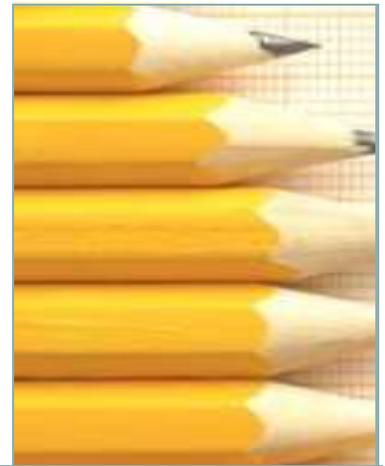


Serrania Charter Newsletter



May - June 2013
Edition



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Wow. What an amazing year this has been. As a newcomer to Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies, I want to thank everyone for the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work that has made my first year as principal such a memorable one.

Working with our wonderful kids, involved families and our amazing faculty and staff has been both an honor and privilege. **Together, we've made SCES an even better school and set the stage for more great things to come. Here are just a few of the year's accomplishments and celebrations I thought worth remembering;**

- Successful navigation of our first year as an affiliated charter school within LAUSD. Our SCES Governing Council and its committees (addressing such critical issues as teamwork, academic achievement, enrichment and community involvement) met monthly and succeeded in overseeing a host of improvements to our campus and enhanced learning opportunities for every child.
- Support for our school's focus on engaging every child to work to their highest potential; maximize student success; increase interactive hands-on learning; and encourage the use of innovative teaching methods.
- Academic Performance: Our API score, one of the most important and visible measures of a school's success, increased from 876 to 901... **placing SCES among the highest performing schools in the district.**
- Weekly school-wide assemblies, with attention on positive behavior and character building (parents always welcome).
- Support and Fundraising: The SCES family donated approximately \$80,000 to help fund school improvement and enrichment programs that included an Art Lab teacher, a M.U.S.I.C. Lab Teacher as well as significant upgrades to our science and campus computer labs. Another huge *THANK YOU* goes out to FOS (Friends of Serrania) and the SCES PTA for all of their hard work organizing fantastic events and fundraisers throughout the year to support these special opportunities for our students.
- Our safe school plan was reviewed and improved, featuring a more efficient gate drop-off and pick-up process, enhanced natural disaster / safe school preparations and an even more robust, school wide positive behavior plan that offered better support/discipline procedures as well as a renewed emphasis on anti-bullying.
- Our *'Kids in the Community'* initiative connected students to a host of ongoing opportunities to help others and one another, highlighted by visits to a neighborhood Senior Home and the truly inspirational participation of so many in the **highly successful 'Relay for Life' fundraiser.**
- Thanks to the dedication of our students, parents, faculty and staff, SCES was able to make considerable improvements to student attendance. Last year, only 63% of students met the district goal of 96% attendance. As of today, working together, we can boast that more than 70% of SCES students have achieved that 96% attendance goal. Thank you to everyone! **And remember; 'students in school is the best way to improve student learning.'**
- Suggestion forms were created and are always available in the front office for any and all ideas to improve our school.

This has been a wonderful year of partnership among staff and parents and I would like to once again thank our dedicated staff as well as our elected Governing Council parent representatives Andy Weisser (chair); Ariella Vaccarino (vice-chair); Asia Mape and Debi Shaolian, for their time, energy and commitment.

If you'll be a member of the Serrania family again next year, please keep in mind that there are many fun ways to get involved (you'll soon receive a summary of opportunities) and lend your support and voice to making SCES the truly great school all of our kids deserve. Studies confirm that students do better in school when their parents volunteer at their schools, so I urge you all to join us! I hope you have a memorable summer.

Thank you,
Theresa Wedaa (Principal)

2013 SERRANIA FUN FAIR!

What a fabulous day we all enjoyed! Now, the fair is over, the booths are gone and the BBQ is finally put away! A BIG thank you to all the families that volunteered at the fair and in their students classroom booths for working so hard to help make Serrania's 2013 Fun Fair such a success! We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did planning it!

This year, we were fortunate enough to get a lot of help from our local community. A very special thank you goes out to these companies for their support and for joining us at the fair:

- Camp Keystone - donated \$2,500.00 worth of inflatables!
- Wendy's Woodland Hills - \$500
- AAA Rental Co.
- Glittertainment
- Shawn's Swim Class
- Kid's Art of Tarzana
- Wax Creation
- Video Game Truck
- American Kenpo Jiu Jitsu Academy
- Gold Star Realty
- Behavioral and Learning Center
- Victor Benes and Nothing Bundt Cakes for donating towards the Cake Walk!
- Trainers @ WHAC Danny, Vince, & Mike for being such good sports & letting us dunk water on them all day long!

Additionally, a very special thank you to our Serrania Families:

- The Mape family for sponsoring "Nose Picker"
- The Peterson Family for sponsoring the Hairspray booth

- The Caciotti Family for sponsoring the Sandy Candy booth
- Mr. and Mrs. Rodstein for helping at the ticket booth ALL day!!!
- Mrs. Wolff for making the quilts with her Room 15 students kids for our silent auction - raising \$800!
- Mrs. Ellis for setting up and working the Snack Shack all day!
- Justin and the Wales family for helping run the BBQ Food area
- The Kirkwood family / Café on Location for donating all of the ice for the fair

Thank you to The Shaolian family, the Aud family, the Hassas family, the Gatewood family, the Hall family, Amy Klosterman, Karen Solari and Wendy Salazar for helping set up the fair on Friday and / or take down the fair Saturday evening. Thank you to Chanda Dutta, Manda Malaekhe, the Glucroft Family, the Jones-Weiser family, Jessica Gilearn, for help that went well above and beyond!

Thank you to the Knights and Ladies of Taft for your endless hours of help and support! And to Tammy O'Neil for getting these volunteers involved!

Thank you to Rob Glucroft and the Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council and LAPD for coming out and supporting us!

Finally, we are so fortunate to have such an amazing and supportive principal! Thank you Principal Wedda for helping us throughout the planning and all the hours she put in to help clean up! Thank you!

Until next year!

Debi and Shannon



Great Fun at Serrania's Annual Funfair

ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

Watching the proud faces of our SCES students as they proudly share their beautiful works of art has been a truly wonderful experience. As the weather grows warmer, why not take art outdoors? Pack-up some paper, pens and paint and enjoy painting landscapes at the park, the beach or even animals at the zoo. Painting outdoors is fun for artists of all ages!

Admire and encourage your kids to draw... art is about expressing the mind and heart and can make visiting your neighborhood park a new adventure! Enjoy your summer!

Sigal Eliave (parent volunteer)



ACCELERATED READER IS AVAILABLE DURING SUMMER BREAK AT THE WOODLAND HILLS LIBRARY.

We are happy to announce that 'quizzing' for our popular *Accelerated Reader* program will be available throughout the summer at our local Woodland Hills branch library from June 10th thru August 9th. Simply visit any computer at the library and log-in as you would at school. Recognition for quizzing will be awarded when we return to school at the start of the 2013-14 school year in August. The library is located at 22200 Ventura Boulevard. Library hours are: M/W 10 am - 8 pm, Tu/Th 12:30 pm – 8pm, F/Sa. 10am - 5:30pm (Closed Sunday). Please visit <http://www.lapl.org/branches/woodland-hills> for additional information.

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 (or at our local library), and earn points redeemable for awards and prizes. Quizzes can be taken after school in Ms. Bonelli's room 4. May 31 is our final point calculation.

Please visit the Serrania Website for more information.

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding reading accomplishments by April 26.

100 Point Club

WELCOME!

Brandon 3rd, Rm. 19 & Zane 5th, Rm. 36

Vivien 5th, Rm. 33

Natalie 5th, Rm. 36

200 Point Club

Julia & Joseph 4th, Rm. 22

Daniel 5th, Rm. 36

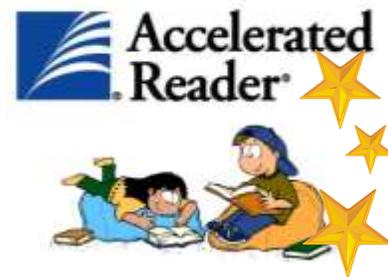
300 Point Club

Udbhav 4th, Rm. 21

Benjamin K. 5th, Rm. 36

500 Point Club Amazing!

Serena 4th, Rm. 22



The Serrania Suns make a HOT showing at *Woodland Hills Relay For Life!*



Serrania was IN THE HOUSE this past April 20th, at the 'Relay for Life' to help Celebrate, Remember, and raise money to Fight Back against cancer, with TWO teams: the "Serrania Suns" and "Serrania Teachers Teaming to Remember." Between the two Serrania teams, there were well over 60 people! Serrania achieved the SILVER fundraising level by raising over \$4,500!!!! More importantly, Serrania was there to cheer on cancer survivors at the Opening Ceremony, honor and remember people who have fought cancer by writing luminaria bags and participating in the Luminaria Ceremony. All of our Serrania representatives enjoyed the great music, food, games, and festivities going on around the track, and the feeling of satisfaction that comes with giving back to our community!



A special note of congratulations goes out to 5th grader Daniel Klosterman for truly embracing the spirit of the Relay for Life by walking for over 18 hours! Daniel won the "Most Laps Walked" Award by logging over 127 laps and more than 27 miles! This was truly a remarkable accomplishment!



So many special thanks are in order, including:

- Ms. Arnesen stepping up as team captain for an event she had never ever seen.
- Ms. Sperber for being the first one to embrace getting Serrania involved and proceeding to recruit her entire family.
- Mrs. Wedaa for being 100% supportive from the get-go, joining the team, and coming out with her mom, dad and sister.
- Miss Susan for being a trusty assistant to Ms. Arnesen and valued cheerleader.
- **Amy and Daniel Klosterman, Asia Mape and Lisa Gilbane for being Serrania's top fundraisers.**
- Lisa Hassas for making and donating a silent auction basket.
- **Orit Bonver, Lisa Gilbaine, Lauri Aud, Ms. Arnesen... and probably others I am missing...** for contributing equipment and supplies for the Serrania Campsite.
- **Amy Klosterman for being the lone "Serrania Store" manager for endless crazy-hot hours during the day.... and for being the lone Serrania over-night camper (along with Daniel, once she finally got him off the track and into bed!)**
- The Riley family for coming to Opening Ceremony, returning in the heat of the day, and coming back later for the Luminaria Ceremony... and to everyone else who came by to be a part of Relay For Life!!



There are many cancer survivors in our Serrania family – and too many of us have lost people we love. Being a part of the Woodland Hills 'Relay for Life' was a remarkable way to celebrate, remember, and fight back against cancer with our community!

PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP: SHOULD WE ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO BE INDEPENDENT?

by Ryan Rosen, Director, Camp Kinneret Summer Camp, Parent Discussion Group Facilitator Volunteer

Children and adults all have a desire to be independent, to make decisions that will affect their lives. At the age of 25, our prefrontal cortex has fully developed and we should **be fully equipped to exercise what many describe as “good judgment” (this brain region has been implicated in planning complex cognitive behavior, personality expression, decision-making, and moderating social behavior).** But how do you learn the difference between right and wrong, good and bad?

Encouraging independent thinking in your child is helping them to develop their prefrontal cortex, which will help them make good choices as they mature. There are lots of different ways to encourage appropriate independence in children of all ages. Developing a routine is one of the most basic. Children will quickly see the pattern in the routine and follow it. Once they are following the routine, they may decide to deviate from the routine. This is another step in encouraging that independence. They are testing to see what will happen when they make this choice. As a parent, you now have a decision: allow that deviation from the routine or redirect them back to the original plan.

Either way, there is a real value in addressing the deviation. Sometimes it will mean pointing out the dangers of their choice and not allowing it to continue. Other times, it will be encouraging their choice. Whichever you choose, that conversation will help your child learn right from wrong and take another step in their development. Planning the family's weekly schedule with your child is another great way for children to create their own routine. Depending on the age of your child, it may be deciding what they do after school, when they do homework and when they get to play. For others it will be how to prepare for a big exam like the SAT.

These conversations are most effective when you are asking questions and guiding your child. As a parent, you will constantly be making decisions for your child's enjoyment and safety. It is important to keep in mind that as the parent, you need to have the final say on many things. After all, your prefrontal cortex is fully developed and you can exercise “good judgment” on your child's behalf. Help your child learn those same skills. Involve them in the conversation on topics like their schedule, their meal choices, their friends, etc. Allow them to make mistakes when making choices. Follow up the failure with a good debriefing conversation and your child can learn more from that mistake than if you had made the correct decision for them!

When debriefing a situation with your child, it is always good to ask questions, phrased in the positive, so you are guiding their choices:

1. For a test, focus more on the learning aspect and less on the grade. This will help improve study habits and connect the choices they make with the outcomes of the tests.

a. What do you think went well on the test?

b. What do you think you can do differently next time to do better?

2. For homework / schedule: I know you want to have some free time each day after school and it seems like you **have a lot of homework to do. Let's figure out a schedule together.**

a. When do you think is the best time to do your homework?

b. Is that when you have the most focus?

c. Do you think doing your homework then will help you do a better job on it?

d. When do you think is the best time for a break to play? Is 30 minutes long enough?

e. When you watch TV before doing homework, I know it is really hard for you to stop watching the show and focus on your homework. I think it is best that you don't watch TV until all of your homework is done.

Some resources on developing independent thinking in children:

<http://www.education.com/magazine/article/raising-independent-thinker/>

<http://www.kumon.co.uk/blog/developing-independent-learning-skills/>

http://www.pal.ua.edu/development/ad_thinking.php

Since 1954, Camp Kinneret Summer Day Camp has been helping children grow and develop through fun and friendship. With a foundation of developing communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking, campers leave their summers better equipped to take on the world. For more information visit campkinneret.com

PLEASE COMPLETE OUR PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP SURVEY SO WE CAN SET AND SCHEDULE TOPICS AND DATES FOR NEXT YEAR. COPIES ARE IN THE MAIN OFFICE.

SUGGESTIONS? Contact Andy Weisser, 818.703.6444, aweisser@earthlink.net

Teacher Appreciation Week

Another *Teacher Appreciation Week* has just wrapped up, and it was a very special week thanks to all the parents and students who participated. The teachers surely felt the “love,” as they were treated to daily outpourings of treats, presents and creative cards and notes of appreciation. Our *Teacher Appreciation Week* volunteers made it a TRULY special time by offering teachers a breakfast, Jamba Juice, and an amazing desert spread featuring all their favorite handpicked treats. The week concluded with a fun Fiesta Luncheon for Teachers and staff on Friday.



Sweets for our fantastic staff !!

Teacher Appreciation Week is a wonderful and important week as it celebrates all the hard work our skilled and dedicated SCES do all year. Teaching everything from Algebra to antonyms (and everything in between), our SCES teachers demonstrate their commitment to our students every day. But as we all know, teaching is just the tip of the iceberg... for they do so much more. Each day, they are there to comfort our kids when they fall, get their feelings hurt, or forget their lunches. They bring in their own

supplies from home so our kids can take part in fun projects, encourage them to try new things, and get tough with them when they need that too! A teacher's job is so much more than just tests and homework... they are role models and game changers in our kid's lives. So a big “Thank You” to our entire SCES staff... and to all our parents for supporting them!



Fiesta Lunch



SERRANIA RESTAURANT NIGHTS: RAISING FUNDS WHILE HAVING FUN!

Restaurant Nights are a great way to enjoy a great time with all your Serrania friends while helping to raise money to support our school!

We've had another great year enjoying restaurants around town including Islands, CPK, Ruby's, The Stand, McDonald's, TGIFriday's, and, of course, the Serrania favorite: Pouquito Mas! Each of these restaurants generously donates 20% of the proceeds from each participating Serrania families during our designated night. Thanks to these restaurants and the participation of our families, we've been able to raise over \$3,300 – just by enjoying great food and eating dinner with friends!

Look for information coming home soon about our new SUMMERTIME Restaurant Nights. Be sure to join us over the summer for some yummy FOOD, great FRIENDS and lots of FUN!!

***we've been able
to raise over
\$3,300 – just by
enjoying great
food and eating
dinner with
friends!***

TOP SUMMERTIME LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG STUDENTS



We've asked our teachers, fellow educators, and students to share some summertime learning activities for your kids:

Rev up reading skills: "Use it or lose it!" For a child who's still mastering reading skills, a summer reading "hiatus" can erode progress made during the school year. Visit your local library for a reading list that is appropriate for your child. In addition to making time to read every day, either to them or listening to them read to you, you can also listen to audio books during family car trips. Audio books hold kids' interest and allow them to practice advanced reading fluency and comprehension — and build their vocabularies — without getting stalled on the language. Best of all, audio books will spark **your child's imagination and interest in new titles and authors.**

Scribblers into scribes: Educators stress the importance of summer learning — whether to address problem areas, maintain gains made during the past school year, or in order to prepare for the next grade. Encourage your child to keep a summer journal, chronicling family trips, day camps, and other summer adventures. Have your child mix it up with short and long entries, illustrations, word collages, and photos with handwritten captions. To get started, take your child to the store to pick out a notebook and special pen. Sidewalk chalk is another kid-friendly way to work on writing skills. Have your child practice **letters, words, and sentences on the driveway.** **When you're beach-bound,** encouraging your child to write in the sand with a stick.

Chase butterflies: Lazy summer days are perfect for getting outside, where your child can experience nature firsthand by **watching a caterpillar, chasing butterflies, or searching for birds' nests.** **Take a stroll through a local nature preserve** or hike a nearby trail. On your walk, point out different wildlife, flora, and fauna — and introduce your child to the Latin and colloquial names for animals and plants if you know them.

Game the numbers: Want to raise a math lover? Play number games here, there, and everywhere!

- Online, websites like Math Playground (www.mathplayground.com), which has logic puzzles, Funbrain.com (check out Math Arcade), and coolmath4kids.com, with jigsaw puzzles and math-oriented "brain benders," **make math entertaining.** Check out Starfall.com, IXL.com or Coolmath.com for more math fun. On your smartphone, download a free app called Math Drills Lite that quizzes kids on basic math skills
- Keep a family calendar and discuss days, weeks, months
- Use fractions when cooking, halve or double recipes
- Use coins to play store or earn allowance. Count your change. Empty your pockets — literally. Let your child play with the money in your wallet or the family change jar. Help her sort the different coins and bills into groups. Play "bank" by swapping 25 pennies for a quarter, or four quarters for a dollar
- Story problems are a must at any level. Use real-life scenarios. Here are some examples.
 - ◇ "Mom and dad both need a pair of shoes. How many shoes are we packing?"
 - ◇ "Each of our kids needs five notebooks. How many notebooks do we need to buy?"
 - ◇ "Each notebook costs \$1.25. How much money will we spend?"
 - ◇ "There are 7,249 marbles to sort equally into 4 jars. How many go in each jar and how many will be left over?"
- Practice multiplication
 - ◇ upcoming 2nd graders: 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, 11's, start one digit by two digit (24×2)
 - ◇ 3rd graders must memorize 1's-10's, larger numbers with regrouping; (356×7)
 - ◇ 4th & 5th graders should work on long division; start with equations such as $234 \div 2$ and work up to $34,987.45 \div 42$
- At home, do puzzles and play games as a family. A giant jigsaw puzzle helps kids with spatial awareness. Letting your child be the banker in Life or Monopoly Junior will sharpen money math skills.

Go, see, and try: Who says field trips are just for school? Designate certain days for special excursions: a local historical, art, or tech museum; a traditionally ethnic neighborhood like Little Italy or Chinatown; a government-in-action spot like a local courtroom or the state capitol; or a local factory that offers visitor tours.

For more information on the Common Core State Standards visit <http://ccss.lausd.net>

Have a GREAT summer full of learning and fun!

Summer Precautions



- **Wear helmets**
- **Wear sunscreen**
- **Take swimming lessons**
- **Don't swim alone**

MAKING SERRANIA BEAUTIFUL!

On 'Big Sunday,' May 5, more than 120 Serrania students, parents, friends and teachers and staff members volunteered their time and energy to help to make *Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies* an even better and more beautiful place. Working together, the volunteers planted 150 new drought-happy and colorful plants and shrubs, along with three new trees, around our SCES campus. In one fun and music-filled day, these volunteers dug, moved and spread organic soil, carefully planted, swept, raked and watered the campus... volunteering nearly 960 painstaking hours! Just imagine what we could do if *Big Sunday* was a worldwide event!

Special thanks to *Big Sunday*, Boething Treeland, Poquito Mas, TreePeople and Noah's Bagels for supporting our efforts to make the community a happier, greener and more connected place. A special thank you should also go out to our special parent volunteers; Orit Bonver, Heather Olson, Asia Mape, Jim Riley, Shannon Hall, Debby Dustin, Tim Jones, Debi Shaolian, Carolanne Valvo and Amy Klosterman for all their hard work.

To lend a hand watering all the new plants or to get involved in future green team and campus beautification efforts, please contact parent volunteer Andy Weisser, 818.703.6444, aweisser@earthlink.net



Making This the Best School Year Ever!

Customized Summer Sessions to Catch up, Move Ahead, Enrich or Avoid Summer Learning Loss!



"We Make House Calls!"

The Tutor Doctor Difference:

- ✓ Personalized One-on-One Tutoring
- ✓ Convenient At-Home Service
- ✓ All Subjects and Grade Levels
- ✓ Skill-building, Enrichment, and Special Needs
- ✓ Experienced and Qualified Local Tutors
- ✓ Test Prep – SAT, ACT, ISEE, GED and More!



818.465.5582 rrapaport@tutordocor.com
www.HomeTutorsValley.com

Providing Quality Education and Service Since 1999

Do This Improve This

Attention Parents
IMPROVE your child's ability to FOCUS, RESPECT and say "NO" to negative peer pressure... Want to know more?
www.FreeMartialArts.US

20929 Ventura Blvd #26 Woodland Hills / 818.992.6610

Advertise in our Newsletter

\$100 - Full Page	For more information contact
\$75 - Half Page	Debbie Shaoalian
\$50 - 1/4 Page	deboras23@sbcglobal.net
\$25 - Business card	(818) 456-6837

ELITE ROOFING
Specializing in Green Roofing & Products

All types of roofing services, and installations.
Shingles, Tile, clay, Built up roof systems, Title 24, Residential and Commercial.

Call for a Free Quote!!!

Winter Specials for Serrania family, friends and community members.

(877) 7663-023
(877) Roof-023
Licensed and insured

Proudly owned by a US Military service member

Dance In Motion

Fun & Energizing Belly Dance Classes

Monday Nights Women's Classes from 8-9PM
(beginning level) First timers FREE!!

Shiri: 818.743.3492
Shiri.bellydance@yahoo.com
20017 Venowen street, Canoga Park



CHILDREN'S ART LESSONS!

PRIVATE ART LESSONS IN YOUR HOME
WITH MS. SCHWARTZ

GROUP RATES AVAILABLE
LAUREL SCHWARTZ
(818) 929-0241

manic713@aol.com



The Coolest Camp

with Classic Fun!

274' Waterslide!

A rushing 274' water slide, horseback riding, 700' tandem zip lines, arts and crafts, swimming, go-carts, archery, high and low challenge courses, fishing and boating, interactive inflatables, gymnastics, drama, sports and the list goes on and on and on..... We just have more fun at Keystone.

Camp Keystone is located on 30 beautiful acres in Agoura Hills, landscaped with over 600 trees, 4 acres of green grass and a natural creek for fishing and boating. Our fully screened staff is led by teachers and children who are nurturing, dedicated and rippin' good fun!

✓ Programs



- Day Camp (ages 5-12)
- Jr. Camp (ages 3-4)
- Pottery Camp (ages 7-12)
- Teen Adventure Camp
- Swim Lessons
- After Camp Watersliding
- Horseback Riding Lessons



Summer Day Camp

**Proud Sponsor
of Serrania
Charter**

March 17, 24
April 7, 21, 28

campkeystone.com

Information and On-line Registration

818-889-2224

Call for tours and 16 page full-color brochure.



2854 Triunfo Canyon Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301