

# For Teachers



## Digging up the Past, Ringing in the New Year

Dear Teachers,

It's hard to believe that it's almost 2013! It has been a great fall here at the Page Museum and we are excited to welcome you and your students back this Spring. This is a year of new and improved opportunities for you, so we will be keeping you up to date with this quarterly newsletter. Each issue will have information on what's coming up at the museum, will highlight our online resources and curriculum, and will let you know about upcoming teacher programs. This edition of the newsletter will focus on programs and resources related to what we do best here at the Page Museum - excavating fossils.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

**Molly Porter**

*Manager, School and Teacher Programs*

## What's New!

This school year has brought many exciting changes to School Programs at the Page! You may have already noticed that the For Teachers section of the website has been updated to give you more access to the information you need to plan and book a visit.

When you visit [www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/school-visits](http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/school-visits), make sure to check out our updated Programming page to see a list of all the programs you can reserve for your group during a visit. You'll also find scavenger hunts, videos, study guides, and other resources that can help you make the most out of your visit to the Page.

Starting this year, you will also have the opportunity to visit our life-size saber-toothed cat puppet and Nibbles, the saber-toothed kitten in their new home here at the Page Museum. The adult cat will be performing in our Ice Age Encounters show every Wednesday throughout the school year, with Nibbles starring in his own show, Encounters Jr., for our younger school visitors starting in March.

With updated programs, new resources, and two resident saber-toothed cats, we are working to make School Programs at the Page better than ever before. Keep checking back in—there are many more exciting changes to come!

**Kelsey Ziff**

*Coordinator, School Programs*



Aww! These left lower jaws came from saber-toothed kittens found in Project 23. These specimens help us measure growth from kitten (bottom) to adult (top).

## This Month's Issue:

Digging up the Past,  
Ringing in the New Year

What's New!

Can You Dig It:  
Puppies and Kittens

Upcoming Programs  
and Events



## Can You Dig It?: Puppies and Kittens

In addition to being some of the cutest fossils we find, the saber-tooth kitten and dire wolf puppy fossils found in Box 1 of Project 23 help us piece together the puzzle of late-Pleistocene Los Angeles. The many adult specimens already excavated from Rancho La Brea have taught us so much about the lives of Ice Age animals, but they do not give us much information about how they matured. Sub-adult specimens help us track the process of bone growth and tooth eruption as an animal developed. As we near the end of the main deposit in Box 1, we have identified at least seven saber-toothed kittens and four dire wolf puppies of varying maturity. But the work is just beginning; Laura Tewksbury, a preparator working on Project 23 says, “every piece of data we find informs the research we have already done, and the research we have yet to do.”



### Fossil Fact

A saber-toothed kitten grew a set of baby (deciduous) sabers that would fall out as it aged, but not until its adult sabers erupted alongside them. This means that saber-toothed cats spent part of their lives with two sets of impressive sabers in their mouth at once! Now, that's a mouthful.

## Upcoming Programs & Events

Great Guided Programs  
October 1st through March 1st

Each school year for a limited time we open up special facilitated programs. These programs are designed to encourage your students to take the time to look more closely at the museum and explore its opportunities with a new perspective! Programs include:

- Windows into Nature: PreK - 1st Grade
- Fossil Detectives: 2nd - 5th Grade
- Guided Tours: 6th - 12th Grade

Learn more about these programs at  
[www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/school-visits](http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/school-visits).

Teacher Field Trip and Workshop: It's LA's Fault  
Saturday January 5th and 12th  
Field trip and workshop hosted at the Natural History Museum

Hey teachers! Join us for a two-part Earth Science training featuring a bus tour of LA with our museum scientists. Then attend a follow-up workshop discussing LA's geology and ways to bring what you've learned back into the classroom.

To RSVP, e-mail [schoolprograms@nhm.org](mailto:schoolprograms@nhm.org) or call 213.763.3529.

Keep an eye out for upcoming Professional Development opportunities at <http://www.nhm.org/site/for-teachers/professional-development>.

## Meet the School Programs Team!



**Molly Porter (center)** is our fearless leader, the Manager of School and Teacher Programs at the Page, as well for our sister, the Natural History Museum. She has two cats and a dog and loves traveling to tropical places.

**Kelsey Ziff (left)** is the Program Coordinator, she books schools, facilitates programs, and develops curriculum and materials for our school visitors. She loves photography of every kind, as well as adding to her ever-expanding collection of vintage cameras.

**Agnes Novie (right)** is the Program Assistant, and works on everything from booking schools, answering your questions and facilitating programs. She loves exploring the outdoors with her family and cooking with her 6 and 8 year old kids.

## We need your feedback!

If you've brought your students recently on a field trip to the Page Museum, please fill out this brief 10 question survey about your experience:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PAGEschools13A>

## How to Book!

Go to [www.tarpits.org/for-teachers](http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers) and click on the Visit the Museum link for step-by-step instructions on how to plan your day and submit a visit request!