



*Our school motto
Inspiration,
Imagination,
Innovation*

September 2013



WELCOME BACK!



PRINCIPAL WEDAA'S MESSAGE



I am so happy to say 'Welcome Back' to *Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies* (SCES) and hope you're as excited about the coming year as I am.

It was great to see so many of you at our 'Welcome Back BBQ' - another amazing event sponsored by 'Friends of Serrania' (FOS) - featuring a DJ, dancing and great food. As always, all the money raised goes directly to helping make SCES an even better place for all our kids. I really enjoyed speaking with so many of you and finally being able to put the faces of students together with their families. One of my goals is to get to know all of you better, so please be sure to come up and say hello!

The 2013-14 school year promises to be another great year of learning and growth here at Serrania, and I'd like to welcome the more than *50 new families* who've joined Serrania even as welcome all of our returning families. I feel fortunate watching our community grow and to have so many willing parent volunteers.

Our focus these first weeks of school has been to develop routines and procedures that will act as solid foundations for learning throughout the year. One of our goals is to transform our student's playground experience. As a first step, we'll have upper-grade students working as play leaders for our primary students to help them learn to play by the rules, monitor fair play and ensure everyone has a good time. Additionally, we're developing a "Student Court." This partnership of students and teachers will mediate yard situations and have students teaching students problem solving and issue resolution techniques. You can help by reinforcing all school rules which can be found in the yellow "Three Bees" booklet sent home in August.

Student safety is among our highest priorities. Inside the school, we teach behavior with the "3 Bees," develop problem solving and communication skills with "Second Step" and later in year we'll, introduce a new character development curriculum. We also regularly practice safety drills, including: fire, drop/cover hold, shelter in place and lockdown so that our students know what to do in the event of any emergency. Parents can help by emphasizing safety on the way to and from school. Remember, you are your child's first teacher and their best model for behavior – children grow up and do what their parents do. Please teach the following: 1) Always look both ways before crossing the street, never walk between parked cars and always use a crosswalk, 2) Follow all traffic rules and only park in designated areas, use our dedicated 'drop off zone' by pulling into the coned area slowly and always be patient with other parents and children.

Our commitment to students is to build their 21st Century skills through a balanced and enriched curriculum. This year, thanks to the Charter funds and the contributions of our parents through FOS, all students will participate in enrichment programs including: PE, Science lab, Computer lab, Art lab, our Library and MUSIC program (K-4). Additionally, we've added a number of targeted enrichment opportunities: Dancing Classrooms (5th), Theater Arts (2nd & 4th), Keyboards (3rd), instrumental music 4th & 5th). This is a work in progress, and we'll continue to add additional programs throughout the year. Stay tuned to learn more!

As you can see, this promises to be another exciting year at Serrania!

Theresa Wedaa

Parenting Seminar Series (Free!)

8 a.m., Wednesday, September 11

Join the Discussion

Kids are Watching:

Seeing What Parents Do and How It Affects Choices

Facilitator: Ryan Rosen, Director, Camp Kinneret

The Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies Elementary School offers its Parenting Seminar Series at no charge for anyone interested in attending. Volunteer professionals facilitate each meeting. The groups create a place for parents and guardians to discuss relevant topics and to share ideas and strategies.

If you have questions or suggestions about the groups, please contact Serrania parent volunteer Andy Weisser, aweisser@earthlink.net, 818.703.6444.

ACCELERATED READER, Where Readers are Leaders!

Accelerated Reader is an FOS funded on-line reading comprehension program that develops fluency, vocabulary, and a love of reading. Students read a book, take a quiz at school, and earn points for awards and prizes.

We had a successful first summer season of quizzing at the Woodland Hills branch library. 20 students visited the library to take quizzes on their fun at-home summer reading. They will receive certificates and popsicles in August.

Visit our bulletin board near room six and SerraniaAvenue.org for more info. You can search for book titles and watch your child's progress. Ask your child for their user name and password to login.

Congratulations to:

Kinder: Luke & Maya O.

2nd grade: Cole S., Adithi K., Anwita V.

3rd grade: Abhijeet D., Seyedeh N., Shruthi S., Nikhil Y., Aarushi K., Saishriya S., Kevin M.

4rd grade: Kiran M., Luke S.

5th grade: Hannah H., Emily A., Serena B., Siddharta D., Julia S., Andy B.



2013-14 Parenting Seminar Schedule

8 a.m., Wednesday, Sep. 11

Kids are Watching: Seeing What Parents Do and How It Affects Choices

6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1

Trust and Lies:

Building and Keeping Strong Communication Lines with Your Children

8 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6

Active Bodies and Healthy Brains:

Children's Exercise, Eating and Sleeping Habits

6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 3

Best Friends, Frenemies and Socialization

8 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15

Divorce, Separation and Healthy Parenting

6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4

How to Work with Forgetfulness

8 a.m., Wednesday, March 5

Raising Happy, Healthy Children without Siblings

6 p.m., Tuesday, April 1:

When Do I Need to Seek Help for My Child's Speech, Language, or Hearing?

8 a.m., Wednesday, May 7

Raising Confident, Respectful, Happy Children

Any Questions? Ask Andy

Weisser: weisser@earthlink.net

Serrania Suns Bring Home GOLD!

Last year, *Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies* added the award winning “Dancing Classrooms” program to our already exciting 5th grade curriculum.

The mission of the “Dancing Classrooms” initiative is to promote positive youth development, strengthen and engage schools, and bring diverse communities together through dance. The ten-week, in-school Dancing Classrooms program not only introduces kids to the world of social dance, but has proven remarkably successful at breaking down social barriers and reinforcing important concepts that include lessons in how to honor and respect one another while simultaneously promoting self-confidence, communication, and cooperation.



As many of you will remember, our SCES Competition Team took part in the Dancing Classrooms Fall 2012 “Colors of the Rainbow” Team Match competition, earning a “High Gold” and qualifying for the *Dancing Classrooms – Los Angeles City Finals*, a truly remarkable feat for first-time competitors.

Over the next several months, the competition team, led by 5th grade teacher / Dance Coach Mrs. Rodstein, worked incredibly hard to continue their training – sacrificing hours of free time and dedicating a good deal of energy every week to practice and prepare for the contest.

On May 29, 2013 the eight qualifying schools from across Los Angeles gathered at *the Civitas School of Leadership* to put on a wonderful display of skill and artistry in front of more than 1,000 family members, friends, students, dancers, city officials, and celebrities.

Each team fielded six couples, every one ready to perform any of the selected classic ballroom dances, including the Foxtrot, Tango, Merengue, Rumba and Swing. Every couple performed at least twice and scored by a panel of professional judges... with their combined scores being used to determine the overall team champions.

After ten grueling rounds, the scores were tallied, and the winning team announced... our *Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies Competition Ballroom Dance Team* took the trophy and title of *Grand Champions!* (Be sure to stop by the main office for your chance to view the trophy they were awarded... it is enormous!)

We want to once again congratulate the members of the *SCES Competition Ballroom Team*, Mrs. Rodstein and all the parents and volunteers who helped make the program possible... what a great way to finish off the year. Now, as we start off a new year, we want to wish this year’s 5th grade class “Good Luck” as they take their turn on the dance floor and try to repeat as Champions.

Go Serrania Suns!

EASY WAYS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SERRANIA AT NO COST TO YOU!!

Box Tops for Education: You can find these on many packaged products in your grocery cart! Cut them out, then turn them in to your teacher or the school office, and you're on your way to helping us fundraise for SCES. They're only worth 10 cents each when redeemed, but last year we collected and redeemed over 13,000 of them! Let's see if we can beat that record in 2013-14!



Ameci Box Labels: If you've ever ordered an Ameci pizza, you've likely noticed the square label on the cover of the pizza box. What you might not know is that for Serrania, those pizza box labels are part of a fundraising campaign that Ameci sponsors to support local schools. Next time you order a pizza for your family (or a dozen pizzas for a birthday party), cut out and save those labels, and then turn them to Serrania, and FOS will turn them into fundraising dollars for our school!



Ralphs: In order to participate in the Ralphs Community Contribution program, you do need a Ralphs membership card, simply bring in this barcode to the store and they will sign you up at the register. The good news is that it's a simple process, and the better news is that once you are registered, a portion of your bill will be donated to Serrania every time you swipe that membership card. If you've signed up for Community Contributions in previous years, **you will need to register again**—Ralphs resets the program at the start of the new school year and requires all participants who wish to continue to renew.



Target: There's another simple way for you to help raise fund for SCES - All you have to do is register your Target REDcard or your Target VISA and a percentage of each purchase you make will be donated back to your school.

To date – Thus far since the inception of this program Target has given \$22,783 to our school!!! Last year alone we raised \$1,123 with only 86 registered card holders. Imagine how much more we can raise if we all registered our cards. It only takes a minute of your time.



ENROLL TODAY - AT www.target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 - Designate Serrania.

Earning for Learning: *Get Started Earning Rewards, It's As Easy As 1-2-3. We all have shopping to do so why not help Serrania at the same time? Every participating school earns a prize, but how much is based on the total accumulated points earned by each school. So even the soda or latte receipt adds up!*

HOW DOES IT WORK? *Start by shopping at any Westfield Topanga & Promenade store, restaurant or eatery. Serrania will earn ten points per dollar spent for purchases from Westfield Promenade and Crate & Barrel, five points for each dollar shown on receipts from Westfield Topanga.*



Simply TURN RECEIPTS INTO YOUR CLASSROOM

EARN 500 POINTS ON FACEBOOK "Like" Westfield Topanga on Facebook and earn 500 points. Visit facebook.com/westfieldtopanga and click the "like" button, then select Earning 4 Learning and "Enter Now."

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL & EARN 1,000 POINTS Visit shoppingpartnership.com and select Westfield Topanga & Promenade under Shopping Centers to register.

RESTAURANT NIGHT



Corner Bakery Café
6100 Topanga Canyon Blvd
Woodland Hill, Ca. 91367
(Located in the Westfield Promenade Mall)

COME HUNGRY... LEAVE HAPPY!!!!
Present our school flyer and 15% of your entire purchase will be donated to our school!

Hey everyone!

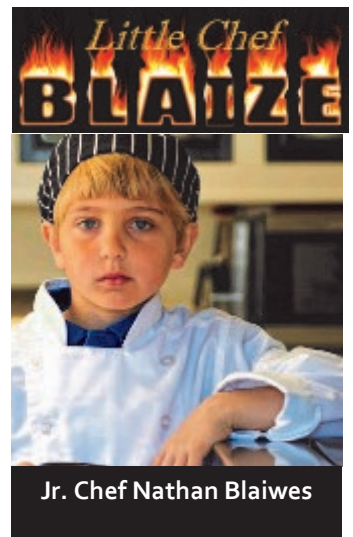
One of our Serrania students may become America's first-ever Junior Masterchef!

Tune in to the series premier to support our very own fourth grader, Nathan Blaiwes!

At only eight years, Nathan is the youngest competitor to showcase his culinary talent along with 24 of the nation's top junior chefs cooking-off for the grand title and \$100,000 prize!!

We are proud of all of our school's many talented children and we encourage everyone to follow their dreams!

MasterChef Junior premieres September 27th at 8/7c on FOX.



Jr. Chef Nathan Blaiwes

Serrania's Movie Night HOME ALONE

Friday, September 27th

Doors will open at 6:00pm and the movie will start promptly at dusk (around 7:45).

Grab your blankets, pj's and pillows...Friends of Serrania is hosting our annual Outdoor Movie Night.

Make sure you save this date and don't miss out! Come get dinner and snacks and watch our classic movie under the stars with family and friends! We will have Serrania Wear for sale so be sure and pick up a t-shirt or two for spirit days!

Admission is \$5/person
(children 3 and under are free)

Enjoy snacks, \$1 each

ALL STUDENTS MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN
ADULT



Original Works



FOS will be hosting an art fundraiser later this month featuring original work of art created by the students of SCES. Friends and family will have the chance to order their students art work professionally printed on a wide variety of terrific stuff, including; mugs, note cards, t-shirts, and much, much more! If you ordered last year, you KNOW how beautiful the products were!! Delivered just in time for the holidays, these unique items are certain to make the perfect holiday gift or stocking stuffers. Artwork and order forms will be coming home in early October, so be sure to keep an eye on your student's Tuesday Packet.