



Serrania Charter For Enriched Studies Newsletter

December 2014

Inspiration

Imagination

Innovation

VICTORY!



For the third year in a row 5th grade participated in a ballroom dance program called Dancing Classrooms! Ballroom dance was a really fun thing to learn. We learned six ballroom dances: Merengue, Foxtrot, Rumba, Tango, Swing, and Waltz. For 10 weeks (20 classes) every Wednesday and Friday Ms. Nicki taught us these dances. Most 5th graders started out knowing nothing about ballroom. Most 5th graders were not happy about learning ballroom dance at the beginning, but over time, each one grew to love it.

Before we knew it, it was time for our performance for the parents. Everyone had roles in our show: ballroom assistant, demonstration teams, announcers, and competition team. The role everyone wanted was the competition team, but not everyone was chosen for that. Everyone enjoyed his or her role. 5th graders enjoyed dancing so much they practiced the dances whenever they could.

On November 5th the competition team went to Union Station to compete against nine other schools. The competition team worked so hard by practicing every day at lunch with Mrs. Rodstein. All of our hard work paid off when the competition team won gold again! Now we are going to the grand finals in May.

We interviewed our amazing coach, Mrs. Rodstein, about the ballroom dance program:

How does it feel to be the ballroom dance coach?

It feels wonderful because the students are so enthusiastic about dancing.

What's your favorite part of ballroom?

I like watching the kids shake it.

What was it like winning the first competition?

It was very surprising and very scary before they announced the winner, but when they did I jumped up and yelled "We Won, We Won, We Won, We Won!!!!"

Why do you think it is important for kids to know ballroom dance?

I think it is important because they have respect for their classmates, responsibility for each other, and it shows good manners and etiquette.

We also interviewed several Serrania 5th graders about their experience:

How did it feel when you won Gold with the competition team?

It felt very exciting, fascinating and I knew it wouldn't come easy, said Johnny

What was it like being on the competition team?

It was really fun, exciting and nerve racking, said Trent.

What was it like supporting the school at the competition?

It was so much fun, and really exciting supporting the team! - Hannah

What did you like about learning ballroom dance?

I liked learning the Swing because it is very exciting and it wakes me up, said Ben.

What was it like hearing we won the Gold again?

I was really happy for the team, and my face lit up! - Jackson

We also met a 3rd grader and a 4th grader to talk about future years. What are you excited about for ballroom next year? *I am excited about learning the dances and movements, said Osiris.* Why do you like watching ballroom dance? *I like it because in two years I'll be doing it. I want to start practicing the dances now! - Pierce.* We are really fortunate to have this amazing program at Serrania. We are very thankful to the following: FOS for paying for this, Ms. Nicki for teaching the dances to us, and the 5th grade teachers, especially Mrs. Rodstein for allowing us to do this program and being an awesome coach!!!
By: Bryce Peterson (Competition Team) & Alissa Jones-Weisser (Demonstration Team)



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Our 4th grade pilot program focusing on manners, etiquette, respect, social skills and character building has gotten underway. The kids have completed three classes, the first one focused on the 6 S's of an introduction and, they visited Ms. Ellis and Mrs. Arnesen's class to share and teach what they learned to the third graders.

- Standup
- Smile
- Stare into each other's eyes
- Shake Hands
- Say your Name
- Say their name back to them

They also learned how to carry on a conversation. So many young people today don't know how to look a person in the eye, answer a question without using just yes and no, and then in return ask a question back. The kids played catch with a ball in order to understand the idea of "holding onto it too long or too short" just like a good conversation, equal time should be spent with the ball. They all learned new things about their classmates and hopefully picked up a few tips to help them the next time they meet a new student, meet a friend's parents for the first time or are carpooling to baseball practice.

The second class focused on Body Language. Since 93% of what you say has nothing to do with what's coming out of your mouth, learning how to read body language as well as being aware of what your body is saying, is an important skill for kids to learn. The third class focused on posture, poise and the beginning steps of table manners.

Volunteers are still needed to help make this program work and to be effective. We have a lot of exciting things planned for the rest of the year and would love some more volunteers for all different aspects of the program. Please inquire at www.serraniacharter.org, click on FOS if you are interested.



Kids Corner!

Young artist Syra submitted her latest creation to our newsletter.
Thanks Syra!!

Kids, do you have artwork that you'd like to share? Please see Debby Dustin in the office for information.

Upcoming Events

Serrania Restaurant Night-
December 10th at



**Great food....Great friends... Great
FUN! Hope to see you there**

The Habit Burger Grill
Wednesday, December 10th
22561 Ventura Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA
4 p.m. until 10 p.m.

*Remember... Wear your Serrania Spirit
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Save The Date!

Save Your Hair!



2nd Annual "Pony-Up Serrania" Cut-A-Thon

Friday, February 27th 2015

*Any questions?
Please contact Yvette Peterson
ywpeterson@gmail.com*

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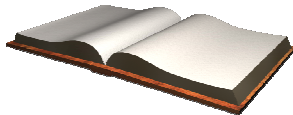
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Awesome Serrania Events!!!



Fun at the Dog Haus!

Thank you to all the wonderful parents, students and friends who helped share in a wonderful night at the new Dog Haus Restaurant on Topanga. From gourmet meat and garden burgers to a wonderful range of foodie favorite sausages, to corn dogs of your choice, the food was delicious!

Together, we raised more than \$225.00 - which was then generously matched by our very own Serrania Parents and Dog Haus co-owners Ramona and Paul (Serrania parents with children in Mrs. Riley's and Mrs. Lu's classes)! We want to extend a **HUGE Serrania THANK YOU** for all of their generosity and hospitality... as well as thanks to all of your amazing employees who took such great care of our every need!



This past November 14th Serrania was bestowed with an incredible dose of pure magic. FOS and the Beverly Hills Princess Company teamed up to bring a live staging of **FROZEN** to our very own auditorium. The children who came to the 5:30pm and 7:30pm shows were overcome with awe and excitement as this professional troupe of actors donned the roles of Princess Elsa, Princess Anna, and snowman Olaf to interact with them in the retelling of this classic tale. FOS is proud to say they successfully brought live theater to students and gave them a night they won't soon forget, since many had never had the chance to experience theater before. If you missed the **FROZEN LIVE MUSICAL THEATER EXTRAVAGANZA**, don't worry because the plan is to bring more theater and more memories to Serrania families.



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Happy Holidays

Winter Performance



Please join us for our annual Serrania Charter Winter Performance and enjoy watching our students perform at one of our most popular celebrations!

The following performance schedule has been arranged to ensure everyone has the chance to attend, and that none of the performances are over-crowded.

The performances are all the same. All of the grades will perform the same songs at every performance

Performances will take place in the Serrania CES Auditorium from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Please attend according to the first letter in your last name

Tuesday, Dec. 16th - A-I

Wednesday, Dec 17th- J-P

Thursday, Dec 18th - Q-Z



The children are working hard on perfecting their songs!
We hope to see you all there!



Serrania Elves Are Coming!

The Elves are coming to Serrania to help collect toys for the Spark of Love Toy Drive. Beginning Monday, December 1st through the morning of Friday, December 12th, students should bring their new, unwrapped toy donations to their classrooms. The Elves will stop by each class to gather the toys and spread some holiday cheer by presenting a special edition "Elf Button" to each child who donates a toy.

When shopping for your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and any other special children in your life, we hope you will consider buying extra toys to brighten the holidays of another child.

Thank you for your generosity and support this holiday season.



Gift Shop OPENING SOON!

With the holiday season fast approaching, we're happy to announce that our annual Serrania Kid's Holiday Gift Shop will be opening December 8th!

Offering loads of great items ranging in price \$1-\$10, we're sure you'll find great gifts for friends and family (and even a treat or two for yourselves)! As always, this is a wonderful opportunity to not only support our school, but to empower our kids to make decisions, think about their friends and family, and learn about the value of money.



The Serrania Kid's Holiday Gift Shop will be open every day at Recess, Lunch and After School. As always, we're looking for people to lend a hand, so if you're interested in volunteering, please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10co448aca622a0fa7-kids> to sign up... it's an easy and fun way to help our students find that special something for the important people in their lives.

What's the Right Age for Kids to Walk to School and to be at the Mall by Themselves?

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

Growing up, when did you start walking to school by yourself? How far away was that? What about going to the mall with friends? How did it feel the first time you had the opportunity to do these things?

If you were like most children given these new opportunities, it was a little scary and a little exciting. You had this newfound freedom and independence, which helped you grow and mature. After you got past feeling nervous, you enjoyed the freedom and even felt proud to be able to do these things. These are important milestones in a child's development and maturation.

Parents share that they are often too scared to let their child walk to school or go to the mall with friends for fear of their child getting abducted. Statistically speaking, children are much safer today despite the increased media exposure. There is a 1 in 1.5 million chance of them being abducted yet only a 1 in 3 chance of them being obese. In other words, if they don't start playing outside, walking to school and moving around, you are likely going to be dealing with obesity. Given these numbers, how can you not find a way to feel comfortable with them walking to school or walking around the mall with friends?

It's important not to feel peer pressure to allow your child to do these things because they reached an age milestone. Every child will reach its readiness for these opportunities at a different time. Only you know your child well enough to know when they are ready for these opportunities.

Here are a few websites that should help you develop a plan to walk to school:

- A few simple tips to make sure they get there safely: <http://www.safekids.org/walkingsafelytips#sthash.HHzNgx5B.dpuf>
- Teaching Pedestrian Walking Skills: <http://saferoutesinfo.org/sites/default/files/TeachingChildrentoWalkSafely.pdf>
- Organization for safe travels to school: <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/what-age-can-children-walk-school-themselves>
- A whole organization about walking/biking to school: <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>
- Website about the Walking School Bus: <http://www.walkingschoolbus.org/>
- The Walking School Bus handout: http://www.walkingschoolbus.org/WalkingSchoolBus_pdf.pdf

When considering allowing your teen to go to the mall with friends, consider being at the mall at the same time so they know you are there, but they can enjoy the independence. Prior to allowing them this new freedom, it's important to discuss the follow:

- What to do in the event of an earthquake
- What to do if their cell phone stops working
- What to do if they get separated from the group
- What to do if someone is bothering and/or following them

Ryan is the owner/director of Camp Kinneret and is an active member in the Western Association of Independent Camps, the American Camp Association and the local community. For more information: ryan@campkinneret.com & campkinneret.com. Follow Ryan on twitter: @campk_ry

Dia de los Muertos Celebrations!

Serrania families and staff know that it's important that learning continues throughout our entire lives, and that in addition to the important lessons learned in the classroom, we all must work to increase our awareness of the larger community, including hearing from others about various and diverse peoples and cultures. So it was with these important goals in mind that this past month Serrania played host to two special guests; Stuart Vaughan and Mario Rosas of the City of Los Angeles' Canoga Park Youth Arts Center. During these assemblies, students learned about the cultural significance and traditions of the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration.



FREE PARENTING SEMINAR SERIES

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 at the school Science Lab, Room 2.

Dates, Topics and Facilitators 2014-2105:

All sessions will be facilitated by volunteer Ryan Rosen, executive director of Camp Kinneret, with the exception of our December session.

- **8:00 a.m., Tue., Dec. 2**
"The Parenting Balancing Act: How to Balance Your Own Needs and Priorities with Those of Your Child"

Lauren Appelbaum, PhD, CPCC; Founder & President, LA*PhD

- **8:00 a.m., Tue., Jan. 20**
"When and How Should We Start Talking about Drugs and Alcohol?"

- **8:00 a.m., Tue., Feb. 3**
"When Your Child Says They are Being Bullied: All Sides of the Bully Problem."

- **8:00 a.m., Tue., March 3**
"What Type of Parent Are You?"

- **8:00 a.m., Tue., April 7**
"The Importance of Playing Outside without Toys"

- **8:00 a.m., Tue., May 5**
"Should Parents Be Their Kids' Friends?"

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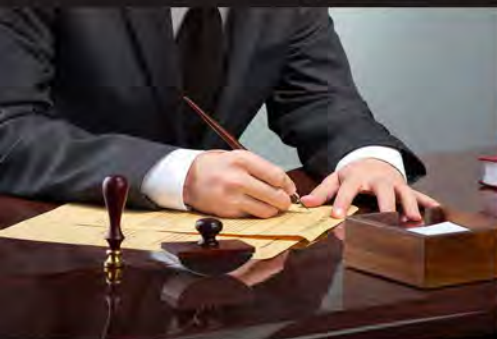
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