



Serra Preschool

A Parent Participation Nursery School
Where Kids and Parents Learn Together.

August
2017
Newsletter

Welcome to Preschool!

Hello everyone,

Here are a few thoughts I wanted to share with you about working with the children and being in the classroom at Serra.

First, I want all of you to know that you are going to become a very important person in the lives of the children you will be interacting with here at Serra Preschool.

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." Rachel Carson.

At Serra children have the opportunity to interact with many meaningful adults. Those meaningful people are you!!!!!!

In early childhood classrooms children and teachers interact all day long. The types of interactions that children experience directly affect all aspects of their development: intellectual, social/emotional, physical, and behavioral. Therefore the kinds of interactions adults have with children matter. What does that mean to you as a working parent in our co-op preschool? In the classroom your responsibilities include setting up the yard, facilitating activities, cleaning up, keeping children safe and most im-

portantly, interacting with the children. Interactions are the exchanges in words, and gestures that you have with others. Why do I place so much emphasis on these child adult interactions?

Because....

Research shows that who you are, and how and what you say and do as you engage with children makes a difference in what they learn about themselves, others, and the world around them.

So, how does one interact in a thoughtful meaningful way? First you have to be present. (put away your cell phone) When you are present, you can decide how to respond with intention rather than simply reacting. Take the time to tune into what the child is doing. By noticing what a child is doing you can now talk to the child and make a connection. Your interactions must be thoughtful, purposeful, and intentional. Use words that convey these messages: I notice you, I am interested in you, and I want to know you better.

Phrases such as "good job" and "that's beautiful" are statements of "praise."

Praise provides nothing more than temporary pleasure based on external judgment.

What children really need is our attention and our acknowledgement.

Instead of..... "Good job, Nicky!"

State what you see. Say, "You are pumping on the swing by yourself!"

Instead of..... "That picture is beautiful."

Say, "You painted your whole paper red."

Instead of..... "That's so nice."

Say, "You remembered Bobby was waiting for the truck"

Instead of..... "You're so smart."

Say, "You can count all the way to 20."

Simple reflective statements such as these let children know that you notice them, that you are interested in them, in what they are doing and that you want to know more about what is happening with them.

Learning to be present and make connections with the children, going beyond making statements like "good job" and "that's beautiful" takes a lot of practice and will not happen overnight. While working in the classroom you will have many opportunities to push yourself, be flexible, and practice reflecting on what you see. Learning new



Serra Preschool Director
Mrs. Nowicki

skills is a process. You may say things that sound strange or don't feel right, but know that it is ok. I am here to help and guide you along the way. I want you to enjoy the children and make the most of your time at the preschool. Returning families you will have a chance to practice and continue to develop the skills you learned in past years.

Parents I want you to know that you are a very important and vital part of the children's and our school's success. This is the beginning..... welcome to the journey!

"The more we help children have wonderful ideas and to feel good about themselves for having them the more likely it is that they will some day happen upon wonderful ideas that no one else has happened upon before." Eleanor Duckworth

**Fondly,
Patty Nowicki**

President's Message

Hello Serra Families!

I am very honored to serve as your President this year. I am looking forward to giving back to a school that I love so much and has made the biggest and most positive impact in my children's young lives.

Serra was the 4th preschool I visited when I first started looking at preschools back in 2007. When I first walked in the front door, my eyes shot up to the high ceilings, to the paintings on the walls, to the laughter in the eyes of the children, and my heart sang. I knew I found a home. Being that this is my last year at Serra with my fourth and last child, I look back with a long list of fond memories and I am ready to start my grand finale year with more precious moments to come.

Although I've had years of Serra under my belt, I can tell you that I am honestly humbled by the company I keep. I can't possibly name everyone who has helped me as a parent and as a teacher to my little Luke, but there are parents all around me who have helped shape Serra. Saniya, for example, is going on her 9th year in a co-op. She brings so much experience! Cindy is on her 7th year at Serra and I think most have been in a row. Jamie, Nancy, and Lili are all coming back with their 3rd child, and Lisa and Shane are going all out with a child in each class. And then there are moms like Nysa, Adrienne, Tiffany, and Marissa who've had children at Serra but in other classes, and now I get to co-op with them in the same class. Serra depends on parents like these, who keep coming back and are dedicated to our sweetest little preschool.

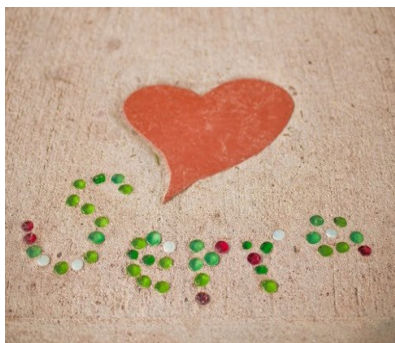
But, oh!! the envy I feel for all you new parents! You have a wild ride ahead of you. Wild and fun. And amazing. And heart-warming and everything you want to make out of it. Cherish this tender time in your child's life and in your family's life. Serra depends on you too because you are the future of our school and the energy and enthusiasm that you show will carry Serra far.

We are so lucky to also have Cassie staying at Serra for another year to help with administration. She is steadfast, smart, kind, and calm. It's always a good idea to have Cassie around.

Lisa, our aide, brings experience, loyalty, dependability, and a strong dose of all-around fun. Plus the kids love her! And last but not least is our fearless leader, Patty. The children know her as their teacher Mrs. Nowicki, but I know her as *my* teacher, my friend, my colleague, and the person who makes all this happen. Nearly everywhere you look in every corner of the room, you'll see how Patty's vision and guidance has impacted Serra.

So, here we are at the beginning of another year, another great year! Another chance for you, as the parent, to also make your mark at our school. To help shape, create and watch it all grow. Serra is where children and parents learn and love together, so enjoy and have fun!

**Sending Serra Love,
Cori, Luke's mom**



Dates to Know:

- **Aug 30** | 1st Day of School for 3 Day
- **Aug 31** | 1st Day of School for 2 Day
- **Sept 4** | No School
- **Sept 13** | **Board Meeting**
- **Sept 13** | *Street Sweeping*
- **Sept 14** | *Street Sweeping*
- **Sept 27** | **General Meeting**
- **Sept 27** | *Street Sweeping*
- **Sept 28** | *Street Sweeping*
- **Sept 30** | **6 Week Clean Up Day**

August and September Birthdays

- **Aug 8** | Harper Hyjek
- **Aug 11** | Miles Parker
- **Aug 22** | Bodhi Griffith
- **Aug 22** | Anabelle Millsap
- **Sept 6** | Baylon Zulevich
- **Sept 11** | Adora Cooper
- **Sept 12** | Lillian Heard
- **Sept 13** | Clark Burris
- **Sept 25** | Diem Herrera

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