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Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8fl.FYKqrTY> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Family Throws Birthday Party on the Gold Line

By Rich Morallo
Communications Manager

(Dec. 8, 2009) Growing up in Mount Sterling, Kentucky, David Russel first learned how interesting trains can be.

"My grandfather would take me to visit the station there and I learned a lot about trains from him," said Dave, now a professor at California State University, Northridge.



Recently when Dave and his wife Amy were planning the fifth birthday of their son, Charlie, Amy thought of a train theme for the party. "Amy suggested that Charlie and his friends gather at Union Station for a train ride," remarked Russell who said they had noticed all of the publicity on the November opening of the Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Eastside Extension.

Dad Dave Russell and son Charlie get on board for Charlie's birthday bash.

So last Saturday, Charlie and 25 of his pre-kinder classmates had lunch at the patio in front of

Union Station before proceeding to the Metro Gold Line platform.

"Remember to keep away from the edge of the platform," the parents told the excited boys and girls as they waited for the next train.

With parents in tow the young railroad buffs boarded and immediately filled the cars with sighs and cries of delight as the train rolled smoothly past buildings and freeways. The group traveled to Mission Station where they munched on cupcakes from a nearby store.

"Charlie actually has some experience already with rail," Russell mentioned as he described the weekend trips they would go on riding Amtrak and Metrolink.

"I like trains because of their wheels," added Charlie.