



December 2012

THE SUNS WIN GOLD!

Our fifth grade ballroom dance teams made history by winning their first Dancing Classrooms competition on November 14. Twelve Los Angeles dance teams met to compete in five classic ballroom dances: the Foxtrot, Tango, Merengue, Rumba, and Swing. Our dancers wowed the judges with their focused and elegant moves and their sheer joy of dancing.

Friends of Serrania generously sponsored the Dancing Classrooms program which involved all 99 fifth grade students. Students learned six ballroom dances which transformed classroom and social behavior on the playground. Twelve students were chosen to represent Serrania at the city-wide competition. Congratulations to Serrania's "Team Red" coached by fifth grade teacher Laurie Rodstein: team captains Luca Villeneuve and Keith Walker, dance teams of Shahar Hayun and Jason Labra, Nicole Mamos and Daniel

Klosterman, Natalie Kovacs and Zane Strehlo, Noah Byrne and Kelia Wood and Nyabingy Ellis and Xavier Ibarra.

You may next see their fabulous dancing skills at the Winter Program on December 10, 11, and 12. Or come root them on May 29 at the Color of the Rainbow Finals located at Grand Park in Los Angeles. More details forthcoming.



Serrania's 5th Grade Ballroom Dance Team Wins Gold!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Kid's Holiday Gift Shop	11/29-12/07
Toy Drive	12/3-12/07
Parent Discussion Group	12/05
Coffee with the Principal and Green Team meeting	12/7
Winter Program	12/10-12/12
Governing Council Meeting	12/12
Restaurant Night	12/12
Winter Break	12/17-01/04

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY AND GIVING BACK

Thanks to all the "Serrania Superstars" who showed up at the **West Valley Food Pantry** the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to help sort and box donated food! Serrania families (including Weisser, Aud, Bonver, Mape, Cole, Ms. Tenzer, Riley and three current and former teachers) helped organize and pack all of the donated food in record time!

The folks at the **West Valley Food Pantry** were so thankful and wanted us to be sure to pass along their appreciation to all the participating members of the Serrania family for the generous donations of food and all the spirited volunteer help!

We'd also like to add our thanks and appreciation to all the Serrania students who so generously donated the **GIGANTIC LOAD of Halloween candy** to the kids living at the **Haven Hills Shelter** in Canoga Park. "The people and kids at Haven Hills were incredibly grateful and appreciative of what we did for them!" said Serrania parent, Debi Shaoalian, who took the candy to the shelter. "Our Serrania students should feel really proud of what they did to help make some less fortunate kids very happy."

Looking ahead to December:

In November we asked you to donate food for families in need, and you delivered. Now, we're asking you to donate new, unwrapped Toys to make the holidays a little brighter for kids in need of some special holiday cheer!

Serrania PTA is partnering with the Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies Community Committee for a Holiday Toy Drive (December 3-7) benefiting Haven Hills and Penny Lane Centers. A list of preferred items will go home in next week's Tuesday packet, and the Toy Drive Collection area will be located in the school auditorium. Let's work together to make this a holiday to remember for kids who really deserve it!



***Loads of Halloween candy
donated to haven Hills
Shelter***

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY

Early Bird Special
2012-2013 Yearbooks

Order Yours NOW!

Soft Cover \$22.00

Hard Cover \$27.00

Orders must be received by : December
14, 2012

(Regular yearbook price Soft Cover \$26/
Hard Cover \$31)

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

E-WASTE COLLECTION DRIVE

Wondering what to do with all your old computers, TV's, printers, and other assorted electronic equipment? We've got the answer. Just gather them all and join us on January 26th for the Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies Second Annual **E-Waste Collection Drive**. (Special

Notice: If you wish to drop off any items prior to the drive, please contact James Riley at whoriley@prodigy.net to arrange early drop off).

Working together for the second straight year with the Rotary of Tarzana and Encino, we're hoping to assist our entire Serrania family to responsibly recycle or dispose of all of your old, broken or unwanted e-waste. Watch this Newsletter and your Tuesday folders for more details in the coming weeks.



PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Join us for our December **Parent Discussion Group** Wednesday, **December 5th**, from 8:00 am - 9:00 am when we'll discuss **Emergency Preparedness**.

This important Discussion Group will be led by Jeff Edelstein . If you've ever wondered if you and your family are prepared for the next earthquake or fire, join us in the School Library and find out what you and your family can do (and should have on hand) in the event of an emergency. We look forward to seeing you there!

SERRANIA CHARTER MOCK PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FEATURED IN NEWSPAPER AND TELEVISION NEWS



More than 200 third through fifth grade Serrania Charter students voted in a mock presidential election the day before the real election. The final tally of the exercise was 166 votes for President Obama and 41 for Republican challenger Mitt Romney. We were featured in a number of news outlets, with photos and captions in the Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles Daily News as well as in news reports on FOX11/My13 (channels 11 and 13); KABC-TV ABC7 (channel 7); KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV (channels 2 and 9); KMEX-TV Univision (channel 34) and GlobalTV, globaltv.com. Wow; what a day. Nice job to

Mrs. Sperber and all of her students for organizing such a terrific presidential election process. Thanks to Amy Klosterman for informing Andy Weisser about the event; he sent a news advisory to numerous media outlets to get their attention about this great learning experience. In case you missed the photos in the Daily News, here's the link: <http://photos.dailynews.com/2012/11/photos-students-at-serrania-elementary-vote-for-president/#name%20here>

HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY?



New mascot costumes for rent.
Just like in Disneyland and Sea World
We have many characters

Call us at (323)363-4584

Serrania's students get a better price!

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

Dec 5: Preparing for Emergencies

Jan 9: Homework Strategies

Feb 6: Anger Management for Parents and Children. How can children deal with Bullying?

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

COME TO SERRANIA RESTAURANT NIGHT:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT CPK TARZANA



December 12th is the next *Serrania Restaurant Night* – this time hosted by our partners at the **California Pizza Kitchen in Tarzana.**

Restaurant Nights are among the easiest and most fun ways to raise MUCH NEEDED money for our school! And while we know it's often all too easy to feel busy and overwhelmed by our everyday activities, it's also true that we've got to feed our kids anyway... so why not join us at the California Pizza Kitchen in Tarzana for some great food, fun and the chance to connect with loads of other Serrania families!

We hope you'll make plans to join us December 12th at the **California Pizza Kitchen (18800 Ventura Blvd. at the intersection of Ventura and Burbank/Crebs)** from 11:00 am - 9:00 pm, and bring your "Serrania Restaurant Night" flyer in order to participate. Keep in mind that a portion of every purchase (whether you *dine-in* or *take-out*) will be donated directly to *Friends of Serrania (FOS)* and our school! (Flyers will be going home in this week's Tuesday packets.)

DID YOU KNOW?

Participation is the Secret to Success! Several of our local "peer" schools regularly raise twice as much money at their restaurant nights just by encouraging greater participation? Help us really make a difference for our kids school – and come on out!

So remember, **BRING YOUR SERRANIA RESTAURANT NIGHT FLYER** and present it when you order as that's the only way we get credited for your purchase.

Great food....Great friends... Great FUN! Hope to see you there at CPK Tarzana on Wednesday, December 12th!

RESTAURANT NIGHT AT



SHOP AND WIN FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

As the holiday shopping season kicks into high gear, remember to save your receipts from any purchase made at the **Westfield Topanga and Promenade Malls.** You can check those receipts in at the Concierge Desk at Westfield Topanga (near the entrance to the Food Court) or turn them in to your child's class and you'll earn points for every dollar you spend - points which will be credited to our school and

entered in Westfield's **Earning 4 Learning** competition.

It's a quick and simple way to earn points for Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies in the Westfield Earning 4 Learning competition.



DRINK TO YOUR HEALTH.....AND OUR SCHOOL!

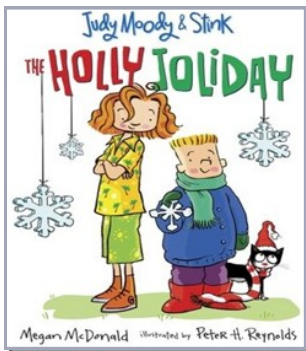
Every Thursday **Jamba Juice** will be serving fruit-blended smoothies for \$3 at the Kindergarten gate after school – and they're donating a portion of each purchase to Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies!

Have a sip and support your school at the same time... and if this event is as big a success as we hope, we'll work with **Jamba Juice** to make it a regular event. Please be sure to join us after school on Thursdays and let us know what you think!



BOOK CORNER: FEATURING SECOND GRADE

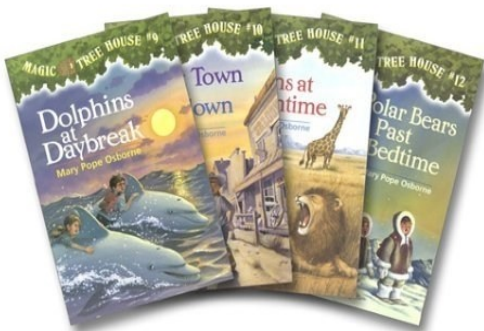
Always wondering what books are best for your child's age and grade? The BOOK CORNER can help! Help your child be empowered by reading books they'll be interested in and excited about!



Judy Moody & Stink - The Holly Joliday Megan McDonald - Judy Moody is making her list and checking it twice for her Christmas wishes this year, but all her brother, Stink, wants this year is snow. It hasn't snowed on Christmas in Virginia in more than a hundred years. Can that actually change? The new mailman in town may be able to help, Mr. Jack Frost. Fans will love this new Moody comedy.



The Jolly Christmas Postman - Allan Ahlberg, Janet Ahlberg (Illustrator) The original book The Jolly Postman is a favorite for its clever story, fun little mini books inside a book and letters for your child to read aloud. Now that magic is alive again in this Christmas version! This book will definitely become a favorite.



The Magic Tree House series - Mary Pope Osbourn - The Magic Tree house series are amazing books about two children, Jack and Annie, brother and sister who discover a magical tree house filled with books. The tree house books take them on magical journeys all over the world. Your child will love learning about history through the adventures of these two great characters in these fast paced books set in mythical places. They solve problems and complete a mission in each book. Website address: <http://www.magictreehouse.com>



Winter Performance



*Dear parents and family,
please come see your child sing in the winter performance.
Including a special dance performance by the 5th grade Ballroom
Dance Team*

Winter performances are scheduled for 8:30a.m—10:00a.m

Monday Dec. 10th - A-I

Tuesday Dec 11th -J-P

Wednesday, Dec 12th - Q-Z

All three shows are the same.

Please attend according to the first letter in you last name.



ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

Get your child excited about reading by making sure they're participating in the Accelerated Reader Program! Spearheaded by Heather Olsen, the AR program is again officially up and running! All 1st and 2nd graders have already been entered into the system and can get started right away – and enrolling kids in other grade level is as easy as emailing us at FOS@SerraniaAvenue.org. Simply give us your child's name, grade and teacher and we'll do the rest. Read, test and win prizes! This is an excellent opportunity to help your child develop a lifelong love of reading!

Spellathon

We had our Spellathon on Friday, November 30th and the students did a great job with the all extra words they were given! Please be sure to turn in your pledges and donations by Friday, December 7th. While donations will of course be accepted at anytime, December 7th is the cutoff for prizes and the class/grade level competitions. Help your child win a prize and help their class and teacher win too!! Every child that collects \$25 in donations will win a fun prize. If they bring in \$100 or more, they will also receive a \$5 gift certificate to Menchies. The student who secures the most donations will win a \$150 gift card!!

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Introductory Low Prices

\$100 - Full Page

\$75 - Half Page

\$50 - 1/4 Page

\$25 - Business card

For more information contact

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