

September/October 2023

JUNIPERO SERRA

PADRE PRESS



Important Dates

9/1: Garden Club Meeting 11:30
*adult must accompany student
9/4: No School
9/5: Cross Country meeting 2:45
Room K4
9/11: PTA Meeting 6 PM
9/13: Back to School Night 6 PM
9/14: Picture Day
9/11-9/22: All About Local fundraiser
9/21-9/29: Scholastic Book Fair
9/22: Garden Club Meeting 11:30
*adult must accompany student
9/25: No School
10/2: PTA Meeting 6 PM
10/11: Dining Out: Urbane Cafe
10/13: Harvest Festival
10/23-10/27: Fall Break

The PTA needs YOU

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



President's Corner

Welcome back, families! Your PTA has many exciting opportunities this year for students: Harvest Festival, Movie Nights, Fun Run, Spring Dance, and more! Help us support your student by becoming a PTA member today! Money donated goes directly to student centered programming.

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



Student Soundbites



Welcome back, students!

What are you looking forward to this school year?

"Recess!" Lucy Dixon

"Showing my friends our garden." Bryce Bennett

"I can't wait for the next talent show" Quynh Rodriguez

"I'm excited to see my friends!" Zoey Hagy

"Doing science! And going to the Glow Party." Luke Brandon

"I'm excited to play with my friends." Madelyn Orbach

"I can't wait to do the fun run and buy a present for my family at Penguin Patch." -Maddux Halamicek

" I am looking forward to reading 1 billion words" Beckett Snelgrove

"I am looking forward to doing PE." Connor Valenzuela

"Holiday Projects and the Harvest Festival." Gavin Hoover-Richards

"Making more friends." Violet Filegar

"I'm looking forward to 5th grade leadership." Eliana Valenzuela

Extra, Extra: Read all about our Extracurriculars HERE

Garden Club

Our meetings are a fun way to connect TK-5th grade students to the earth. We teach students where food comes from, how to take care of the soil, harvesting, watering and planting through hands on activities.

Meet every other Friday at 11:30 behind Rm. 7. Must be accompanied by an adult.

Questions? Contact:
jserragardenclub@gmail.com

Cross Country

Available for students in grades 3-5. Must complete paperwork, including a physical, and attend an information meeting Sept. 5th at 2:45 in Rm K4. Pick up paperwork in the office.

Contact Mrs. Quiroz with questions.
alli.silvermanquiroz@venturausd.org

Leadership

Open to 5th grade students who submit an application. Students with a record of good citizenship will be chosen to participate. Under the guidance of the school principal, students plan and advertise school spirit days, announce WOW ticket winners, and assist with school events.

Contact Mrs. Belitski with questions:
Anna.Belitski@venturausd.org

Noteables

Directed by Ms. Heidi House, this is a free, non-audition choir open to students in grades 1-5. Students must be committed to attending weekly practices and the culminating performances in December. Look for more information regarding practice dates in the coming weeks.



Extracurriculars that need advisors for this school year include: Chess Club and PTA Reflections Arts Contest. If you're interested in being an advisor for either of these programs, please contact juniperoserrapta@outlook.com

Principal's Message

Greetings Serra Families!

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! It's been a fantastic start to the school year. Staff worked diligently before students arrived on the first day of school, moving classrooms, fine tuning year long plans, collaborating with grade level teams and creating opportunities to build positive relationships and school culture, in an effort to help Serra "Grow Together and Glow Together" and what an incredible impact it has made. Students were all smiles as they settled into the new routines and made new connections. I'm thrilled to serve Serra, our wonderful students, and their families alongside this incredible staff.

VUSD offers free breakfast and lunch to all students. This year, our cafeteria will only be offering breakfast before school, from 7:30-7:55. We are not offering Second Chance breakfast this year; however, students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack from home to eat during morning recess.

Students can be dropped off at the front of the school drop-off loop, the Dudley gate or the Swansea gate. Please do not drop off in the bus/emergency vehicle zone. If you chose to walk your student to the gate, please allow yourself extra time as parking and traffic can be busy. The bell to line up rings at 7:55 and classes start instruction at 8:00 am.

Chronic absenteeism is a challenge most schools in California have been facing the past few years. While, of course, we know students should stay home when they are sick, we also know that when students miss just two days of school a month, they're actually missing about 130 hours of learning! Regular and on time attendance greatly impacts students' academic and social growth.

We're looking forward to seeing our students' grown-ups at Back To School Night, September 13 at 6:00. This a great opportunity to hear your children's teacher share all about their class, grade level standards, and classroom expectations as well as connect with PTA.

Finally, I encourage all families to join and become involved with PTA. Our Serra PTA provides many opportunities for our students: field trips, assemblies, and family events (just to name a few). Please talk with a PTA board member to find out how you can volunteer – many jobs can be done at home or in the evenings.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is able to fully access the amazing learning opportunities here at Serra.

Have a great school year!

Mrs. Belitski

J. Serra Principal