

A Brief History of Past Big Events at TCPS

1985 - Our First Big Event presented an evening of fine arts. Students displayed artwork inspired by Rousseau, El Greco, Calder, and other artists. Poetry recitations included works by our students and by other better-known writers!

1986 - In "**Once Upon a Time**" students participate in a city-wide author's fair, wrote a variety of original books and then presented an interpretation of Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*.

1987 - "**Life's Rhythms**" celebrated the many musical themes that exist within our daily lives - from a baby's first heartbeat, to school days, to the teen scene - and the beat goes on.

1988 - "**Jump for Health**," provided outreach and education on health and fitness for the families of TCPS and the community at large. This was a health fair produced "by kids for kids."

1989 - "**A City Grows**," a special news video that highlighted events in San Diego's history from the Kumeyaay Native Americans to the present day. The video was shown on several TV stations, won an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Children's Programming, and is now available in many San Diego County public libraries.

1990 – "**A Continental Journey**" was chosen to foster a better understanding of geography and one's sense of responsibility for the environment. Big Event visitors experienced biomes from around the world.

1991 – "**Science Symposium**" used the scientific process as the framework; the event offered visitors the opportunity to be "naturalists" and enjoy various species from the plant and animal kingdoms, to visit the TCPS Medical Clinic, to experiment in the science lab, and to end the evening with a special trip in the simulated "Super Shuttle."

1992 – "**The Child's Primary School Gallery**" event highlighted a variety of original student artwork and artist inspired artwork including: paper sculpture, women in the arts, the impressionists, tribal art, and more.

1993 – "**Season-ed Just Right**" premiered a musical revue of the seasons, complete with props, sets, costumes, and choreography. The audience watched students sing and dance their way through fall, winter, spring, and summer in this original, student led theater production.

1994 – "**Between the Covers... an Evening 'In Print'**" featured a comprehensive collection of books authored and illustrated by TCPS students. The TCPS library houses many of these volumes – *The ABCs of Tools*, *Musical Instruments Around the World*, *The Big Book of England*, and *The Pele Play*.

1995 – "**TCPS World Expedition '95**" promoted world peace and tolerance by the students of TCPS. Students wrote letters to children around the world asking for a description of how they live and how they envision world peace. Letters returned from every corner of the world, and more. To culminate their students had promote better understanding of different cultures, children turned the school into a microcosm of the world, representing the culture, sights, sounds, landmarks, and environments of 11 different countries.

1996 – “Hear Ye, Hear Ye” took a step back into America’s colonial period. Students sewed their own costumes, created a marketplace and interiors of shops and homes, collected props, handcrafted wooden trade signs, and presented research through drawings, timelines, essays, and charts. They could be seen on event day doing cross-stitch, tending the dog-spit in the kitchen, hawking their wares in the marketplace, and making baskets, dipping candles, tin lanterns, and being put into socks and pillories.

1997 – “Sound Off” was a performance piece that creatively saluted sound. Sounds of the feet echoed as students performed Flamenco and Irish dance steps, a percussion band used rhythm claves and drums to play the samba. A demonstration of sign language provided the audience with the experience of communication in a “soundless” world. Guests enjoyed walking through a giant model of an ear, and playing the student-made instruments.

2002 – “The #1 Big Event” featured several theatrical plays based on numbers. Our 7th and 8th grade "authors in residence" wrote plays while the whole school created sets, scenery, and costumes for The Wizard of Odds, Whoville and the Inch, Ruler Hood and His Band of Measure Men.

2005 – “Art Galleries” transformed the classrooms into art galleries that featured the individual and group art projects students worked on throughout the year. Paintings, ceramic tiles, sculptures, and totem poles were among the hundreds of items on display. There were solo and group vocal performances, as well as instrumental performances on the piano, saxophone, and violin.

2009- “Counting by 10s” researched the decades from 1920 to 1989. Major events, trends, personalities, inventions and innovations of each decade were explored and highlighted in six themed classroom displays and the Big Hall where attendees enjoyed French fries and root beer floats in a 50's diner setting. Through student mini-productions and costumes, scenes from the "Roaring 20's," the Great Depression, the post-war years, the Cold War era, disco and the age of consumerism were depicted. Each classroom was transformed into a scene from the past allowing visitors to take a step back in time. You could visit Studio 54, a 20's speak easy, or settle into your living room for a fireside chat, all without leaving the comfort of the TCPS campus.

2011 – “I <3 SAM,” Science and Math explored a variety of sciences, scientists, and mathematicians. The school was transformed to display their research through a variety of presentation methods – including a café, hands-on demonstration of catapults and levers, astrological displays, active research collection, and more.

2012 - “Can We Talk?,” Speaking Spanish transformed TCPS into a Spanish village, *Villa del tigre morado* (Village of the Purple Tiger). The village was not specific to any one region, but specific countries were references were found throughout the campus. The village included a mercado de quetzal, el centro cultural, la clinica, la panaderia, la camara de comercio, y la cinema - all created by the students!

2013 – “Greek Mythology” explored the myths of ancient Greece. Students learned about Greek mythology, gods, goddesses and mortals and were struck by how many of them are referenced in our lives today. QR codes were used outside each classroom to describe the mythical world inside! The Big Hall was transformed into Mt. Olympus, with life-size cut-outs allowing guests to become their favorite god or goddess. There was also homemade food including Barley Flat Bread and Greek Soup.