

DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH:
CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER RUBY BRIDGES TO VISIT L.A. AREA SCHOOLS
AS PART OF YEAR-LONG DIVERSITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

WHEN: Tuesday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 26 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Crescent Heights Blvd. Elementary School, 1661 S. Crescent Heights Blvd. (Tues)
Ninety Third Street Elementary School, 330 E. 93rd St. (Weds)

In an effort to bridge gaps and foster diversity, Ruby Bridges, who in 1960 became the first African American child to desegregate Louisiana's William Frantz Elementary School, will visit two L.A. schools as part of **Ruby's Bridges**, an educational program bringing diverse populations together to develop relationship building strategies. A project of the Ruby Bridges Foundation in partnership with the Museum of Tolerance, **Ruby's Bridges** connects fourth and fifth grade students, parents, and educators of various socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds who ordinarily may not come into contact with one another.

Four elementary schools across Los Angeles are currently participating in **Ruby's Bridges**. Since the school year began in September, students at Crescent Heights Blvd. Language Arts & Social Justice Magnet School (West Los Angeles) have partnered with Marquez Charter School (Pacific Palisades), and Ninety-Third Street Elementary School (South Central Los Angeles) has partnered with Serrania Street Elementary School (Woodland Hills).

On Tuesday, February 25, Marquez Charter School students will visit Crescent Heights Blvd. Elementary School, when Ruby Bridges, accompanied by Museum of Tolerance Director Liebe Geft, will meet and speak with students and teachers for the first time. Likewise, Serrania Elementary students will visit Ninety Third Street School for a meeting with Ruby Bridges on Wednesday, February 26.

Activities between the partner schools have thus far included continuous pen-pal correspondence, journal writing, pizza play days in the park, and a viewing of Disney's *Ruby Bridges*, as well as life skills and character building educational exercises. Students at the partner schools will also pair forces on a community service project, as well as a visit to the Museum of Tolerance.

"The most important thing Ruby's Bridges has done has been to help students realize they can meet and interact with others who are not in their immediate environment," says Tony Fadale, of the Museum of Tolerance's Tools for Tolerance® for Educators program.

Adds Ruby Bridges: "Each and every one of us is born with a clean heart. Our babies know nothing about hate or racism. But soon they begin to learn – and only from us. We keep racism alive. We pass it on to our children. We owe it to our children to help them keep their clean start."

Press must RSVP to attend. Contact the Museum's Public Relations Department at 310-553-9036, or Lance Volland of the Ruby Bridges Foundation, 818-954-6932.