

Serra Preschool Newsletter

September, 2013

a cooperative preschool in South Orange County
where children and parents learn and love together



San Clemente, California

1005 Calle Puente
San Clemente, CA 92672
(949) 492-8188

serrapreschool@gmail.com
www.serrapreschool.org

Upcoming Dates in October

- Fri., Oct. 4- field trip 9:00 am
- Sat., Oct. 5- Dad's Breakfast
8:30 am- 10:00 am
- Wed., Oct. 9- Board Mtng, 12:30 pm
- Sat., Oct. 12- 6 Week* Clean Up
- Wed., Oct. 23- General Meeting
6 pm- dinner 6:30 business starts
- Sun., Oct. 27- Halloween Carnival
3-5 pm
- Wed., Oct. 30- 3day parade, 9 am
- Wed., Oct 31- 2day parade, 9 am

Kids' Birthdays

- Mateo Arciniega turns 4 on the 5th
- Carmen Rollins turns 4 on the 15th
- Nattie B Stark turns 3 on the 15th



Our Board



- Cindy Parker, President cindyparker80@gmail.com
- Lili Cifuentes, Vice President cifuentes1@yahoo.com
- Adrienne Matheson, Treasurer amatheson4@gmail.com
- Ami Walstrom, Ways & Means ami@walstrom.net
- Jamie Thrash, Secretary jamie.thrash@hotmail.com
- Lisset Becker, OCCPPNS thinklisset@yahoo.com
- Stephanie Faunce, Membership swfaunce@yahoo.com
- Devon Azzam, Family Growth devonazzam@gmail.com

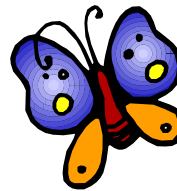
Patty Nowicki, Teacher and Director pnowicki1@cox.net

Sponsorship Rates

- Business Card: \$5 per issue or \$30 for the year
- ¼ Page Ad: \$10 per issue or \$50 for the year
- Email your ad to Cori Preisler at CoriPreisler@hotmail.com
- Advertisement should be in Word.doc format.



President's Message



Fall is upon us and we have made it through our first month of school. For some of us it's the first time we are sending our babies off to another place where we are not sitting right next to them. I tear up every time. A new phase has started in the household and everyone, grownups included, is getting use to new routines, new surroundings, new friends and a new teacher. We are challenged with how to get everyone out the door- dressed, fed and in relatively good spirits. Parents are also learning the ropes of a new school, what times we need to be there, what we need to bring, and we may also be anxious about meeting new friends. This is what makes Serra preschool so great because we are truly learning together every day, in every aspect. We may be going through some of the same anxiety and nervousness our little ones are going through, hopefully not by throwing ourselves on the floor, but you never know. *So I just want to say, "Cheers to you! We made it!" and I'm really excited to see what the rest of the year will bring!

We have so much to look forward too!
Can't wait!

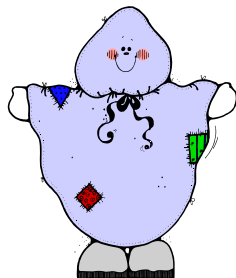
Cindy

Halloween Parade

The 2day class will have their Halloween Parade on Thursday, October 31st at 11:30 am

The 3day class will have their Halloween Parade on Wednesday, October 30th at 11:45 am

Please have your children come to school already dressed in their Halloween costumes.
Feel free to come early for the parade and take pictures.



Field Trip

Irvine Regional Park Pumpkin Patch

When: Friday, October 4 at 9:00 am

What: Our field trip includes a pumpkin, hayride, train ride, and a bottle of water

Cost: \$10/child, \$3/adult

Payment: please place money in an envelope labeled with child's name in the field trip folder in the school file box. Cash or check accepted. Please pay asap, but no later than Sept. 27.

Contact: Eva Gentile emgmd2@aol.com

Looking forward to a great day!



Director's Message



Making Connections and Interacting With Children in the Preschool Classroom

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 this mean to you as a working parent in our co-op preschool? In the classroom your responsibilities include setting up activities, cleaning up, keeping children safe, and most importantly, **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 adult child interactions?

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. The famous Russian psychologist, Lev Vygotsky, first explained the vital connection between interactions and learning. He explained that as young children act and interact in shared experiences with others, those social interactions play a key role in how children learn to think, reason, and communicate. For this reason, too, the range of knowledge and skills that a child can develop interacting with an adult or peer is greater than the child can gain alone. Because you have chosen to be here in our co-op, you have the opportunity to be a meaningful person in the lives of the children with whom you will be working. Your interactions can make a big difference in the child's sense of self and his/her potential learning.

So, how does one interact in a meaningful way? First you have to be **present**. 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'm interested in you, and I want to know you better. For example: Sue and Mike are playing in the *doll corner. Sue is feeding a doll and Mike is making a sandwich with the play food. What could you say in this situation to make a connection? "I see you're feeding your baby...she must be hungry". "I notice you are making a sandwich. What kind of sandwich are you making"? Simple reflective statements such as these let children know that you notice them, that you are interested in what they are doing, and that you want to know more about what is happening with them.

Along with the intentional words you say, how you are with children is as important as what you do. You can't fool children: they can read the meaning behind the sound of your voice, your facial expressions, how you hold yourself and move. They know when you are being genuine and when you are not. They know when you are irritable or distracted, or when you are right there with them.

Learning to be **present** and make **connections** with the children takes a lot of practice and will not happen overnight. While working in the preschool you will have many opportunities to push yourself, be flexible, and practice reflecting on what you see. Learning new skills is a process, and you may say things that sound strange or don't feel right-but know it's 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 our preschool. This is the beginning..... welcome to the journey!

Fondly,
Mrs. Nowicki

Scholastic Book Club

Encouraging reading is one of the most important things we can do to help our children succeed. Serra preschool will be participating in the Scholastic Book Club. Ordering books for your children is easy. Each month, your child will bring home Reading *Club flyers. Together, you can choose from books hand-selected by teachers and experts, and then order online by following the directions below.

If this is your first time ordering online:

- REGISTER at scholastic.com/readingclub
- ENTER the Serra one-time Class Activation Code: MFML4 to link your child with Serra preschool

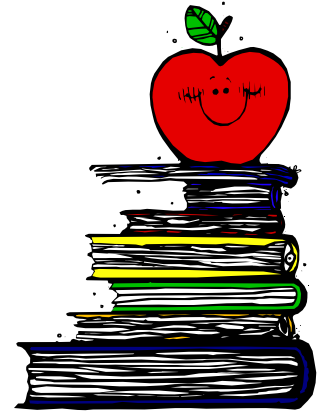
or

If you are already registered with other children in your family:

- Add your Serra student by clicking on add a child
- Link your child to Serra with the one-time Class Activation Code: MFML4

THEN:

- CHOOSE your books by adding them to your cart
- PAY online with a credit card
- SUBMIT the order to me online by the due date listed on the website



Books will be placed in your child's bucket approximately 7-10 days after the due date. Also, if you are unable to order online but would like to buy books, please let me know. Also, feel free to email me with any problems: Kate Vojtus at lenkoski@yahoo.com . And remember, every time you order online, you are earning free books for our classroom!

Announcements

The 2*day class will end the day at 12:00 noon starting in October.

Below is a link to an article from Shawn

Our Cheap Snack Food Habits Are Killing the Orangutans -- Time to Stop

<http://admin.alternet.org/environment/orangutans-may-go-extinct-just-so-consumers-can-save-few-pennies-junk-food-5-ways-you/>

