



*Serrania's motto:  
Inspiration,  
Imagination,  
Innovation*

**January 2014**



## SCES Helps Out at the Food Bank

After completing Serrania's annual **November Food Drive** and delivering carloads of food to the West Valley Food Pantry, a group of Serranians trekked out to the Food Pantry on the day before Thanksgiving to take part in the next step in the process, which involved sorting and boxing the donated goods so they could be delivered to some of the 3,000 individuals served monthly by the local food bank. Twenty-five SCES volunteers worked alongside other community volunteers for three hours, helping to make sure the food donations were packed and ready to be distributed for Thanksgiving dinners.

Susan Steeb, food drive coordinator for the West Valley Food Pantry, noted her appreciation for SCES' effort: "So many of our clients are struggling with children, or they are senior citizens living on a very tight retirement. We rely on the generosity of our community to help us continue in our mission to help alleviate hunger right here at home. Thank you, Serrania, for being a part of supporting our cause."



**LITTLE Hands Making a  
BIG Difference**

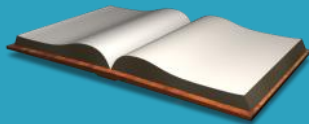


## 2013-14 Yearbook on Sale Now!

Invest in our kids' favorite  
school year memories!  
Order your 2013-14 Serrania  
Charter for Enriched Studies  
yearbook today!

\$26 Soft Cover

\$31 Hard Cover



Order yours today as quantities  
will be limited.

Visit [www.serraniaavenue.org](http://www.serraniaavenue.org)  
to learn more.



### Please join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Serrania Family Dance Feb 8th at 6pm

This year's dance will feature a Valentine's Day theme, and will give families the opportunity to get dressed up and enjoy a night out together. All activities including food, drinks, arts & crafts, DJ, pictures, etc. are included for the price of admission....JUST \$10.00! And remember, all of the money raised goes to support our school! So don't wait... you won't want to miss it! Tickets are available for purchase now. Please send your payment (\$10 per person if purchased in advance, \$15 at the door). Please make check payable to FOS and bring to school before the January 31st deadline.

For more information contact Tammy (818) 518-8716

Woodland Hills Ice  
Outdoor Winter Ice Rink  
6100 Topanga Canyon at Erwin 818.854.4151

## SERRANIA ELEMENTARY FUNDRAISER

Saturday, January 25 8:00Pm - 12:00Pm

**ADMISSION**  
3 & UNDER : FREE  
CHILDREN: \$7  
STUDENT: \$8.50  
ADULTS: \$10  
SKATE RENTAL: \$5

Contact: Tami O'Niel  
818.518.8716  
[tammypta@yahoo.com](mailto:tammypta@yahoo.com)

REMEMBER: PRESENT THIS FLYER OR MENTION YOUR  
SCHOOL OR GROUP FOR FUND RAISING CREDIT.

COUPONS AND FREE ADMISSION PASSES  
ARE NOT VALID FOR FUNDRAISING CREDIT.



[woodlandhillsice.com](http://woodlandhillsice.com)

## Valentine Gift Shop – Coming Soon!



Serrania Students and Parents Get Ready! The Valentine Gift Shop will open February 12th-15th and will be filled with lots of fun gifts for kids and parents. This is a great opportunity not only to support our school but to empower our kids to

make decisions, think about their friends and family, and learn a little about the value of money as well. Everything will be under \$10, with most items costing between \$1 and \$2.





## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER: A New Year Brings New Goals and Renewed Focus!

Beginning in January you will see a shift in math and writing instruction for the students at Serrania. Not only do we want to provide "Inspiration, Imagination, Innovation" for our students, but we want them to leave us ready for the future. The way we taught students in the past simply does not prepare them for the higher demands of college and careers today and in the future. Education is changing with the implementation of the new nation-wide Common Core State Standards (CCSS). No matter where you live in the United States, your child's education will be based on the same set of learning standards. These new standards are based on current 21st century expectations for what students need to know and be able to do when they graduate. Are you ready? Can you do the new 5th grade math? Here is sample problem that our 5th grade students will be expected to answer on the new assessments beginning in 2015.

Tony is buying a used car. He will choose between two cars. The table below shows information about each car.

Car	Cost	Miles Per Gallon (MPG)	Estimated Immediate Repairs
Car A	\$3200	18	\$700
Car B	\$4700	24	\$300

Tony wants to compare the total costs of buying and using these cars.

- Tony estimates he will drive at least 200 miles per month.
- The average cost of gasoline per gallon in his area is \$3.70.
- Tony plans on owning the car for 4 years.

Calculate and explain which car will cost Tony the least to buy and use.

At Serrania will begin using Ready Common Core Math. Our instruction will focus teaching students to: think, model, explain, use language of the discipline and persevere in problem solving. We are increasing our project-based learning. Students can no longer rely on knowing the algorithm, they must know the how, why and be able to explain their reasoning. Thank you to Mrs. Sperber for introducing the curriculum and to Ms. Tenzer, Mrs. Arnesen, Mrs. Hakobian and Mrs. Rodstein for piloting.

## Professional Development for Teachers:

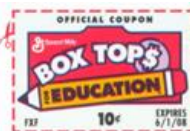
As teachers, we are always focused on our own learning. In order to stay current in education our teachers participate in a variety of on-site and off site professional development. Some even give up their weekends or vacation days in a quest for learning. We share our learning with each other during weekly grade level meetings, Tuesday afternoon professional development and minimum day professional development.

Below is a list of some of the important educational development topics covered at these meeting, along with the teachers who attended/head/lead them.

- Math- Hakobian, Rodstein, Sperber
- Gifted- Arnesen, Vassallo, Sanchez, Luu, Salkin, Ellis
- District Professional Development on Common Core Math and Language Arts
- Common Core: Salkin, Arnesen, Tenzer, Hakobian
- Weekly Tuesday Professional Development and Grade Level Meetings
- Student Behavior- Susan Morris ESC North District Behavior Specialist
- Positive Behavior Support and Student Discipline
- Peer Mediation- Sperber and Hakobian
- Data analysis of CST, DIBELS, CELDT, Math Periodic Assessments, Writing Assessments, Language Arts assessments.
- Student Safety Procedures- Geller and Hakobian
- Common Core Math Instruction with Ready Common Core- Sperber
- Common Core Writing Instruction with Learning Headquarters- Tenzer



Please keep collecting Box Tops, put them in a Baggie or envelope with your child's name and room #, and send them in to Serrania to earn free coupons for a Popsicle



# Behind the Scenes at Serrania!

Ever wonder what goes on 'Behind the Scenes' of our special school? Well you're not alone... so we thought we'd take a moment each month to highlight some of Serrania's fantastic staff – the people who work so hard every day to make sure SCES remains the wonderful place we all love. In this issue we'll visit with teacher's assistant Joko Togi and plant manager Victor Figueroa. Thank you Joko and Victor for all you do!!!



**Joko Togi – Teachers's Assistant/ Computer Lab Tech**

## ***A Little bit of background and the meaning of Joko....***

Joko Togi is one of Serrania's newest and most enthusiastic teacher's assistants. Focusing his efforts in the computer lab, Joko's fun and patient teaching style has quickly made him a favorite among Serrania students. Joko, who was born in Indonesia and

raised in Taiwan, came to Los Angeles when he was 13 years old. And speaking 5 languages - Indonesian, Chinese, English, and a little bit of Spanish which he learned in High School in the states has definitely added to his diverse background. Joko is currently a student at CSUN studying to earn his teaching credential. And in answer to the most common questions he's asked, 'Joko' means "young man" in Indonesian... to which he adds with a smile; "Yes, that means I will never get old!"

## **What Does Joko Do At Serrania?**

Joko arrives early to open the Quedo gate where he manages the morning traffic and helps keep all our kids safe. Next, he's off to Serrania's new computer lab, where in his own words, "that's when we let the fun begin!" In the computer lab, students practice their typing, learn how to use Microsoft Office and other programs, and also learn how to do research using educational websites. Joko also assists students participating in our highly successful *Accelerated Reader* program – helping them login, complete their tests, and get motivated to read more books! He also helps in the lab after school Monday through Thursday so parents and students can do even more work on *Accelerated Reader* or *Khan Academy*. In addition to his work in the computer lab, Joko also supervises the yard during recess and lunch to ensure student safety and security.

## ***The best part of my job...***

Joko came to Serrania because of his love of kids, his dedication to teaching and his determination to share the fun and challenge of working on computers. When asked what he enjoys most about being at Serrania, Joko reported that "the best part of my job is being surrounded by the world's most awesome students. They are the ones who make my job more meaningful and who make my days brighter and happier." Proof of that special connection came in a story that Joko shared; "Every time the kindergarteners say hi to me, they always say '**Hi, Mrs. Joko!**' Displaying the great sense of humor that has made him popular with the kids, Joko admitted that he didn't mind it in the least and added; "I found that to be really cute. I guess I am really beautiful then!"

## ***In his Spare Time...***

In addition to his love of music and playing the guitar, in his spare time Joko also enjoys swimming and basketball. Another one of his favorite hobbies is watching TV shows. His 3 favorites are: *The Walking Dead*, *Dexter*, and *The Following*.



**Victor Figueroa – Plant Manager**

## ***Top of his class....***

Victor comes to Serrania after studying at North Valley Occupational Center. A serious student, he was in the top 3 in all his classes. In 2013 he took the plant manager test and scored a perfect 100 percent!

Having earned his plant manager certificate, Victor interviewed with 4 schools - and though he was offered a position at another school closer to his home, following his meeting with our Serrania administrators he turned them down, realizing that Serrania was the place for him!

## ***A Day at Serrania...***

Aside from managing the school grounds, Victor is responsible for ordering supplies and maintaining the various systems and structures around the school. Additionally, Victor never hesitates to step forward and help the teachers if there's something that needs to be fixed in their classroom. One of his favorite parts of the job is that each day presents a different challenge... things happen that he doesn't expect and he must constantly come up with new ideas or solutions. Victor shared that his days always go by extremely fast, and that he has never enjoyed a job so much!

## ***The Best Part of the Job.....***

The best part of the job is that no day is ever the same. Victor gets a great feeling of satisfaction knowing that he helps people every day and makes the school a better place. On most days, kids say "hi" and even offer him advice. "One day, a boy came up to me at lunch and mentioned that he had plucked some weeds out that were next to a new tree. He suggested I pluck out all the weeds or the tree will die since the weeds were stealing the water from the tree." Victor was amazed at how much the child knew. "The boy said he's been doing it for 7 years at home with his dad. I thought it was so funny how he went to all the trouble of explaining it to me!"

## ***In his Spare Time...***

Victor is a car enthusiast and enjoys cruising in the canyons. He's raced at Willow Springs Circuit in Bakersfield, and attends area races whenever possible. Victor loves to read about cars and sharpen his racing skills by watching videos, practicing on simulators and kart racing! He also enjoys attending car shows and talking about his passion with other enthusiasts.



# Help Us Keep Serrania Green!

## E-Waste Fundraiser and Campus Cleanup

As part of our ongoing efforts to help make Serrania and our community environmentally friendly, we've got two great "green" events planned after the winter break on

**January 18, 2014.**

Working together, FOS (Friends of Serrania), Serrania's 5th Grade students, and the SCES *Green Team* will combine forces and host our **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual E-waste Fundraiser** (from 9 am – 4 pm) and **Campus Clean-Up Event** (from 9 am – 11 am).

Just gather all of your used / broken / unwanted consumer electronics and bring them to school on January 18, 2014 and we'll ensure that it's disposed of in an environmentally responsible way... and raise money for the school at the same time! Then, after you've dropped off your E-waste, please join us in our ongoing effort to keep our campus clean and green—whether you like to dig in soil, pull weeds, sweep halls, rake leaves, or pick up trash, there are plenty of ways you can help make the Serrania campus shine!

**FUNDRAISER—TURN YOUR E-WASTE INTO \$ FOR SERRANIA AND CAMPUS CLEAN UP EVENT!**

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 4 pm

**WHERE:** SERRANIA AVENUE CHARTER FOR ENRICHED STUDIES

5014 Serrania Avenue

Woodland Hills, CA 91364

### What You Should Know About E-Waste.

#### What is E-waste?

E-Waste is defined as any consumer electronic equipment that has reached its 'end-of-life' or 'end-of-usage,' whether in full or non-working condition. That includes most electronics or electronic equipment with a cord or circuit board such as:



Computer Monitors, Television Sets, Printers, PC Systems, Laptops, Copiers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Toner Cartridges, PDAs, Tower Supplies, Main Frame Units, Networking Equipment, Mother Board Systems, VCR/VCD/DVD Players, Home Entertainment Systems, Landline and Cellular Phones, and Small Portable Devices. We also accept car batteries.

#### Why is this so important?

Electronic discards are one of the fastest growing segments of our nation's waste stream. 56% of American households have functional E-products that they no longer use. Less than 10% of E-waste is currently being properly dismantled or recycled. 70% of heavy metals and 40% of lead and mercury contents found in today's landfills come from E-waste. Help get rid of E-Waste the right way by keeping it out of our landfills and sending it to a proper recycling facility!

Questions about either of these events? Contact Friends of Serrania by e-mail at: [fos@serraniaavenue.org](mailto:fos@serraniaavenue.org)



Show your support by becoming a sponsor and advertising your business in our new monthly school magazine. NewsCrafted provides our school with this free newsletter magazine each month, thanks to the generous support of local businesses in our community. Your sponsorship will help insure the continuation of this program. For information on becoming a sponsor, please contact Ben Schiftan at 818-644-7789 or via email at [ben@newscrafted.com](mailto:ben@newscrafted.com)  
Thanks!!



## Save the Date!

Restaurant Night—California Pizza Kitchen

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

20% of your bill is donated to Serrania

## Best Friends, 'Frenemies' and Socialization *By Ryan Rosen, Director, Camp Kinneret Summer Day Camp, ryan@campkinneret.com, @campk\_ry*

Children today face the same challenges with friendships that their parents faced, but the way children develop these relationships has changed. Children still want the same things out of their relationships; comfort, support, and trust. But technology has changed the way children interact. "Talking" on the phone usually means texting with a friend. This is extremely risky because it is so easy to share what another person texted or messaged. A single text or message can be shared over and over, taking social gossip beyond the realm of hearsay. Be proactive about these new realities with you and your children. Know what is happening in your children's lives and with their friends. They are learning how to build relationships and develop friendships.

And while your children may not do everything you ask, you can be sure they are watching and listening to everything you do. What are your relationships with your peers? Are you supportive and trustworthy? Or do you share information that a friend confided in you? Are you a 'Frenemy' and you don't even know it? 'Frenemies' are nothing new. When we were growing up we referred to them as 'two-faced': friendly one minute, but speaking badly about them the next. Help your children to understand the value of good relationships. Model for them how to be a good friend and ask questions about their friendships when you don't feel they are mutually beneficial. Children today still want the same thing that their parents wanted when they were growing up: to feel a sense of belonging and to fit in. Help your children learn the best ways to achieve healthy, reciprocal friendships.

*Ryan is a Serrania Charter volunteer who facilitated our recent parent discussion group about this topic.*

## I Heart Serrania



Luck of the Draw Opportunity Drawing

*Just around the Corner February 14th!*

*In the next couple weeks students will receive booklets of tickets to sell to family and friends to support Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies, and have a chance to win fabulous prizes! Some of the amazing prizes will include the latest electronics, Disneyland passes, and a collection of restaurant gift cards! The drawing for the prizes will take place February 14th at the morning assembly. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win. Students and families are encouraged to sell as many ticket booklets as possible. There will be a prize for the top seller as well! Please check your Tuesday packets for more specific information and ticket booklets to sell! We Love Serrania Charter!*

## FREE PARENTING SEMINAR SERIES

Don't forget to attend these FREE Seminars.

Seminars are open to every-one and feature volunteer professional facilitators at every meeting. The seminars are a place for parents to discuss relevant topics and share ideas and strategies.

### • 8 a.m., Tues, Jan. 21

Divorce, Separation and Healthy Parenting

### • 8 a.m., Tues, Feb. 4

How to Work with Forgetfulness

### • 8 a.m., Tues, March 4

Raising Happy, Healthy Children without Siblings

### • 8 a.m., Tues, April 1

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

### • 8 a.m., Tues, May 6

Raising Confident, Respectful, Happy Children

Any Questions?

Andy Weisser:  
aweisser@earthlink.net

# Serrania Student Council is on the Job!

Serrania student 'Peacekeepers' aim to create a more positive environment for our school!

With the welcome guidance of 4th grade teachers, Mrs. Czigler and Mrs. Vassallo, approximately 50 4th and 5th grade students have been selected by their teachers to serve their fellow students as the Serrania Student Council. Students were selected based on essays they wrote expressing why they want to be on Student Council, what skills they could bring to the effort, and how they would make Serrania a better place.

Serrania's Student Council wants to give a voice to all students at the school. With monthly themes that include anti-bullying, pedestrian and traffic safety and creating greater student camaraderie with a festive spirit week, their mission is one of peace-keeping and creating an even more positive experience at Serrania.

Principal Wedaa believes that the Student Council will truly give a voice to the entire school. Student Council members will be the conduit to elicit more thoughts, ideas, and opinions from all students. Serrania students should feel comfortable telling Student Council members what they think about Serrania, and how they would like to see it get even better.

Mrs. Vassallo and Mrs. Czigler observed, "Student Council is such an important opportunity for kids to get creative, learn to share ideas, and think bigger. It is a wonderful way for the entire student body to gain a sense of increased ownership of their school through student leadership. It is also important for students to have many different opportunities to shine at Serrania."

Thinking about their roles and responsibilities, some of our Student Council members shared:



"We are ambassadors for our school...we care about other people's safety. You can come to us with your problems..." Ava, 4th grade

"Serrania is made of three parts: students, teachers, and Student Council. When we work together, no one can pull us apart—like a braid." Iman, 5th grade

"I want you to speak up and tell us if you or anyone else is bullied. I am your helper! I promise to make Serrania shine!" Piper, 5th grade

Both Mrs. Vassallo and Mrs. Czigler have noted that they can already see how Student Council is inspiring students to step up, own the responsibility of their leadership and truly strive to be their very best.

## A New Year's Resolution Worth Keeping!

Every parent, teacher and health care professional knows how important healthy eating habits are for our kids and its impact on their ability to perform at school every day. As a result, it should come as no surprise that parents' across the country use the tradition of the New Year to resolve to do a better job guiding their kids eating habits.

While many of us do a good job providing nutritious options at breakfast and dinner, lunch often proves a bigger challenge. To help you keep that "healthy lunches" resolution, I've pulled together some of my own experiences and real-world suggestions for creating healthier options for your hungry student.

Like many of you, Sunday nights at our house always seem to include visions of a week full of healthy lunches... a vision that includes the often unlikely reality of my kids eating those healthy lunches as well. Monday lunches are often ok, but by Tuesday all bets are off. We are busy and tired and frankly have very little time to deal with lunch!

This year can be different. Unlike my previous and unreasonable Sunday delusions of what to pack, this year I'm resolving to make more frequent smaller changes. Radical changes to kids meals will likely lead to open revolt. If it's going to last, it's time to get real. To start with, I recommend by changing out a sugary boxed "juice" for water. Next, try hummus and vegetables in place of a pre-made boxed meal. Creamy tomato soup with whole grain crackers sounds warm and healthy. How about dinner leftovers in a thermos? Add a chopped fruit or vegetable and side of almond butter to dip, and you've not only created a healthier meal, but one they'll likely eat as well.

Change is hard, but remember this is not about the pressure of making the "best" lunch, but rather about making a better one.

Happy New Year!

J. Gillearn, RD





Students, Teachers, Parents

# DONATE YOUR HAIR

To make wigs for people with cancer!



## SERRANIA'S FIRST ANNUAL CUT-A-THON

and "Relay For Life" Kick-Off

Stay tuned for more details - but for now **SAVE THE DATE...SAVE YOUR HAIR!**

February

7

8am

@ Serrania

**Cut my hair?  
It's my look!  
I can't part  
with my  
hair!**

Guess what??

It's just hair and it  
will definitely grow  
back!

You might be  
surprised how great  
you look with short  
hair... and the best  
part, your hair will  
make a huge  
difference for  
someone in need.

**Oh my hair  
isn't nearly  
long enough  
to donate....**

Guess what??

The minimum  
requirement is

**only 8 inches!**

8 inches is all you  
need to give up in  
order to help  
someone battling  
cancer feel beautiful.

**What better  
way...**

to get a fun new look  
while doing a  
generous act of  
kindness for someone  
battling cancer?!

**Stylists  
Wanted!**

If you know a stylist  
who would be willing  
to donate his or her  
time to make the cut  
and trim up the new  
short 'do, please  
contact Yvette.

**Questions or to sign up...**

Contact Yvette Peterson at  
ywpeterson@gmail.com or (818) 378-3068