

Toluca Lake Times

Toluca Lake Elementary School: An Arts Prototype School / 818.761.3339

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



Words of Wisdom

"... in the absence of telescopes and computers and theories, one can still be awed by just looking up."

- Dr. Neil de Grasse Tyson

(Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History)



Susan B. Anthony

Story Pirates Sail to Toluca Lake

by - Daniella Martir, Alessandra Rugamas, Anthony Garcia, and Jennifer Castro

The Story Pirates are a group of actors who work with students to help them improve their writing. They have been working with fourth and fifth grade students at our school this year. They are funded by a grant from the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood. We are one of only two schools in California to receive the Story Pirates writing workshops. We are very grateful to have them at our school!

The Story Pirates originated at Northwestern University near Chicago. Then, they set up their program in New York City. About eight years ago, they expanded to Los Angeles. They have been featured on television shows like Larry King and the Daily Show with Jon Stewart. All of us kids love their program because they help us write stories and then bring them to life on the stage. They will be acting out some of our stories at our Night of the Arts on June 13!

In order to become a Story Pirate, each actor has to audition to show that they can improvise and work with kids. Lee Overtree is the Artistic Director for the Story Pirates. He travels between New York City and Los Angeles to help develop new programs. The other Story Pirates helping at our school are Martha, Mary, Zachary, Duke, and Connor. They all love acting, and they all love kids. One of the reasons they come to our school is because they like to get their ideas from our students because we have so many good ones."

The Story Pirate's advise students to "keep writing, reading and pursuing the things you love and nothing can stop you!!" We thank the Story Pirates for helping make our ideas sail in creative stories!



Awesome Alumni: Ms. Jellybean, Jennifer Lara by - Daniella Martir, Kayla Molson, Hassan Fares, & Andy Solis

From 1993 to 1999 there was a girl who attended Toluca Lake Elementary school named Jennifer Lara. She was a wonderful student known for always trying her best in class. Her favorite memory at our school was arriving in fifth grade each morning, listening to music, and writing about it. Her favorite subject in school was math because it came easy to her, she had good teachers who taught her well, and she loved problem solving.

Jennifer has many heroes. Her favorite two were her mother because "she took care of us and was always there for us." Her mom used to help run our cafeteria. Jennifer's other hero is Condoleezza Rice because she is a politician of African American descent who overcame segregation & worked her way through hard times to become successful.

Jennifer, who we call "Jellybean," says that her favorite teachers were her first grade teacher, Ms. Goodell, third grade teacher, Ms. Miya, and fifth grade teacher, Mr. Hagen-Smith. She says that they were all great teachers.

Jennifer's current school is California State University at Northridge (CSUN). She also works as our YMCA site coordinator. She remembers, "a few years ago my aunt past away and it was a difficult time because I was so close to her. I stopped working and going to school. I had to learn to heal and move on with my life." Jennifer has done a great job overcoming this sadness. Now she is an awesome YMCA director at our school.

Jennifer's words of advice is to us kids is to "stay in school. When you get to high school, make sure you get into sports and extra curricular activities ... be involved in your community so when you apply to college you'll have a better chance of getting in. And, apply to colleges in your area and all over the world so you can travel and have different experiences in your life." Wow! Jennifer has some great honest ideas to help each of us. She is an amazing awesome alumni!



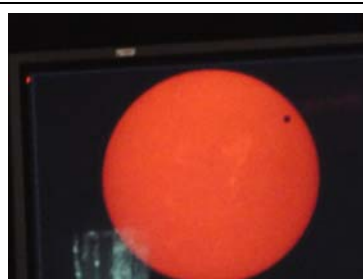
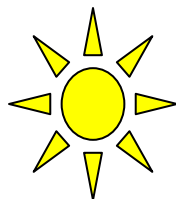
Transit of Venus

by - Daniella Martir, Agenda Domsitz, Hunter Ragle, Ali Freas, Millie Gonzales, & Zachary Miles

On June 5, some fifth grade students took their families to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) to watch the transit of Venus across the sun. It was an amazing site. First, we got to go into the museum at JPL. Then, we watched a video that summarized the idea of what we were going to see outside. We learned that there was a probe sent by the Russians to Venus. That probe melted because it's so hot on Venus (from the greenhouse effect) that the iron bolts melted! Then, we saw some kids use model planets and the Sun to show Venus cross in between the Earth and Sun. We also got to make aliens out of clay.

Then, we went on a short hike - up "Cardiac Hill" to actually go see the transit of Venus. At the top of the hill, we got these awesome glasses that are all dark. You can't see anything but when you look through them. But, you can see the sun without hurting your eyes. It's the only safe way to see a solar event. It was amazing.

We also got to look through a telescope that had a solar filter to protect our eyes. Venus looked like a tiny black dot crossing the sun. It was a sizzling event!



Toluca Lake Journalism Awards

2011 - 2012

This is the sixth year that the Toluca Lake Times has published student work for our school community. In recognition of our students' hard work, we are honored to cite these outstanding young journalists:

The Will Rogers Award for Best Feature Articles

"Jupiter & the Moon Star at our Star Party!"
by - Richard Chicas, Chayanne Berrio,
Jorge Cortes, & Gabriel Clark

"Jim Cummings Visits Toluca Lake!"
by- Naya Minniti & Aries Montoya

The Maya Angelou Award for Most Awesome "Awesome Alumni" articles

"Awesome Alumni: Sheri Ragle"
by - Hunter & Zachary Ragle

"Awesome Alumni: Richard Oldenberg"
by - Jameson Stengel, Millie Caro,
Alessandra Rugamas, & Angela Mendez

The William Saroyan Award for Best "Featured Faculty" article

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

The Phyllis Wheatley Award for Best Poetry

"Ode To The Bed"
by - Savannah Mintz-Turner

"Ode to the Lonely Pencil"
by - Sergio Rivas

The Ruben Salazar Award for Best Expository Essays

"Harriet's History"
by - Anisa Karneh

"The March of Dimes Foundation"
by - Naomi Marquez



The Clara Barton Award for Health Advice

"Fire Safety"
Arrianna Graham & Kevin Perez

The Mark Twain Award for Best Fiction

"The Curse of the Undead Souls "
by - Ali Freas

"Love Kills"
by - Danielle Heflin

The Maya Lin Award for Artistic Interpretation

"African American Heritage Poster Contest"
by - Gigi Piceno

The Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Interviews

"The Amazing Dr. Bonnie Buratti"
by - Angela Mendez, Ali Freas, Caitline Molina,
Alessandra Rugamas, & Gabriel Alaniz

"William Shakespeare" Visits Toluca Lake!"
by - Gabriel Clark, Hunter Ragle,
Oswaldo Diaz, & Jorge Cortes

The Isaac Asimov Award for Science Reporting

"Students Visit California Science Center"
by
Agenda Domsitz

"Toluca Lake Students Visit NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston!"
by - Alessandra Rugamas,
Britney Arana, & Rashel Alvarez

UCLA ARTSBRIDGE Program

by - Robert Magee, Oswaldo Diaz, Agenda Domsitz, and Genaro Diaz

This year fifth grade students in Mr. Hagen-Smith's class were lucky because we got to work with Mr. Bryan West. Mr. West is an awesome actor! He is part of the UCLA ARTSBRIDGE program. They provide college students to help with elementary students by building a bridge between the arts and school curriculum.

Mr. West is a great acting teacher. He taught us to have fun while acting on stage. He started acting when he was in 4th grade. He loves UCLA and he wants to be an actor when he grows up (actually he's sort of grown up now ... and he is an actor!). When he was growing up, Mr. West had two favorite actors: John Malkovich and Daniel Day Louis.

All of the time that Mr. West has been helping us, he has also been busy getting a scholarship and a Masters Degree at UCLA. A Masters Degree is when you master the subject you're studying. Bryan said, "You should never give up on your dreams."

Mr. West helped us create the "Space School Musical" performance that we did for the Night of the Arts. As you could see, the show we performed was awesome. Brian helped us with it by telling us what we were doing wrong and what we could do better. He helped us work on our moves. He help us improve in our play, and taught us new ways of dealing with the pressure of being on stage. He told us that when you mess up in a act, don't panic ... just get back to the place where you remember the play and keep going. He always said to try our best at everything. We are very glad that Bryan could come to our school and teach us so much. Thank you, Bryan West and the UCLA ArtsBridge program.

Break the Silence!

Share news of the wonderful accomplishments of students at our public school!



Principal's Message

We are already at the end of another wonderful year here at Toluca Lake. Our entire staff would like to thank the parents and community for their support this year. We have received many, many supplies of paper, tissues and wipes. Our parents have come out for fundraiser activities, volunteer clean-up and gardening day, and many other functions here at the school. The PTA has become a much stronger group with a focus on supporting the children, the Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council has kept us on their list even though their funds have been drastically cut and most importantly, you the parents have been purchasing food, t-shirts, valentines, and books to help us. Due to the hard economic times, we truly now understand the meaning of cooperation and working together. We now know our Toluca Lake Motto of **Together We Achieve** has never shone so bright. Thank You to all! - Ms. Carol Reo Bove

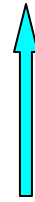
Fifth Grade Students Visit Santa Cruz Island!
by - Chris Emiliano, Anthony Garcia, & Christopher Vasquez

Today in Toluca Lake Elementary we got to go on an amazing field trip to Santa Cruz Island. It was exciting to go on a boat on the ocean and see dolphins, sea lion, island fox, and ravens. We went hiking which was very fun. We also learned many things on the field trip.

We learned so many things on the field trip our brains feel like they're going to explode. We learned that dolphins could sense the density of metal, that "endemic" means that a plant or animal lives in a certain place and nowhere else in the world. Island foxes, island morning glory, and island scrub jay are all endemic to Santa Cruz Island.

We liked so many things on Santa Cruz Island that we feel inspired to protect the animals, plants, and sea mammals in the national park and national marine sanctuary. We liked the boat trip to Santa Cruz Island because we got to see dolphins right next to the boat. Finally, we liked getting wet as the boat went up and down through the waves. We also enjoyed being on the island. We liked going for a hike to see the Chumash shell midden. That's a place where we stood near the ancient trash (seashells) from when the Chumash lived there. Then, we lay on some tall grass and were totally silent for five minutes. We could really hear our surroundings. It was awesome!

We had a great field trip to Santa Cruz Island. We hope that no one gets seasick on the boat next year. Thanks to Ms. Bove for making this wonderful trip possible.



PTA NEWS

As the year winds down (or RACES, depending on how you look at it!), the PTA would like to take a moment to thank all of our hardworking volunteers this year - and we had a LOT of them!

Some of you worked at events, some of you prepared Valentine's from home, or chased down businesses to get us donations, or baked or cooked or translated documents in your "spare" time - ALL of you were vital to what we do to bring encouragement and enrichment to our students!

YOU are the force that allowed us to bring the "Animals from Around the World" assembly to our students, to donate \$800 to our school towards the copier expenses, to make our School Beautification Day one of the best ever, and to show our students that their community CARES about them and their education.

We'd especially like to thank our officers: President Jalila Karneh, who tirelessly leads and motivates us to work so hard for our kids; Treasurer Chiara Cruz, who effortlessly handles the big and little financial situations, and the paperwork that goes with them; Secretary Heisy Carias, who calmly keeps us organized, focused and moving forward; and Marketing & Technology Chair Beth Stengel, who gets the word out about our functions, and keeps our website up to date.

Thank you, all, and have a wonderful Summer!

Make sure to "Like" us at www.facebook.com/TolucaLakePTA - we'll be posting links throughout the Summer featuring inexpensive local family activities!

Wildlife Learning Center at Toluca Lake

by - Agenda Domsitz, Rashel Alvarez,
and Britney Arana

On May 31, 2012, the PTA of Toluca Lake Elementary School sponsored an assembly by the Wildlife Learning Center. We were able to see real animals from around the world. The two naturalists, Arian and Casey, taught us about each animal they displayed.

The first animal was a tortoise named "Anita." Anita was a (socota) tortoise). Tortoises are very rare. You can find turtles near water because they swim, but tortoises are adapted to the land. Anita lives in the African Desert.

We also met an American porcupine called Gus Gus. When they're born, porcupines have soft quills. Gus Gus can float on water because his quills are hollow. They live in trees and are good climbers. They like eating vegetables and fruit to stay healthy.

Another animal we met was Tag, a serval. Tag looks part cheetah, clouded leopard, and a tiger. He has long legs that are good for jumping, and allow him to soar about 12 feet into the air to catch birds. Tag has a short tail that replaces a long one because he doesn't climb much. Tag is a carnivore, which means he eats meat. The backs of his ears are tipped white, and are lined with black and brown.

The next animal we met was an arctic fox named Nanook. His hair was falling off because summer is coming so he needs to stay cool. His fur turns gray in the summer, and white in the summer to camouflage with the changing environment. He is an omnivore. That means he eats both meat and plants. He has small ears to keep heat in from the Arctic tundra.

After that, we saw an owl named Newton. He has 14 bones in his neck so he can turn his head 270 degrees - almost all the way around.

Finally, we met Edgar, an albino python. He is light white and larger than the usual Asian rainforest snakes. Edgar can grow over 20 feet long! He can't chew, so he swallows his food whole. His flexible jaws allow him to do that. He is not venomous so he won't poison anybody. That's why we each got to pet him on our way out of the auditorium.

Thanks to the PTA for sponsoring this event and helping us all become animal experts.



The Hunger Games

by

Caitline Molina, Angel Mendez,
Naomi Marquez & Zachary Miles

"Victory means fame and fortune. Losing means certain death. The Hunger Games have begun." The Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins is about a teenage girl's struggle in the 74th Annual Hunger Games - a contest when teenagers have to fight to the death for fame and fortune.

The author wants to prevent mindless, murderous violence in the future. The Hunger Games symbolize the way district governments use the media to manipulate people. The story teaches that humans should treat each other as equals, and not do violent things to one another.

This book is a big hit with kids. It has lots of "jalepeno" spicy details, action, and unique, brave, courageous characters. Katniss, the protagonist, is a great model for girls because she cares for her family and isn't afraid to fight for her beliefs. Peeta, Katniss' admirer, is very unique because he wants to be himself and not be controlled by any other powers. In the book, Peeta seemed very charming. But, in the movie he was even cuter (Zachary does not agree with this statement). Some girls are mad for him, and have his face all over their wallpaper. The movie is great, but not as good as the book.

The Hunger Games makes us think that kids all around the globe can change the future in a nonviolent way. "May the odds be ever in our favor."

Featured Faculty: Mr. Jose Sandoval

by - Kayla Molson, Hunter Ragle, & Rashel Alvarez

Mr. Jose Sandoval started working at our school on April 9th 2012. He needed a high school diploma, and custodian classes to get this job. He has many different hobbies, especially sports: he loves to play football, basketball, and swimming. He's also interested in classic cars and is totally AWESOME!!!

Jose's hero is his dad because he has always been there for him when he needs him. He said, "The toughest part of my job is cleaning natural waste from the bathrooms!" He likes this job because of the retirement plan & health benefits. Some of the obstacles he had to overcome to achieve his goals were to work hard & never let himself down. The best things about working at our school are that it's close to his house & people are very friendly.

Someday, he would like our school to have a baseball field with grass so nobody would ever get hurt. He would like to say to all our students, "Stay in school, go to college, and get a good career." Sandoval is a great member of our faculty!



Teacher's Tip

As students head into summer vacation, it's important to maintain an emphasis upon education at home. Practicing math skills, writing letter to friends & family, reading for pleasure & doing projects will help keep children interested in learning. Family outings and events are still very important for them. Try to keep them involved in group activities such as athletics or the arts to facilitate their transition to the next grade level. And, be sure to encourage the students to read one hour each day during the summer; there's still no greater asset for their future success than reading.

Calendar

- **June 19 = Fifth grade culmination - Start of summer vacation!**
- June 19 = Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council Meeting
- July 4 = Independence Day
- July 17 = Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council Meeting
- **August 14 = School starts - First day of new semester!**
- August 21 = Local Leadership Council Meeting
- August 21 = Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council Meeting

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 North Hollywood Public Library located at 5211 Tujunga Blvd. offers a number of free activities for families during the summer. Among these events are Baby & Toddler Storytime (Fridays at 10 am), Grandma Story Read Alouds (Daily 2:30 - 4:30), the Summer Reading Club for children (sign-ups begin on June 11). Contact Mrs. Alicia at the library (818.766.7185) for more information.
- Friends of the Chandler Bikeway and the Sidewalk Astronomers club have united to offer free stargazing opportunities with telescopes and amateur astronomers on the Chandler Bikeway at Lima St.. They will be hosting two of these special free events on Wednesday, June 27, 8-10 pm, and July 2, 8-10 pm. The full Moon & Saturn will be featured on both days (weather permitting). You can obtain more information at 818.238.5440.
- The Stough Canyon Nature Center in Burbank offers children (ages 8 - 14) an opportunity to become junior docents (\$24 for the entire year). Participants may earn service hours while having fun learning about, and helping nurture the natural environment. Call 818.238.5440 for more information.

Toluca Lake
Elementary School:
An Arts Prototype
School

Principal:

Carol Reo Bové

Assistant Principal:

Joyce Miles

Parent Representative:

Lucy Gonzalez

Coordinator:

Jeff Daniel

Lead Teacher:

Steve Reidman

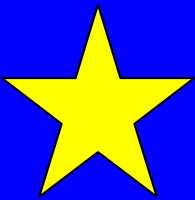
Newsletter Editor:

Dennis Hagen-Smith

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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



**\$ Free MONEY \$
for our school!**

Sign up with eScrip and everytime you shop at any of the over 6,000 merchant locations (including Nike, 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 \$50,000!"

-Julene Kwart, PEA President, Blossom Valley, El Cajon, CA

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www.tolucaelementary.com

5th Grade Memories

Compiled by - Richard Chicas, Daniella Martir,
Oswaldo Diaz, & Micaela Koch

Our fifth grade students are on their way to middle school. We will miss them very much. They will miss lots of things about our school, too. Here are some of their favorite memories:

- Anthony Aragon - making new friends.
- Ali Freas - being with all my friends.
- Caitline Molina - going to the NASA Student Symposium in Houston, Texas.
- Jason Rose - the hike on Santa Cruz Island
- Mason Laboy - learning math in class.
- Milena Tofanyan - learning new things
- Aleydis Gomez - working with Story Pirates
- Gianna Carias - hanging out with her BFFs.
- Millie Gonzalez - going to Santa Cruz Island
- Jason Artiga - the first time I performed in front of Mr. Gray
- Jesus Torres - going on field trips
- Suzette Garcia -hanging with my friends
- Hunter Ragle - having the most awesome teachers and working on the school newspaper, the Toluca Lake Times
- Kayla Johnson - being in Ms. Mc Duffy's class
- Ashley Zavala - bringing a hamster to school
- Chayanne Berrio - meeting friends & teachers
- Daniella Martir - having the best teacher in the world, Mr. Hagen-Smith.
- Robert Magee - going to the Game Coach.
- Edward Rodriguez - the nutrition fair (3rd)
- Moses Flores - the Arboretum field trip.
- Narek Manachian - kids stopped bullying me in fifth grade
- Andy Solis - being in Ms. Mc Duffy's class
- Melanie Frausto - meeting Mr. Reidman for the first time.
- Delaney Negroni - seeing dolphins from the boat to Santa Cruz Island
- Alessandra Rugamas - laying on the straw in silence on the mountaintop at Santa Cruz Island.
- Victor Soto - when we had P.E.
- Hassan Fares - going on field trips
- Anthony Bowsman - going to Santa Cruz Island
- Naomi Marquez - performing "Space School Musical"
- Anthony Garcia - doing fun activities with Mr. Hagen-Smith
- Izabella Aguilera - the class party
- Britney Arana - helping the school
- Jazelle John - meeting new friends & Santa Cruz Island
- Kayla Molson - my friends helping me during hard times
- Angel Mendez - listening to each of my teachers tell me I'm going to graduate from college
- Aries Montoya - meeting new friends in different classes.
- Agenda Domsitz - seeing Hunter wear a safari hat like Dr. Jane Goodall's while he helped bind our class magazine
- Brian Sol - Santa Cruz Island
- Richard Chicas - when the dairy cow visited our school
- Genaro Diaz - having the best year ever in 5th grade
- Zachary Miles - doing the scavenger hunt for Santa Cruz Is.
- Darlyn Alvarez - Ms. McDuffey preparing us for graduation
- Mr. Daniel - Seeing the students spend more time reading
- Wilfredo Escobar - meeting my best friend Mason.
- Sebastian Araya - the breeze on Santa Cruz Island and the softball game
- Ms. Bové - watching the girls & boys in Kindergarden grow up and go through each grade to become beautiful young men & women

Riddle Me This ...

- Why did the boy throw the butter out the window? - **Sofie Maya**
- How do you make a tissue dance? - **Britney Arana**
- What did the cat call a boo boo? - **Hunter Ragle**
- What did the penguin say to the cow? - **Daniella Martir**
- What did one lamp say to the other lamp? - **Naomi Marquez**
- What is a decomposer's favorite book? - **Zachary Miles**