

After Toluca Lake Elementary, Mayra attended Walter Reed Middle School, North Hollywood High, and California State University at Northridge (CSUN). She currently attends CSUN, and works as a teacher assistant here at Toluca Lake Elementary, and as a coach for the JV girls soccer team at North Hollywood High School. The professional accomplishments that make her the proudest are becoming a soccer coach because she loves soccer, and a teacher's assistant. "I enjoy working with children and helping them," she says.

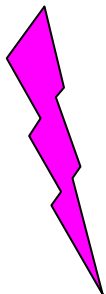
Some advice she wants to give our current students is to "Focus on what you're doing. Either you do something or you don't. It's okay to make mistakes as long as you fix them. Follow your heart and do what makes you happy." Mayra sure has a lot of heart. We're happy to follow her lead!



## Positively Powerful Parents: Mrs. Logo is All That! by - Chelsea Logo

This month's Positively Powerful parent is my mom, Mrs. Logo. She is very active at this school and is part of the PTA. I'm so glad I have her as a mom. My mom has been involved with Toluca Lake Elementary since 2003 when her son, Ryan Logo, was in first grade. Her favorite activities at our school are the educational field trips because students and parents learn so much. My mom does a lot and supports me wherever I go.

Some things my mom wants to see done at our school are to have more parents involved with their students. She says, "It's like our children sitting in a wagon; if we parents don't help the teachers pull our child, they may be left behind." She's sure right about that! When I asked my mom which accomplishment makes her feel the proudest, she said, "Having three amazing children, one near graduating from college, and two well on the way."



My mom has had to overcome many obstacles in her life. "I had to leave a thriving nursing career and become a stay-at-home mom to help my children in all areas that they've achieved in; making breakfast before school, reading, staying smarter than a fifth grader," my mom says. Her favorite subject in school was reading because it helped her in every area of life. It still does. One of her heroes is her 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher because he taught her how to emphasize words and read precisely. Now she reads like a professional.

Some advice she would give to current students is to, "Study, study, study, pay attention, and stay away from trouble, even if it finds you." My mom is truly a positively powerful parent!!!

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

Compiled by - Alejandra Silva, Michael Flores,  
Melissa Saracoglu, & Albert Rivas

**Fifth grade has been really fun. Every student has fond memories of their time here at Toluca Lake Elementary school. Here are some of their thoughts. My favorite memory is ...**

- When Ms. Silva brought UCLA's ArtsBridge program to our class because we worked hard to create our "SHRUB Saves the Day" comic book. - **Emily Marquez**
- The House of Blues because we got to listen to different kinds of music and learn the history of music. - **Sharis Galeano**
- We visited UCLA because I saw the collage I've always wanted to go to. - **Estefany Delao**
- The Autry National Center to see the play "Chili Pods" because we learned not to judge anyone by their culture. - **Betty Lopez**
- Tree People because we learned to save water and not pollute. - **Destiny Garcia**
- Learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. because I learned that anyone can overcome anything they want. - **Jamie Nukpese**
- The beginning of the school year because I was reunited with Ziomara. - **Lauren Villacorta**
- Visiting Walter Reed Middle School because all of the 5th graders got a tour of campus. - **Ms. Mayra Luis Juan**
- The Griffith Observatory because I liked the getting dizzy at the planetarium. - **Nharelyn Mancias**
- The Black History Show because I got to dance and use the microphone. - **Chelsea Logo**
- Going to Headwaters Corner in Calabasas to plant my very own tree - **Annie Escamilla**
- When students got to experience Beethoven at the Disney Concert Hall because students were exposed to the greatest composer of all time! - **Ms McDuffey**
- When we went to SHRUB to restore that unique habitat because I saw a deer and crossed a little river. - **Eder Meza**
- Watching Alejandra and Albert *discuss* their *directorial differences* during the filming of our documentary film about Project SHRUB. - **Mr. Hagen-Smith**
- When we had the mile run because I like exercising; it a fun way to build character. - **Javier Favela**
- The Korean Cultural Center because I learned lots of interesting words in Korean, and was surprised when I saw that the Koreans make cartoons and online computer games. - **Albert Rivas**
- The Chinese-American Museum because I learned that Chinese people were only allowed to marry other Chinese people during those racist times. - **Yeprem Abriliam**
- The beginning of the school year because I got to see all of my friends again. - **Frank Gonzalez**
- The African American Museum because I really enjoyed the sculptures and all the songs that they sang to overcome hardships. - **Brian Perez**
- Doing math so I'll know how much to pay, how much change I'll get, and how much money I'll have left. - **Harrison Akpuz**
- Halloween because I got show everyone my costume. - **Alejandro Castillo**
- Having three teachers because they helped me and showed me different strategies. - **Eldon Sierra**
- UCLA's Stunt Ranch because of the many different plants and marvelous sights. - **William Rivas**
- The youTHink project because I learned a lot about my heritage. - **Jackie Muga**
- The fifth graders performance at the holiday show because they showed how much they cared about the environment, and treating each other humanely. - **Ms Rivas**

## Toluca Lake Times Journalism Awards 2009 - 2010

*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 Articles**

"SHRUB Comic Book"

by - Alejandra Silva, Sharis Galeano, Omar Perreira, & Javier Favela

"The Power of Reading"

by - Yoshi Murillo, Lisa Grafman, Adelaida Rivas, & Edwin Duke

**The Maya Angelou Award for Most Awesome "Awesome Alumni" article**

"Awesome Alumni: Mr. Don Anderson"

by  
Chelsea Logo & Nharelyn Mancias

**The William Saroyan Award for Best "Featured Faculty" article**

"Fantastic Mr. Finks"

by  
Daniel Hernandez, Alejandra Silva  
Jesus Rodriguez, Bisu Bunntu, & Kayle Elijah

**The Phyllis Wheatley Award for Best Poetry**

"My City"

by - Tyler Kovacs

"True Friends Wouldn't Let Me Down"

by - Ali Freas

**The Edward James Olmos Award for Best Theater Review**

"Ferdinand the Bull"

by  
Daisy Chaidez, Javier Favela,  
Destiny Garcia, & Xavier Gacula



**The Mark Twain Award for Best Fiction**

"The Screeches of the House of Dolls"

by - Alejandra Silva

"My Lucky Day"

by - Ben Robel

**The Maya Lin Award for Artistic Interpretation**

"Chili Pod"

by  
Crystal Snow,  
Georgina Zamora, & Chelsea Logo

**The Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Interviews**

"Meet Our Principal, Ms. Carol Reo Bovel!"

by - Betty Lopez, Emily De Paz,  
Destiny Garcia, & Bryan Perez

"Natalie Montemayor

Remembers *The Wizard of Paz*"  
by - Alan Hernandez and Bryan Perez

**The Isaac Asimov Award for Science Reporting**

"Science Lab Opens at Toluca Lake!"

by  
Xavier Gacula, Kimberly Del Cid,  
Javier Favela, & Daisy Chaidez

## C.S.T. Awards

by - Sharis Galeano & Emily Marquez

Our school coordinator, Mr. Jeff Daniel, just hosted Toluca Lake Elementary School's Second Annual CST Awards ceremony. The awards were based upon last year's student work on the state test. This huge assembly honors students' hard work and gets us ready to do our best on this year's test. Students who scored proficient (350 Club), or advanced (415 Alliance) received special certificates. Students also received awards for improvement. One student, fifth grader Xavier Gacula, earned a special award for scoring a perfect 600 on the last two math assessments!

The California State Test (CST) is very important test because every student needs an education to achieve their goals. You need to show that you can do your best on the test! ☺ The test is one way that the school can assess your progress throughout the year. DO YOUR BEST ON THE TEST!!! ☺

## Open House Walk Around

by - Chelsea Logo & Betty Lopez

*Open House was a really big hit. Carl's Jr. came in their bright, red truck with delicious food. All of the parents came out to see the progress their children have made. The next day we had the Open House Walk-Around so students could visit each different classroom. We liked all the classrooms because they each had something different that made us smile.*

*Mrs. McDuffey's class had posters of women who fought in the Civil War, and cool Cesar Chavez posters. They're very important because Chavez sacrificed his life to get equal rights for migrant farm workers. Mr. Brent's class featured silhouette figures of each student. Mr. Hagen-Smith's class displayed lots of photos of their work planting native species at Headwaters Corner in Calabasas.*

*In Ms. Gillete's classroom, we saw fireflies lit up by Christmas lights. Ms. French's class had a slideshow of the students at work. The Kindergarten classes put photos of their students in the hallway.*

*Ms. Lauer & Hinton's classrooms displayed "Hit the Target" charts with lots of children's names. It shows that 4th grade students know their times tables. Mr. Reidman's room, we saw an Easter project they did using an Easter bunny, some piglets, and some flowers.*

*We all had fun walking all over the school and seeing the different classrooms. Our teachers work very hard to make the classrooms look the great for Open House. That way our parents will be proud of our hard work!*



## Be a Buddy, Not a Bully

by

Michelle Huerta, Nharelyn Mancias,  
Alejandra Silva, Georgina Zamora,  
Eldon Sierra, and Michael Flores

Students from California State University of Northridge (CSUN) brought an anti-bullying program called “Be a Buddy, Not a Bully” to our fifth grade students this year. The presenters were Nancy, Cristina, Mayra, and Toluca Lake alumni Shady El-Laham. This program taught us about the problem of bullying throughout the United States.

They taught us how to control situations when we are in front of a bully. These are some tips we have for you to follow. One strategy is to use a “poker face” to avoid reacting to a bully.

Bullies force their way because of many different reasons, but mainly because they’ve got some sort of problem they can’t control so they try to control other people instead. Sometimes, they single people out because of the food choices, their clothing, and or other parts of their culture. They



judge others by how they look on the outside instead of getting to know people.

The CSUN students had to prepare the entire program on their own. They’ve been at it since last August! Their performance was fun and interesting to watch.

They told us that bullying can cause gangs, stress, frustration, negative academics, low self – esteem, and even suicide. We were shocked to see the negative effects of bullying. It shows us how important it is to avoid bullies, and tell adults when a kid acts like a bully. We’re thankful to the CSUN students for coming to our school to share this important program!

## Coast Guard Cutter TAHOMA Helps Haiti

By: Chelsea Logo, Leslie Hernandez, and Emily Marquez

Everybody knows that Haiti had a horrible earthquake recently. It destroyed many homes and buildings. Thousands of people lost their homes and died. Some children were left homeless and lost their parents. Many people were trapped inside buildings, and others were stuck under huge pieces of rock.

Since Haiti needed help, the United States Coast Guard sent the cutter *Tahoma* there to provide relief. They helped many of the hurt people. Coast Guard members helped repair broken body parts and pulled trapped people out from under rocks. People who bled were put in gurneys and taken to hospitals. Later, homes and buildings were rebuilt. The Coast Guard made a big difference with their efforts in Haiti.

Students in Rooms 17, 10, 12, and 28 wrote letters and drew pictures thanking the Coast Guard for helping the people in Haiti. Coast Guard members were glad when they received our letters; it helped keep them to keep going through the tough times.

James P. Spotts, the commander of the U.S Coast Guard's *Tahoma*, sent us a *certificate of appreciation* for our letters. He also sent us a picture of some of the hurt people in Haiti with the Coast Guard helping them. The commander's



sister, Allie Spotts, also thanked us. She wrote, “The notes were both touching and appreciated by the ship’s crew.” We are so glad somebody helped Haiti, and that the classrooms at Toluca Lake Elem. School recognized it! We’re very proud of our coast guard ... and our students!

## Drumming Up Peace

by - Xavier Gacuba, Emmanuel Martir,  
Lemise Saeed, and Annie Escamilla

On May 26, 2010, upper grade students received a special presentation from the Kaiser-Permanente Educational Theatre program. This show, "Drumming Up Peace," inspired us with its ideas, comedy, music, and dance. This was an effective way to help us learn about conflict, conflict resolution, and of course, drumming. We saw a lot, listened a lot, and learned a lot.

The actors did an outstanding job. After the show, we asked them a few questions about the play. They said that they took a month to practice and learn how to play the drums. They like what they're doing because they get to act, sing, and dance. They've been working on this play for three years. One of the actors actually preformed in another play, Chili

Pod," that we saw at the Autry National Center. Pretty unbelievable, huh?!?

We all thought the play was amazing. In fact, it was the best play we've ever seen! Our favorite part was when they played the drums as a five-person team called the *Riffs* because we've never heard anyone play as great as them!

We had lots of giggles through the whole play, and learned the five steps for conflict resolution: to stop, feel, think, choose, and act. It was just an amazing experience!





## Garden Party

by - Xavier Gacula & Emmanuel Martir

This Spring's garden party took place on April 24, 2010. This event happened because the school wanted to commemorate the special holiday, Earth Day. During this holiday our school acts like a team and goes green. If you hurt the Earth, you're just plain mean.

At the garden party, we planted native plants, took out some weeds, and attached seeds to grow so once they fall off they can grow

into new trees. We also took the trash to the trash bins and recycling bins. Since the Earth helps us, why don't we save the Earth.

All of the volunteers who worked there helped clean up the school. They must have been very tired working so hard. They had to wake up very early to get here to work. Although it was hard, they all helped the school very much. It was a really great day!

## Korean Cultural Center

by

Albert Rivas, Alan Hernandez, and Jorge Reyes

Fifth grade students had the opportunity to visit the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles. This field trip was outstanding because we got to learn a lot of new things. When we got there, they showed us a video about different ways of life in Korea. After the film, we went downstairs to see many interesting art works. Then we saw a computer that works as a name translator. If you type a name in English, it can translate it into Korean. One way that their culture is different is that men and women were separated to sleep in different rooms.

They make many interesting things

in Korea. Computer games and animated characters are two of our favorites. They also make many things we use in our everyday lives. These products include flat screen LG televisions, television shows, and online computer games. Korea also has much advanced technology.

After this part of our tour, we went upstairs and saw the artistic skills Koreans have. Then, we went inside "The Alphabetical Room" where we learned how to say a few Korean words. These words are hello, goodbye, and the alphabet. We had a great time learning all of these new things about Korea!!!

## Nutrition Fair

by

Javier Favela, Emily Marquez, Sharis Galeano, and Brian Reyes

Toluca Lake Elementary School just had its annual Nutrition Fair! A lot of fifth grade students worked as volunteers to make the fair wonderful. The Nutrition Fair is all about kids eating healthy and exercising for good health. There are many types of games at the Nutrition Fair, and kids can win prizes! The games included an egg race, water balloon toss, basketball, clown toss, clown throw, bowling for prizes, soccer, scooter paddle race, tug-of-war, dancing, hula-hoop, a high-fly contest, and jump rope.

The students were got healthy snacks to keep their energy up during all of these exciting events. Mr. Bananaman and Ms. Pineapple both showed up at the fair. They showed kids how healthy it is to eat fruits and vegetables. One of our volunteers, Chelsea Logo, worked on dancing. Also, Nharylen, Georgina, and Amari, worked the water balloon toss. Betty Lopez and Daisy Chaidez, worked on the hula-hoop. "I think its good, especially for the children, because they will be healthy and its good to exercise," said fifth grade student, Victor Blanco. Michael Flores, another fifth grade student, was working at the "Steal The Bacon." A healthy peanut butter bar took the place of bacon at this game.

We had lots of fun during the Nutrition Fair ... until it started to rain. Actually, we still had fun in the rain, but we got wet and had to close the fair early. We got lots of prizes and learned how to eat healthy while the fair was going on. We liked eating the great snacks like granola bars, juice, and fruits. We learned to always eat healthy and exercise daily! We are thankful to Mr. Brent for organizing this super-fun event! ☺

Eat  
healthy  
snacks!

Exercise  
daily!



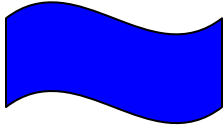
Be  
Safe

Stay  
Dry!

## Earth Day Writing Contest

### On the Bright Side

by: Alejandra Silva  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade



#### DAY 1

As I gaze out the foggy window,  
I see nothing but a spoil of war  
and lives that are taken from  
pollution and litter.  
Both animals and human kind die  
due to these complications.  
What have we humans done to our environment?

The birds don't sing,  
The trees don't sway.  
The people are blue.  
The water is brown and muddy.  
The children cannot go outside and play.  
For now,  
you do not know what chemicals lay around.



#### DAY 2

The sun is shining bright like a diamond.  
The smiles bring positive thoughts.  
The children get education,  
even physical education.  
The birds sing.  
The trees make fruit.  
The water has plant and animal life of all kinds.  
Bull-frogs, ducks, and all the small fish that swim  
peacefully around their habitat.  
The air is clear.  
Not a single cloud in the sky.  
The plants are blooming.  
Now, this my friends ...  
This is called *Earth Day*,  
But what I call it,  
is the bright side.

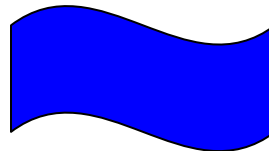


### Mother Earth

by  
Ali Freas  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Mountains, high to grasses, low  
Open your eyes and see  
Tall redwoods to tiny leaves  
Huge hippos to tiny ants  
**Earth is all around us**  
Really, it's everywhere

Everyday a wonder  
A new treasure every time  
Really look and you'll find  
That we live in a beautiful world  
**Happy Earth Day!**



### Earth is Helpful

by  
Milena Tofanyan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Earth is wonderful  
All the time it spins around  
Recycle for the Earth  
The Earth takes care of animals  
Have every day to be Earth Day  
Dazzling colors around us  
At first,  
I thought to clean up this world  
to make the world happier  
You can do this too.

## Earth Day Assembly

by - Briana Madera and Kaylee Elijah



On April 19, 2010, two terrific volunteers from the Earth Organization came to our school to give a cool assembly about ways we can help take care of the Earth.

After their presentation, we interviewed the two volunteers. Marissa and Alexandra. Marissa said that she likes to help the earth because, "I know that if I help the environment, I'm helping people and animals."

She said that she gives these school

assemblies "to help teach how you can make a difference in your community."

Alexandra said that her favorite part of helping our planet is "seeing animals grow up." She works for the Earth Organization so that, "I am actually doing something and being apart of making a difference." Marissa said that she first began to think about helping the planet when she was just four years old. Both volunteers say that the environment is very important to them.

We asked them if they could recommend some movies that have a positive environmental message. They named a lot of films, including *Avatar*, *Wall-e*, and *Planet Earth*. They also said that there are many great shows on the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet. Marissa's favorite animal is an African rhinoceros. Alexandra's favorites are pandas.

Both volunteers think that they can convince someone who doesn't really care about the earth not to litter. They both think that children are easier to teach than adults, but that grown-ups can learn, too. Marissa and Alexandra are both regular people like us. They enjoy movies, camping, travel, horseback riding, swimming, and scuba diving. But, they also are taking responsibility for helping to make earth a better place. Each of us can do the same. Together, we can make a big difference. Happy Earth Day!

## Earth Day Writing Contest

### If I Was a Bird

by  
Sharis Galeano (5<sup>th</sup>)

If I was a bird that flies through the sky,  
through all the pollution that surrounds the  
air,  
I'd be dismayed.

If I was a bird with litter in my nest,  
I'd be melancholy and disturbed.  
If I was a bird eating food filled with trash,  
I'd be sick; maybe even dead.

If I was a bird that lived on a planet filled  
with pollution,  
I'd rather die, than be alive on this dirty  
planet.

If I was a bird that drinks water blacker than  
space,  
I'd rather not drink at all.

If I was a bird and had to see pollution all  
over my world,  
I'd look for a new home!

(But do you know of any new home planets for  
birds?)

### Earth Day is Everyday!

by  
Ben K. (Kindergarten)

We need to respect our planet.

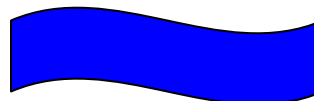
We can do that by picking up litter  
and picking up trash from our planet.

If you see anything on the ground,  
pick it up.

Our earth is important to us.

These green plants are all for us.

Help the earth!



## More Earth Day Contest Winners!

### Recycle Recycle

by  
Caity Molina (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Earth is wonderful  
Always keep it safe  
Reuse, reduce,  
and recycle  
Try your best to  
keep it clean  
Help the earth  
go green!



### Earth Day Writing

by - Liliana Tovar (5<sup>th</sup>)

People throw trash on sidewalks and streets, but that has to stop. It has to stop because we are trashing our world, and more than that, we're killing all the animals in the ocean. It's important not to throw trash on the ground; that's why they made trash cans and recycling bins.

We each have recycling bins that say, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" so we can remember to recycle cans and bottles. Around my house, we're always picking up trash and recycling because my parents and I want to keep our world clean and safe. Start recycling and make the world a better place.

Happy Earth Day:

*Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.*

### Earth Day

by - Harrison Akpuh (5<sup>th</sup>)

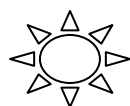
Earth Day is very important. When it's Earth Day, we clean up the earth by picking trash up. We need our earth to be beautiful. If we all work together, we can achieve that goal. When you see trash, pick it up and recycle it. If something is supposed to go into the trash, please put it in the trash.

The world should mean a lot to us ... to each of us ... it's the only world we've got to live on! If we don't save our world, animals and plants we won't be able to survive. We don't have to wait for Earth Day; We've got to start today. I'm trying to persuade people to leave our world clean. If you see someone throwing trash on the ground, pick it up. That's all. If we start right now, tomorrow we will live a better life.

## Earth Day Haiku (4<sup>th</sup>)

Fine enormous plants  
Small little seeds just sprouting  
Life in a garden

- Kaylee Elijah

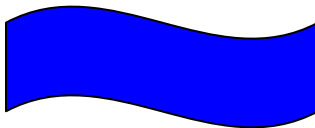


Fun horseback riding  
Ride in wind or sun, have fun  
Ride fast or slow go

- Bisu Bantu

Meadow and rocks make  
Soothing sounds go there  
and enjoy  
Wonders that Gods hand  
touched

- Briana Madera



Trees so green so big  
Bring us wind and oxygen  
Help us live and breathe

- Juliana Joya

I hear birds singing  
I hear leaves falling,  
trees dance  
And flowers blossom

- Trisha Terry

Toluca Lake  
Elementary  
School:  
An Arts  
Prototype  
School



Principal:

Carol Reo Bove

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>>

## 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 don't ducks tell jokes when they're flying? - Omar Perreira
- What do you call a table with room for hundreds? - Sharis Galeano
- What do you call a lion at the North Pole? - Emmanuel Martir
- Why did the chicken cross the road? - Javier Favela
- Who is Yoda's least favorite waiter? - Zachary Miles

## Calendar

- June 3 = 5<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to San Pedro Harbor
- June 11 = Student-Faculty Softball Game
- June 15 = Fifth Grade field trip to Santa Cruz Island
- June 17 = Final PTA Meeting
- June 18 = 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!"*

- 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@aol.com](mailto:TolucaLakePTA@aol.com)