



January 2007  
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# Toy Loan Program News

## Our recent Grand Openings

This first month of the year 2007, not to mention the end of 2006, has been very busy for us here at Toy Loan Headquarters. We ended last year with one Grand Opening, Main Street Elementary, and started off this year on the right foot by opening two new Toy Loan Centers; Orange Grove Elementary in Whittier and St. John's Well Child Center in Los Angeles.

just as much spirit as the larger ones. On Thursday, January 11, 2007 Ana Cardoza hosted the Grand Opening with many parent volunteers on hand to help out. The event left children and adults alike, excited about the Toy Loan Program and looking forward to playing with the toys.



St. John's Well Child Center was lucky to have representatives from our local government offices. On Thursday, January 18, 2007 Jan Perry attended the Grand Opening to show her support for the community and the children. Also amongst the guests was Jorge Nuñez, Senior Field Deputy from Speaker of the Assembly, Fabian Nuñez's office. Everyone enjoyed good food, good friends and of course, the most important part, good toys!

## Children & Play

(A Child's Health)

Another New Year has crept up on us all and we're left reflecting on the previous year; all that we did, all that we could have done and the things we plan to improve on in 2007. This brings us to the ritual of the New Year's resolutions that some dread and some welcome. The most common resolution in the United States is some type of weight loss/exercise goal. This should not be limited to just the adults. The American Obesity Association states that more than 15% of American children are considered obese. The cause is lack of exercise and a poor diet.

(continued on Page 2)

### From The Desk of:

**Juana Cornell-Ojalvo**  
Toy Loan Director

I would like to introduce myself by saying that I come to Toy Loan with much experience, but more importantly, much enthusiasm. I am very excited to be working with the dedicated Toyrarians (even though I have a hard time pronouncing Toyrarian) and promise to give as much of myself as is needed to further Toy Loan's reach into the community. This year, I will be working very hard to continue to provide a quality program to our current Toy Loan Centers as well as expanding the program. One major endeavor we here at Toy Loan will be undertaking this year will be to open 10 new Toy Loan Centers and increase the number of volunteers. I consider myself very friendly and open to listening to all of your suggestions, questions and definitely success stories. Please feel free to call me to introduce yourselves. I wish you all well in this upcoming year.

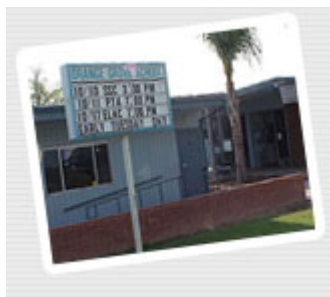


Main Street Elementary School held it's Grand Opening on a beautiful Southern California autumn day. On Wednesday, November 29, 2006 Veronica Navarro put together a rather large Grand Opening inviting all students, parents, teachers and staff to participate. The outcome was great and all the children were able to see the toys available, further motivating them to behave in class in order to be able to participate.

### Best Practices

Encourage a healthier environment at your centers by:

- Making sports equipment available to the children.
- Organizing team sports after school such as soccer or basketball.
- Including girls in sports activities and have equipment they would also enjoy.
- Serving healthier snacks at Honor Parties instead of cake and cookies.



Orange Grove Elementary School, in Whittier, is a smaller school, but with

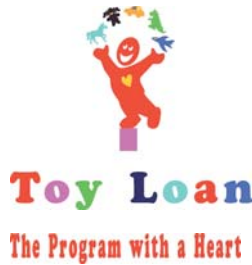
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Addressee

## Child's Health... (Continued)

As Toyrrarians, we are able to positively contribute to the health of the children that we interact with by encouraging outside play such as: basketball, soccer, jumping rope, playing tag, swimming, bike riding and any other activities that require more than sitting. Organizing recreational play is something that can bridge generation and gender gaps, costs next to nothing and can positively benefit all who participate. There are many sports that can integrate both boys and girls that will also peak the interest of the most finicky players. From a simple game of "hide-n-go-seek," to an organized pee-wee baseball league, there are many forms of exercise that can be fun and physically beneficial for the small bodies that sometimes do no more than sit in front of the T.V. playing video games. Don't be afraid to take sports equipment from the Toy Loan headquarters for the children to check out. It can't hurt to offer them the choice of playing outside in the bright California sunshine. Also, let's not forget that nutrition is a big part of a child's health.

Try to offer healthier snacks at your center as well as at your next Honor Party. Celery with peanut butter, sliced apples and some granola bars are a much better option to the sweets we normally use to entice young ones.



## Did you know?

JENGA—Out of Africa. As a child Leslie Scott, creator of JENGA, the second best selling game in the world, lived in Africa and for some years Swahili was her first language. This is how she came up with the name for her game. JENGA is a Swahili word, meaning "to build."



## Upcoming Events

TLAB Meeting—Toy Loan Headquarters	1/25/2007
Valentine's Day	2/14/07
Evans Consumer Information Fair	2/14/07
Friends Serving Friends—Annual Homeless Feed	2/24/07

## We Want To Hear From You!

If you have suggestions on how to improve the program, best practices, recommendations for potential new Toy Loan centers, or any topics of interest for publication in this newsletter, please contact us at (213) 744-4347 or via email at [toyloan@ladpss.org](mailto:toyloan@ladpss.org)