

Toluca Lake Times



WORDS OF WISDOM

“A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.”

– Dr. Maya Angelou
American Writer



The Arrival of the Story Pirates!

by

Tatiana Sarkisyan

The Story Pirates are a group of actors who help students learn to write. They have been coming to our school to work with fifth grade students for a few years. They like our school so much that this year they'll also be working with third graders.

The Story Pirates teach us to write different types of stories. They explain everything about writing in a fun and understanding way. We enjoy Story Pirates because they make writing enjoyable.

The Story Pirates start every lesson with an interactive warm-up game. After that the Story Pirates explain how to write fun, exciting, entertaining, and interesting stories. Students receive a work sheet to help them develop their stories.

Our first assignment was to write a comedy using opposites. We started by creating the setting and the characters. We are excited to write with Story Pirates this year!

The Story Pirates was started by some college students at Northwestern University in Illinois. They began their professional work in New York City. That's where they started to become famous. Celebrities like Jon Stewart and Conan O'Brien have talked about them on their television shows.

The Geffen Playhouse in Westwood began to fund the Story Pirates here in Los Angeles a few years ago. They provide scholarships to pay for the Story Pirates to create programs at some schools in Los Angeles. Toluca Lake Elementary was one of the first public schools that the Story Pirates began to assist here in Los Angeles.

We are happy, proud, and thankful to have the Geffen Playhouse and the Story Pirates support our school.

*Principal's Message***TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE!**

It was such a pleasure to see all of you come to school for the Parent Conferences. As a school that has always focused on cooperation and teamwork, we are very proud to have so many parents support us.

Remember, you, as part of the team are an important key to your child's success and their first teacher. We hope that during the upcoming three week break you will encourage your child to read and practice his/her math facts.

- Ms. Carol Reo-Bove

**Visiting the Autry Museum**

by - Kevin Perez

Our fifth grade students went to the Autry Museum of Western Heritage in October. Going to the Autry was an amazing experience because we saw all kinds of things. This museum was about Western Heritage, including cowboys, movies, immigration and other parts of our history.

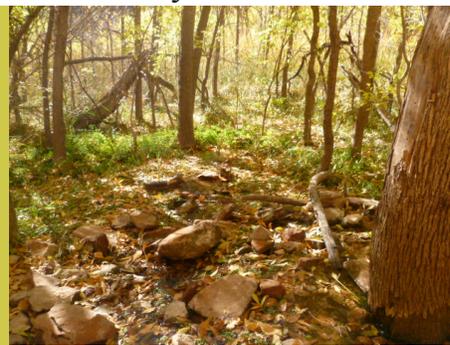
Our class got to see a big mural showing events that happened in the past. This mural represented a timeline going from the beginning of time until now. It has Native Americans, Spaniards, farmers, cowboys, and western movie stars.

Our class went to different exhibits on this field trip. We got to learn about the CA Gold Rush. We learned why people came from different countries to go to the gold rush. We also got to learn about Native American tribes. We saw how they hunted and used the fur and every animal part in their lives. We learned about how travelers traded with the native people.

Learning about all of this was interesting. We also got to learn a little about our cultural heritage. All of these interesting ideas are still on view when you visit the the Autry Museum.



Happy
Autumn



Featured Faculty: Mrs. Laura Bartholomew, Our New Resource Specialist

By: Anna Zayas, Amy Buttasin, and Nyeli Parra

Today we interviewed Mrs. Laura Bartholomew. She is our school's resource specialist. Mrs. Bartholomew started working here in the beginning of August 2013. She had to get a bachelor's degree, a general education teaching credential, a special education teaching credential, and a MS in special education for the job she has today.

Mrs. Bartholomew has many other interests in addition to teaching. She is interested in landscape photography. Her other hobbies are hiking, taking pictures, and hula dancing. Her heroes are Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. and Mother Theresa. She admires Mother Theresa because she gave her whole life helping others. She admires is Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. because he was willing to risk everything to stand up against injustice.

Mrs. Bartholomew claims that the hardest part of her job is writing paper work all of the time. She said that she sometimes takes hours writing reports. She is proudest of getting her master's degree, because she was about 58 years old when she got it. She said that it was hard work because she was at an older age. Some obstacles she had to overcome were the lack of money to pay for college, and going back to college later in her life.

The thing Mrs. Bartholomew likes the best about our school is that the teachers are committed to helping their students. Our teachers come early each morning, and leave late in the evening. They work very hard to give their students the best possible education.

Something Mrs. Bartholomew would like to change about our school would be to see less trash around the school. She'd like to raise awareness in kids so that they throw their trash into trash cans. The advice she gives us students is, "Be serious about your education. Really consider college. Go to college at a young age; don't wait too long ... go as soon as possible ... right after high school. It will all make a great difference in your life." We like Mrs. Bartholomew's advice, and are happy to have such a great new resource specialist working at our school!



Awesome Alumni: Joel Luis Juan

by - Tatiana Sarkisyan, Melanie Rivas, Storm Reid, & Giovanna Aldana

Today we interviewed an awesome alumni named Joel Luis Juan. He attended our school during 2000 - 2006 ... from Kindergarten to fifth grade!

His favorite memory from our elementary school is playing handball with his friends. His favorite subject in school was social studies because he likes learning about different places and people. His hero is his soccer coach because he taught him how to be mature and live a life with discipline.

Mr. Luis Juan remembers Mrs. Miya because she taught him his time tables. He also remembers the way Mr. Murphy would play his guitar. After Toluca Lake Elementary School, Joel attended Walter Reed Middle School, and North Hollywood High. He is currently attending Los Angeles Mission College and CSUN (Cal State University of Northridge).

Mr. Luis Juan is a student-athlete. This means he studies full time and also plays a sport in college. He plays soccer at L.A. Mission College, and is now one of their goalkeepers.

Deciding what college he wanted to go to

was an obstacle Joel faced on his way to achieving his goal. He is proudest when he is working and interacting with kids. His advise to our current students is to "always put school first." Mr. Luis Juan also said to listen to our parents and elders because they have a lot of wisdom. We are very proud to have Mr. Joel Luis Juan as one of Toluca Lake's Awesome Alumni!



MESSAGE FROM PARIS**A Student's Life in Paris**

As mentioned in last month's *Awesome Alumni* column, former Toluca Lake Elementary student Maghali Silva is now studying in Paris as part of her freshman work with NYU. Here are some insights into her experiences there:

- *I tried escargot (snails) a few years back and it was definitely an interesting experience. I would recommend it, it doesn't taste bad at all.*
- *They (French people) value politics and education. Here university is free, and sometimes they even pay you to go to college/university!!!!*
- *It is very cold. Still not unbearable but it's been like 39 degrees average this past week, and it seems to only be going down. I have stocked up on scarfs and layers of clothing. But I still need to get gloves because my hands are freezing every time I go outside.*

Toluca Lake students are encouraged to write questions to Maghali. There will be more thoughts about student life in Paris in next month's issue of the Toluca Times!

RECIPES FROM AROUND THE CAMPUS ... AND THE WORLD**Chembureci****by - Tatiana Sarkisyan****Description**

One piece of bread can be cut into pieces and feed five people. You can make more if you'd like. My mom and I make it on special occasions. Chembureci is a Russian and Armenian family dish.

Ingredients

1. Big loaf of bread
2. Meat
3. Sour Cream

Instructions

1. Cook the meat in a pan on a high temperature for 10 minutes
2. You cut the bread open.
3. Stuff meat in the bread until it's almost full.
4. Put it in the oven for 15 minutes.
5. Take out of the oven.
6. Stuff sour cream in it until it's full.
7. Stick a spoon in side and mix the meat and sour cream together.
8. Cut in into several pieces.
9. Put it on a plate, and enjoy.



When you make it make sure that you eat it when it's hot/warm because it tastes better than when it's cold! Enjoy this Russian and Armenian Dish!

Please submit your *family recipes* to Room 17

The Getty Museum

by Nyeli Parra

Fifth grade students recently went to the Getty Art Center on a field trip. We all had a lot of fun, learning about different pieces of art.

The first piece of art we saw was a sculpture called "The Boy and The Dragon." It was supposed to be a baby boy, Hercules, cracking a dragon's jaw. Another work of art we saw was a painting called "The Abduction of Europa." The painting was about a God named Neptune, who was in love with a girl named Europa. The painting shows Neptune, who has taken the form of a bull, riding away with Europa on his back.

We also saw a painting called "The Musicians Brawl." It was about some musicians getting into a fight. It shows some musicians watching two musicians fight, and squirting lemon into each other's eyes.

It was really fun learning about art at the Getty Center. We are thankful to our docents, Elaine and Berry, for guiding us around the museum. We are also thankful to the Getty Center for providing our bus, and to our teachers for organizing and taking us on this field trip.



The Amazing Food Detective

by - Julian Jercan & Catherine Vasquez

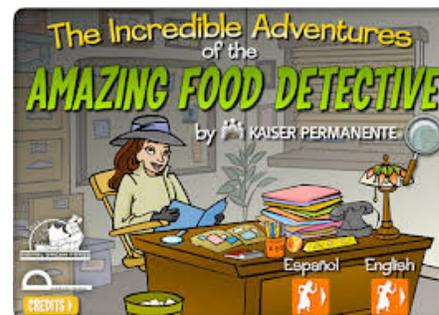
Today we saw a performance called **The Amazing Food Detective**. It was presented by a group of actors from Kaiser-Permanente. They taught us to make healthy choices with the food we eat.

We learned a lot about how to take care of ourselves. We learned that one of the best things to drink is water. There are five main food groups that you should have on your plate and in your cup. The names of the groups are fruits, veggies, protein, grains, and dairy. Instead of having a meal with soda potato chips, and french fries, it's healthier to have a sandwich with water.

The play was about people going to school. The actors were wearing typical teenager clothes. They had to give a report, but they did not do it right so they had to make it up. They got into a game which helped them learn about health and better lifestyles.

We learned lots of health lessons as the characters went through activities that helped them stay active and eat better. At each level, they did something differently to be healthier. We danced in our seats, and advised them to make healthier choices (like not eating chips and drinking soda). Lastly, we saw them in a race. Water gave them more energy than soda or an energy drink to win that race.

It was fun to watch this performance. After the performance, we got our very own water bottle, to help us reuse and always have water. It was great to learn ways to improve our lifestyles. We are very thankful to Kaiser-Permanente for sharing this program with our school.



HALLOWEEN STORY CONTEST WINNER**The Curse of the Vampire Ballerina****by - Alyssa Petach (5th Grade)**

I am hiding in the closet of my room with my eight year old brother, equipped with a frying pan as a weapon. You're probably wondering why. Well, it's a long story.

First, my mom, dad, brother, and I were shopping at a Christmas store. Already in the cart there were red, green, and blue Christmas ornaments, gold ribbon, blue penguin wrapping paper, and a beautiful ballerina that goes on top of the Christmas tree. It was made out of glass and had a light pink, silk dress. I always wanted to be a ballerina, and then at that moment, I started dancing like one. I wasn't thinking and then I stepped on an old lady's foot. She was so angry, and I wish I knew than that she was a witch. The lady started waving her arms pointing at me, speaking gibberish. I was freaked out and ran back to my cart. When we got home, I immediately put the ornaments, and the ballerina, on the tree. It was beautiful and sparkling. I wanted to stare at it all night, but it was my bed time.

When I was asleep, I heard a crash coming from the living room. I went to check what it was. The ballerina on the tree was gone! Then all of a sudden something swooped on me. It was the ballerina! It had come alive! But she looked different. Her silk, pink dress turned into a raggedy, black, widow dress. She had tiny, knife-like, glass fangs, with red, beady eyes. I couldn't believe that a beautiful ballerina turned into a terrifying ballerina!

She was a trying to bite me. I ran to my room where my brother was (we share a room). I woke him up. I told him what was going on and not to go in the living room.

"But I'm hungry," my little brother moaned.

"Ugh!" I said. "I'll get you something."

I opened the door ducking my head, running into the kitchen. I got my brother a cookie and took a frying pan for protection. Then I ran back into the closet of my room where my brother was. I was thinking of a plan, although, it was hard to concentrate with munching in my ear. I decided that I would lure the ballerina in and smash her to pieces. I walked into the living room shakily. I saw the ballerina, but she saw me first. She was diving straight towards me! I was getting ready to swing, until I heard a growl. My cat Bubbles came out of the shadows and pounced on the ballerina. It was over in an instant. I've never been happier in my life.

I cleaned up the mess and sent my little brother to bed. Before I went to bed, I picked up Bubbles and slept with him for the night.

I'll never be so careless in a busy area ever again. That whole ordeal was horrible. And I hope I never run into that old witch again.

HALLOWEEN STORY CONTEST WINNER**Monsters in Midnight****Written by - Veronica Chicas (2nd Grade)****Typed by - Giovanna Aldana (5th Grade)**

One day on Halloween, my family and I went trick-or-treating. Then, out of nowhere a zombie popped out. Then, a vampire popped out and almost all of the monsters popped out like a ghost, skeleton, and even the headless horseman! I got so scared that I ran home as quickly as I could.

Even though my parents don't like Halloween, they tried to help me, but it didn't work. I called my friends and talked to them. I said, "Why are there monsters popping out everywhere?"

We decided to stand up for ourselves and go fight the monsters! We found out where the monsters were hiding. We dressed up as monsters because if they caught us, they would eat us.

We ran home to my house to dress up. My friend Emily dressed up as mummy. I dressed up as a vampire. We went back to the monsters' cave and went inside.

First, we saw a vampire. He looked at us and said,

"Nice dress." I had a feeling that he liked me. I asked where all the monsters were. He said that they were upstairs.

"Thanks," I answered. We went upstairs and there were all of the monsters. I got scared, but my friend reminded me to be brave.

I said, "I am brave," and kept repeating it in my head. "I am brave. I am brave. I am brave."

We saw a light switch and thought that if we turned off that switch that all of the monsters' powers would be gone forever. We walked and almost reached the switch, but then the vampire realized that we were not monsters. He yelled, "Attack!"

We ran as quickly as we could, but they caught us. We thought they were going to eat us. Instead, they were all just in costumes. When they took off their costumes, they were just trying to scare us. We were surprised. We ate all of our candy and lived happily ever after.

Toluca Students Star at Disney Concert Hall

by - Maryjane Zazueta

Today my third grade class went to The Music Center and The Walt Disney Concert Hall! We performed in front of many people. We sang two songs. One was "Uno, Dos y Tres." My favorite song was "Hi Hey."

My favorite part about the field trip is that we went with other classes!! (Ms. Tucker's and Ms. Cooperman 's classes).

After the performances, we walked to the Walt Disney Hall!!! The Walt Disney Hall has amazing gardens and much more! One thing I learned is Walt Disney's wife was named Lillian.

The shape of the building was just amazing! But, I know the inside was better. We learned and saw a lot.

We also shared our school spirit!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You have to see it for yourself!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



HALLOWEEN STORY CONTEST WINNER:

Zombies, Get Out of My Room! by - Kevin Castro (1st Grade)

I came home from school and went to my room to play video game. My mom walked in and said, "Do your homework!"

I said, "Okay." I thought I could play for just five more minutes, but I lost track of time. I realized it was two hours later, when I headed down for dinner. My mom was so upset that she took away my video games, and sent me to my room with a plate of food.

I was too upset to eat so I left the plate of food under my bed and took a nap. I was woken up by a loud chewing noise. When I looked under my bed, all of my food was gone and the plate had bloodstains. My room started to smell like old wet trash. I looked under my bed and there were two creepy yellow eyes looking back at me.

I jumped up and it came after me. It tried to eat me. Then I said, "Wait! I will give you a hot plate of food if you leave me alone."

He said, "yes."

My mom knocked on my door and asked, "Did you eat?"

I said, "Yes, but may I have some more? My mom said, "Yes, but then you have to take a shower because your whole room smells bad."

Calendar

November 22 = Holiday in the Park (Magnolia Pk. - Burbank)

25-29 = School Closed

November 28 = Thanksgiving

December 2 = Student Awards Assembly (K-2)

December 5 = Autry National Center Free Radio Show

December 6 = Toluca Lake Open House

December 9 = Student Awards Assembly (3-5)

December 12 = Family Writing Night with the Story Pirates

December 14-15 = Children's Film Festival (LACMA)

December 16 = Holiday Boutique Opens

December 17 = Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council Mtg.

Dec. 23 - Jan. 13 = Winter Break

Teacher Tips

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, it's a fine opportunity to learn about the great diversity, achievements, and spirit of the United States. You and your child may want brainstorm all of the places Americans have come from: Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia, etc. Think of something that people from each place have added to American culture. Make a two-column list, with the country/culture in one column and what it has added to the United States in the other column. You may also want to take a family trip to your local supermarket to see how many different foods there are from different parts of the world. You may even want to try some in a multicultural dinner!



**Toluca Lake
Elementary School:
An Arts Prototype
School**

Principal:

Ms. Carol Reo-Bove

Assistant Principal:

Ms. Carla Miller

Coordinator:

Mr. Jeff Daniel

Lead Teacher:

Mr. Steve Reidman

Parent Representative:

Ms. Lucy Gonzalez

Newsletter Editor:

Mr. Dennis Hagen-Smith

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.

- “Holiday in the Park” takes place in the Magnolia Park section of Burbank on Friday, November 22. This annual event is a favorite for many families.
- On Thursday, December 5, families attend the Autry National Center for a celebration of the holiday season from the Golden Age of Radio as a cast re-creates performances from authentic radio drama scripts – complete with sound effects and original advertisements. The centerpiece of the evening will be a special reenactment of the classic Charles Dickens masterpiece “A Christmas Carol,” with the majority of the roles played by women. The tale will be preceded by a quartet of actors reading of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” and an editorial published by the New York Sun in 1897 titled, “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.” Be sure to call ahead for reservations.
- Toluca Lake’s Open House takes place on Friday, December 6 on Riverside Drive. This special event features lots of unique treats and a terrific parade featuring Toluca Lake’s very own Drill Team.

Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

Name - _____ Room Number - _____

1. Which organization pays for the Story Pirates? _____

2. According to Dr. Maya Angelou, why do birds sing? _____

3. What is one thing students saw at the Autry Museum? _____

4. What does Mrs. Bartholomew like best about our school? _____

5. Who taught Joel Luis Juan his times tables? _____

6. What are escargot? _____

7. What is one of the ingredients in chembureci? _____

8. Where can you see the Toluca Lake Drill Team perform on Dec. 6? _____

9. What is the name of one song performed by Toluca Lake students at the Walt Disney Concert Hall?

10. Where can you find this image (left) at school? _____