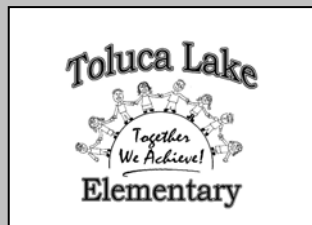


# Toluca Lake Times

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

March 4, 2010  
Vol. 3, # 4

\*\*\*\*\*



## Words of Wisdom

*Am I not destroying my  
enemies when I make  
friends of them?*

- Pres. Abraham Lincoln  
(1809 - 1865)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Principal's Message

Many parents are excited about coming on 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. There are computers available for your use as well as information about the services offered by the community. Classes are scheduled according to the needs of the parents, and our ESL program is running throughout the entire year. Our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) 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 Bové

## Students "Accelerate Their Reading!"

by - Mr. Jeff Daniel (School 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 two primary purposes:

- AR provides quick and accurate assessments showing whether students have understood the books they've read.
- AR assigns point values for each 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 are a way for teachers, students, and parents to monitor the students' reading progress.

To find out if the book you're reading is an Accelerated Reader book, you can access the AR Bookfinder located on the Toluca Lake website (<http://toluca.weebly.com>) Resources page. The TL website offers numerous reading & math resources including links to interactive websites. Students at Toluca Lake receive special incentives for their AR reading. These prizes include pencils, folders, bumper stickers, and free kids meals to restaurants like *Islands, Fuddrucker's, Elephant Bar Restaurant, California Pizza Kitchen, and Home Town Buffet*.

Toluca Lake's top readers (as of March 1, 2010) are:

### 30 or more points

Emmanuel Martir - 47.6 points  
Chelsea Logo - 32.5 points

### 10.0 to 29.9 points

Alejandra Silva - 23.0 points  
Xavier Gacula - 17.7 points  
Javier Favela Jr. - 15.7 points  
Emily Marquez - 14.8 points

Mario Rivas - 14.6 points  
Leslie Hernandez - 14.2 points  
Kaylee Elijah - 12.8 points  
Trisha Terry - 10.6 points

Congratulations to all the top readers. Keep up the good work. It's not too late to start. Talk with your teacher for details. We hope to have even more top Accelerated Readers in the coming months.

# Winners of the Friendship Writing Contest!

## Friendship Haiku

Xavier Gacula (5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Rm. 17)

People are lonely  
Yet they still have hopes and dreams  
For friendship is near.

Friendship is priceless  
For it is a path to light  
Where everyone shines

People come and go  
With friends and a family  
so please be happy.

Haiku is not  
Whisper and hear the magic  
For it is the end.

\*\*\*\*\*

## True Friends Wouldn't Let Me Down

song by  
Ali Freas (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Rm. 28)

I used to think that you were a true friend.  
I thought you would be there with me until the end.  
True friends wouldn't let me down, but you are not one now.  
I went away and met some new people, and I wanted to think you would be what I thought you were...  
a true friend.  
True friends wouldn't let me down, but you are not one now.  
But I came back with fresh eyes and saw right through you. It was like I was blinded by the fact that you are there at the time.  
True friends wouldn't let me down,  
but you are not one now.  
It seems like you've changed,  
but you've always been this way.  
I can't be around that anymore.  
True friends wouldn't let me down,  
but you're not one now.  
You are not one now.

## Two is better than One

Danielle Heflin (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Room 28)

We were both young, when I first saw you.  
I took a deep breath.  
I walked through the doors of Kindergarden when it was the season of fall in September.  
I gazed into your eyes and you gazed into my eyes and I don't know what you thought, but I thought it was going to be the best day ever!  
I walked out to recess after class and that's when I met you. We had so much fun together.  
So we became best friends.  
I don't know how to do it now in third grade, but we can continue it if you don't go.  
So, Ali won't you be my best friend forever now.  
I hope so.  
So Ali, two is better than one!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Best Buddies

Milena Tofanyan (3rd Grade - Rm. 28)

We're best buddies.  
We always are together.  
We'll have fun forever.  
Best buddies.  
Best buddies.  
Were always together.  
We have some fun together.  
  
Some times we fight. but we're still together.  
  
Best buddies.  
Best buddies.  
We are always together forever.

### Contest Winners:

*Xavier Gacula  
Danielle Heflin  
Ali Freas  
Milena Tofanyan  
Alejandra Silva  
Ben Robel*



## More Contest Winners: Friendship Stories

### The Best Day Ever

by  
Ben Robel - Kindergarten (Rm. 4)

One day, one boy standing on the street  
threw his glasses down.  
His friend walked down East Street,  
but the best thing of all is friendship.  
They were very helpful boys.

One day they thought to themselves,  
and they thought and thought and thought,  
I am going to make a Valentine for my friend.  
And they did one about friendship and mailed it,  
and they made a rainbow.

The next morning they had mail.  
Their dad said, "Good. Good."  
They looked and looked,  
found the mail and found their Valentine!  
They were very happy so on Valentine's Day there was a  
nice and good party.

### How Friendship Affects You

by  
Alejandra Silva (5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Rm. 17)

Friendship can affect you in many ways. First of all,  
many friends come from different backgrounds:  
Africa, Japan, New Orleans, London, Madrid.

And, they each have a different story.  
Maybe they make you think in a better way  
of a better direction.

Maybe it will change your test scores at school.  
Different stories can change your point-of-view.

Like during the "Great Migration,"  
some whites let themselves see the blind side too  
much. They should have calmed down and seen the  
other, open side; the side that had the answers to  
violence and racism, and an entrance into a world of  
peace and love.

Maybe friendship will change you into a better person  
than you once were.

Maybe there is a scintillating future and life ahead of  
your eyes.

Also, during the Gold Rush in 1849, Chinese Americans  
were considered a nuisance;

they weren't able to be in the picture of the  
Transcontinental Railroad that they built.

Knowing this could change your feelings for others.  
Girls in the past were not able to go outside in some  
parts of the world; they weren't allowed to be seen,  
to write, or draw, or even go to school.

Maybe it'll change your opinion about girls and about  
how strong and brave they are and can be.

Friendship can affect you in many ways;  
all positive thoughts if you want them to be;  
and if you want to have friends,  
you need to accept them for who they are.

## 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.

## Attention Writers!

*In honor of St. Patrick's Day, our  
March writing contest asks  
students to write a narrative about  
their luckiest day. Please turn in all  
entries by March 17, 2010!*

## Awesome Alumni: Mr. Don Anderson (Part One)

by - Chelsea Logo & Nharelyn Mancias

Don Anderson, a former Toluca Lake Elementary School student, went to our school about 40 years ago! He's now 72 and he still remembers his time here. We interviewed him and he gave us some great answers.

Our school, Toluca Lake Elementary, opened in 1942 or 1943. Initially, it only had small portable buildings and the grounds were all unpaved dirt. Don Anderson was a student here during those early years from 1943 through 1948 (First Grade through Sixth Grade- that was the range of grades in elementary school in those days). The permanent buildings now along Cahuenga Blvd. were originally built while he was a student at our school.

His favorite memory from elementary school was when World War II with Germany and Japan was ongoing during his years at Toluca Lake. Old newspapers were valuable because they could be used to manufacture materials needed for the war effort. Every semester they had a paper drive where students collected old newspapers from their friends and neighbors and brought them to school on the Paper Drive Day. The newspapers were tied in bundles & placed in separate piles for each classroom on the sidewalk along Cahuenga Blvd. There was a competition between rooms to have the largest pile. The sixth graders usually won. At the end of the day, the papers were sent to the industries that used them.

Mr. Anderson's favorite subject was spelling. In each grade, they had spelling books with lists of about 20 new words each week. For each week's new words, there was a mid-week spelling test on Wednesdays, and a final test on Fridays. The spelling books included activities and exercises to help students learn the new words. He liked spelling because he was good at it. Desktop & laptop computers were not invented until about 1980, so there were no spellcheckers in those days. To write well, a person needed to have a large vocabulary, know how to spell the words, & know what they meant. People would have less respect for anything you write if it had many misspelled words, or didn't make sense. Knowing how to use your words is still important today.

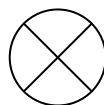
Some of Mr. Anderson's heroes were good writers and journalists because they're able to tell stories and present ideas in "interesting, entertaining, and convincing ways." One of his favorite writers was Isaac Asimov (1920-1992). His best works were in a style called fantasy and science fiction. Some of his best stories were about the way things could be in the future, or might actually be today except we cannot tell for certain. Reading these kinds of stories "helps people to be creative and have the vision needed to develop new and useful ideas, methods and products that can benefit society," remembers Mr. Anderson.

Don still remembers some of his favorite teachers. In those days, all of the teachers at our school were women. His favorites included Mrs. Soares (1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Mrs. Booth (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), Miss Cassberg (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), Miss Lynnes, (4<sup>th</sup> Grade), Miss Harding (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), and Mrs. Ross (6<sup>th</sup> Grade). The principal the entire time he was at our school was Mrs. Elizabeth Jordan. The teachers always seemed "businesslike, stern and kind of scary." If you didn't do your schoolwork, obey all the rules, and show proper respect, you were in big trouble!

After graduating from Toluca Lake Elementary school, Don attended Joseph LeConte Jr. High in Hollywood. That was the closest middle school in those days! He had to ride a school bus every day from the valley. In 1950, his family moved to Seattle, Washington where he finished junior high and high school, and went on to the University of Washington where he earned Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Mechanical Engineering.



*Former Toluca Lake Elementary Student  
Don Anderson  
1942*





## Awesome Alumni: Mr. Don Anderson (Part Two)

by - Chelsea Logo & Nharelyn Mancias

He worked as an aerospace engineer for 35 years at the Boeing Company in Seattle. He worked mostly on defense and space programs for the U.S. Air Force and NASA. Much of his work was spent analyzing and testing equipment designs to ensure electronic units and other sensitive components didn't become too hot or too cold in operation. The term for that is "Environmental Control." He also did background research the company needed to make business proposals to the government. When the government develops a new product, the companies that wanted to do that work submit proposals describing what the company feels needs to be done and how they would do it if awarded a contract. Winning proposals required persuasive writing and clear graphics (illustrations, charts, and graphs) to show the company could successfully accomplish the work if selected for a contract.

Since retiring in 1992, Mr. Anderson and his wife have researched and written three books about his family history and genealogy (who their ancestors were, where they lived, what they did). They have been married 47 years and have 3 children and 4 grandchildren who can hand down these books to their descendants so they will know their heritage. That's how he came to contact Mr. Hagen-Smith. He was looking for information and photographs for early Toluca Lake School history.

Some obstacles that Don Anderson had to overcome to achieve his goals was that neither of his parents completed high school and they weren't able to give much advice, help or encouragement during his schooling. In his youth, he had to figure out for himself the importance of earning a good education.

Mr. Anderson is proud of his teamwork while doing aerospace work. "I am proud to have been a contributing team member developing many successful military weapons systems (various aircraft and missiles) and space programs (space shuttle launches, communications satellite development)," says Mr. Anderson. "The programs I worked on have helped protect our country from enemies; also, they have supported modern conveniences such as communications satellites used for cell phone networks and satellite television."

We asked Mr. Anderson if he had some advice for today's students. He said that we need to develop our communication skills by writing and speaking well. Many good jobs today depend upon having these abilities. He recommends doing lots of reading to develop our vocabulary and "awareness of powerful writing." He also says that we need to select our hobbies and school electives to develop our skills, and learn to build things with our hands. He warned against wasting too much time playing video games and texting. He tells students to start school assignments early so you have time to discover how to make it better or solve any problems. He reminds us that, "An assignment is the same amount of work regardless of when you do it, so why risk being late? Start early." Mr. Anderson also says that it's important to "back up" your important work. "Get in that habit" so that anything important can be saved with printed copies or separate backup files outside your computer. Most importantly, Mr. Anderson says that we each need to do our best to get along with people even if some folks make it difficult. "This will pay off down the road whether you are doing a group project in school, flipping burgers in McDonald's, or working in a high-tech professional environment. The most effective teamwork occurs when team members are not angry with each other." He's sure right about that!

We're very happy to have had the opportunity to learn from such a wise alumni. Mr. Anderson has so much knowledge to share with us. We're very thankful that he took the time to share his experiences and ideas with us. Hopefully, one of us will get to pass on our wisdom to students in the future!



*Don  
Anderson*

← 1954

2008 →



## Toluca Lake's Black History Show Illuminates our Understanding!

by

Emmanuel Martir, Michelle Huerta, Eldon Sierra & Alejandra Silva

Today at Toluca Lake Elementary School, students saw a wonderful show about the contributions of African Americans to American History. Many classes did very interesting and informative presentations. Drill Team did a dance to the song "Thriller" by Michael Jackson. They did a fantastic choreography. Mrs. McDuffey really taught them well because they did a good job. Drill team members said that the dance was tiring because they had to do it again and again until they perfected their routine.

Mrs. McDuffey's class did a great presentation about Africa, American colonies, and overcoming adversity. Ms. Harriman's first grade class sang "When the Rain Comes Down." They sang really nice and smooth. Also, Mrs. McDuffey's niece danced really well. She moved all of her body to express her feelings and thoughts. Mr. Hagen-Smith's class did a very interesting presentation about Africa Americans trying to look for opportunities to shine in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Their presentation told about their visit to the Huntington Library's exhibit, "*Central Avenue and Beyond: The Harlem Renaissance in Los Angeles.*" They received a guided tour from the exhibit's curator so they had lots of information to share in their show. Ms. Hinton's class did a fantastic poem by Maya Angelou called "Ain't that Bad." This inspirational poem lifted everyone's spirit to this special holiday. Mr. Murphy's classroom sang, "Little Liza Jane." Mr. Murphy played his guitar very well, and we all felt like singing the song when we left the show.

Mr. Riedman's students, Amani Cummings and Bisu Bantu, created Power Point biographies about writer Alex Haley and singer Billie Holiday. Students also sang the African American national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." It's a very peaceful and beautiful song.

The whole show was very interesting and informative. Students learned a lot about African American history. Learning about how African American overcame adversity encourages us kids to do our best even when the homework piles up, our little siblings bug us, and fractions just don't make sense! THANK YOU!



## Featured Faculty: Ms. Lauer's Amazing Teaching

by - Rebecca Nomura and Alexandra Morales

Ms. Debra Lauer is an amazing teacher here at Toluca Lake Elementary School. She began working here in 1997. Before becoming a teacher, Ms. Lauer worked as a lawyer. She went to law school to earn her law license, but then decided to become a teacher to help the world become a better place. The toughest challenge she had to face to earn her degree was working for the money to pay for law school while attending college classes.

Ms. Lauer enjoys volunteering in her temple, discussing politics, watching college football ("Go Florida Gators!"), theater, movies and spending time with her family and dog. The person that she admires the most is Hilary Clinton because she was an accomplished lawyer who ran for president and has made it possible for every woman in the whole world to run for president in the future. The toughest part of her job is when she is helping her students understand how important their education is and convincing them to do their best to accomplish their goals. She feels proudest when her former students come back to our school and tell her about how well they're doing in middle/high school and college.

Ms. Lauer likes our school very much. The thing she wishes that our school could change is to have a science lab for hands-on experiments to investigate scientific concepts. And data coordinator Ms. Ward has now created a lab at our school!

Ms. Lauer likes many things about teaching at our school. Her favorite thing is when she looks back every year and sees her former students growing academically. Some advice that Ms. Lauer gives to her students is saying, "Make yourself proud by never settling for less than your best!" Thanks for reading about one of our best teachers. She's the best!



### Teacher's Tip

Organizational skills are paramount to a student's academic and social success. Teachers and parents need to think about which organizational strategies work best for students. Some helpful techniques include:

#### Prioritizing Tasks:

- Provide assignment pads monitored by parents & teachers
- Provide a desk or wall calendar
- Play games (example: estimate how long an activity will take)
- Use checklists
- Create and maintain structured routines
- Use timers for deadlines
- Use Post-Its to remind students to complete tasks

#### Backpacks:

- Empty once a week.
- Implement a system for deciding which items are important to keep in the backpack and which need to be left at home

#### Bedrooms:

- Need to be kept organized
- Designate specific areas for specific functions (ie; study area)

Involve the student in finding solutions to the problems.



Toluca Lake  
Elementary  
School:  
An Arts  
Prototype  
School



Principal:

Carol Reo Bové

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 website:  
<http://toluca.weebly.com/>

- What has a tail and a head, but no body? - Sharis Galeano
- When I am said, I'm very mysterious. But when I'm explained, I'm nothing serious. What am I? - Michael Flores
- A grandfather, a father, and two sons go fishing. Each person catches one fish and leaves it in the boat. There are three fish in the boat. How is that possible? - Xavier Gacula
- What's the difference between a fish and a piano? - Alejandra Silva
- Why should you be careful when you go into a restaurant? - Zachary Miles

## Calendar

3/8 = Awards Assembly (upper grades)  
3/8 = International Women's Day  
3/9 = Local Leadership Council Meeting  
3/10 = CHIP Photos  
3/12 = ELAC/CEAC Parent Meetings  
3/14 = Albert Einstein's Birthday (1879)  
3/15 = Candy Drive Begins (until 3/26)  
3/17 = St. Patrick's Day  
3/17 = School Site Committee Meeting  
3/19 = Vernal Equinox (1<sup>st</sup> day of Spring)  
3/21 = Johann Sebastian Bach (1685)  
3/22-3/26 = Parent Conference Week  
Early dismissal all week  
3/29-4/2 = Spring Break Week  
3/30 = Vincent Van Gogh (1853)



**MEETING**

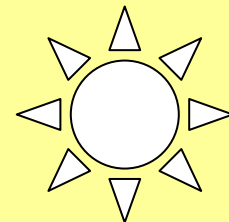
Thursday, March 18, 2010  
6:30pm - 7:30pm in the auditorium

*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](mailto: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](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

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

Brought to you by the Toluca Lake Elementary PTA  
[tolucalakepta@gmail.com](mailto:tolucalakepta@gmail.com)