Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies Newsletter
February 2015

Inspiration **Imagination** **Innovation**

MATH FESTIVAL

Written by Jeff Sturgess. Photos by Jodye Alcon and Jennifer Termini

On January 12th, 2015, the day we returned from our winter break, the California Mathematics Council came to Serrania CES to lead the first Serrania '*Math Festival*' – an exciting school-wide event designed to expose students, teachers, and parents to key mathematics topics in a positive, self-exploratory, festival-like atmosphere – a program that's not only educational, but fun as well!

Throughout the day, classes were called to the auditorium, given a brief introduction and then presented with challenging puzzles and problems to solve. Additionally, several multi-grade and highly interactive stations were set up featuring activities such as *Broken Calculator, What's Missing,* and *In One Minute*. Worksheets of increasing difficulty were offered at each of these stations so students could find tasks that most suited them. Best of all, the students were given the freedom to choose any station they wanted while a core group of teachers and parent volunteers guided them through each entertaining activity.

Throughout the day, students approached the tables with great enthusiasm and found themselves conquering challenging tasks while having fun… surprising many of the students (and their teachers) by just how much they enjoyed the event. After about 30 minutes, students were sent back to class but were invited to come back after school with their parents. We're happy to report a great turnout of Serrania families assembled later in the evening in the auditorium to share the experience with their children – with some parents surprised to find themselves enjoying the challenges just as much as their kids. A digital copy of all the materials has been made available to the school and teachers for use in the classroom throughout the year.

A very big 'Thank You' is owed to the people at the *California Mathematics Council* for coming to Serrania CES and sharing fun new ways for our students to learn and enjoy math.

A big thank you to Mrs. Sperber for partnering with the California Mathematics Council.

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Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies

2014-15 Yearbook on Sale Now!

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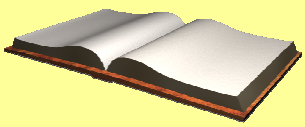

Order by March 25th to guarantee your copy.

Special Offers:

- Yearbook Love Lines $15/message
- Create your message of 125 characters/spaces.

Space is limited so act fast!! First come, first served basis.

Forms are available in the office & on the website.

Order Today - Deadline is Feb. 27th

COMING SOON! - Serrania Kid's Valentine Day Gift Shop!

Open February 10th!

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and the Serrania Kid's Valentine Gift Shop will open *February 10th!*

The *Kid's Valentine Gift Shop* will be open at recess, lunch and after school so kids will have plenty of time to shop for family, friends and even themselves! As always, the shop will be stocked with all kinds of reasonably priced fun toys and trinkets - some ideal for the entire family and loads perfect for the kids themselves! So, rather than giving your child candy this Valentine's Day, why not give them a few dollars to spend in the gift shop? Your child's health benefits and so will the school! All proceeds go towards our enrichment programs - paid for by Friends of Serrania (FOS), our Parent Teacher Organization.

Remember, that money goes entirely to help our school - last year, we raised almost $4,000 during the Holiday Gift Shop… and this year we're hoping to raise even more!

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing at the *Serrania Kid's Valentine Gift Shop* February 10th!

On February 2nd, Serrania CES hosted the 100th Day Walk-A-Thon and we'd like to thank everyone who helped make it the best event EVER! The annual Walk-A-Thon is our second biggest fundraiser, supporting our amazing PE Program. While the Walk-A-Thon is over,

now is the time to bring in all your pledges - Money is Due FEBRUARY 9th!

Aim for the STARS! This year we're shooting for 100% student participation and a goal of $100 per student – though any amount is welcome. This year our goal is $25,000 – but to reach it, we'll need EVERYONE to participate.

Walk & WIN!

Participating students will be eligible to win loads of great prizes including: Serrania Gear, 'BEATS' by Dr. Dre, a Beats Speaker with autographed pics of Dr. Dre. Students who raise $250 in pledges will get to choose an amazing special "EVENT" with members of the UCLA Women's Soccer team, the LA Galaxy Fan Experience, continental breakfast with 8 of the Los Angeles Laker Girls, Princess Tea with Elsa and Anna, and much, much more!

What's more, the classrooms with the highest participation will have the chance to win a "Popcorn and a Movie" event or a "Silly String" party with their teacher. Given how important PE is to kids, it's more important than ever that we work together! Go to www.serraniacharter.org to learn more and see all of the prizes your kids can earn.

So remember, there's still time to find more sponsors – and if you haven't done so already, now is the time to bring in all your pledges – ALL Money is Due FEBRUARY 9th.

Last year we raised more than $24,000 - we can certainly BEAT that number with your help!!

When we hit $25,000 we can SLIME Principal Wedaa at assembly!

When and How Should We Start Talking About Drugs and Alcohol?

By Ryan Rosen, Director, Camp Kinneret Summer Day Camp and Volunteer Parent Seminar Series Facilitator

Whether you know it or not, you have been talking with your children about drugs and alcohol since they were little. The first time you gave them cough medicine or acetaminophen for a fever, you started having this conversation. The first time you had a glass of wine, you started having this conversation. These have all been teachable moments. So the conversation you are worried about having, started a long time ago.

The statistics according to "Liberty Mutual Group" are astounding:

- The average age of initiation to drugs is thirteen years old.
- One in six middle school students has smoked marijuana.
- 34 percent of teens cite "having fun" as the reason to use drugs.

Seven years of "Teen Today" research highlights the influential role of trusted adults in guiding teen behavior. This research shows that children want to talk about the choices they face, what parents' expectations are for them, and how they will be held accountable for their actions. Yet 11 percent of teens say their parents know of their drug use, but still do nothing!

So what can we do about it?

Seek out teachable moments in everyday life. When you're watching TV or see a person with a cigarette, talk about smoking, nicotine and addiction. If you have a glass of wine at a restaurant, ask your spouse to drive home since you had a drink. Discuss how drugs and alcohol affect the brain and body. Children are curious and the more hard evidence you can use to help educate them, the more effective your message can be.

Studies show that when parents have active, ongoing discussions with their children about these different behaviors, their children are more likely to feel comfortable discussing these topics with them. 97 percent of teens say it's important to live up to their parents' expectations regarding drug use, yet 31 percent say their parents never tell them what those expectations are! Don't worry about saying the wrong thing. Just find a way to let them know what values are important to you.

Ryan is the owner/director of Camp Kinneret and is an active member in the ACA and the local community. For more information: ryan@campkinneret.com and @campk_ry

FREE Parenting Seminar Series *Open to ALL*

Seminars are open to everyone and feature volunteer professional facilitators at every meeting. The seminars are a place for parents to discuss relevant topics and share ideas and strategies. Seminars are held in the school Science Lab, Room 2.

Dates, Topics facilitated by volunteer Ryan Rosen, executive director of Camp Kinneret,

- ***8 a.m., Tuesday, March 3*** What Type of Parent Are You? Does it Matter?
- ***8 a.m., Tuesday, April 7*** The Importance of Playing Outside without Toys
- ***8 a.m., Tuesday, May 5*** Should Parents Be Their Kids' Friends?

Restaurant Night at California Pizza Kitchen Wednesday, Feb 11th

Come join your Serrania friends and family, Wednesday, February 11th for another amazing Serrania Restaurant Night!

Your teachers, Principal, and Serrania staff will be there, so join us for some great food with great friends for a GREAT CAUSE!

When: **Wednesday, February 11, 2015**
5:00-9:00 PM

Where: **California Pizza Kitchen**
6600 Topanga Canyon Boulevard
Canoga Park, CA 91306

Remember - **20%** of your entire purchase goes to support Serrania!
AND we get points for going to the restaurant and points for receipts.

california PIZZA KITCHEN

We will be a wrapping up our Earning4Learning Campaign at CPK at Topanga Plaza on Wednesday, February 11th. Please show your school spirit and support our final Earning4Learning Restaurant Night. Show up in your spirit wear and receive a special button for your collection!

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It's not too late to pledge your ponytail!

Pony Up Serrania Cut-A-Thon

Friday, February 27th!

All it takes is an 8" ponytail to make a BIG difference for someone fighting cancer. Sign up ASAP to receive your commemorative Pony-Up t-shirt!

Can't donate your hair? **You can still support those pledging their ponytails by purchasing and wearing our exclusive "Pony Up Serrania" pink beanie hat!**

To sign up, buy beanies, or have any questions, please contact Yevette Peterson @ ywpeterson@gmail.com or 818.378.3068

Serrania goes to "great lengths" to help people with cancer!

Join The Serrania Suns In The Fight Against Cancer At Relay For Life!!

Serrania cares about supporting those who need our help! We are "Kids in the Community," and one of the many ways we demonstrate our spirit of giving is through our participation in Relay For Life of Woodland Hills, a community event that is all about raising awareness, funds and support in the fight against cancer!

Want to help in the fight against cancer?? Please join the Serrania Suns team at Relay For Life on April 18th at Pierce College. You can register now at http://main.acsevents.org/goto/SerraniaSuns

For a 3rd year in a row, Serrania will be there to cheer on cancer survivors at the inspiring Opening Ceremony. We will be there to honor and remember loved ones who have fought cancer at the beautiful Luminaria Ceremony. All the while we will enjoy music, food, games, a Kids Club, and lots of other festivities as we stand together with our community and support those who have faced cancer!

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

Any questions??

Please contact Yevette Peterson at

ywpeterson@gmail.com

Chumash Village Brought to Life for Serrania Third Graders

Written by Orit Bonver, photos by Orit Bonver

This past January, and every year for the last eight years, an authentic Chumash Village has been brought to life for our 3rd grade students by the *Camino Real Naturalist and Historical Interpreters,* a hands-on living history program. Students got to hear, taste, smell, feel and see what it was like to be part of a Chumash village life.

The program focused on the Chumash Indians use of natural materials, and included many wonderful activities. Kids got to grind acorn to make acorn flour, use 'fire drills' in an attempt to make fire, and make Pictograph "rock" necklaces. They even got to taste plants used for food by our local Chumash Indians as well as learning about their medicinal uses. Students were also taught traditional Chumash songs and given the chance to play authentic Chumash musical instruments, manufacture stone bowls and even make sting from a Yucca plant.

Wonderful programs such as this transform our school into an amazing place of learning and fun… and interactive learning experiences create lasting impressions and foster a hunger to learn more about history and other cultures. Thanks again to all of our fantastic 3rd grade teachers for giving our kids such an amazing experience.

Kids Corner

The magical Snowflake

By Yaas Mtamedin 2nd grade, edited by Mila Nikouliv 2nd grade

On a snowy day, Amelie wanted to go play outside in the bright white snow. But, her big brother Ethan said it was too cold to play outside. But they solved their problem by wearing cozy clothes. They had a lot of fun even if the sun was out. They even made lots of snowmen. But then they wanted to make an igloo! So then Ethan and Amelia's mom called Sally and Ciana over to help make the igloo. While they were creating the igloo, Ciana found a snowflake that was bigger than the others. Ethan studies it. He said it was a Winter Fairy that grants wishes. They each mad a wish. Then Ciana and Sally's mom bough them ice skating at the ice skating rink. They had a wonderful time.

I'm 6

By Rihaan Habeeb, 1st grade

I'm six.
I passed my b'day.
My mom and dad were happy because I was six.
And I'm happy to be six. I love being six.
I am the same hight as my friends now.
I can never ever be 5 again.
I am happy.

Hey Kids! Do you have a poem, art piece, cartoon, etc…that you want to submit to the newsletter? If so, please see Debby Dustin or, place it in the suggestion box, in the office along with your name and room number with a note stating it's for "Kids Corner!"

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