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Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds leads discussion of 'careers in transit' with first and second-graders from Sierra Canyon School in Chatsworth.

Photos by Eric Rapp.



School Visit To Division 8 Lets Kids Experience "How Metro Works"

by ERIC RAPP

(March 25, 2005) Every year, first and second-graders from Sierra Canyon School in Chatsworth visit West Valley Division 8 to see how an operating division works.

Just as in past years, on Thursday the whole division pitched in to help the kids have a good time. Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds and Assistant Manager George Trudeau talked to the students about careers in transportation.

Operators Paul Robinson and Tony Horvitz gave short presentations on safety and how to ride a bus, and operator Darlene Najera helped coordinate the trip and helped with snacks for the kids.

Deputy Martin and Sergeant Willard from the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau also spoke, explaining to the children what to do if they were to get lost or have a problem on Metro Bus or Rail.

Mechanics Henry Najera, Scott Lanski and Mark



Students board bus for a spin around the yard and two passes through the bus wash.

Lacanilao helped get two buses free to take the first-graders on a spin through the yard.

Lanski and Lacanilao showed off some of the oversized tools that mechanics use on buses, and turned on the vacuum cleaning system so the students could see papers and dust flying out of the bus. As always, the highlight of the yard tour was not one but two passes through the automatic bus wash system.



"We have a lot of fun doing this," says Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds, "and the kids have fun too, but they also learn something about Metro. These are our future passengers and customers."

To cap off their day at Metro, each student received a goodie bag with fold-up Metro buses and safety-themed pencils.

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