

For Teachers



We're working in Pit 91 again!
Wednesdays - Sundays this summer,
our excavators are diligently
chipping away in the historic pit.

We won't be swinging pickaxes like
the one in the 1915 photo above of
Pit 91. Now, we use delicate hand
tools to make sure that all
specimens large and small make it
into our Fossil Lab undamaged!

This Month's Issue:

Changes Afoot at the
Tar Pits

What's New!

Can You Dig It:
The Observation Pit!

Upcoming
Opportunities

Mark your Calendar!

Changes Afoot at the Tar Pits

Dear Teachers,

Happy summer vacation! Here at the Page, instead of slowing down for summer, we are moving full speed ahead into some exhibit and park updates.

By the beginning of July, we will have given Pit 91 and the Observation Pit new interpretive signage and some well-deserved TLC. Being covered in asphalt for decades isn't a walk in the park! Teachers always get free admission with teacher ID, so take advantage of the summer and go on a special tour of the Observation Pit, happening daily starting on June 30.

We'll also have daily summer programs that include Q & As with our Fossil Lab scientists and exclusive updates on new finds in our current excavation, Project 23.

Molly Porter
Manager, School and Teacher Programs

What's New!

Let us start out by saying that it's been a *blast* working with you this year! There's nothing we love quite so much as hearing the "wows" as your students round the corner and catch their first glimpse of our giant Harlan's ground sloth skeleton. Now that visits are winding down and kids are starting summer break, we are ready to kick up our feet and relax.

Wait...that's not what educators do! Just like you, we are going to be working hard all summer to make next year even better than this one was. At the Page Museum, our biggest goal is to get you and your students out and exploring Hancock Park during your school visits. Keep checking in with www.tarpits.org/for-teachers for news on outdoor Museum programs like Small Survivors, in which students net and observe insects in our Pleistocene Garden. You'll also find information on exclusive educator workshops that'll show you how to incorporate outdoor teaching into your classroom.

Nature really is *everywhere*, so get outside and enjoy it this summer! Whether its on a hike in the mountains, a trip to the beach, or (ahem) at your very own local Pleistocene Garden...

Kelsey Ziff
Coordinator, School Programs





Can You Dig It: The Observation Pit!

Before there was the Page Museum, there was the Observation Pit. A curious round building constructed over a real excavation site, the Observation Pit was once the only fossil museum in Hancock Park. Officially opened in 1952, the Observation Pit shows visitors what La Brea fossils look like during the excavation process. For over 60 years, the Pit has given visitors a unique and amazing way to connect to Los Angeles' ancient past.

Keep an eye on www.tarpits.org/for-teachers for the latest on Observation Pit opportunities for schools!

Fossil Fact!

Most of the fossils you'll see inside the Observation Pit are real -- from dire wolves, ground sloths, and saber-toothed cats. To protect these priceless artifacts from vandalism, the bones were set in concrete, but real asphalt continues to seep up around them.



Upcoming Opportunities

L.A.'s Carnivores: Past and Present
Saturday, June 28, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join the Page Museum School Programs team and urban carnivore expert Miguel Ordeñana for an exclusive educator workshop! Discover the techniques that we use to study the predators of the past, as well as the carnivores that share our city today. You'll also learn about all the tools you can use to take the study of carnivores back to your classroom! Email schoolprograms@tarpits.org to register.

Birding for Beginners*
Saturday, July 12, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Whether pecking for crumbs or perching in playgrounds, birds are a staple of schoolyard wildlife! Join ornithologist Kimball Garrett and learn how to spot and identify birds, and record observations with students. Collaborate with Museum educators to workshop ways to use bird watching to facilitate learning and meet Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

Registration opens June 28, 2014 at
nhm.org/for-teachers/professional-development

*Hosted at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Mark Your Calendar!

Booking Opens for 2014-2015 School Year
August 15, 2014

Ice Age Encounters Available for Schools
Fridays starting September 5, 2014

Page Educator Open House
September 20, 2014

Fall Programming Season
October 1, 2014 - February 27, 2015

How to Book!

Go to www.tarpits.org/for-teachers and click on the *Plan Your Visit* link for step-by-step instructions on how to plan your day and submit a visit request!