

# Toluca Lake Times



## WORDS OF WISDOM

*Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.*

- Plato

**Greek Philosopher  
(427 - 347 B.C.)**



## **Toluca Lake Students Selected to Participate in UCLA's "Flutes Across the World"**

by - Kevin Perez, Gavin Elliot, Julian Jercan, Alyssa Petach, Anna Zayas, & Diego Lemus

Toluca Lake Elementary School's Fifth Grade students have been selected to participate in a special outreach program, "Flutes Across the World." This special opportunity has been funded by UCLA's Design for Sharing program. By working on this program, students learned about music, making a musical instrument, and attending a university.

As part of this program, we were given a field trip to UCLA. We liked all kinds of things we did there. One of our favorite parts was when we learned about the history of UCLA. We got to go into a classroom at UCLA. Mr. Zeretzke, the trip leader, played music featuring different kinds of flutes from around the world. He told us about the history of each instrument, the materials used to make each of them, and the part of the world it came from. Mr. Zeretzke gave us instructions showing us how to make our very own flutes from a hard plastic tube. We liked when we started to make our flutes because the symbols we used were interesting. After that we started to color and put designs and patterns on our flutes. Then we heard music with just instruments playing. Going to UCLA to learn about flutes taught us about music and going to college.

"Flutes Across the World" included classroom visits by Mr. Zeretzke here at Toluca Lake Elementary. During the project we made two flutes, one for us and one to be given away to another child in another part of the world. We all made symbols at the bottom of our flutes. In the middle of our flutes, we highlighted the finger holes by making shapes and designs. At the very top of the flute, we made patterns to add to their beauty. Some of the patterns we used were zip-zag or wiggly lines, hearts, arrows, dots and more. None of us finished the first day, but we finished when he came back to our school a second time.

You may think making the flutes is hard, but it's actually very easy. All you need is a plastic tube from Lowe's or Home Depot. Mr. Zeretzke had to drill out the finger and the whistle holes. Then we filled the mouthpiece for both flutes. After that, we colored them with Sharpie markers. Making flutes was surprisingly easy and fun.

We learned to play our flutes by copying Mr. Zeretzke. In order to play the flutes, we had to listen to the sounds that each finger hole made. He played "Three Blind Mice." Then we repeated after him and played, too. He knows about a lot of instruments and even brought an ancient bagpipe. This bagpipe was made out of actual goat skin and some pipes.

"Flutes Across the World" is important because we learned about music, shared the flutes we made, and visited a great university.

## Principal's Message

# WELCOME TO THE COMMON CORE!

California had adopted the new Common Core Standards to provide new guidelines for what each student needs to learn in school. These new standards aim to better prepare students for college and career.

Currently, over 5.6 billion dollars is spent annually on college remedial courses in America. This is mostly because students enter college and career without the skills and competencies needed to be successful. By raising the bar, the common core aims to help students be more successful in the future.



The Common Core Standards focus on the most important topics that students need to know. For example, in math students will focus on developing a greater understanding of numbers in primary grades before starting to apply that understanding of numbers to data

in the upper grades. That means that parents can help their children best by focusing upon the most important aspects and core concepts when checking their homework.

Students will be expected to read more difficult text sooner, and discuss what they read at a more complex level than in previous years. There will be an increased emphasis placed upon reading and writing non-fiction materials. Students will be expected to build upon these skills as they advance to the higher grades.

When reading fiction, students will learn to analyze literature in a variety of ways. For example, students will be going beyond a focus on simple text elements like character and setting to a comparative analysis of those elements in multiple stories.

The new standards represent an exciting opportunity for our students to strive for excellence. We look forward to helping them meet this challenge! - Ms. Carol Reo-Bové

## Attendance Matters

- Children who miss a significant number of days in kindergarten often continue to miss a significant number in first grade.
- By third grade, fewer than 1 in 5 of those who were significantly absent in kindergarten and first grade are at grade level in reading.
- By fourth grade--when reading is required to learn just about everything--many never catch up. They may disengage from learning, have behavior problems, and later drop out.



## **Featured Faculty: Our New Plant Manager, Mr. Juan Castellanos**

**By: Gavin Elliott , Eduardo Valencia, Melanie Rivas, and Nyeli Parra**

Mr. Juan Castellanos is our new plant manager this year. He makes sure our school looks great and fixes things here to keep us safe. He started working at Toluca Lake Elementary School on August 9, 2013. He needed to take courses in safety and math to acquire his skills. Mr. Castellanos also had to keep a schedule and take measuring courses while developing his career.

Mr. Castellanos has many interests beyond school. He enjoys collecting shoes and modifying / working on automobiles. One of his heroes is his dad. He admires his dad because his dad taught him to do things right, and how to be a man. The toughest part of Mr. Castellanos' job is waking up early each morning. He wakes up at 5:00 a.m. everyday!

A professional accomplishment that makes Mr. Castellanos proud was getting his Auto Associates Degree as an auto technician. An obstacle that he overcame during his life was not having time to have fun with his friends while earning his career. He overcame this challenge by studying hard. Now, this job keeps him busy and makes him proud.

Mr. Castellanos reminds us to work hard to reach our goals. He likes that our school is small and close to his home. He said that some advice he would give to students is to stay in school, listen to your teachers, follow your dreams, and read, read, read.



## **Awesome Alumni: Maghali Silva**

**by - Kevin Perez, Julian Jercan, Alyssa Petach, & Blythe Barrington-Hughes**

Maghali Silva went to Toluca Lake Elementary School when she was younger. She graduated fifth grade in 2006. Maghali's favorite subject in school was math because it was easy to understand.

Maghali remembers every teacher she had in school. Each one cared about her education. After she attended Toluca Lake Elementary School, Maghali went to Millikan Middle School and North Hollywood High School. In September, she will start school at New York University (NYU). This September is very special because she'll be taking classes with NYU ... but be working at their school in Paris, France! She is very excited about going to Europe to study for her freshman year of college.

One obstacle Maghali had to overcome in school was to teach herself new ideas and to study a lot. She had to be organized in her studies.

The accomplishment that makes Maghali proudest is getting into college because both of her parents didn't have that opportunity. One of Maghali's heroes is her younger sister, Alejandra. Maghali admires Alejandra because she is dedicated, strong, and has done a lot of things people her age wouldn't think of

doing. The advice Maghali gave us students is to never give up, always study, and always try to enjoy what you are doing.



**This column will be the first of a new series of articles written by our student in Paris. Students may submit questions to Maghali to learn more about her experiences in Paris!**

**MEDIA MATTERS****Movie Review: *Turbo*****by - Blythe Barrington-Hughes**

This month the Media Matters Column features a film review. The movie I am reviewing is the animated film, Turbo. This movie is about a small garden snail who dreams of becoming the fastest snail in the world, and then his dream comes true. Watch the movie to see the details!

**Upcoming films:**September: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2November: Free Birds

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**Trivia:** Q: What other films did the director of Turbo direct?

Q: What other animated film has the actor who's voice was Turbo played in?

**Recommendations:**

Some movies I recommend for you and your families to watch are Despicable Me 2 and Monsters University. These movies are funny and animated.

**RECIPES FROM AROUND THE CAMPUS ... AND THE WORLD****Ceviche****by - Giovanna Aldana****Description**

Ceviche is a type of Mexican dish. It is sour, sometimes spicy, and always tastes really good. This serving can be for at least 4 to 5 people depending on how much each person eats.

**Ingredients**

3 lbs. of small shrimp cleaned  
 4 large tomatoes, seeded and diced  
 6 limes, juiced  
 4 lemons, juiced  
 1 cup cilantro leaves, chopped  
 1 Serrano Chile, seeded and finely chopped  
 ½ of a cucumber, peeled and diced  
 1 red onion, diced  
 Salt and pepper for taste  
 3 tablespoons of tomato sauce

**Directions**

Lay out the shrimp in the bottom of the glass baking dish. Pour lemon and lime juice over the shrimp and then refrigerate them for 3 hours. The juice will "cook" the shrimp. Toss remaining ingredients in the bowl chopped or cut in piece. Then refrigerate for one hour or longer. Then take out and enjoy your ceviche with tortillas chips or a grilled fish topping.

**Please submit your *family recipes* to Room 17  
 for future editions of the *Toluca Times*!**

## Lunch on the Lawn

by - Julian Jercan,  
Diego Lemus, & Kevin Perez

This year's Lunch on the Lawn was the biggest one we've ever seen at Toluca Lake Elementary! It happened on Friday September 20, 2013. Ms. Lucy Gonzalez, our Parent Center Director, worked hard setting up a lot of tables to prepare for the event.

Lunch on the Lawn is an opportunity to show your parents what you do at lunch. Many parents came to this year's event. Kids could just eat and talk about what they do at lunch, and introduce our friends to our parents.

We really enjoyed it a lot and are thankful to the Parent Center for organizing this event. Everyone had fun eating and talking with family. "I ate like a pig," said Diego, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student. Parents brought delicious food. Kevin's mom brought Carl's Jr.. Other parents brought Subway, McDonalds, and the best ... homemade food! We could see so many parents eating with their children. It was fun eating with our mom or dad, brothers, and sisters at school.

We liked how they set up the place by putting out tables with blankets on them so people could sit and eat. Lunch on the Lawn is an amazing experience. We should all thank Ms. Lucy Gonzalez and all of the parent volunteers that came early to set up and organize this special event!

## Calendar

- October 15 = Local Leadership Council Meeting (2:30 pm)  
Greater Toluca Lake Council Meeting (7 pm)
- October 17 = Emergency Shake Drill (8:30am)  
PTA Meeting (6 pm)
- October 18 = Halloween Haunt (Starlight Bowl - Burbank)
- October 19 = Free Earthquake Preparedness Open House  
(Universal Studios Backlot 9 am - 12 pm)
- October 21 = Biomes of the World (5th Grade)  
Birthday of Alfred Nobel (Nobel Prizes)
- October 22 = First day of "Breakfast in the Classroom"
- October 22 = School Site Council Meeting (8 am)
- October 24 = Story Pirates Begin Residency (5th Grade)
- October 26 = Day of the Dead Celebration at Autry Center
- October 27 = School Beautification Day (10 am)
- October 28 = Biomes of the World (5th Grade)
- October 29 = Amazing Food Detectives Assembly  
(Kaiser-Permanente Educational Theater)
- October 31 = Halloween Parade (1:15 pm)
- November 2 = Day of the Dead
- November 3 = Daylight Savings Ends (*set clocks back!*)
- November 4 = Awards Assembly (7:50 am) K-2
- November 5 = Awards Assembly (7:50 am) 3-5 & Election Day
- November 7 = Birthday of Marie Curie (Polish Scientist)
- November 8 = Parent Advisory Council Meeting (8 am)
- November 11 = Veteran's Day (School Closed)
- November 12 = School Site Council Meeting (8 am)
- November 12-15 = Parent Conference Week (1:09 daily dismissal)
- November 12 = Stargazing (Chandler Bikepath @ Lima in Burbank)
- November 16 = Story Pirates free at Geffen Playhouse  
Move-it Challenge (Dodger Stadium 8:30 am)
- November 19 = Local Leadership Council Meeting (2:30 pm)  
Greater Toluca Lake Council Meeting (7 pm)
- November 21 = PTA Meeting (6 pm)
- November 25-29 = School Closed
- November 28 = Thanksgiving

## Teacher Tips

There is a free program in our area called "Story Line" from Book Pals. Students may call (818) 239-3111 seven days a week to hear a 10-minute story read to them by a professional actor (from the Screen Actors Guild Foundation).

There is no charge for this local phone call! After students listen to the story, have them practice dramatic readings of the books that they are reading. When possible, encourage students to make a recording of themselves and listen for ways to increase the drama by changing their pitch, adjusting their speed, or extending pauses. They can even share their recordings with the class at school!

The kids will have a lot of fun with this activity, while improving their reading fluency and comprehension. Remember, reading together, we all achieve!



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

Principal:

Ms. Carol Reo-Bové

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.

- San Fernando Valley Audubon Society offers free, family bird walks at the Sepulveda Wildlife Area on the second Saturday of each month. Come and see white pelicans, great blue heron, egrets, cormorants, and so many other species. These popular walks are designed especially for beginning birders and school-age children. Directions: exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Meet across the road from the parking lot at the low buildings. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer for more information (818) 885-7493 for more information (before 7 p.m. please). Walks start at 8:30 a.m. Rain cancels walks.

## **Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt**

Name - \_\_\_\_\_ Room Number - \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which college sponsored “Flutes Across the World”? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is one of the purposes of the new Common Core Standards?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is one of Mr. Castellanos’ interests? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In which city is Maghali Silva currently going to school? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many tomatoes are called for in Giovanna’s ceviche recipe? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who is our Parent Center Director? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the date for School Beautification Day? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where can you call to hear an actor read a 10-minute story? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Which organization hosts free family bird walks at the Sepulveda Wildlife Area? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Where can you find this image (left) at school? \_\_\_\_\_