

SCES Newsletter

SERRANIA CHARTER FOR ENRICHED STUDIES

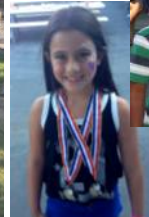


*Serrania's motto:
Inspiration,
Imagination,
Innovation*

September 2014

Welcome back!

*Photos provided by Jodye
Alcon and Jennifer Termini*



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER *By Theresa Wedaa, Principal*



Every day, parents speak to me regarding their concerns about their child's social relationships at school. Every parent wants to know that their child has friends on the yard and in their classrooms. They wonder; "Who will my child play with?" "What if they don't have friends in their class?" All the natural concerns of caring parents... questions that, as a parent with kids still in school, I always take seriously.

At Serrania, our goal is to help develop students who have the ability, courage and confidence to build relationships in every situation. To know that no matter where they go, they will be able to easily meet new people and look at new or different situations as an opportunity to make new friends and grow. As part of our new SCES Life Skills Academy Toni Caruso, from the award winning 'Next Step' program came and spoke to teachers at the beginning of the school year outlining key behavior and manner skills that help students in their daily interactions with others. According to Toni, people often make decisions about 'who' you are in just the first few moments after they've meet. With her support, Serrania has already begun implementing a new school-wide manners program intended to help teach our students critical skills they can employ when speaking to others; including making eye contact, saying hello, goodbye, please, thank you and you're welcome.

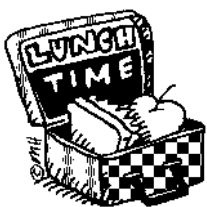
To begin the year, we've been emphasizing the importance of 'eye contact.' Making and maintaining eye contact makes a person feel that they are being listened to, understood and appreciated. Today, distracted by TV, computers and other electronic devices, children are not interacting as they often did in the past, so it's important to teach and reinforce them so that all of our students learn how to be respectful responsible in their interactions with others. Our 5th graders will be receiving additional interaction instruction through the highly successful 'Dancing Classrooms' program while our 4th graders will receive special attention through 'Next Step' lessons with Toni.

We expect that these special programs – together with our school-wide emphasis on building strong inter-personal skills – will help all of our students develop the confidence and tools they'll need to become the strong, self-assured adults we all wish they'll become.

We hope you'll join us by encouraging these behaviors at home, and welcome any comments or suggestions you have regarding this important initiative.

Join us for Back to School Night!

Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies invites you to our annual Back to School Night, Tuesday September 9th! For more details go to SerraniaCharter.org



Lunch Time Smarts!

Jessica Gillearn, RD

Believe it or not, it's back to school time! While it's always important to pack something healthy in our kids lunches, it is equally imperative to pack it safely – remember, it's not just "what" we offer but "how."

While the idea of the Fall semester conjures up images of sweaters, falling leaves, and warm colors, it's important to keep in mind that here in the West Valley, we're likely to be enjoying a beautiful Indian Summer for weeks to come... which means days of 90° + degree weather. These high temperatures present all of us with a number of challenges when it comes to preparing healthy and safe lunches for our kids.

In order to minimize food borne illness, it is important to reduce the time food spends in the "danger zone" (41° F – 140° F). Items such as meat, dairy products, and salads can be potentially dangerous if not maintained at the right temperature. Check out the USDA's ChooseMyPlate.gov for some great tips on keeping cold food cold and hot food hot. It is also a great idea to invest in an insulated lunch bag/box so you can add a cold pack or even a frozen water or juice to keep it cool.

Eat well and be well!

DON'T MISS OUT!
FRIENDS OF SERRANIA IS HOSTING OUR ANNUAL
OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT!

The Wizard of OZ

Friday, September 19th

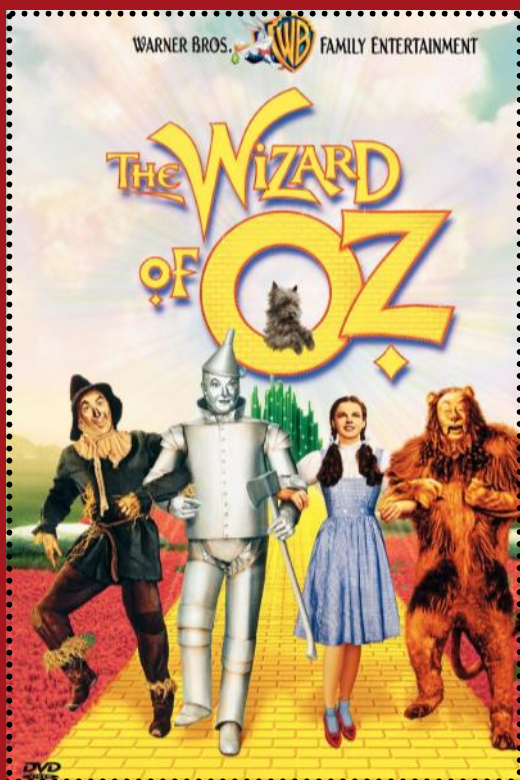
Doors open at 5:30 and the movie will start just after dark (around 7:15 or so)

Grab your blankets, pillows and pj's and join us for a fun filled evening watching this all-time classic under the stars with family and friends. There'll be costume and trivia contests and the chance to take pictures with some of your favorite characters!!

We're also happy to announce a great selection of BBQ food, snacks and drinks will be available as well as a chance to gear up with the hottest Serrania Spirit Wear!

Admission is \$6/person (children 3 and under are free)

ALL STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT



Accelerated Reader®

Written by Heather Olson

Congratulations to these Accelerated Summer Readers who took quizzes at the Woodland Hills library:

1st grade: Luke & Maya O.

2nd grade: Sofia G., Adithi K., Sofia S., Kavya M.

3rd grade: Victoria G., Nikhil Y., Mantreh N., Gabriel S.

4th grade: Kiran M., Vladimir D.

5th grade: Alissa J.W., Khoren D., Hannah H.

6th grade: Sai K., Alisha D.

Be proud of your successes and continue to set new goals. A student's dedication to their reading success is an important step towards their education. Every child needs to read for at least 10 minutes a day. Upper grades should be encouraged to reach a thirty minute per day goal. Our Woodland Hills librarian is an excellent source

for new reading titles or visit ARBookFind.com. Books can be searched by reading level, title, author, and topic. Get signed-up to receive emails when your child takes a quiz through Serrania's AR page.

Fire up your love of reading with Accelerated Reader! AR quizzing begins this month for 1st thru 5th graders. Check Serrania's website for program updates. The computer lab will soon be open for after school quizzing. Besides individual student point goals there will be grade level and classroom incentives. So get reading and take those quizzes.

If you'd like to help with Accelerated Reader, please email Heather Olson from Serrania's Accelerated Reader page or leave a message in the office. Each month there are home and school based activities parents can help with.

For more information on Serrania's participation in the Accelerated Reader program, please visit www.SerraniaCharter.org

**A Reader Today, a Leader Tomorrow.
Happy Reading!**



MORE THAN A MURAL: SERRANIA ALUMNA DONATES CHUMASH WALL ART CREATION

written by Andy Weisser, photos by Jennifer Termini

"It makes you think of what is it you have done throughout school that leads you to the moment," said Elizabeth Jane Freeman, who left quite an impression on campus.

The previous Serrania student volunteered to paint a new Native American Chumash-themed mural on a classroom wall by the Quedo gate on the south side of campus by the school's Native American garden.

"I always thought of myself as an arts person but never thought I would be doing anything in art," she added. "I decided to do the mural because I went to school here and I thought it would be a great opportunity to give back."

She chose Seon Kyu as her assistant because she is her best friend, an illustration major and into creating landscapes and figures. Elizabeth is an abstract artist so the combination worked really well. Both met at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. "This is something we have a passion for," Elizabeth added. "We got to have fun while giving back to a great school."

It took about three weeks for the pair to complete the mural.

Reflecting on the process to paint the mural together, Elizabeth said "you have to constantly step back and view the work in order to see the big picture because you are working in such small detail." "The building has a wall that is porous and you have to constantly be stippling (creating an image comprised of many small dots or specks). So it takes a lot longer because the paint doesn't just glide on. Physically, you have to keep going up and down (the ladder) and moving. It is very exhausting."

Elizabeth has many vivid memories about being a previous Serrania student. "I remember everything about this school. Even the smell, it still smells the same especially the library, the kitchen and the main office. All the memories just came back. To come back now actually makes me want to do more volunteer work. It sparked something in me."

Elizabeth also remembered building a (California) mission in Mr. Rindt's class. "I really wanted to make the building realistic and started adding plant material and explored creatively how to make the foam model more dynamic. That was when I started growing more interested in art."

"One of the goals at Serrania is to build community; we give back," said Principal Wedaa while introducing Elizabeth and Seon Kyu at the first Friday morning school assembly of the year. "This is a place that is very important in her heart. During our school beautification day and on a few additional weekends, she and her assistant came and painted this gorgeous mural."

Elizabeth will graduate from Art Center next spring with a focus on fine art, sculpture, installation and video and strong interest in social media. "It's all about having fun and not forcing yourself onto something. If you are passionate about and love what you do, you will end up doing it and everything else is going to come from that," she said.

During Elizabeth's interview for this article at the mural, Ms. Sperber brought her class to experience it. While appreciating the artists' work, the colors and meaning of the mural, her students discussed the Native American Chumash, social studies, art and math concepts. The class explored how the mural grew from a small image into a building-sized painting by using ratios.

The mural brought beauty to another corner of our campus and, through Ms. Sperber's classroom example, offers a perfect snapshot of integrating the new Common Core educational approach into a learning moment on campus.



Muralists: Elizabeth Jane Freeman (mural artist) and Seon Kyu Lee (assistant)

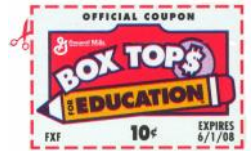


EASY WAYS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SERRANIA AT NO COST TO YOU!!

With a new school year just underway, everyone is looking for ways to help make this the best year ever for all of our kids. Fortunately, a number of local companies have stepped forward to offer us several great ways to earn money for our school. To participate, just keep an eye out each time you visit these stores for special education fundraising programs.

Box Tops for Education

Each time you purchase eligible items, cut out the box top labels and bring them to school, you'll help raise money for SCES. To be sure that we receive your "box tops" simply place them in a baggie with your child's name, date, and room number, and then turn them in to your teacher or the school office. Our record stands at just 13,000 box tops... but we're betting we can beat that for the 2014-2015 year! Prizes will be awarded!! So cut away!!!!



Ralphs

Looking for another way to support Serrania? Simply visit your local Ralph's supermarket sign-up, do your weekly shopping, and a portion of every dollar you spend will be donated to Serrania!

In order to participate in the Ralph's Community Contribution program, you'll need to enroll in the program... fortunately, getting started is easy! Simply sign up for a Ralph's membership card and use the attached barcode to identify Serrania as your school of choice - they'll sign you up at the register. The good news is that each time you use your Ralph's card, you'll not only be earning rewards for yourself, but a portion of your bill will be donated to Serrania every time you shop.



Important Note: If you've signed up for Community Contributions before you will need to register again – Ralph's resets the program at the start of each new school year and requires all participants who wish to continue in the program to re-new their membership. So sign-in and register and begin earning even more Ralph's rewards for Serrania today!

Target

Here's another simple way for you to help raise much needed funds for SCES - All you have to do is register your **Target REDcard** or your **Target VISA** designating Serrania Charter for En-riched Studies as your school of choice and a percentage of each purchase you make will be do-nated back to our school!

To date, Target has donated \$22,783 to our school! Last year alone we raised \$1,711.80 with on-ly 93 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 - and be sure to designate '**Serrania**.'



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!



Amazon Smile

Amazon will donate .5% of purchases directly to Serrania's FOS. Simply sign into your existing account (or register) at <https://smile.amazon.com>, choose Friends of Serrania, and shop as usual. Amazon will send a check to be used to improve our children's school!

Together, we can make a difference... so be sure to cut-out your box tops, register your Ralph's and Target cards and save those Ameci pizza box labels to start raising money to support our school. Every dollar helps... and working together we can make a real difference!



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 at the school Science Lab, Room 2.

Dates, Topics and Facilitators 2014-2015: All sessions will be facilitated by volunteer Ryan Rosen, executive director of Camp Kinneret, with the exception of our December session.



• **8 a.m., Tuesday, September 2**

Becoming a More Calm, Loving, Nurturing and Engaged Parent

• **8 a.m., Tuesday, October 7**

Helping Your Child Deal with Gossip

• **8 a.m., Tuesday, November 4**

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

• **8 a.m., Tuesday, December 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 a.m., Tuesday, January 20**

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

• **8 a.m., Tuesday, February 3**

When Your Child Says They are Being Bullied: All Sides of the Bully Problem

• **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?

THANK YOU! TO ALL THE FAMILIES WHO SUPPORTED BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ



Thanks to all the families that came and supported our Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies Back to School BBQ! Together, we raised \$3,000 through ticket sales, we also sold almost \$1,000 in Serrania Wear and brought in almost \$5,000 for our Shine on Serrania campaign... all while dancing, eating, having fun meeting new families and reconnecting with old friends! A very special thank you to Neil and Scarlett Manganaro for chairing the event and adding so many fun activities for the kids like field games, watermelon and pie eating contests and the photo booth!

We couldn't do anything without the support of many volunteers! Thank you to: Justin Berenbaum, Barry Berg, Ray Shaolian, Alex Madjeski, Rob Mape, Jeff Klosterman, Barrie Kirkwood, Zoraida Flowers, Sandra Hernandez, Jodye Alcon, Michelle Mitchel, Toby Sperber, Carleen Vasquez, Ellen Golla, Patrick Duff, Tamil White, Carol Lee, Sigal Eliav, Reyna Enverga-Juatco, Nina, Jim Riley, Daniel Klosterman, Fariba, Adrianne Doty, Andy Weissner, Jen Cole, Ilisa Pasternak, Mary Cacciotti, Asia Mape, Debi Shaolian, Yvette Peterson, Amy Klosterman, Jon Hall, Christine Guerra, Scarlett Manganaro, Raj Dutt, Heather Olsen, Shannon Hall, Elizabeth Freeman, Orit Bonver, Carleen Vasquez, Adrienne Tun, Yvette Peterson, and Jennifer Termini.





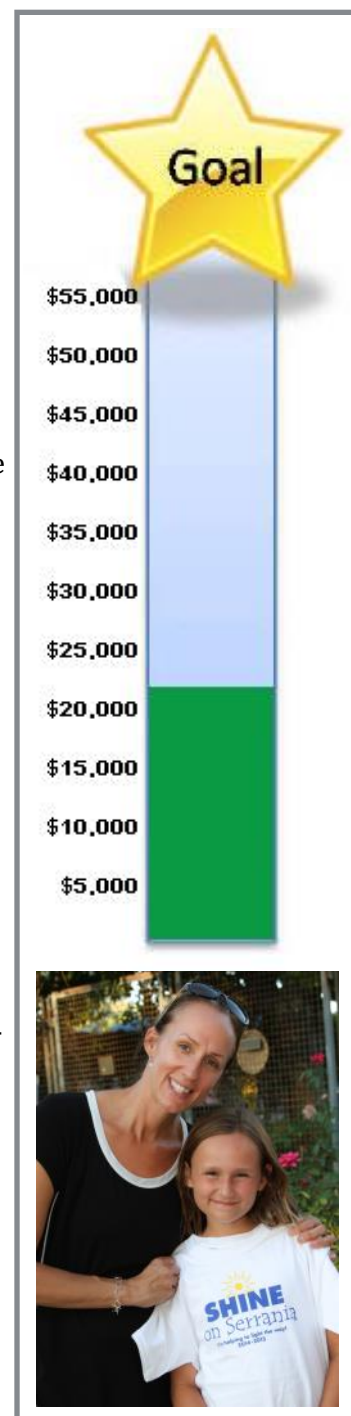
Your Light Helps Us Grow! Annual Giving Campaign

It may feel like every time you turn around Serrania is asking you for money, but it is not a frivolous act. **It is to benefit ALL of our kids!** True, public school should be free. But the enriched education our children experience at Serrania is not.

Due to severe budgets cuts, the gap between the money we receive from LAUSD and the cost of a vibrant learning environment continues to grow. The funds we receive from LAUSD scarcely cover the bare minimum. Now more than ever, the quality of our children's education is in OUR hands.

Friends of Serrania (FOS) is Serrania's fundraising booster organization. Our mission is to raise vital income to fund important academic, art, social, technological, and campus improvement programs and services that are no longer funded by LAUSD. Every student who attends Serrania experiences and benefits from programs and services such as: PE, Music, a Computer Teacher, Phillips Institute Counseling Services, Dancing Classrooms, Accelerated Reader & more.

"Shine On Serrania" is the FOS Annual Giving Campaign. It is our most important fundraiser for these programs and resources. Without FOS funding, they simply will not exist. The more money we raise, the more we can expand these programs. When you give, your child gets a lot back!



Our campaign goal is 100% Serrania Family participation!

ALL of Serrania's students experience and benefit from the programs and services funded by FOS. **Our kids are worth it—they need YOU to make it happen!** The suggested family contribution to cover the cost of these programs and services is \$250 per child. However, **ALL** gifts in **ANY** **AMOUNT** are greatly appreciated.

Your light will help our students grow! Please make a donation to support your child's education at Serrania. If you can't give big, please give something small. Make the most generous gift your circumstances allow. Gifts of ALL levels add up and make a significant difference. Together we can shine & make it happen!

Questions?

Email FOS at fos@serraniaavenue.org

