

# Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary School: An Arts Prototype School / 818.761.3339

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

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## Words of Wisdom

"I didn't succumb to the stereotype that science wasn't for girls. I got encouragement from my parents. I *never* ran into a teacher or a counselor who told me that science was for boys."

- Sally Ride

(First American Woman Astronaut in Space)

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## Space Shuttle Flies Over Toluca Lake Elementary!

by

**Anisa Karneh, Savannah Mintz-Turner,  
Jacob Perez, & Ernesto Espinoza**

Last month we students were able to see an amazing sight from our playground. We were able to see a huge airplane carrying the retired space shuttle Endeavor on its way to the CA Science Center in Los Angeles.

Endeavor is so big that it had three jets escorting it. This was the last time anybody will see a space shuttle fly because that program has been retired by NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration). Now, the shuttles will be in a few museums for people to visit and explore. We're lucky to have Endeavor right here in Los Angeles.

Seeing Endeavor fly in the sky above us was a once in a lifetime chance. It flew all the way from the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. NASA originally authorized the Endeavour in 1987. It

replaced Challenger, a shuttle that had a bad accident. Endeavour flew missions in space from 1992 until 2011. Watching the shuttle was an awesome experience. Science can be very exciting!



## Awesome Alumni: Mr. Enrique Gonzalez

by - Laureline Terry

Enrique Gonzalez is an awesome alumni! He is my great Godbrother, too. He went to our school from 1999 - 2005. His favorite elementary school memory is having Mr. Reidman as his 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. His favorite subjects were social studies. In Mr. Reidman's class, he enjoyed learning about the California Gold Rush and the Spanish Missions. He enjoyed reading Where The Red Fern Grows in Mrs. McDuffey's class in fifth grade. One of his heroes is Mr. Reidman because he was the coolest teacher ever! Another faculty member he remembers is Ms. Sturgess because she was his 1<sup>st</sup> teacher at Toluca Lake Elementary School.

The schools he attended following Toluca Lake Elementary were Milliken Middle School and Arleta High School. Currently, he is working on his degree at California State University of

Northridge. Also, he works at a gift shop in Universal Studios.

Some obstacles he had to overcome when he was a kid were laziness and procrastination. *Procrastination* means "to postpone doing things" until later all the time.

One of his professional accomplishments is being accepted to multiple universities because his grades, extra-curricular accomplishments, and test scores were

good enough to attend a four-year college. Some advice he gives us students is "to study hard, follow your life-long dream, and never give up." He loves learning and hopes to have great future. Enrique G. is sure an Awesome Alumni!



## Featured Faculty: Mr. Gilstrap

by- Ethan Zamora, Ariana Alvarado, & Laureline Terry

Mr. Gilstrap is our school's new chorus teacher. He began working this year. He was hired a little bit late. He needed to be able to play the piano to be able to achieve his career. He earned his degree at California State University at Fullerton. Some of his hobbies are making things with Legos, painting with acrylics and origami (paper folding).

Mr. Gilstrap admires his high school choir teacher, Mr. Hensley. Mr. Hensley showed Mr. Gilstrap that he was a natural-born teacher and shared his love for music. The toughest part of being a music teacher is that he has to go room to room to teach. It's harder when it is raining or

it's too hot because Mr. Gilstrap doesn't want get wet or be hot. One of Mr. Gilstrap's proudest accomplishments was earning a "Teacher of the Year" from the PTA when he worked in the state of Washington. He was most proud of this award because it shows that the parents appreciated the work that he does with students. We're very happy to have Mr. Gilstrap with us here at Toluca Lake Elementary School!



## Story Pirates Return

School welcomes the *Story Pirates* back to our school for another incredible year of fun, writing, and imagination. *Story Pirates* is a nationally respected education and media organization founded in 2003 to celebrate the words and ideas of young people. By pairing our fine teachers with first-rate actors and comedians, *Story Pirates* offer a variety of tools to make learning more engaging and effective.

Toluca Lake Elementary is one of only a few schools in Southern California to receive an ongoing *residency program* in which *Story Pirates* will be delivering writing workshops directly with students throughout the school year. By working with students on an ongoing basis, *Story Pirates* are able to inspire their initial ideas, as well as help them to develop those ideas through the writing process. The culmination of their efforts takes place when the students see professional actors bring their words to life on the stage! We are very grateful to the *Geffen Playhouse* in Westwood for providing the funding to bring this program to our students at Toluca Lake Elementary.

You can read a sample of our students' fine work with Story Pirates on page seven of this edition of the Toluca Times.

## 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 Buena Vista Library in Burbank is hosting a free family night on Thursday, November 8 (7:00 – 8:30 pm). This special evening will feature "Laser Reader" from Prismatic Magic. The event will feature an exciting mixture of live presentation and mesmerizing laser-drawn animations set to pop music that supports a reading theme. Call 818.238.5630 for more information.
- You can see Wild Birds of Autumn on a free nature walk sponsored by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority on November 17 (8 – 10 am) at Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon (24335 The Old Road) in Newhall. Autumn is one of the best times to see wild life in the park. Beginning birders are welcome, and binoculars are optional. You may call 310-858-7272 (x131) for more information.

### Teacher's Tip

Visiting educational websites is a terrific way to share new learning experiences with your children. Students enjoy learning about the world. You can explore the relative size of both the largest and smallest items in the universe at:

<http://htwins.net/scale2/?bordercolor=w+hite>.

Another fascinating website, the Encyclopedia of Life, provides "global access to knowledge about life on Earth" at <http://eol.org/>.

The icivics website offers interactive games that teach about the rights and responsibilities of citizens. It includes a number of fun, educational games as well:

<http://www.icivics.org/games>.

The WatchKnowLearn website offers a variety of free educational videos ... organized to make them easily accessible. You can check it out at:

<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/>.

You can hear hundreds of bird songs, and learn about the habitat and characteristics of each species at:

<http://www.birdjam.com/learn.php>.

"A Walk in the Woods" from the University of Illinois takes students on an interactive walk through the woods to explore nature ... from inside your home. You can go for this interactive stroll at:

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/woods/>.

You can even have a live bird's eye view of bald eagles on the Channel Islands at

<http://www.nps.gov/chis/photosmultimedia/bald-eagle-webcam.htm>.

Enjoy exploring cyberspace with your kids this summer!

### **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

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

Brought to you by the Toluca Lake Elementary PTA.  
Etlaw@ptalake.com

## Principal's Message

Parents, the best news of all for our school is the fact that on the California Standards Test administered at the end of last year, our scores once again went up by 10%. The Academic Performance Index for our school is now **840**. This great success can not be achieved without the help of all stake holders, i.e. the parents, teachers, students and community. We need to work together, collaborate and support each other so that we will be able to continue to attain this great success. Remember, our school motto is:  
**TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE!**  
*- Ms. Carol Reo-Bové*

## Our Emergency Plans

by – Zachary Ragle & Jonathan Montenegro

Since we all survived the earthquake drill this month, here are some articles telling about emergency plans our students are using to protect their families.

### Our Emergency Plan

by - Zachary Ragle  
Room 14

Our family has a plan to follow in case of an emergency like an earthquake. When the ground starts to shake, we either get under a table or a doorway. We do this because the ground shakes, and things can fall on us. Next, when the ground stops shaking, my big brother (Hunter - "The Computer Whiz") is to come to check on me. We are supposed to stay together safely until Mom and Dad find us. We also must make sure the gas is off in case of leaks. We also need to make sure the house is safe to stay in. This is important because our lives and the lives of our families, neighbors, and friends are priceless.

### Our Emergency Plan

by - Jonathan Montenegro  
Room 14

Our family has a plan in case of an emergency like an earthquake. First, we will drop, cover, and hold a table. We do this because we need to be prepared and safe. Next, we have to make sure nobody is missing. We do this because health is the main thing in our family. All of this is important because we need to keep ourselves safe.



## Attendance Mural

by  
**Seuz Trabucco**

The attendance mural in our school was a put up there because it is an attendance contest that ends in May. There will be a prize for the one class in the whole school who has the best attendance. During each month, the prize will be going to watch a movie for the class that wins. There will also be a surprise for the class that wins. The goal of this is for kids to be here at school at least 97% of the time. That means that you can only be absent seven days in the whole school semester. Finally, the very nice parent volunteers that helped put the Attendance Mural are Maria Elena Flores, Norma Luna, Mayra Alvarado, Fabiola Gray and Tanya Carmona. The mural is located in the main hallway of our school.

## Fifth Graders Visit LA Plaza

by - Anisa Karneh, Leslie Duke, & Savannah Mintz-Turner

Recently, many fifth grade students went to the best place ever, La Plaza de Cultura y Arte in Downtown Los Angeles. When we arrived we met our docents, Joanna and Mr. Dyson. We learned about the parts of corn, which are the root, stalk, tassel, leaf, silk, husk, and ear. Another fascinating fact we learned is that a corn plant is both male and female. Our third docent, Coach Tina, taught us about the importance of exercising to be healthy. We learned to do a warm-up routine before working out, and a cool-down after the workout.

Later, Chef Lisa taught us how to make an original fruit cup. First, we each chopped melon, then watermelon, and finally, cucumber. We added a dash of salt and chili to our salad. The fruit cup had all the nutrition and vitamins you need for a meal. It tasted great, too!

The LA Plaza is a Mexican cultural museum. The corn planting and fruit cup activities show examples of Mexican traditions alive today in Southern California. Corn is important to the Mexican culture because it's used for tortillas, baskets, and much more! LA Plaza de Cultura y Arte is an amazing place. My friends and I wish to go back there very soon!



## Memories of Change

by - Luis DePaz & Jeremy Luna

President Barack Obama recently proclaimed Cesar Chavez' home in Keene, California as the Cesar Chavez National Monument. It is the newest edition to the National Park system. On October 8, 2012, President Obama visited the site with Mrs. Helen Chavez (Cesar's wife) and Dolores Huerta (Chavez' colleague in founding the United Farm Workers).

This national monument is important because it honors Cesar Chavez' work fighting for equal rights for Latin American farm workers. He organized workers to stand up for better pay, safe working conditions, and to limit the use of dangerous pesticides. This addition to the National Park System is very important because Cesar Chavez worked there for 22 years. It is located south of Bakersfield, just over two hours away from our school.

If Cesar Chavez was still alive, he would be really be happy that people made this monument in his honor. His life teaches us that we can always make a change in our lives or help others. This monument is a reminder of how important each of us can be to make positive changes in our world.

Mr. Chavez improved the lives of the farm workers. He was a brave man. He said, "Help us love even those who hate, so we can change the world." These type of ideas gained Cesar Chavez the respect of people like Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. and Senator Robert Kennedy. We all keep memories of him alive because he's an example of the great changes regular people can make in our world.



## The Blue Bed

by

**Anna Zayas, Millie Caro, & Julian Jercan**

Do you believe there is a bed in the Getty Museum! It is an unknown artist so we don't know who made the bed. "The Blue Bed" is 237 years old from 1775. That bed was made for a man. He wanted to show how wealthy he was. It is amazing how it is not a fake, but the original one.

The big bed at the Getty Museum is very detailed. It has a big sky blue piece of cloth that is overflowing in layers. On top of the bed there is a big crown that goes all the way around the bed. The bed was carved out of wood, and it was painted with gold. At the top of the poles that hold the crown, there are big white fluffy ostrich feathers. The big bed is an amazing creation of art.

We were very impressed by the art. "When I walked into the room, I felt wealthy, like a princess," stated fourth grader Anna Zayas. "When I walked into the room," added Millie Caro, "I visualized that all the girls were in dresses and boys were in suits. It was very fancy." Julian Jercan said, "When I saw the bed, I felt as if I were rich and from royalty." We are thankful to our teacher, Ms. Harriman, and to the Getty Museum for making this field trip possible!



## PTA News!

Hello Toluca Lakers from the PTA.

Welcome to all new members, our membership drive was a GREAT success. Winners of the various raffles will be announced in the next newsletter.

First of all, we would like to *congratulate* the *new PTA president Leanna Weir*. She has great ideas and experience in fundraising and organizing. Also, congratulations to the *new treasurer Gabriela Milkajov*, who will make sure our budget is balanced!

We still need a PTA secretary, so if you can take notes and type minutes, come to the next meeting and sign up on November 27th 6-7 pm in the auditorium!

### Upcoming Events:

Our next **PTA meeting** is Tuesday, 6-7 pm November 27th in the auditorium. We are having a **BOOK EXCHANGE** to promote literacy, so please bring your old childrens' books to exchange or donate. The exchange will be held at our January meeting. The November 27th meeting is also a potluck, so bring a main dish to share!

### Holiday Boutique:

The Holiday Boutique will be held during the week of December 10th to December 14th, during recess and lunch at school. This is an opportunity for students to purchase small gifts for friends and family. The gifts will range from 25cents to \$10! We also need volunteers the entire week to help sell, wrap, and organize! Please contact the PTA at [tolucalakepta@gmail.com](mailto:tolucalakepta@gmail.com) if you are interested!

### Literacy Training/Book Exchange - January Meeting.

At our January Meeting, we will hold a book exchange, and train parents on how to effectively engage their student through reading at home! This will be a training session, and you will leave with strategies to use, and free books too!

The money we earn from our events will go directly to fund a school assembly, teacher supplies, and PE equipment!

***Make your voice heard! Join PTA.***

***Thank you for your support!***

## Story Pirates: Student Creativity Takes Center Stage



### Mr. Hopperson's Dream by - Joyce Contreras



One day Mr. Hopperson, the kangaroo, went to his friend Pablo's pool party. He approached the enormous white house and accidentally broke the wooden door while knocking on it. He stepped inside and went straight into the backyard. He saw a ton of people playing volleyball and another ton of people swimming in the humongous pool. Mr. Hopperson hoped to fit in with these people.

Mr. Hopperson's eye went straight to the delicious food. He hopped as fast as he could with his body jiggling as if it was being stirred. When he got there, he got everything ready for a big bowl of warm soup. He ate his food in a flash. His stuffed belly looked as if it was an inflated yoga ball that was ready to be used for exercise.

It was always really important for Mr. Hopperson to know how to swim. All of his friends would tell him to come over to their pool parties, but he was scared to make a fool out of himself. He wanted to learn how to swim, but he kept drowning as if he were a rock. If he accomplished his goal, he would be the first kangaroo to learn how to swim. He would be rich and famous! He would use that money to help his cousins pay for the collage. Then they can all have a better future.

Mr. Hopperson decided to not be a chicken (after all, he was a kangaroo ☺). He jumped into the huge freezing pool. He started to drown in the water. He could not get out! He was running out of breath quickly until a friendly lifeguard dove in and saved him! Mr. Hopperson got a towel and dried himself. Still, he would not give up on his dream that easily.

The next day Mr. Hopperson went to his friend's house. He demanded his friend take him to the pool outside in his beautiful backyard. When he saw the pool, Mr. Hopperson became very nervous. His friend pushed him in, and Mr. Hopperson shrieked. Luckily, it was the shallow side of the pool. Mr. Hopperson got angry and left in a hurry without saying anything. He was furious. He looked like a cat that was pushed into a shower full of water.

Later that day, Mr. Hopperson returned, apologized to his friend, and asked if he could go inside the pool without getting pushed in. His friend got him a nice warm towel and went inside to get a cold glass of water. When Mr. Hopperson went outside, he started to enter the pool very slowly. He started to float and became very excited! It was his first step in learning how to swim! Later, he didn't notice it, but he had started to shed! He got out of the pool and saw his hair everywhere scattered around the pool. Mr. Hopperson went inside the house and got his friend, Pablo. Pablo was making some salmon for dinner. When Mr. Hopperson told him about his hair, they both cleaned the pool. Then, Mr. Hopperson gave it another try. He began to kick, and before they knew it, he began to swim! He was very surprised that he, out of all people, was the first kangaroo to learn how to swim.

Three months passed and he became famous for being the fastest swimmer in the whole world! He gave his cousins the money that they needed for their education, bought himself a big pool, put money in his bank account, and donated the rest to charity. Mr. Hopperson now wanted to help out other animals with their dreams as well, so he put a lot of the money in the shelter for all of the poor little baby animals. He was happy that he had influenced people and animals to follow their dreams and to not give up easily.

Toluca Lake  
Elementary School:  
An Arts Prototype  
School

Principal:

Carol Reo-Bové

Assistant Principal:

Carla Miller

Parent Representative:

Lucy Gonzalez

Coordinator:

Jeff Daniel

Lead Teacher:

Steve Reidman

Newsletter Editor:

Dennis Hagen-Smith

***We're on the Web!***

See us at:

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



## Super Sleuth & Scavenger Hunt

1. Where can you go to see Endeavor? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who does Sally Ride say should study science? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What were two obstacles that this month's *Awesome Alumni* had to overcome?  
\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which event did Amy Johnson participate in for the Olympic Trials in 2000? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which university did Mr. Gilstrap attend? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who provides funding for the Story Pirates? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Where is the Cesar Chavez National Monument located? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where can you view a piece of art entitled "The Blue Bed"? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Mr. Hopperson want to learn to do? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the purpose of LA Plaza? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Where is this image located on our campus?

(Hint: It always says 2:00 o'clock, but you're usually there at 12:00 o'clock).

This image is located \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Calendar

Nov. 5 - Awards Assembly (K-2)  
Nov. 6 - Awards Assembly (3-5)  
Nov. 6 - Election Day - Please Vote!  
Nov. 9 - ELAC Parent Advisory Mtg.  
Nov. 12 - Veteran's Day  
(school closed)  
Nov. 13-16 - Parent Conferences  
Nov. 19-23 - Thanksgiving Break  
Nov. 27 - SSC Mtg. (8am)  
Nov. 27 - LSLC Mtg (2:30 pm)  
Dec. 7 - ELAC Parent Advisory Mtg.  
Dec. 7 - City of Toluca Lake Open  
House on Riverside Drive  
Dec. 10 - Human Rights Day  
Dec. 15 - Bill of Rights Day  
Dec. 17 - Jan. 4 - Winter Break  
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day!  
Jan. 7 - School resumes

## Riddle Me This ...



- Which food should you never eat for dinner? - Victoria M.
- Why do zebras like watching old-fashioned movies? - Lily H.
- What is an ingredient you can't eat? - Kayla C.
- What kind of aid is sour? - Sergio R.
- Think of any number. Multiply that number by two. Next, add ten to the product. Divide the sum by two. Then, subtract your original number from the quotient. Your answer is always the same. What is it? - Zachary Miles