

Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary School: An Arts Prototype School / 818.761.3339

November 1, 2011
Vol. 5, # 2



Words of Wisdom

"Write truths in marble, injuries in sand." - Anonymous

Toluca Lake Elementary
Celebrates the
Arts Prototype program

Ghosts, Goblins, Clowns, and Hippies at Toluca Lake Elementary School!

This year's Halloween activities were awesome. There were a lot of scary and funny costumes, stories, and other haunting fun things!

There were lots of great costumes. Danielle Heflin's Flinstone Girl costume won for fifth grade. She said, "I picked the Flinstone Girl because it was creative and last minute for me." Jacob Perez, a fourth grade student, also won for his 80's clown costume. He said that he "picked the 80's clown because it was a great costume and it is awesome." His mom actually made the costume for him. Other awesome costumes included Mario, Alice in Wonderland, princes, ladybugs, hippies, hobos, devils, ghosts, and vampires. There were lots of brand new costumes this year. That's why our Halloween parade was 20 times better than last year's parade!

The scary story contest was fun, too. A lot of people wrote great stories. Ali Freas and Danielle Heflin won for their stories in fifth grade, Jameson Stengel and Angelina Ruvalcaba won for grades 2 & 3, and Valentino Lara and David Acosta won for Kindergarten and first grade. We think all of the student participants were winners!



Principal's Message:

As parents you are a **vital part** of your student's success at school as well as to their future achievement. You may not know that **attendance** is directly linked to academic success. Poor attendance is directly linked to academic failure. This year at Toluca Lake our attendance rate is very low. We have initiated a new contest to honor the classrooms with the best attendance (winners listed on page). We as a staff are very concerned. Please be aware of the following strategies to be sure that your child is here on a daily basis:

- Schedule all appointments for your child after school, on weekends or during student's vacation or holidays.
- If the appointment must be made during school hours, please have your child attend school prior to the appointment and/or return to school after the appointment to complete the school day.
- Birthday celebrations can be held over the weekend. Please do not keep your child at home on their birthday.

-Thank you,
Ms. Carol Reo Bove

Featured Faculty: Mr. Paul Aragon **by Millie Gonzalez, Daniella Martir,** **Melanie Frousto, & Naya Minnit**



Mr. Paul Aragon was a great student in all of his years at school. He did not attend our school, but his mom used to be our office manager. His favorite memory from elementary school was dancing for his parents. His favorite subject in elementary school was math because he loves to count and use numbers. One of his heroes was his sister because she said to never give up and try his best in school.

He remembers Mira from Virgil Middle School because she was kind and always gave him good advice. Currently, Mr. Paul Aragon attends Glendale Community College. Some obstacles that had to overcome to achieve his goals were to earn money and get around Los Angeles without having a car. He said that it was hard, but he went faced the challenges like all good students.

The professional accomplishment that makes Paul very proud is that he is a teacher's assistant because he gets to help, and have fun with kids. He has had fun over the years working with kids. Paul's advice for all students is to NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS NO MATTER WHAT YOUR OBSTACLES ARE!! We are very grateful to have Paul at our school.

Paul is very kind. He lends you a hand whenever you need. Everybody loves him and always will. He is a wonderful person because he's so helpful to other people. That is why his name is "Mr. Awesome." We hope he will stay at our school forever. That is why Paul is Mr. Awesome the Great!!

Awesome Alumni: Sheri Ragle

by - Hunter & Zachary Ragle

Sheri Ragle, better know to us as mom, attended Toluca Lake Elementary 1973-1980 (when this school still had a 6th grade). Sheri doesn't remember much from elementary school, but she does remember the principle, Mr. Provozano, Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Prentice, and 6th grade teacher Mrs. Getz. My brother and I now go to the same school as she did.

Her favorite memories from elementary school were being in the Brownies with friends, and winning the Halloween parade two years in a row. Her favorite subject in school was music. She started playing the flute in 7th grade, and continued up until 10th grade. "I was always first chair, I loved being in all the school shows," she says. Now Sheri works as a Senior Legal Secretary for Travelers Insurance. Some of the obstacles for achieving her goal were a broken family, medical issues, and normal teenage life problems. She said that if her mother never pushed her into getting a job at 16, she would never be where she is now.

One of Sheri's heroes was her grandmother. Her grandmother was born in 1908 in Russia, married her grandfather at 16, and had her 1st child at 18 (followed by two more). She was an amazing cook, and stay-at-home

mom/wife. She was an absolutely incredible woman who always lived her life to the fullest, until her death three years ago at 102.

The professional accomplishment that makes Sheri feel the proudest is working her way up to the legal field to where she is today. She is also proud of becoming a mom twice when she was told she might not be able to.

We love our mom and know she loves us, too. Without her support, we would not be where we are now.



Teacher's Tip

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 multi-cultural dinner!

A special thank you to all of the PTA Volunteers for all of their hard work & dedication.

- From Heisy Linares & the Toluca Lake Elementary Faculty and Students

Calendar

- Nov. 21 = School Volunteer Day
- Nov. 24-25 = Thanksgiving Holiday (no school)
- Nov. 30 = Star Party (6:00 pm)
- Dec. 5-9 = Parent Conferences/Report Cards (early dismissal)
- Dec. 13 = Local Leadership Council Meeting
- Dec. 13 = PTA Meeting
- Dec. 15 = Holiday Program
- Dec. 19 - Jan. 9 = Winter Break



Jim Cummings Visits Toluca Lake!

by- Naya Minniti & Aries Montoya

A very special guest came to our Toluca Lake Elementary last month. His name is Jim Cummings. He was sent from the Molina Foundation as well as First Book, and Walt Disney Studios. Jim Cummings came to read to the first graders at Toluca Lake. He did the voice of Winnie the Pooh and Tigger. He read the latest Winnie the Pooh book. As he read, he did the voices of Pooh and Tigger, and improvised the rest of the characters. Jim Cummings brought his two daughters Lulu and Grace, along with him.

After the reading we got to interview Jim Cummings. We asked him when he started doing his work. He said, "I started in 1984. I performed in a show called Dumbo Circus." Then, we asked how he learned to do all of the different voices. He answered, "I was a singer and I was in a lot of plays. It takes practice and good imagination."

Jim Cummings said that he loves his job "very much" because he "loves to see kids smile and laugh." He'd done the voices of Winnie the Pooh, the Tasmanian Devil, Pete from the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, Cat and Dog, Chef Pisghetti and the squirrel from Curious George.

Jim Cummings was a really sweet guy. He made us laugh and smile. We are very lucky to have had him come to our school. We are thankful that he was able and wanted to come to Toluca Lake Elementary. Thank you, Mr. Cummings!

Jim Cummings



Scary Story Contest Winners!

Demon Train

by Jameson Stengel (3rd Grade)

There's a dusty old train in the scrap yard. They call it the DEMON TRAIN! You'll shiver when you see it. Currently, it's transporting 1,000,000, doomed souls grave to grave it's spooktacular! It's incredible for most ghosts, but FRIGHTENING for most mortals. Why? It has NO BRAKES and goes and 100 m.p.h. It is practically a FREAK SHOW in there! But they have AWESOME snacks, too.

How do I know this? I was once on the train! This is my story.

The truth about the demon train is that it looks like an ordinary train at first, but when you get on it you're about to experience the ride of your life.

I was going to visit my grandma who lived in the countryside. When the train pulled up to the station, super fast and on time—in fact early—I knew something was wrong. I went inside and took a seat. The lap bar suddenly closed down on me. I tried to move it off me but I knew that this was it. I wouldn't be able to get off until the next stop, the countryside. I pushed and groaned and wiggled and squirmed but I could not get out of it. Suddenly, I realized what the lap bars were made of. They were made of thick webbing—spiderwebs! So I took out my Swiss army knife. I snipped and snipped and cut and cut and finally I broke free. But I was still thrown back against the seat because of the speed.

Then I remembered I could turn on my magnet boots. And they would lock on to metal surfaces. So I switched them on and I walked to the exit. Then I saw where we were—the edge of the countryside. I ran toward the door and jumped out—I made it. I got off and fell off to the ground just as soon as the train passed to the forbidden zone—the graveyard! I was safe at last. I ran to my grandmother's home. Then I helped grandma make apple pie. It was the craziest ride ever!

The Haunted Library

by Angelina Ruvalcaba (2nd Grade)

Once upon a time there was a haunted library period. The story goes that the librarian's ghost still lives there. A long time ago, an old librarian, Ms. Lawrence worked in the library and loved all the kids. Ms. Lawrence didn't have any kids and she was all alone. Some kids liked her but some were very mean. The school bullies wanted to play a prank on her. They wanted her to fall in front of everyone. When Ms. Lawrence was coming out, they put a rope out so that she would fall. When she fell she was carrying a lot of books and they fell on her head. She died right away. After, the library lights would always turn off and on. A couple of weeks later, one of the bullies was missing. When you go to the library, they say that you can hear the little boy cry and Ms. Lawrence laugh.

Valentino's Haunted House

by Valentino Lara (1st Grade)

Once upon a time it was Halloween night. We dressed up in our favorite costumes. I dressed up as Spider Man; my mom dressed up as a pumpkin; my friend Herman dressed up as a ghost; and my uncle Coqui dressed up as Michael Jackson.

That night we all went trick-or-treating. We were walking and we went inside a scary haunted house. Inside the haunted house we saw witches flying in the air and skeletons dancing all around. Then we walked inside a dark room, and suddenly we heard a loud boo. It was a ghost! As we kept walking, we found another dark room. Inside that room, there was a box filled with big black spiders. We decided to go up the stairs, and when we got up to the second floor, we saw a huge door. When we opened the door, inside there were enormous bats flying from the ceiling. The bats were sleeping. We tried not to make noise so we tipped toed out. But the bats woke up and chased us. We started to run, trying to get out of the house and we saw another door. A really big door. We opened the door and raced out of the haunted house. We were now safe and walked back to our car and returned home. We were all so exhausted that we fell right to sleep.

I love Halloween because we can dress up in our favorite costumes, and we can go out trick or treating. I also like it because we see scary but funny things, and we get a lot of candy. But most of all, I like it because it is something we enjoy with family and friends.

More Scary Story Winners

Love Kills

by Danielle Heflin (5h Grade)

Sometimes it lasts in love, but sometimes it hurts instead. My love broke my heart. I always see him, he sees me, but just ignores me. I always see him with a girl far more gorgeous than me. Please don't let him forget me, I beg. Who knew how bittersweet this would be? I thought it was true love. I just guess love kills. He'll regret ever breaking my heart. Regrets and mistakes are just memories made.

"Hi!" I said to my past love.

"Do I know you?" he said.

"Sorry. I thought you were someone else."

I knew him: I just didn't want to look like a fool. How could he forget me already? I should have known better. He's really going to regret it now. I'll remember it. I hope he does, too. I called my best friend, Ali. I told her what had happened. All of it, from the beginning to the end. I had a devious plan; a devious one, indeed.

"Let's get rid of him!" I said excitedly with an evil grin spread on my face.

"No, you can't do that, the police will catch you." Ali said in a worried way.

"Not unless I clean up all the evidence. Bye. Got to go."

I hung up on her before she even replied. I hope that my love that broke my love doesn't know what's coming for him. My dark, twisted fantasy is finally coming true. He's starring in it. My bad side's coming out to play in the black, foggy night. I showed up at his house at midnight. I snuck in through the back door, which luckily was open. I grabbed the baseball bat that was in the backyard. I tiptoed through the house without a sound. Finally, I showed up at his room.

The bat went through the air once. Twice. He woke up.

"Remember me?" I said with an evil tone.

He shouldn't have treated me like a dirty rug. I left with a grin on my face and an evil laugh and him suffering. Just remember never to break my heart. You'll suffer the consequences. Just remember what happened to this boy.

This bad romance literally did hurt. Love kills.



The Haunted Apartments

by David Acosta (1st Grade)

Once upon a time there was a little boy named Andrew. Andrew and his parents were moving into apartments, by the woods, which were out in a small town called Ghostly Hallow. There were only five apartments being rented. Everyone moved out because the apartments supposedly were haunted. People said that late at night they would hear doors opening and closing, someone screaming and hollering, and doors would lock on their own. Andrew didn't believe the stories.

That Friday night, he decided to have a sleep over and invite his new classmates. The boys decided to watch a scary movie and eat pizza. All of a sudden, the lights went out and the TV shut off. Then you could hear doors opening and closing. The boys were so afraid that they started to cry.

Andrew called for his mom and dad, but no one answered. He looked through the whole house, but they were gone! Andrew said, "Let's go to the basement and turn on the light switch." All the boys went down. Then they heard someone screaming and crying and yelling, "Get out! Get out! This is my house."

All of the boys ran really fast, but the doors were locked. When Andrew turned around, all his friends were gone and nowhere to be found. As Andrew tried to open the door again, someone else opened it first—a big, strong vampire staring right at him! So, Andrew tried to run away, but the vampire started to chase him. He ran to his room, opened the closet, and tried to hide. But inside the closet, there was a mummy.

Andrew ran out of his room, down to the restroom, out the fire escape, onto the roof. He hid in a bush and looked out to see if it was safe to escape. He saw ten big, scary, ugly, strong monsters walking toward the bush. As Andrew was running away, the monster goblin grabbed his arm. Luckily Andrew escaped down the fire escape and off the roof.

He was afraid, out of breath, and when he looked into the living room window, he saw his parents in the kitchen, and his friends in front of the TV. He looked behind him and saw nothing. Everyone acted as if nothing had happened. Andrew decided to act as if nothing had happened, and hoped that the monsters never came back.

The General of Apple Products

by
Naomi Marquez, Richard Chicas, & Victor Soto

Steve Jobs, an intelligent man who invented Apple Computer Company, died last month. During his lifetime, he invented many new products including the iPhone, iPod, iPad, iMac, the Apple 2, Macintosh, the iBook, and the Apple Store. As the first personal home computers, the first Apple computers were very popular.

Steve Jobs was born in San Francisco in 1955. Soon, Paul Jobs and his wife, Clara, adopted him. Jobs always had strong views. At the age of eleven, he went to a rowdy and chaotic middle school in Mountain View, California. He refused to go so his parents switched his school. Throughout his life, he encouraged people to "think differently" and be creative.

In April 1976, Steve Jobs and his friend, Steve Wozniak, started Apple Computer out of Job's parents' garage. They used Wozniak's circuit board in their first products. They called it the Apple I and set the price at \$666.66 because Wozniak liked repeating digits. In the following year came the Apple II. Unlike earlier giant computers that were just used in office buildings and research labs, the Apple II was the first small computer for use in people's homes. It had a keyboard and color monitor. As the first popular home computer, the Apple II gave all people a chance to use computers.

Steve Jobs was a great guy. He's the reason that people all around the world have Apple products for work and entertainment. Everyone knows Steve Jobs was one of the most successful businessmen in U.S history, and that he did it on the strength of cool products. What they may not realize is that Jobs was adopted and had to overcome illnesses to accomplish his goals. We will always remember the hard work and innovations of Steve Jobs.



UCLA's Design for Sharing Presents

"Water is Rising"
by- Samuel Krboyan, Angel Mendez, Edward Rodriguez, & Hailei Gonzalez

On October 14, some of our fifth grade students went on a field trip to UCLA to watch a performance. The "Design for Sharing" at UCLA paid for the bus, and tickets to see a show entitled, "Water is Rising."

The performance featured people native to three islands in the South Pacific. They are losing their homes because global warming is melting the ice caps and causing the sea level to rise over their homes. The island performers danced and sang about their children, the land, the food, and their heritage. It was an interesting performance with quite a lot of dancing.

We learned that climate change is caused by the greenhouse effect. That's when the increase of carbon in our environment traps heat and makes the world warmer. This carbon is being increased because of factories, cars, and deforestation. We need to help reduce our the amount of carbon we release to help these people and save our planet.

After the performance, we met some of the dancers. Then, we ate our lunch near a fountain where a dog was taking a bath. After that, we went on a tour of the north side of UCLA. We saw two libraries, a sculpture garden, and a building where you can study to become a lawyer or doctor. The trip was very interesting. It made us want to help the world more, and to go to college when we are older.



Toluca Lake
Elementary
School:
An Arts
Prototype



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>

Free MONEY
for our school!

Sign up with eScrip and everytime you shop at any of the over 6,000 merchant locations (including Vons, Pavilions, and HOWS!), a percentage of your purchase will go to Toluca Lake Elementary! Really!

- Go to 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!

-Julene Kartz, PTA President, Blossom Valley, El Cajon, CA

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

Powered by you by the Toluca Lake Elementary PTA.
www.escrip.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 Magnolia Park district of Burbank is hosting its annual "Holiday in the Park" on Magnolia Blvd. (east of Hollywood Way) on Friday, November 18 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. This free event includes two stages of entertainment, holiday treats, merchant giveaways, choirs, a double-decker red bus shuttle, and, of course, Santa Claus!
- The Story Pirates will be presenting the musical-comedy, "Brilliance!" - A tribute to Nobel Prize winning scientist, Marie Curie, at the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood on Saturday, November 19 at 11:00. Children get to meet the cast and enjoy free snacks following the performance. More information at: http://geffenplayhouse.com/more_info.php?show_id=150.



- CARnival at the Petersen Automotive Museum on Dec. 3



CARnival!

What's Happening?

Craft tables:

Giant Art Car: Decorate a puzzle piece of an outlined car and contribute to our Art Car wall
Bling Plates: Decorate a license plate holder
Construction Commotion: Personalize a hat
Pop-up CARds: Make a holiday card
Plan Your Year: Decorate a calendar
Cool Custom Cars: Decorate a Hot Wheels car

Games:

1:30-2:30 p.m. Scooters & Supercars Challenge: 2nd floor scavenger hunt
3:00-4:00 p.m. Streetscape Stumpers: 1st floor scavenger hunt
Automotive Bingo

Activities:

2:00-3:30 p.m. Storytelling Corner with LABookPALS
Face Painting with Sara & Mike

CARnival is free with Museum admission. The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6090 Wilshire Blvd. For more information, please contact Lorianne at lsalazar@petersen.org or 323-964-6308.

Riddle Me This...

1. Millie Gonzalez asks:
What did the painter name his baby?
2. Giana Carias asks:
Why do seagulls fly over the sea and not a bay?
3. Gabriel Clark asks:
Looking at it, you see it, not as it is; you see it only as it was,
but, can you tell what it was, that it was?
4. Zachary Miles asks:
What has a mouth, but does not speak; has a bed, but does not sleep, and has a head, but no body?

