

Serra Preschool Newsletter - May 2015

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

Please welcome our New Babies (Future Serra Preschoolers):

Cheyenne Schuyler, born April 28th
(Charlotte's Little Sister) .



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Kids Birthdays

Ryley Bailey turns 5 on 6/22
Rocco Changala turns 4 on 7/9
Jett Johnson turns 5 on 7/14
Clara-Rae Banda turns 5 on 7/22
Marlon Rohm turns 4 on 7/28
Eligh Dodge turns 5 on 8/7
Jameson Fee turns 5 on 8/15
Riley Parker turns 5 on 8/20
Olivia Faunce turns 6 on 8/29
Havalee Klein turns 4 on 8/14

Upcoming Events

Fri, May 29th – Nature Day Field Trip (Turtle Rock Community Park)
Mon, June 8th – Wet and Wild Day – 3 Day Class
Wed, June 10th – Last Day of School – 3 Day Class
Thurs, June 11th – Wet and Wild Day/Last Day of School – 2 Day Class
Fri, June 12th – Doheny Beach Bonfire Both Classes– 4pm
Sat, June 13 or Mon, June 15 – Mandatory End of Year Clean-Up – 8am to Noon
TBD – Board Transition Dinner



A picture of our
proud Serra
Mommamas at our
Mother's Day
Celebration on
May 8th

Director's Message – "An Oak Tree does not grow in a Year"

Dear Parents,

Growing an oak tree takes time, and having a mature, adult tree after one year is an unrealistic goal. The same goes for children. I have been thinking about the "oak tree" metaphor while reflecting on our school year and what kids do at Serra Preschool.

This was the first year I had an indoor/outdoor curriculum. Meaning the kids had the choice to play on the inside or the outside every day. One thing I know about four year olds is that they will only be four once and that it was important that we concentrated on the kids present needs. They need to truly play now. Kids need time for spontaneous play with room for running, leaping, "ka-powing", crying, dancing, painting, spilling, laughing, cooking, pretending and creative problem solving.

If we give kids the time to "truly play now" they will be ready for academics later. When children gain social and emotional skills and confidence in the preschool years academic learning will naturally follow.

What I want for the children at Serra Preschool more than anything, is to have happy experiences playing and learning in a place where they felt safe and loved, and to leave with the excitement of learning that serves as a foundation for their future education and growth.

We are fast coming to the end of our 2014-2015 school year and what a wonderful year it has been, although honestly, I can't remember a NOT wonderful year. How could preschool be anything but happy and exciting with all these eager young minds and bodies swirling around me all the time? And these children are accompanied by you...dedicated, hard working parents, without whom this school could not exist.

Many thanks to you all and special hugs to the Board of Directors, who work behind the scenes to secure the passage of one year to the next for Serra Preschool.

For those of you who are moving on I wish you a smooth transition to Kindergarten (if this is your year) or to wherever you may be going. I hope you enjoyed your time at Serra Preschool this year and that you will continue to volunteer and be an important person in the lives of children.

Fondly,
Mrs. Nowicki

Message from our President, Cindy Parker

Where did the year go?

I can't believe the end of the year is already upon us. I just wanted to say thank you. Not only for being a part of Serra Preschool but for being my friend. I know that being a part of Serra preschool is at times tedious and overwhelming but we did it. Thank you for your time, your concern, your encouraging words and treating each other like family. Thank you for fixing skinned knees, wiping tears and giving out hugs and kisses with reckless abandon for all the times when I was not at school but I still got a picture or a text saying, "He's fine". But most of all thank you for being a part of my village. I feel very lucky to be part of such an awesome school and even more awesome group of people.

I wish you guys the best this summer and would love to hang out!!

XOXOXO
Cindy

Legacy Tiles are tentatively coming Mon, June 1st and Tues, June 2nd!

Let the memory of your child's preschool experience live on here at Serra.

For \$20 per tile, your child can paint his/her own tile to be plastered to the wall and be seen by generations to come!

Cash or check payable to Serra Preschool.

You can let us know on the sign up sheet if it's ok if your child does the tile alone, or if you prefer to be present.

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 Claudia Rohm at claudhopper71@gmail.com

Serra Preschool does not endorse any advertisements listed.

It's OK NOT to share and other Renegade Rules for Raising Competent and Compassionate Kids, By Heather Shumaker

Dear Parents,

I am reading this book and I hope you will consider reading it, especially if you are going to be returning to Serra Preschool in September. Even if you are moving on I encourage you to read it. I wish I had had it when my kids were small. It supports everything I know to be true about children and the words come from the author's heart. (In my opinion)

Everything that happens in this book happens at preschool. While its true that there are many parenting books that give worthy advice on child nutrition, potty training, discipline and the like. This book is intentionally selective. The Renegade Rules don't focus on topics where we might all agree; they highlight where we might differ: early academics, conflict, hitting and kicking, "No Girls or No Boys" signs, social rejection and exclusion.

This book sings glories of rough and tumble play, and does not shy away from incredibly touchy topics like lying, swearing, weapon play, gender-bender play (think boys in dresses) sex education and death.

So much of what is in the book speaks to what we already try to do at Serra. Teachers at school strive each day to discuss events that happen during the preschool day. With the intention of helping parents understand what may have been going on between children and how to guide them, play with them, and have meaningful conversations.

I feel that by reading this book you will all be privileged to have received all the information I desire for you to have and will have a larger framework from which to pull ideas from and have discussion at the end of each day. Because it's true everything that happens in this book happens at preschool and on the playground and in your homes.

The time for this book is now. Violence and bullying are in the news. No matter where you live or what preschools are locally available, like me, you want to raise children who can cope, children who are both strong and compassionate, children who can stand up against injustices and resolve conflicts peacefully.

This is a book for parents, you will find it easy to read and understand the ideas promoted in the book. In my never to be humble opinion it is your lucky day that you are part of a preschool that understands and strives to use the ideas in this book.

I will be raffling off one of these books at the general meeting. Maybe you will win!! I sincerely do hope that all of you will consider reading it. I look forward to the future discussions we will all have together.

Happy Reading,
Mrs. Nowicki

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS OVERVIEW

NATURE DAY FIELD TRIP – TURTLE ROCK COMMUNITY PARK

When: Friday, May 29th at 10:00 am.

Where: Turtle Rock Community Park, located at 1 Sunnyhill Drive in Irvine. (on the corner of Sunnyhill and Turtle Rock Drive). Meet at the Nature Center Building.

What: Come explore Turtle Rock park with us as we see what nature looks like in May. We'll learn new things, enjoy a picnic lunch, and play games! There's a hiking trail, a playground, plenty of space, and a creek that has ducks and ducklings (hopefully still there on Friday!).

Bring: an old pillowcase or some kind of large sturdy bag for potato sack races, a picnic lunch with maybe a blanket to sit on or a beach chair.

Contact Person: Cori Priesler - Cori's cell (310) 809-4500

What I want to be when I grow up...

Andrea - A doctor and fix animals

Jameson - A doctor who will help people not be sick anymore with experiments.

Arlo - A racecar driver.

Jett - A fireman.

Arjun - An astronaut. I'll go to the moon... or a Construction worker.

Liam - A chef. I will cook pizza at a restaurant.

Clara-Rae - A restaurant worker.

Marcus - I want to build rockets and be in mission control for rockets.

Drake - I want to work at the Spectrum.

Maverick - A garbage man.

Eli - A robot. I will fly.

Mikayla - A butterfly. I'm just gonna fly on Halloween.

Eligh - A doctor. I'm gonna give shots.

Riley - I want to be a construction worker.

Elisa - A doctor. I will help people. And a rockstar.

Noah - A doctor. I will give shots.

Ella - A rockstar. I will sing

Olivia - A waitress in a restaurant.

Hank - A trash man. I'll pickup trash cans.

Sophia - A rockstar.

Eliana - A Ballerina

Mateo - A Fixer

Havalee - A Pony

Marlon - A Policeman

Olivia M. - Bigger and Bigger

Brooklyn - A doctor

Vincent - I go night-night with my Mommy

Logan - A fire truck guy

Rocco - An Army Man

Zane - A Cooker

Coralyn - I don't know

Marshall - A Fireman

Cristina - An Ice Cream Girl