

Serrania Charter Newsletter



Welcome to the February edition of the SCES Newsletter! As always, we've included a number of valuable articles as well as information about upcoming events we hope you'll find helpful.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Attendance Matters!

Not long ago, LAUSD released the results of the most recent school performance assessment, and I'm happy to report that Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies did great! Not only did we improve compared to last year, but our API score of 901 ranks us among some of the best schools in the district. I'd like to again congratulate all the students, teachers, parents and staff of Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies for all of their hard work and success.

Having done so well and come so far, it's now time to look forward and see what we can do even better. While there are a number of important initiatives, there is one noteworthy area where we can make an immediate difference - **attendance**. To no one's surprise, several studies have shown that students who attend school regularly perform better and achieve more throughout their entire school career. In short, attendance matters... a lot.

As part of our effort to emphasize good attendance, we've begun making a point of regularly recognizing the students and classes with the best attendance. During our January 25th assembly, we celebrated the classrooms in each grade that had the highest average attendance so far this year by awarding them a trophy for the month. On February 1st, we'll again recognize the classes with the best monthly attendance. Additionally, February 5th marks the 100th day of school, so on February 8th we'll celebrate students who have earned 'proficient and advanced' recognition for attendance (having attended school on at least 96 of the first 100 days).

This is an important initiative, but one we can't make happen without your support. We hope you'll join as we work to help every student understand why it's important for them to attend school every day!

Thank you,
Theresa Wedaa, Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Parent Discussion Group	2/6
Crafts Night	2/8
School Tours	2/8
Kids Valentines Gift Shop	2/11-2/14
Drawing for Luck of Draw: morning assembly	2/15
No School	2/18
Governing Council & SSC Meetings	2/20
PTA/FOS Meeting	2/21
Movie Night: Hotel Transylvania	2/22
School Tours	2/22
Minimum Day	2/22
Green Team Cleanup Day	2/23
Restaurant Night at Islands	2/27

GREAT NIGHT AT THE STAND! THANK YOU TO ALL THE FAMILIES WHO
SUPPORTED RESTAURANT NIGHT



COME TO OUR NEXT RESTAURANT
NIGHT AT



Wednesday, February 27th

Between 4-9pm

COME HUNGRY... LEAVE HAPPY!!!!

20% of your purchase will be donated to our school!

Don't forget to **BRING YOUR SERRANIA
RESTAURANT NIGHT FLYER** and present it when
you order as that's the only way we get credited for
your purchase.

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY

2012-2013 Yearbooks

Order Yours NOW!

Soft Cover \$26.00

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Don't Miss Out

You can order online at
ybpay.lifetouch.com, Yearbook ID Code
10244513 Or

Make checks payable to: Serrania Charter
and turn it to the office

VALENTINE'S DAY ARTS AND
CRAFTS WORKSHOP

Arts & Crafts

*Friday, February 8
Serrania Auditorium
3:00 pm—5:30pm*

Come join us for this fun event.

Arts and Crafts where you can
create unique Valentine's Day
decorations, sweets and treats, and more!

Crafts, pizza, food and drinks will be available for \$1.00
each.



PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP: HOMEWORK STRATEGIES

By Ashley Ravid, M.A., ET/P

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I have yet to meet a student who didn't want to learn or perform their 'job' successfully. I also have yet to meet a parent who says they don't struggle with getting their child to start and/or finish their homework without a full-blown argument or meltdown. Parents often feel unsure about how to structure their child's afternoon in order to help them achieve homework success. I am here to help!

The key to unlocking your child's success with homework is somewhat simple: **know your child**. Does he/she study best after some time burning off some energy? Does he/she crash around the 7pm dinner hour? Throughout my years as a practicing Educational Therapist, I've witnessed how a parent phrases rewards or consequences is the key. Instead of the old, "If you don't finish your homework you can't

watch TV" or nowadays, use the iPad. Instead of phrasing it as a 'punishment', turn the same concept into a reward. "If you can finish your homework by _____ you can have 15 minutes more _____." Help your child build success by implementing these few strategies:

1. Select a main work area free from noise and make sure it is stocked with school supplies including paper, pencils, highlighters, erasers, etc.
2. Start an afternoon routine using 15-minute increments and help them schedule in breaks (either between subjects or if an activity has taken longer than 30 minutes). Set a routine! For example, set aside a 30 minute window for math (say, 4:30-5:00), take a 15-minute break (5:00-5:15) then start science.
3. Don't overschedule your child. Yes, extracurricular sports and hobbies are important and should absolutely be scheduled 1-2 times per weekday, but make sure they have more days to focus on school/homework than on outside activities.
4. If you're still having trouble, implement an incentive system. What child doesn't want "free stuff" if they can reach a homework goal? Incentives almost always work. Set a reachable goal (only focus on one or two at a time) and mutually agree on a reasonable treat for reaching the goal. For example, "If you can remember to write down all your homework assignments from the board 5/5 days, you can get a frozen yogurt day on Friday." Another example, "If you can start your homework without arguing, you can earn an extra 15 minutes of basketball with me on the weekend." Remember, incentives only work when the child is involved in choosing the reward.

VALENTINE'S GIFT SHOP FEBRUARY 11TH -14TH

The Kid's Holiday Gift Shop is back just in time for Valentine's Day! Instead of giving your child candy or cards...give them a few dollars to buy fun stuff at the gift shop!

**Open February 11-14
during recess, lunch and after school**

All profits go directly to support our schools enrichment programs (including critical programs like PE, Computer and Art Lab, MUSIC Foundation program, and more) Please support this FUN fundraiser. The kids love shopping for family and friends and, of course, themselves!

If you are able to volunteer - WE NEED YOU!! Please contact Shannon Hall at shannonhall3@gmail.com



PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP

Don't forget to attend these FREE discussions.

These Discussion Groups are open to everyone and feature volunteer professional facilitators at every meeting. The groups are a place for parents to discuss relevant topics and share ideas and strategies.

Meetings are held at 8am in the Parent Center, Room 1

Feb 6: Anger Management for Parents and Children.

March 6: Parents Taking Care of Children and Parents: The Sandwich Generation

April 3: Should We Encourage Children to be Independent?

May 1: Is Earning Allowance Important?

More to Come!

Any Questions?

Andy Weisser:

aweisser@earthlink.net

ACCELERATED READER, WHERE READERS ARE LEADERS!

Congratulations to these students for earning over 100 points by January:

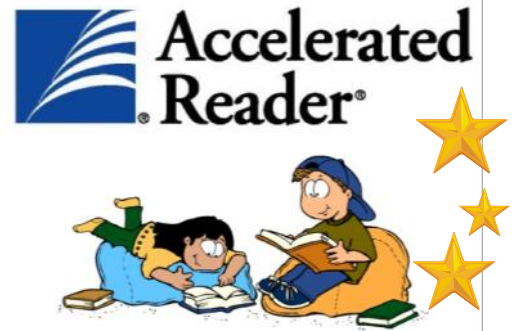
Serena 4th grade, Room 22

Benjamin 5th grade, Room 36

Daniel 5th grade, Room 36

Read a book, take a quiz, and earn points!

Get your child excited about reading by making sure they're participating in the Accelerated Reader Program! Students can take tests in class, in the library or during computer class. The computer lab will start to open after school for an hour one day a week so that students can take tests, prizes will be given out monthly to readers! - stay tuned for more details. Read, test and win prizes! This is an excellent opportunity to help your child *develop a lifelong love of reading!*



LUCK OF THE DRAW OPPORTUNITY DRAWING: COMING FEBRUARY 15TH!!



JUST ONE MORE WEEK TO GET THOSE 'LUCK OF THE DRAW' TICKETS BOUGHT AND SOLD!!
CHECK OUT THESE AWESOME PRIZES YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WILL LOVE!!!!

Grand Prize - Apple iPad (16 GB, Wi-Fi) 3rd Generation (Sugg. Retail \$549)

1st Prize - 4 Disneyland One Day Park Hopper Tickets (Sugg. Retail \$500)

2nd Prize - Shop Til You Drop Gift Cards (Sugg. Retail \$350)

3rd Prize - Restaurant Gift Card Package (Sugg. Retail \$350)

4th Prize - Go Pro Camera (HD Heroz: Motorsports Edition with a Go pro Head Strap Mount and a Wasabi Power Battery & Charger Kit) (Sugg. Retail \$ 340)

5th Prize - Kindle Fire HD (16GB 7" HD Display, Dolby Audio, Dual-Band Antenna) (Sugg. Retail \$199)

Who wouldn't LOVE WINNING One of These Great Prizes?!!!

February 15th Drawing

Remember, you need not be present to win! So don't forget to sell all your tickets! The more you sell, the better your chance of winning \$100!

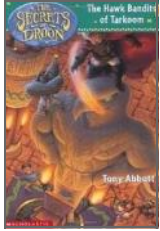
For Every Booklet you sell you will be entered for a chance to win a cash prize of \$100!

Help our School - Win GREAT Prizes!

BOOK CORNER: FEATURING FOURTH GRADE

We all know finding great books that are not only content and grade level appropriate but also fun to read can be quite challenging.

As part of our continuing effort to help out, we're highlighting a number of great books this month that are intended for Fourth Grade readers. We hope you'll find these suggestions helpful as we work together to engage our students and help transform them into life-long readers and learners.

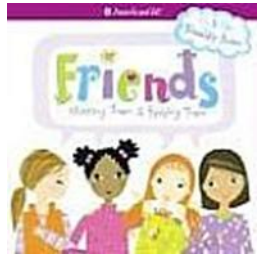
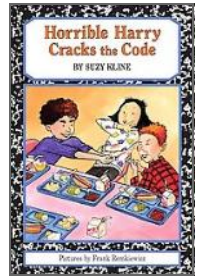


The Hawk Bandits of Tarkoom by Tony Abbot

The kids from the Upper World will travel back in time and must destroy dangerous bandits they meet along their journey. (From the secrets of the Droon series - Book 11)

Horrible Harry Cracks the Code by Suzy Kline- For your Math lover!

From the "Horrible Harry" series, a nine-year-old Harry puts on his detective hat and tries to solve a mystery involving a special mathematical code .



Friends: Making Friends and Keeping Them by Gregory Tang

Making friends isn't always easy. In this book, girls learn the importance of friends and making a friendship work. These real-life stories, activities and quizzes can be read alone or with a friend.

For even more great ideas and the chance to some fun with reading - Check out this COOL site www.readingeggs.com (Recommended ages 4-7)

Learn to read with Reading Eggs

We created Reading Eggs as a unique online world where children learn to read. It supports each child's learning by offering individual, one-on-one lessons that allow children to progress at their own rate.

Learning to read

Learning to read is an important skill for all children. And we wanted to make it an enjoyable experience for children as well. Children love working and playing on the computer and the Reading Eggs program is all about bringing out the best in each child.

Educationally sound

The program has been developed by a highly experienced team of educational teachers, writers and developers. The Reading Eggs program focuses on a core reading curriculum of phonics and sight words using skills and strategies essential for sustained reading success. It completely supports what children learn at school and will help to improve your child's results at school.

Children love it!

With interactive animations, fun games, great songs and lots of rewards, Reading Eggs is a great place to learn to read. Children are highly motivated to return again and again. At Reading Eggs, learning to read is enjoyable as well as very rewarding. Every lesson ends with a new book and a new critter to add to your growing collection.

And it's growing!

Reading Eggs now has 120 big lessons. These 120 lessons are perfect for 4 to 7 year olds who are learning to read



* This summery taken directly fro the site.

Show Me The Money!

All Serrania students benefit from these important enrichment programs and equipment during the regular school day this school year. These programs are made possible only through funding from FOS and PTA. When you donate to FOS and support PTA, this is where your money goes... Thank you!

M.U.S.I.C Foundation (\$22,000/year):



K - 4th graders attend the M.U.S.I.C. (Music Unlocks Success In Children) program once a week for enriching, age-appropriate instruction in singing, exposure to instruments, music theory, reading music, and keyboarding. Research shows that music instruction reinforces skills used in other academic subjects and also correlates with higher overall academic performance.

What LAUSD provides:

Without funding from FOS and PTA, there would be no formal music instruction for K-2nd graders outside of the classroom. Music instruction would be up to regular classroom teachers. LAUSD only provides funding for 3rd grade piano and 4th - 5th grade orchestra.

P.E. Program by Coach Danni (\$20,000/year):

Coach Danni, a licensed P.E. Instructor, does P.E. instruction for all K-5th graders. She and her assistants plan curriculum, teach age appropriate games and exercises, and prepare our students for the President's Physical Fitness exam in 5th grade.



What LAUSD provides:

Without funding from FOS and PTA for Coach Danni's program, P.E. activity would be up to our classroom teachers.

Computer Lab and P/A System (\$8,500/year):

FOS and PTA funded the purchase of 17 desktop computers last year including flat screen monitors and new keyboards. FOS and PTA funding exists to purchase 17 more computers this year and several other technology needs including a new P/A system.



What LAUSD provides:

LAUSD does not provide any funding for the new computers or the new P/A system.

Dancing Classrooms (\$6,000/year):



All 5th graders participate in this 10-week program in classic dance. Through dance, students gain greater self-confidence and learn about breaking barriers, honor and respect, communication and cooperation, and accepting others. Our 5th grade team won a Gold Medal at competition in December and will compete at regionals this spring!

What LAUSD provides:

LAUSD does not provide funding for enrichment activities in the arts except for 3rd grade piano and 4th - 5th grade orchestra.

Phillips Graduate Institute Counseling Services (\$4,000/year):

Two certified counselors are at Serrania for a full day every week offering individual and family counseling, crisis counseling, social skills counseling, and assisting staff and students on the playground.



What LAUSD provides:

LAUSD provides one half-day school psychologist five times per month. Most of that time has to be spent testing students for learning challenges. No other LAUSD funding exists for counseling, social skills training, anti-bullying meetings, etc.

Accelerated Reader Program (\$2,130/year):

This interactive reading program, available to all Serrania students, is an engaging tool that gets students excited about reading, and incentivizes them to read more. It includes an initial reading assessment, online comprehension tests, tracks reading level, and monitors student progress, number of books read, and points earned for prizes. Parents can also access the program online. This program helps students develop a love of reading.



What LAUSD provides:

LAUSD does not provide funding for any reading enrichment programs.

Accelerated Reader Program Aid (\$4,000/year):

The “AR” aid supports the Accelerated Reader program four hours per week by opening up the lab in the mornings and afternoons, giving students more opportunities to use the program. The more students can participate in the tests...the more points and prizes they earn...the more excited they are to read...and the stronger they get at it!



What LAUSD provides:

LAUSD does not provide funding for any reading enrichment programs.

Gardener and Green Team (\$2,200/year):

FOS and PTA fund weekly gardening services to maintain our lawns and shrubbery. Also with help from FOS and PTA funding, “The Green Team” planted and maintains hundreds of trees and plants around the campus perimeter and in the expansive planters on campus. The Green Team also organizes Big Sunday and other school beautification projects.



What LAUSD provides:

LAUSD provides gardening services only once a month.

SPONSORS

Do you own your own business or work for one that accepts credit cards? If so, contact us today to learn how we can lower your credit card processing fees AND help raise money for our school, *Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies*. It's a true win-win for everyone!

WE'LL MEET OR BEAT YOUR CURRENT PRICING OR YOU'LL GET \$500*



Please contact
Danijela Zakic, a Serrania mom

Cell: (310) 977-4820 or
E-mail: dani@ppsusa.com



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JAMBA JUICE THURSDAY'S



We will be serving fruit-blended smoothies for \$3 at the lunch patio after school – and they're donating a portion of each purchase to Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies!

Have a sip and support your school !

Come Visit Our Campus!
Tell Your Neighbors!!! Tell Your Friends!!!

School Tours Dates at 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 8, 2013

Feb. 22, 2013

March 15, 2013



Please call (818) 340-6700 to schedule your appointment for a tour.



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For more information
contact

Debbie Shaoalian
deboras23@sbcglobal.net

(818) 456-6837

Movie Night:

Hotel Transylvania

Friday, Feb. 22

6:00 pm in the school auditorium

Blanket, pillows, and PJs are welcome

\$5 admission & \$1 snack

**ALL STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT**

