

# THE LANTERN

La Clase Mágica | Monthly Newsletter | Editor: Jim McCollum

The month of January roared past us like a FedEx truck full of fruitcakes on Christmas Eve. We were blessed by some new tutors volunteering to join the La Clase Mágica Ministry on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at the kitchen at St. Leo's Church. This has allowed us to spend more time working with each student. We are still settling in after an unplanned move...students, tutors and staff giving it their all for a great cause.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the La Colonia part of Solana Beach, it is the neighborhood east of La Colonia Park, on the east side of Stevens Ave., also called Eden Gardens, and where the well-known Mexican restaurants, "Fidel's" and "Tony's Jacal" are located. Most of our students live in this neighborhood. The majority of their parents do not speak and read English well enough to assist their children with their homework. Oftentimes, these students fall behind in reading level, and without intervention, some of them drop out of school by 6<sup>th</sup> grade. That is where La Clase Mágica and our volunteer tutors and staff come in. We help these students with their homework, and then we read with them for 20 to 30 minutes. By 4<sup>th</sup> grade, many of our students are reading at "grade level." This is a very rewarding and effective ministry. If you are interested in volunteering, or just want to see us in action, stop by the kitchen at St. Leo's on Monday or Wednesday afternoons, between 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM. St. Leo's is located at 936 Genevieve St. Ask for Jim McCollum (619-846-7855), Susanna Romero-Riese, or Diane Salyer.

