

Prospective MTA bus operators? Five students from Ms. Frick's pre-kindergarten class at Fenton Avenue Charter School in Sylmar enjoyed their tour of a Metro Bus by East Valley Division 15 Operator Lawrence Espinoza. PHOTO BY AMY HOWELL



Metro Bus, Operator Showcased During Sylmar School's Career Day

By AMY HOWELL

(April 11, 2002) A lot of little kids boarded East Valley Division 15 Operator Lawrence Espinoza's bus, Tuesday. But they didn't go anywhere.

Four pre-kindergarten through first grade classes were given a tour of Espinoza's bus during the first day of Fenton Avenue Charter School's three-day Career Day.

"They got excited just to get on the bus," said Espinoza. "We talked about what it takes to become an operator and procedures of the bus."

Espinoza talked to the students about qualifications needed to be an MTA bus operator, stressing the importance of education. "They were very, very well behaved and real reciprocal."

"I was more than happy to do it," Espinoza said, who would participate in another career day if given the opportunity.

Different types of vehicles

The biannual Career Day showcases different types of vehicles from various agencies and companies for students in the pre-kindergarten through first grades. Guests are invited to speak to students in upper grade levels.

In addition to Espinoza and the Metro Bs, representatives and vehicles from Caltrans and two local machinery companies also were on hand.

An LAPD officer spoke to students from the air in a helicopter that hovered over the school. Firefighters and two fire trucks arrived late, due a fire earlier that morning in the Pasadena area.

"They [the MTA] have never been here before," said school counselor and Career Day coordinator Toni Frear. "I'd love to have them on a yearly basis. I'd definitely like speakers for the older kids."

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