



∞ The CDS Weekly ∞

...Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

September 4, 2003

We, Too, Have a Dream

09.01.03

Four days and forty years ago, 250,000 people from all over the United States gathered in Washington D.C. There they had an experience of the American Dream so powerful that by the end of the day America had changed its mind. Although most of us did not feel the change on that day, by the time I became a school principal in 1974, the country had a different consciousness, and I found myself among many people who had a mission worthy of the rest of their lives. In the last thirty years this mission has gone by many names: Equality, Freedom, Diversity, Education, Community, Leadership, Compassion, and I have never exhausted the challenges that it presents; so at least once a year I return to the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., allowing them to refresh my view of the world we live in today.

Today, the lion's share of our attention seems to be on the place of the United States in the world. I would like to suggest that the quality of America's role in the world will be decided within America—in the values that we manifest in our behavior here at home. And with this focus, it feels to me that this nation is in need of a "new birth of freedom," and that each of us can do something about that.

Last year my Muslim daughter, who has some concerns about the nature of American society, government, culture and our role in the world, confronted me about my interest in the T.V. show, "West Wing."

"What do you see in this T.V. show?" she asked.

"It's about a group of smart-but-otherwise-ordinary people, who with all their human imperfections, are working together in the complex, messy, challenging, common purpose of making the world we live in a better place to live. Each story is about the possibilities and the limitations of making a difference. In fact, it reminds me of what we are doing at CDS."

I still see CDS this way; as a group of smart-but-otherwise-ordinary people who come together year after year to make a certain dream a reality. It is the dream of taking the outstanding preschool education our children have experienced for 20 years all the way through eighth grade.

There is nothing parochial about this mission. We are doing what the people on West Wing are doing: working together in the complex, messy, challenging purpose of making the world a better place for children. In doing so, we hold open the possibility that by sending these children off into the world at

∞ This Week's Hot Dates ∞



Tuesday, September 9th

4:30 p.m. — 5:45 p.m.

PTTA Meeting in Staff Lounge

Saturday, September 13th

12:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Welcome Picnic

the age of fourteen, they, themselves, will be agents for creating a better world.

In this spirit, our fifth and sixth grade will study what it means to make a difference. They will begin their study of human society and the role of the individual in it by asking themselves the question, "What would I keep and what would I change about our city." They will then go on a long journey that takes them back in time to Ancient Greece and Ancient China. In the course of that journey they will examine the foundations of those various cultures and consider how they relate to their own communities. They will also explore how specific individuals in those societies—like Alexander and Confucius—used their influence to make significant cultural changes. When they turn in the spring to post-war America, they will see how social themes recur in history and how some modern individuals have changed America and changed the world.

In the end, the students will have a sense of what people can do in the great sweep of history, and an inkling about their own possibilities in the world. It is the introductory course for their middle school years, which will involve them more intensely in the city in which they live. Building on the passion and approach to learning they developed during their elementary and preschool years, they will learn as they do things that are of real value to others.

Education, at its best, is about liberation. Education is liberating the human spirit to be gracefully effective in its environment. This is a very complex, multi-dimensional task that includes ego-development, community-building, interpersonal challenge and spiritual journeying. Doing this job right is enough to keep us all busy.

Do we need another march on Washington? Maybe. But maybe we just need to settle into our own communities and neighborhoods and make our global concerns a reality

in our own little world. I enjoyed immensely working with you all last year to build this very special school. And so, today, as we begin our 21st year, I have to confess to a dream. Even though it is clearly unrealistic, I cannot relinquish it. I have a dream that we are all still together ten school years from now watching another class graduate from Children's Day School.

—Rick



Early Morning Drop Off!

There seems to be a need for some families to drop their children off before 8:00 a.m. in order to be at work on time. We have decided to offer these families early drop-off. Drop-off will be at the double doors. Nicola Valentino will be in the Teddy Bear room from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily. At 8:00 a.m. she will escort the children to the yard to meet up with their classes. The cost will be \$600 for the year or \$60 per month payable in advance. Contact Amanda Coggin at x12 if this is a service you need. This new service will be available starting, Monday, September 8th.



Dismissal

Several things will make dismissal go more smoothly. Dismissal is by the double doors. Don't wait at the gate.

Dismissal times are:

Pre-school	2:30
Kindergarten	2:45
Grades 1 & 2	3:00
Grades 3 & 4	3:10 (THIS IS A CHANGE)
Grades 5 & 6	3:15

In families where there are children of different ages, the younger one should go to the playground when s/he is dismissed. When the older one is dismissed, s/he will go to the playground to get the younger one and walk them to the double doors to be dismissed with the older sibling's class. With this procedure, the parent can arrive in time for the older child's dismissal and avoid having to leave the parking lot and circle back around a second time.

If you are driving, **please stay in your car** with your child's name on the visor.

If you are a pedestrian, please wait to the north of the double doors, not blocking the doors, so that we can bring the children out.



Pizza Days

Pizza Days have turned out to be more of a controversy and hassle than we can support. It truly seemed like a good idea—for a small price parents are freed of the burden of making a lunch once a week, students get a treat, and the school stands to make about \$8,000 a year. It was successful at my last school.

I have decided it is not such a good idea for CDS. It involves a considerable amount of parent volunteer labor and leadership. It consumes too much of the Director of Development's time, and it is controversial among the faculty. It has been a heated topic of discussion at four faculty meetings.

I believe fundraising efforts of this sort should be fun and easy. This effort has proven otherwise. I know this is a disappointment for many, but there will be no pizza lunch this year

—Rick

Do You Prefer *The Weekly* by E mail?

Thanks to everyone who is helping reduce our paper usage by receiving *The CDS Weekly* by email. If you would like to receive the *Weekly* by email instead of by hard copy, email Bree Humphries at bhumphries@getthere.com. Please let her know the name and class of the child your hard copy usually goes home with so we can remove him or her from the classroom distribution list.



CDS Parent-Teacher-Trustee-

Administrator Association

PTTA Update

Welcome one and all to the awkwardly named CDS Parent-Teacher-Trustee-Administrator Organization, or PTTA. By enrolling your child at CDS, you are automatically a member of this august body, whose purpose is to strengthen the school community in support of the CDS mission while having fun in the process. We will hold our first meeting on Tuesday, September 9th from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. in the staff lounge on the third floor of school, and I hope many parents, new and returning, will attend. Probable topics to be discussed include: introductions of PTTA officers, volunteer opportunities for parents, overview and explanation of the new classroom event hosting calendar, where are the bungalow classrooms and when will they be here? where are the sheep and when will they be here? and planning for the all-school Welcome Picnic on Saturday, September 13th from noon to 3:00 p.m. in Golden Gate Park. The Welcome Picnic will be an all-family, bring-your-own picnic and blanket event at the picnic tables on the hill west of the carousel. Future PTTA meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month so please stop by to join in the fun. Thank you.

— Marion Quinones, PTTA Presiden



Friday Morning Coffee

Suffering from separation anxiety...from fellow adults?!
Try to schedule a few free minutes into your Friday

morning to join other parents for hot coffee and grown up conversation outside in the yard after drop off, 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. starting this Friday. See you there!



PTTA Questions or Ideas?

Contact Marion Quinones at 701-1957 or
MQuinones@fbm.com.



Thank You Parent Volunteers!

We extend a big thank you to the parent volunteers who built the new picnic tables on our yard: Ray McFadden, James Kelly and Sam Hunt. Your work is truly appreciated!



Upcoming on the CDS Calendar



Tuesday, September 9th

4:30 p.m. — 5:45 p.m.

PTTA Meeting in Staff Lounge



Saturday, September 13th

12:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Welcome Picnic
Golden Gate Park



Thursday & Friday, September 18th & 19th

School Portraits



Thursday, September 25th

5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

State of the School Night, Part I

Extended Program Closes at 5:00 p.m.



How to Submit to *The CDS Weekly*:

Submissions are to be received **no later than Wednesday at 8:00 am**. Please email them to cdsweekly@cds-sf.org

