

March/April 2024

# JUNIPERO SERRA

## PADRE PRESS

### Important Dates

3/1 6 PM: Movie Night in Sherwood Forest:  
Trolls Band Together  
3/1-3/29: Read-A-Thon  
3/4 Lunchtime: Great Serra Book Swap  
3/4 6 PM: PTA Meeting Rm. 12  
3/8 11:30: Garden Club Meeting \*must bring  
an adult  
3/13 3-8 PM: Dining Out: Chuck E Cheese  
3/14-3/19: Parent Conferences, early dismissal  
at 11:30 (TK-3rd) and 11:40 (4th and 5th)  
3/22 11:30: Garden Club Meeting \*must bring  
an adult  
3/28: Early dismissal 11:30 (TK-3rd) and 11:40  
(4th and 5th)  
3/29: No School  
4/1-4/5: Spring Break. No School.  
4/8 6 PM: PTA Meeting Rm. 12  
4/12: Spring Glow Dance  
4/16 4-8 PM: Dining Out: California Pizza  
Kitchen  
4/19 11:30: Garden Club Meeting \*must bring  
an adult.

### Principal's Message

Dear Wonderful Serra Families,  
How is it that we're already looking forward to spring?  
This school year is zooming past and the office is  
already preparing for the next school year.  
Kindergarten Registration has begun. If you, or any of  
your neighbors, have kindergarten eligible students,  
please complete the online registration form and  
contact the office to set up your registration  
appointment.

Spring is around the corner and teachers and  
students are working hard on all that will prepare  
students for the next school year. One way you can  
help is to encourage your student to get a good  
night's sleep. Charging devices out of bedrooms  
ensures a more restful sleep for students, allowing  
them to have a smoother morning at home and a  
more successful day while at school.

Lastly, I've been sending out weekly updates with  
many photos of our students. Be sure to read the  
Parent Square post "Updates from Mrs. Belitski."  
We hope to see you soon!

Mrs. Belitski

### President's Corner

Spring is almost here and with that we have a lot of fun events coming up including the Spring Dance, Art Night, and lots of field trips! Thank you for all your help with fundraising in the fall so we can have these fun events in the spring. This is a busy but very exciting time of the school year and we will need volunteers to make all these events happen. Emails will go out, but if you are interested in helping with a specific event please reach out by emailing [juniperoserrapta@outlook.com](mailto:juniperoserrapta@outlook.com) or you are always welcome at the PTA meetings! Thank you and I'm looking forward to a fantastic spring!

Executive Board:

Nicole Hagy, PTA President; Kristyn Meyer, Treasurer; Emily Dalton, Secretary; Michelle Brown, Parliamentarian; Erin Ueltschi, 5th grade chair

Contact your PTA at: [juniperoserrapta@outlook.com](mailto:juniperoserrapta@outlook.com) or visit [juniperoserrapta.org](http://juniperoserrapta.org)

# From the Student Desk

We want to hear from students! Each issue of the Padre Press will feature student writing. Teachers, to nominate your student for publication, please email the Padre Press editor, Laura Dixon, at PadrePress@gmail.com.

## Spring

Sofi Tran, 5th grade

When winter has gone to lay its head  
It's time for spring to wake from bed.

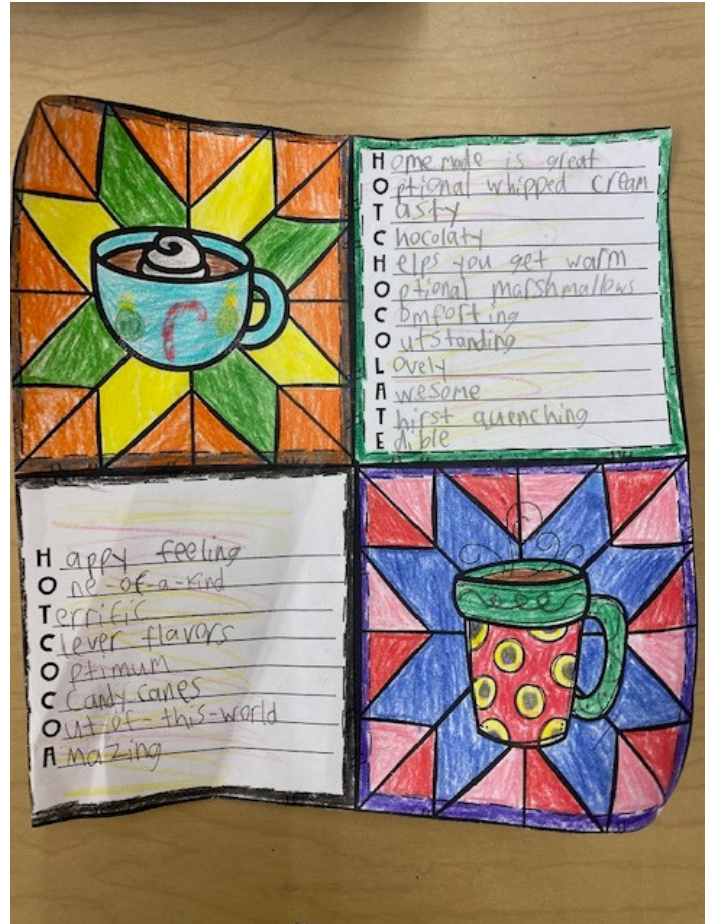
The trees start to turn green,  
And the birds come back and sing.

The air around is crystal clear,  
As the fog disappears.  
Sleds and skis are put away,  
saved again for another day.

Flower buds open soft but bright  
while lightening bugs will glow in the night.  
School's starting to end then,  
And it's getting hot again.

Lemonade stands open up,  
Earning money by the cup.  
So until school is done, summer again.  
Spring will be here, there and then.

Sadie Norris, 5th grade



## Amazing Penguins of the Arctic

Zoey Zych, 4th grade

Splash, splash. It's a penguin. Have you ever wondered how penguins survive in the icy winter? Well, they need food, water, and shelter.

First, penguins need reliable shelter. Penguins live in the southern hemisphere of the world. Did you know that some penguins can live in the desert? They make their nests out of rocks and sticks. To stay warm, they huddle together.

Next, these whimsical birds need food and water to survive. Penguins eat krill and fish. The krill they eat makes their poop bright pink, so bright that you can see it from space! To feed the hatchlings, the mother will throw up the food she ate earlier into their beaks.

Finally, penguins need body adaptation. Penguins have a thick layer of blubber to help them stay warm. And their feathers have a tuxedo coloring. Baby penguins start out gray then go to brown and a fully grown penguin is black and white.

Did you learn something new? I hope you did.

# Program Updates

**Garden Club:** Garden Club meets every other Friday from 11:30–12:30 outside of room 7. Students should bring their lunches and a willingness to get their hands dirty! They must also have an adult present. Our next meeting is Friday, March 8th.

## Current garden happenings:

Check out the raised garden bed next to Mr. Willis's class! In early February, his class planted peas, lettuce, carrots, and flowers. The plants loved the rainstorm that we had early in the month and have begun to sprout. Students have been assisting in completing an application to secure garden funds through Ventura County Farm to School. They took measurements of the garden as well as the garden boxes. They have chosen several goals for the remainder of the school year: Planting a "rainbow" garden, fixing several dilapidated garden boxes, and planting a snap pea trellis.

Garden Club is looking for donations! We are seeking flower and vegetable seeds or starters. If you'd like to donate, please contact Laura Dixon at [Jserragardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:Jserragardenclub@gmail.com)

**Reflections:** Reflections artwork may be viewed during the upcoming Serra Art Night on Thursday, May 23rd. The theme for next year's contest is "Accepting Imperfection."

**Leadership:** Leadership is open to 5th grade students who wish to demonstrate the Guidelines for Success for all students and who have completed an application process. Contact Mrs. Belitski with any questions: [Anna.Belitski@venturausd.org](mailto:Anna.Belitski@venturausd.org)

**Noteables:** Directed by Ms. Heidi House, this is a free, non-audition choir open to students in grades 1–5. Participating students must commit to weekly rehearsals in preparation for their spring concert at Ventura High School. Contact Ms. Heidi with questions: [Heidi.house@venturausd.org](mailto:Heidi.house@venturausd.org)



## Dining Out

Take a break from cooking and support our school's PTA! Thanks to your support we earned \$312 from our Cronies dining out and \$325 from Chipotle. Join us on March 13th for dining out at Chuck E. Cheese and April 16th at California Pizza Kitchen.



## Yearbook News

Yearbooks are on sale! Hardcover books are \$25 cash or check and \$26 online. If you would like to include a "Hip-hip Hooray" for your student, please include an additional \$5. Order forms are available in the office and on the PTA website: <https://www.juniperoserrapta.org>

Congratulations to Maren Haney, winner of the yearbook cover contest! We look forward to seeing the winning cover in June!

The deadline for orders is **Friday, April 12th**. No extra yearbooks will be available at the end of the year.

Do you have photos of Serra programs or events? Please submit them to the yearbook at: [Juniperoserrayearbook@gmail.com](mailto:Juniperoserrayearbook@gmail.com)

## Emergency Bucket Update

We are so happy to say that our classrooms are now supplied with brand new emergency buckets! These buckets are in addition to first aid supplies already in the classrooms and are to be used if there is ever a catastrophic event. We wouldn't have been able to put these together without your donations, so thank you for helping us create these for our classrooms!

## The PTA needs YOU!

- Membership is only \$10 annually.
- Parents, family, community members, and teachers are all eligible to join!
- Participation in meetings is encouraged but optional.
- Visit [juniperoserrapta.org](http://juniperoserrapta.org) or scan the QR code below to join.



We are looking ahead to the next school year and have open PTA Executive Board positions. For the 2024-2025 school year we will need a Secretary and a Vice President. Secretary key roles include taking minutes at meetings, co-signing formal paperwork and preserving important documents to pass on at the end of the term. Vice President key roles include being the primary aide to the president and performing the president's duties in their absence. If you or anyone you know is interested in a board position please email [JSPTANominations@gmail.com](mailto:JSPTANominations@gmail.com)