

May/June 2024

# JUNIPERO SERRA

## PADRE PRESS

### Important Dates

5/6 6 PM: PTA Meeting Rm. 12  
5/6-5/10: Staff appreciation week  
5/10: Kona Ice  
5/13-5/17: Book donations  
5/14: Dining out: Red Robin  
5/23 5:30-7:30: Art Night, BOGO  
Scholastic Book Fair, Garden Club craft  
sale  
5/24 Summer Reading Assembly &  
Book Swap at recess  
5/27: Memorial Day. No School  
5/31: Spirit Day: Anything But a  
Backpack  
5/31 11:15-1:15: Garden Club fundraiser -  
Mr. Softee  
6/3 6 PM: PTA Meeting Rm. 12  
6/7: Kona Ice  
6/12: Spirit Day: Tropical  
6/13: Last Day of School. Early Dismissal  
11:30 (TK-3rd), 11:40 (4-5)  
6/13 8:30: Kinder Celebration  
10:00: 5th grade promotion  
8/14: First day of school

### Principal's Message

Dear Amazing Serra Families,

Spring is finally here and the Spring Sprint is upon us! Classrooms are full of energy and excitement as teachers work hard to ensure all students have learned as much as possible before the end of the school year. Third-Fifth grade is busily preparing for state testing and given all their hard work this year, we know they're going to do fantastic! Families can support their students with CAASPP testing by making sure their child:

- gets a full night's rest
- eats a good, protein rich, breakfast
- is at school on time everyday, by 7:45 is even better

Our office staff is busily registering students for Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have Kindergarten age children, please come by the office.

Congratulations to Kristen O'Neill and Charlotte Rago on your retirements! We will miss you!

As we finish the school year, may I just say, what an honor it is to serve this fantastic community. Every day at Serra School is a great day!

Mrs. Belitski

### President's Corner

This year has gone by so quickly! Thank you for all your support of the PTA and students throughout the school year. Because of your support, we have been able to provide so many amazing programs and events to the students. As we look ahead into the next school year we would love to grow and expand our PTA! We are focusing on creating a mission statement and specific goals so we can continue to support our students and the school. If you are interested in joining, volunteering or helping in any capacity we would love to have you! Please join us for our final PTA meetings as we plan for the 2024/2025 school year. Thank you again!

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.

## Lyrics

By Carter L

You make us smarter every day.  
You help us learn. Learning is fun.  
I like school. I get to play with my friends.  
You help us every day.  
This song is just for you.  
Because you are the best teacher in the world.  
I will be okay with you.

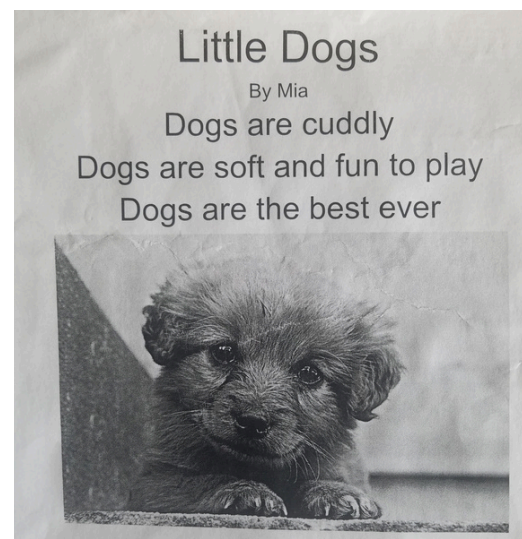
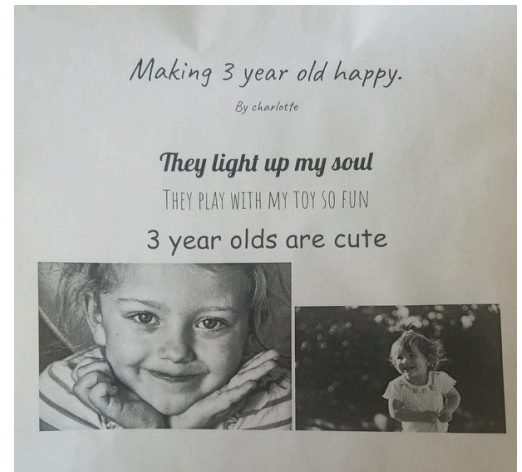
## What a Game

Avery Maxson

“No!” I shouted as the other team kicked the ball into the goal.  
“Yeah!” yelled the other team called the Dragons. I was rooting for the Unstoppables. I know they’re called that, but they’ve never won a game.  
“Look, Avery,” my mom said, “Madison is goalie.”  
“Okay, I’m looking!” I exclaimed in excitement. Madison has been my friend since preschool and I have been so excited to see her in Arizona ever since she moved there. And then I was there watching her soccer game.  
“Good one, Madison!” I screamed as she caught the ball. Finally it was half time, but it was 5 to 0 and bad luck because the Unstoppables were the ones with 0.  
Now half time is over and they’re back in the game. Madison is not goalie anymore and the game’s almost over.  
“Fifteen minutes ‘til it’s over,” my mom said. Fifteen minutes later... “You did so good even if you lost.” I told Madison that you can’t always win or it won’t be fun.

## Haiku Project

Mrs. Rose’s 2nd Grade Class





# 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, May 3rd. Our last meeting of the year is Friday, June 7th, where we will have a potluck and crafts.

## Current garden happenings:

**Mr. Softee fundraiser.** Look out for the Mr. Softee truck after school on Friday, May 31st from 11:15-1:15 on Swansea. 10% of sales directly benefit the J. Serra Garden Club. Thank you for your support!

Garden Club kiddos, and Mrs. Geib's 3rd grade class, have been busy painting bird houses in preparation for Art Night on May 23rd. Look for the Garden Club table to purchase plants and garden themed arts and crafts. 100% of funds raised benefit garden programs on campus.

Currently, in addition to maintaining our veggie and native gardens, these programs include a glow up of the flower bed near the Kindergarten playground and preparing the planter outside of Ms. Trigo's classroom for succulent planting in May.

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. Students are currently preparing for their spring concert at Ventura High School. The concert will be on May 16th at 6:30. Tickets are sold at the door. Doors open at 6 PM. 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 \$335 from last month's dining out at Chuck E. Cheese and \$396 from California Pizza Kitchen! The next dining out will be on Tuesday, May 14th at Red Robin. 20% of your purchase will directly benefit J. Serra! Hope to see you there!

## Spring Glow Dance

Wow! The Glow Dance this year was so much fun! We had over 275 students attend and dance, eat pizza, play games and get their pictures taken in the photobooth. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this dance successful!



## Read-A-Thon

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Read-A-Thon! Raffles were done every week to encourage student participation. At the end of the month, another raffle was done for students who had completed at least 16 reading challenges in one week! The following students won the raffle and earned a Scholastic spending spree: Ella T, Milo C, Connor V, Zoey H, Bella V, Althea S, and Jack M. Well done, Readers!

## Yearbook News

Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school. Check out Maren Haney's winning artwork on the front cover!

## Serra Book Swap

Our spring book swap was a success! Thanks to your generous donations, every student who wanted a book was able to pick one out. Our next book swap will be our kick off to summer reading swap on May 24th at recess. Students who bring in book donations the week of May 13th will be able to select their choices first, but the goal is for everyone to be able to select a book.



## “Anything But Your Car” Day



Serra’s first “Anything But Your Car” day, in honor of Earth Month, was a success! Over 112 students walked, rolled, carpoled, or bused to school. That is nearly 1/4 of the student population! Go, Padres! Students who participated received an Earth Month brag tag reminding them to spare the air by using an alternate form of transportation when possible. All participants were entered into a raffle for a helmet.



## 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](http://juniperoserrapta.org) or scan the QR code below to join.



Join us for a meeting on 6/3 at 6 PM to discuss the PTA’s goals for the next school year. This is your chance to be heard if you’d like a voice on what programs we will offer students and families for next year!

Introducing next year’s executive board: President: Nicole Nagy; Vice President: Amanda Snelgrove; Treasurer: Kristyn Meyer; Secretary: Christina Pech; Parliamentarian: Michelle Brown; 5th Grade Chair: Kaylie Zych