

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.

2014 – “71”% of the earth is covered by ocean. The ocean contains 97% of all the water on earth, and yet, more than 95% of this incredible underwater world is unexplored! The ocean is essential to the well-being of our planet. Many people’s livelihoods stem from the ocean. In fact, one out of every six jobs in the United States is related to it. The ocean also has a strong effect on the earth’s climate and weather patterns. The vast and varied ocean teems with life. It provides resources, food, transportation, jobs, recreation, and holds possible cures for many diseases. It has also been a source of inspiration to human beings for centuries.

The 2014 Big Event celebrated and honored this integral part of our planet... our oceans.

2015 – “All Systems Go” The unique person you are is made of many systems!

The **nervous system** comprises your brain and its neurons, axons, and dendrites. Without it, we wouldn’t be able to have such creative and logical thoughts. The **five senses** work together with your brain, tongue, ears, nose, and eyes to tell you what you are seeing, smelling, touching, hearing, and tasting. The **circulatory and respiratory systems** are responsible for the oxygen going from your lungs to the blood flowing through your body, giving life to all of your organs. You are dependent on the **digestive system** for taking the energy found in your food and transferring it to all of your organs. The **skeletal and muscular systems** help you move your body around and stay upright with hundreds of muscles and bones. All these systems work together as one unit, just as our school works together: the student system, the parent system, and the teacher system!

The 2015 Big Event explored all of biological systems and how they all work together to enable and evolve life as we know it!

2016 – “Not a Country.” Africa, the second largest continent in both size and population, is a diverse and varied region. With 54 countries spanning the continent, Africa possesses a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and languages. From physical geography to its man-made structures, its ancient empires to its modern-day people, the continent provides immense diversity and rich complexity. As we embarked on this journey through the continent, took in the **visuals** of its landscape, heard the **voices** of its people, and made **connections** with this diverse land, we explored all of what Africa means to the rest of the earth and all its people.

2017 – “Design.” For this year’s Big Event, each student took on the role of a designer in the fields of transportation, fashion, games, architecture, food, and problem-solving. This required them to be engineers, inventors, and artists. In addition to our understanding of the engineering process, we learned about design thinking. Like the scientific method or the steps used in writing, Like the Scientific Method or the steps used in writing, **design thinking** is a methodical process. It encourages the designer to empathize, or consider the needs of the user, when coming up with a solution to a problem. It involves brainstorming, creating prototypes, testing and tweaking until a solution is reached.

The 2017 Big Event provided amazing opportunities:

- To think about and find solutions to real world situations
- To apply cross-curricular skills
- To use materials and tools that are not normally available to us, such as drills, hand saws, pliers, needles and thread, etc.
- And to learn as a whole school community

2018 – “Industrial Revolution” The 2018 Big Event focused on a pivotal time in history that changed life in the United States for years to come: **The Industrial Revolution!** While there have been waves of industrial revolutions throughout history, this event focused on the time from the early 1800’s to the early 1900’s. This period marked incredible changes in the way products were made and completely changed how people worked and lived. Covering areas from textile manufacturing, innovations in transportation, urbanization, factories and assembly lines, and breakthroughs in communications and electrification, the students explored all of the ways that the

industrial revolution of this period changed life on earth forever. The students spent intense days of collaborative work with their Big Event groups, creating the individual rooms and experiences for event day. They embraced this opportunity, as they do with each Big Event, to come together as a learning community in order to problem-solve, create, grow, and collaborate. This is what TCPS is all about!