

## SERRANIA CHARTER FOR ENRICHED STUDIES



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

**April 2014**

# Walk-a-thon



On Monday March 17th, Serrania hosted our annual Spring Walk-A-Thon. It's an important fundraiser for our school because the money that's raised goes towards keeping our PE Program and Coach Danni! And with only two weeks of bringing in pledges, the families of Serrania had already more than doubled last years totals and were well beyond our initial goal of \$15,000.

The day began with a special breakfast hosted by Lizzi, Chloe and Jennifer of the world famous Los Angeles Laker Girl's cheerleading squad, who came to meet and hang out with the kids who'd raised \$200 or more. It was a fantastic time, highlighted by pictures and autographs for everyone who attended. Then the Laker Girls, joined by our own Serrania Cheerleaders, kicked off the Walk-A-Thon at the morning assembly. DJ Frank took over and added a great soundtrack for our kids, who walked, jogged and danced their way around the track all morning, cheered on by their families and teachers.

While we all enjoyed an amazing event, raising lots of money for a worthy cause, the big news is that our own Principal Wedaa agreed to be made into a human ice cream sundae if we reached our goal – and we did! So the question is... will it be vanilla or chocolate?

As of the time of printing this article, the Serrania Walk-A-Thon had brought in over \$24,000... making this year's event our most successful Walk-A-Thon in the past 5 years! 'Great Job' Serrania families, and a big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped make it such a special event!



# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER *By Theresa Wedaa, Principal*



## What is the Local Control Funding Formula - LCFF?

Recently, you may have received emails from LAUSD Superintendent Deasy and our local district officials inviting you to meetings to learn about the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). "Local Control" refers to how the State of California will distribute money to the District. In the past, every bit of funding had its own rules and regulations attached, requiring the district, and therefore the schools, to manage multiple budgets (more than 40 in total), each one administering an extremely narrow and specific range of expenditures. Beginning this year however, the State will allocate those same funds on a per-student basis. Additional funding will be provided for 1) target grade levels that are more costly and 2) target populations that need more support (foster youths, English Learners, and low income students). Taken together, 'Local Control' does not translate to more money for individual schools, but it does afford LAUSD increased flexibility in allocating the distribution of those funds to individual schools.

What this means for Serrania is that we will now receive more of our funding based on a lump sum, per-pupil, allocation. The district should provide us with additional funding targeting our 10% English Learner and 28% socio-economically disadvantaged populations. In the past, a school would need to reach a certain percentage of students classified as English Learner or socio-economically disadvantaged before the district would allocate funds to the school. The School Board will be voting soon to determine how, or if, those additional funds from the state will be allocated directly to schools based on a per-pupil assessment, or whether a school will be required to reach a pre-determined qualifying percentage of students. For Serrania, a per-pupil estimation would be more advantageous.

Given these new budget apportionment guidelines, daily student attendance is more important than ever! Moving forward, we won't be funded based upon our total enrollment of 640 students but rather by our 'ADA' – or **Average Daily Attendance**. This means that if our average daily attendance is 95%, our annual funding will be based on a total population of just **608** students. If we achieve an ADA of 97%, our funding will be based on **620** students. Now that our funding is based on a per-pupil ADA, it is more critical than ever that every student come to school every day!

We've always known that high-levels of regular attendance are critical to student performance... but given the changes in state-wide funding, high-levels of regular attendance are now just as critical to the overall performance and success of our school. I know I can count on our entire Serrania family to join me in making excellent daily school attendance a top priority, and I look forward to working with all of our amazing Serrania students, teachers and staff to ensure that Serrania is eligible for all the funds and resources we so richly deserve!

## SCES Open House

Visit the classrooms

Meet the teachers and  
Staff

Tuesday, April 29 2014

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



## School Tours

Tell your friends and family to come see our wonderful school. The last guided school tours for prospective parents will be held on:

Fri, April 11 - 8:30 a.m.

For more information please call  
Rosalinda Gil at (818) 340-6700





# Serrania

## Saturday May 10, 2014



Our annual Fun Fair is just around the corner and parents are already hard at work making plans for an amazing day! We will need lots of parent help to make this event the huge success it was last year, so please plan to volunteer and participate!

We invite you and the family to join us on **Saturday May 10, 2014 from 11-4** for a fun and exciting day! We'll have many new and entertaining booths and games along with many of your old favorite games and other attractions!

We want every family to be a part of the Fair and we welcome everyone to come join us as we prepare for the big day. As always, we need lots of volunteers to help coordinate the day, so please be sure to take a moment to learn how you can help make this a fun event for everyone!

### How Can You Help?

We are currently looking for vendors that would like to rent a booth selling their product. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Debi Shaolian at [serraniafunfair@gmail.com](mailto:serraniafunfair@gmail.com)

Can't make it to the Fair due to a previous engagement? Then please consider sponsoring one of our booths! You and your family will get fabulous signage at the Fair and still have the chance to support our school!

We will also have a silent auction at the fair so if you have any items you could donate for the auction, please contact Debi

For more information or if you are interested in helping organize this event, please send an email to: [serraniafunfair@gmail.com](mailto:serraniafunfair@gmail.com)



## Restaurant Night

Mark your calendar!

**Tuesday, April 8th**

**At McDonald's  
Ventura & Wilbur  
from 4:30-7:30.**



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.

## Where Wishes Do Come True!

Our Serrania families and staff make our school a magical place for students to learn. It takes dedication and hard-work to build a safe, clean, colorful and fun place for all of our students.

Looking to the future of our children and our school, we are continually enhancing our learning environment. With the development of our Science Lab there are much-needed items to ensure its success. If you'd like to lend your creativity, enthusiasm or a little bit of time, Serrania is always looking for additional volunteers. Please donate any of the Wish List items directly to the office or contact Mrs. Hakobian to coordinate.

Here are a few of the materials needed in the science lab:

- \* Hose spray nozzle
- \* Hose winder or hose hanger
- \* Watering Cans (5)
- \* Small Gardening Tools - trowels and gardening forks
- \* Small step ladder
- \* Bins and hooks for organization of supplies
- \* Brass Sundial
- \* Large Temperature Gauge
- \* Painting supplies
- \* Variety of colored paint, district approved
- \* New or used round metal cabinet knobs to continue backpack rack project

Thank you to the staff and families that have donated time and items for our important projects.

# Raising Happy, Healthy Children Without Siblings

By Ryan Rosen, Director, Camp Kinneret Summer Day Camp, [campkinneret.com](http://campkinneret.com), @campk\_ry

Am I doing my child a disservice because they don't have a sibling? Are they going to be selfish and entitled? When the child asks about a sibling, is it because they are lonely and want someone to play with? What happens when I can't play with them as much as I would like to?

Raising an only child can often lead to feelings of guilt for their parents. It is important to know that these are challenges and feelings that parents with multiple children also struggle with. The difference is that if you have one child, you tend to read into the questions of your child. You apply the pressure of the social norm to have multiple children. Raising a healthy child without siblings isn't that different than raising a healthy child with siblings. Teaching them new skills, coaching them when they struggle, and supporting them when they need it, are all parts of raising a healthy child, regardless of the family structure or siblings.

Keep in mind that when there is only one child, you have more resources to provide things for your child, which can lead to your child getting whatever they want. But you have the ability to monitor this. Your focus and attention can also be directed towards one child, which can lead to you being too involved, or doing everything for your child. Allow your child to experiment and make mistakes, but be there to coach them when they are stumped. Creating opportunities for your child to play with other children will help your child develop the socialization skills necessary to be successful in life.

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

## 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.

• **8 a.m., Tues, May 6:** Raising Confident, Respectful, Happy Children

Any Questions? Ask Andy Weisser:  
[aweisser@earthlink.net](mailto:aweisser@earthlink.net)



Parents please visit the Accelerated Reader page on Serrania's website to receive your child's quiz results via email.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [SERRANIAAVENUE.ORG](http://SERRANIAAVENUE.ORG)



## APRIL MOVIE NIGHT!

Get ready to go to college with Mike and Sulley and all the gang in...

Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m  
Serrania Premiere of Monster's University!

Serrania Movie Nights are hosted by our Friends of Serrania as part of their ongoing fund raising efforts, so we hope you'll join us for this special night!

So be sure to wear your PJ's, bring a blanket and enjoy this Fun Family Event!

Tickets are just \$5

Pizza and snack items are just \$1

Remember, every child must be accompanied by an adult.



# Serrania's Seniors Attend Catalina Island Marine Institute 2014! *By Robert Mape*



From Algae to Zebra Fish, this year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the *Catalina Island Marine Institute* (C.I.M.I.) was a rousing success! This annual 3 day event is always a highlight for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, and this year's edition maintained that happy tradition.

Upon boarding the buses during the predawn hours Wednesday morning through the drop-off in the evening hours Friday night, the children of *Serrania Charter Elementary* were courteous and attentive while being immersed in the knowledge of the Ocean.

From before sun up to well past sundown, the students of Serrania learned about our oceans through lectures, labs, and hands on activities. The kids participated in Squid dissections, Microscopic Plankton labs, a Shark petting pool as well as the highlight of the trip; a true snorkeling adventure. The cold Pacific waters did little to dampen the spirits of the group as they saw an abundance of local California marine life. Bat Rays, Garibaldi, and Leopard Sharks were just some of the aquatic life that joined the students on their adventure. "I didn't know that under the Ocean's surface could be that spectacular!" exclaimed 5<sup>th</sup> grader Piper Mape upon exiting the surf line... "I can't wait to get back to the Ocean this summer!"

When the classes ended the fun didn't stop with free time activities like beach adventuring, hikes, and everybody's favorite; Gaga Ball (you'll have to ask your kids to learn more). Above water wildlife was explored as well, including a visit from a family of Bald Eagles and a couple of Bison. The trip was once again brought to life and painstakingly coordinated by our amazing cadre of 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Mrs. Rodstein, Mrs. Hakobian, and Mrs. Sperber. Together, this special team has well over 30 combined years leading this trip – providing invaluable experience, guidance and offering us all an opportunity that we are truly thankful to have been able to share. Word is reservations for next years trip have already been made - giving teachers and chaperones just enough time to get ready for our next trip!

The annual Serrania 5<sup>th</sup> graders C.I.M.I. adventure is one that we all are very fortunate to have experienced and one that will not be soon forgotten.

Again, a very special 'thank you' goes out to all the parent chaperones and our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for making this event possible.



# UNSUNG HEROES

By Shannon Hall, FOS President



An 'Unsung Hero' is defined as "One who does great deeds but receives little or no recognition for them." As I'm sure many of you know, Serrania is lucky enough to count many "unsung heroes" among our volunteers, and we'd like to change that, and start recognizing and thanking them for all they do!

Did you and your family join us for Ice Skating at the Mall? Or did you come to the Family Dance in February? Thanks to Tammy O'Neil, we've enjoyed great community events like these. Working together with Regina Reyes, she and a number of Taft High School Student volunteers put on a fabulous event for the whole family which included 5-6 craft stations, snacks, dinner and of course, dancing!

Have you noticed the "positive" chalk messages appearing on our sidewalks and around Woodland Hills? These messages come courtesy of Serrania parent Sadye Davenport, who has started a Facebook page called "Woodland Hills Sidewalk Chalk Project." Her goal is to share beautiful, positive and motivational messages about being good and doing good things around the community. These great messages are sure to inspire, and may even serve as great positive conversations starters for you and your kids!

Additionally, a big 'Thank You' is due to Keith and Lucia Downey who collect stray jackets and lunch boxes each morning from our campus and deposit them in the lost and found. Every morning, come rain or shine, you'll see them walking around carrying armfuls of clothing and other lost items to the area behind the library.

Did you happen to see the fabulous YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCgQelFfWEY> about our new safety valet program? That was created by parent Adam Ford, who came to the training, volunteered to film it, and customized

it as a training video for all Serrania parents and students! Thanks Adam!

It's also worth noting that our FOS board meets every month to discuss events we've hosted and events that we're planning in the future for our fabulous school. We talk about the money we've raised and how much more is needed for the upcoming year. I'd like to take a moment to recognize the hard working and dedicated board members who do so much to ensure Serrania remains such a wonderful place for all our kids. Most of these parents chair at least one event and many of them manage 2 or more events on campus: Shannon Hall, Wendy Salazar, Jen Cole, Amy Klosterman, Amy Lichtenstein, Asia Mape, Debi Shaolian, Jim Riley, Jessica Gillearn, Karen Solari, Lauri Aud, Lesa Glucroft, Lisa Hassas, Lucia Downey, Orit Bonver, Rob Glucroft, Trish Palacios and Yvette Peterson.

I'd also like to recognize all the Room Parents who email you and keep you up to date on school and class events. These ladies work hard for your classes – holding parties, gathering donations, organizing field trips, and much more – and they all deserve a big thank you! Debi Shaolian, Heather Olsen, Danitza Freigher, Adrienne Doty, Heather Solares, Rachel Hochberg, Melissa Mandyam, Lisa Gilbane Smith, CarolAnne Valvo, Sigal Eliav, Lisa Nakamura, Dion Santoni, Orit Bonver, Yvette Peterson, Asia Mape, Elly Salem, Jessica Carew, Shannon Hall, Fran Smythe, Karen Solari, Ilisa Pasternak, Natalie Vu. Some of these ladies oversee 2 classes... so join us in offering a big 'Thank You' to all of them for their hard work and dedication to the school!

If you know of an "unsung hero" at Serrania, please email [FOS@SerraniaAvenue.org](mailto:FOS@SerraniaAvenue.org) with the information so we can include them in our next article!

## Book Fair Fiesta!

*Monday, April 21st – Wednesday, April 30th*

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open for business on Monday, April 21, bringing with it the latest literary hits and lots of reading-time favorites! This year's Book Fair will be held in the SCES library, and we will be open for business at recess, lunch, and for half an hour after school every day as well as on Open House night, April 29. Classroom previews will take place on Friday, April 11, just before spring break, and Serrania teachers will be invited to fill out their wish lists of books you can buy to support your child's classroom and the school.

We always need volunteers to make the Book Fair run smoothly! If you'd like to volunteer and help kids discover great new books please let us know... it's always great fun sharing the love of books and reading! Contact Jim Riley at [whoriley@prodigy.net](mailto:whoriley@prodigy.net) if you're available to work a shift or two during the Book Fair.





# Read Across America. A Dr. Seuss Celebration!

By Scarlett Monganaro

March 4 to 7 was "Read Across America", I say  
Why? To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday!

To start Read Across America  
Serrania had a Pajamarama!  
And, on Favorite Sports Team Shirt Day  
Kids flaunted their jerseys – Hooray!

Crazy Hat Day  
Or is it Crazy Hair Day?  
Plus, we had (different) Colors Day!

What was in sight?  
First graders wore white  
And hello,  
Second graders wore yellow  
And look what we've seen  
Third graders wore green  
It's true, fourth graders wore blue.  
And let's not forget,  
Lots of kindergarteners wore red  
...that was cool, I said.



Boys painted their heads,  
And girls came with curls instead.



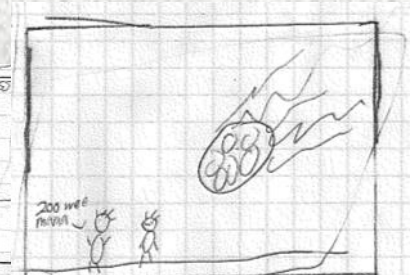
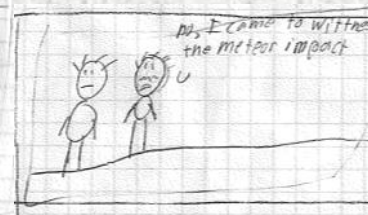
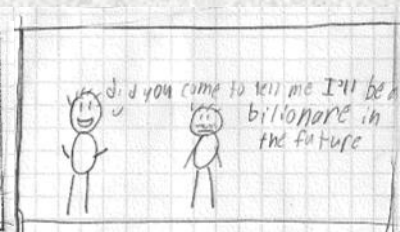
Saw Dr. Seuss Hats, bucket hats,  
Feathered hats, pirate hats  
And, of course, guest readers  
in class.



Happy Birthday, Theodore  
Your stories we so adore!



ZOO WEE MAMA !!!



by Elijah Hernandez RM 34