



Serrania Charter For Enriched Studies Newsletter October 2014

Inspiration

Imagination

Innovation



AWESOME MOVIE NIGHT!

Photos provided by: Jodye Alcon,
Jennifer Termini & Carolanne Valvo



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Dear Parents,

In June at the end of the school year, and then again in August at the beginning of the school year, teachers participated in a S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) protocol that is often used in business as a reflective and goal setting tool. We discussed instruction, behavior, student learning, community building, etc. All of our discussions culminated in an agreed upon school-wide focus on "effective use of time."

Throughout the year we will be examining the following to see if we are making the most of every minute of time we have with students during the school day. They include: • Routines • Procedures • Lessons • Student learning • Classes

Parents, we are asking for your support! Please make sure your children are on time to school every-day! If everyone is in the class by 8:00, everyone hears the announcements, and by 8:05 lessons begin! Teaching students to be on time, in the morning, after recess and lunch, is about teaching students respect for one another and each other's time. We want every student to understand that the actions they take, do impact others. This includes: walking in line, taking turns, following directions in class, and taking responsibility for completing assignments on time.

As a kindergarten teacher, I would tell my students that if they could walk in a line, I could take them anywhere. But, what I meant was larger than that. In fact when students are well mannered, student learning moves forward, and the class will have more time to participate in fun engaging activities that students enjoy!

At Serrania, we are teaching ALL students to demonstrate good communication. That includes: always making eye contact when speaking with others, speaking in a loud clear voice, and always greeting others in a kind way... "hello," "goodbye," "please" and "thank you." Again, we ask parents for support. As you walk your child to school please remind them to say "hello" to the gate supervisor and "thank you" to the safety valet as they get out of the car, "good morning" to their teacher, "hi" to their friends in line. These small acts of kindness using good communication will really make a positive difference.

Common Core in its most basic form is about students being able to solve problems and explain their thinking. Whereas in years before, in education, students were asked to complete assignments on their own quietly. More and more students are working together in groups because the work of Common Core requires students to ask questions of one another, explain/defend their thinking, and to problem solve to present a group solution, much the way many of us work in our professions. Consequently teachers need classroom time to give each student an opportunity to speak, to practice explaining and defending, and students need to demonstrate communication skills (and manners) in listening and respectfully disagreeing.

You can practice this at home, in the car, at the market, or anytime you have a conversation with your child. Take the time to focus on them and really listen and respond to what they are saying. Agree and disagree, so that they will be able to do the same in school. We all want our Serrania students to get the most of every minute in school. Together we can make this possible!

MOVIE NIGHT!!! **COMING SOON TO THE** **SERRANIA AUDITORIUM OCTOBER 24TH**

SAVE THE DATE!!

Movie Night October 24th! • Hosted by 5th Grade!

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Movie - Mr. Peabody and Sherman • It got really great reviews!

Doors open at 6pm, movie starts in the auditorium at 6:30 \$5 Per Person

• • • **TAKE A BREAK FROM DINNER!** • • •

**PIZZA! POPCORN! & YUMMY TREATS! AVAILABLE AT THE
CONCESSION STAND OUTSIDE THE CAFETERIA!**



www.serraniacharter.org

Becoming a More Calm, Loving, Nurturing and Engaged Parent

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

Stress is everywhere in our lives today. The more stressed you are, the less likely you are to be calm, nurturing, and loving when your child does something that is frustrating. Here are a few things you can do to reduce the stress in your life:



- Start by thinking about all of the wonderful things that you have in life rather than dwelling on the things that you don't have. If your child is really good at something, be happy about that rather than worrying that they aren't as good at something else. Celebrate the success and encourage the areas they need to improve.
- Caffeine causes your body to release adrenaline that stimulates your "fight or flight" response. Starting your day with a cup of coffee or a soda may cause you to respond differently in those challenging moments.
- Adults need a good night's rest just as much as their child. In fact, without an average of 8 hours a night, you will be less patient at home, at work and on the road. Create a structured evening routine in your home that gets your child to bed and gives you some time to decompress before you fall asleep. It's okay for you to take some "me time" to recharge your batteries in order to be at your best. Read a magazine or book when falling asleep because studies show that the more screen time you have before bed, the longer it takes you to fall sleep.
- Put down your phone in the evening and don't be distracted by that email or call. Wait until your child has gone to bed if you really have to reply to that email.

Children are always watching and learning, so make the choices for yourself that will help them grow up to be the healthy and happy adults you want them to be.

Ryan is the owner/director of Camp Kinneret Summer Day Camp and is an active member in the Western Association of Independent Camps, the American Camp Association and the local community. For more information: www.campkinneret.com, or @campk_ry

FREE PARENTING SEMINARS 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 2014-2105: 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., Tuesday, October 7**

"Helping Your Child Deal With Gossip"

- **8:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 4**

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

- **8:00 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

- **8:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 20**

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

- **8:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 3**

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

- **8:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 3**

"What Type of Parent Are You?"

- **8:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 7**

"The Importance of Playing Outside without Toys"

- **8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 5**

"Should Parents Be Their Kids' Friends?"

Dads of Serrania!

Hats off to the Men of Serrania!!

By Andy Weisser

As part of the National Fathers Take Your Children to School Day, 28 dads, and one grandfather attended an hour-long conversation the same morning of Walk Your Children to Serrania Day on September 10.

The event, "Mindful, Present and Playful: The Importance of Men in Children's Lives," featured topics about parenting from fathers'/men's perspectives, such as balancing relationships, parenting, and work-life as well as how much video gaming is too much?

Dr. Jeffrey Gold, a Serrania parent of three, discussed the evolving role of fathers in parenting. His key points addressed: the role of culture, language, and religion; the importance of a healthy and functional relationship between parents/care-givers, as children are always watching and learning by example; the importance of being mindful, present, intentional and compassionate to oneself to be the best father in the moment, even if life is busy and chaotic; and being spontaneous with your child to help build deepened father and child relationships.

Gold offered suggestions to become even more engaged parents: ask your children about their day at school and their friends every day; show interest in their homework and assignments; attend school functions, because your children want to see that you value their education; and, have dinner together as a family, nightly, at the table with no television or other distractions. This is a time for listening to each other, sharing the day's stories, and nurturing the family connection. Research has shown that family dinner is a strong predictor for healthy adolescent outcomes.

Jeffrey I. Gold, PhD, works as a pediatric psychologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Department of Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, and Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Departments of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics.

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st 9:00AM - 3:30PM

**Family Portraits at Serrania Park includes: 30 minute family sitting and a DVD with all images that may be used for holiday cards, etc. Schedule is every 30 minutes. Sign up at www.signupgenius.com. Total Cost: \$75
\$55 Goes to Jodye Alcon, Professional Photographer
\$20 Goes to Serrania to fund the 4th grade field trip**

Visit Jodye's website at www.jodyealconphotography.com

www.serraniacharter.org

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Original Artworks!



Are you looking for new creative gifts for your family this holiday season? Well look no further! We have a solution! Serrania Charter is proud to offer you the opportunity to purchase an array of unique gifts, decorated with a masterpiece created by your child. Original Works offers a large variety of items, such as mugs, pot holders, pillow cases, note cards, key chains, magnets and many more to choose from. Best of all, proceeds from this fundraiser go directly to supporting our amazing art program and many other enriching experiences for our students.

Order forms and artwork will be sent home on October 14, 2014.

The deadline for ordering items is October 27, 2014.

All purchases will be delivered to Serrania by December 3, 2014.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT SERRANIACHARTER.ORG

COME TO CPK
Wednesday, October 8th
in the Canyon at Topanga Plaza.
All day long! Dine In or Take Out!

20% of your bill is donated to Serrania!

Come share a meal with your
Serrania friends and teachers!
We hope to see you there.



The Girl Scouts are at Serrania!

If your 2nd or 3rd grade daughter would like to join our Brownie Troop, please send an email to our Troop Leader and Serrania mom, Jennifer Espinoza at jjjes1@yahoo.com

If your Kindergarten or First Grade daughter would like join the Daisy Scouts, and if your 4th and 5th grade daughters would like join Junior Girl Scouts, please contact our local Girl Scout Office at 818-886-1801 and ask to speak to Alyssa Schlange and get your troop started!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



SAVE THE DATE!
HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 18, SATURDAY
4:00 PM - 8:30 PM

IT'S NOT JUST AN ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR...IT'S
GOING TO BE A GHOULISHLY FUN EXPERIENCE!

HALLOWEEN STORIES	COSTUME CONTEST
TRUNK-OR-TREATING	HALLOWEEN MAZE
HAUNTED CLASSROOM	AND MORE...

**SO ALL YOU GHOSTS, GOBLINS,
PRINCESSES, AND SUPER HEROS
BE THERE OR BE SCARED!**

Share the Scare!
**DONATE YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUMES
FOR CHILDREN IN NEED**

For a 2nd year in a row, we are giving back to our
community by collecting new and/or gently used
costumes for children in need.

Please bring in your donations the week of
September 30th - October 17th.

A Collection Box will be located in the office.

Costumes must be clean, no rips or tears.

A newly purchased mask, makeup kit, or
capas / hats are also appreciated!



Halloween Candy Drive November 3rd - 7th.

Please give generously so we can give
candy to children in need.

Collection box will be in the office.

HALLOWEEN PARADE OCTOBER 31ST - GHOSTS, GHOULS AND GOBLINS ARE ON THE WAY!

**OUR ANNUAL STUDENT HALLOWEEN PARADE IS SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER 31 FROM 1:30 TO 2:30 PM.**

**PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE FUN AND WATCH THE KIDS AS THEY SHARE
THEIR HALLOWEEN SPIRIT. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

PLEASE NOTE

DISTRICT MANDATED COSTUME GUIDELINES:

¥ NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND.

¥ NO COSTUMES THAT COMPLETELY HIDE THE IDENTITY OF THE STUDENT.

¥ NO REVEALING COSTUMES.

¥ MASKS MAY ONLY BE WORN DURING THE PARADE.

**STUDENTS SHOULD BRING THEIR COSTUMES TO SCHOOL IN A BAG AND BE PREPARED TO
CHANGE INTO THEM JUST BEFORE THE PARADE.**

SO BE SURE TO START PLANNING NOW AND JOIN US AS WE SCARE-UP SERRANIA!