

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *Toluca Lake Elementary*

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<http://toluca.weebly.com>

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**Ramon Cortines**

Superintendent

**Alma Peña-Sanchez**

District 2 Superintendent

**Carol Reo-Bové**

Principal

May 20, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Gifted and Talented student,

**Congratulations** to the many Toluca Lake students who recently qualified for the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program. **Toluca Lake's GATE program has never been stronger!** As a result of your success, **over 15%** of our students are in the GATE program (the district's goal is 6%). Outstanding! Bravo! We are very excited about your accomplishments.

We are also proud of our current GATE students. Many of our gifted students are being recognized for their fantastic writings in the Toluca Times school newspaper. Nice job! Other students have written, developed, and performed their own original screenplay with the help of an award winning Hollywood actor who donates his time year after year. These are just some of the exciting and differentiated activities our GATE students participate in at Toluca Lake.

**So why is Toluca Lake so successful?** One of our advantages is that Toluca Lake is an Arts Prototype school. We nurture, motivate, inspire, and challenge our students. While based upon state-adopted texts, our curriculum extends beyond traditional limits to expose our students to a wide array of real-life applications for their skills and knowledge. As part of this process, we have created partnerships with numerous museums and outreach programs. Another success is our wonderful teaching staff. The teachers have completed additional training to best meet the needs of the gifted learner. Finally, we group or cluster our gifted students together. This allows these high-achieving students to work collaboratively on group projects as well as promote friendly competition for the gifted student to do his/her best.

**What can parents do?** Keep encouraging your child to strive to do his/her best. Encourage your child to read, read, read during the summer. Remind them that "Reading is knowledge, and knowledge is power." Plus, any Accelerated Reader book he/she reads during the summer is a book that he/she can take a quiz for prizes when we return in September. (Please see the [resources](#) page on the school website – <http://toluca.weebly.com> for more information.) Additionally, visit some of the many fantastic museums throughout Los Angeles. For ideas, please see the **Summer Opportunities article** (available in English and Spanish) on the resources page on the school website.

For any questions about our Gifted and Talented Program, please feel free to contact me at (818) 761-3339 or email me at [jdanie2@lausd.net](mailto:jdanie2@lausd.net).

Sincerely,  
Jeff Daniel – GATE Coordinator