The C D S Weekly

...Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
September 11, 2003

It's Time to Get Tough on Parking

Parents, we need your help enforcing our parking lot policy. Simply put, you may not park **anywhere** in the CDS parking lot. Not in teacher's parking spaces, not in the handicapped spaces (unless you have a disability), and not in the fire lanes. **If you would like to walk in with your child, or if you have a meeting to attend, you must give yourself enough time to park on the street**. CDS has been receiving increasingly frustrated complaints from our dear neighbors at Notre Dame Plaza who've been blocked in their parking spots, or prevented from leaving the parking lot due to parents parked in the fire lanes. In addition, our beloved *teachers* are being forced to circle the block for spots after finding their parking spots taken! This cannot happen. When you are picking up or dropping off your child, **please pull all the way forward, stay in your car and keep your car running.** CDS staff persons will be available to help your children out of or into your car. All preschoolers will be walked into their class by an adult. If your older child would like to be escorted to his or her class, please just ask and a staff person or teacher will be glad to help.

Please, please let us help you, and in return help us by staying in your car and moving through our parking lot. Thank you.

Words From Rick

Bright, Shiny and New

We are off to a wonderfully smooth and happy opening of school. At the first assembly of the year we talked about being new. New teachers attending their first assembly were struck with how easily and confidently students - even four-year-olds - stood up in front of the entire school and said their piece and how respectfully everyone listened. The students were able to identify many of the new features of our new year. Most of these are obvious to everyone: new paint, new carpet, new classmates, new teachers. And then there are some things students observed that are not so obvious to the casual observer.

There is a new Music Room! Music classes are being held in the common room of Notre Dame Plaza (thanks to the diplomatic skill of our new Music teacher Emilie Rohrbach and the friendly cooperative attitude of Isabel Questel, the manager at Notre Dame Plaza.)

In other "new" news, we have a brand new PTTA. The Friday coffee was well attended, and the first meeting of the classroom liaisons was so well organized that it ended early with people having a clear idea of what their role was in making this happy community hum. There were forty parents at the PTTA meeting Tuesday afternoon with a nice mix of new faces and veterans and an explosion of enthusiastic energy behind making this another fabulous year for CDS. The room was brimming with competence and leadership.

In Bungalow news, things are moving along as well as can be expected in this complex and challenging process. Here is the timeline as it stands now:

Having passed architectural review and environmental review (big news) we are in good shape for our next hurdle which is the meeting of the Landmarks Commission on September 17th. The date for the review and approval by the Planning Commission is October 2nd.

Soon after PG&E is finished with their work out front we will begin the trenching for our sewer line. This will cause some disruption, and we will let you know more about that as we know more.

There are many other little steps that need to be taken, but it looks like we will be able to actually bring the prefabricated bungalows onto the site near the end of

This Week's Hot Dates

Saturday, September 13th
12:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Welcome Picnic
See PTTA Announcement below for details!

Thank You!

- To Susi Alexander, Steve Donovan, Laura Moon, Darcy Provo, Carolyn Reyes-Ouk and Pat Rose for help with the new CDS brochure.
- To everyone who helped out at Work Day on August 23!
- To Lisa Palmer and Bill Lewis who donated cutting boards, cookie cutters and playdough for the entire preschool for the whole year!
- To Patricia Buse-Ruppert and Siegfried Ruppert for purchasing a water dispenser for the Teddy Bear classroom!
- To Marilyn Tepper and Bob Curley for supplying the art department with a class set of knitting needles!

November or first few weeks of December.
Keep an eye on the bulletin board in the front hall for news updates as they occur.

In other news, CDS students are swinging into action…already! Some of you may have heard about a controversy brewing in the East Bay around a student with an allergy to peanut butter. Parents in the school responded that a child with such a big problem ought to be home schooled. Ms. Paula told her 3rd/4th grade class about this story this morning and they responded with outrage. To these 3rd and 4th graders it was a clear violation of their core values of respect for each individual (something they have been discussing in class). They decided they wanted to write letters of protest and support for the kindergartner. Here is a sample letter:

> To Whom It May Concern:
> I think that it is wrong to kick the boy out of school just because he is allergic to peanut butter. I think you should stop because it is showing disrespect and because it's not his choice whether he is allergic or not. What should my kids eat for lunch then? Cashew butter! We have a similar problem. There is a child that is allergic to gluten. We take care of her by washing the tables. Please show respect by taking care of that boy too.
> Sincerely, 3rd Grader

> To Whom It May Concern:
> I don't think you should be kicking this child out of school because he is allergic to peanut butter. Our school has a child that is allergic to gluten and that class is respecting that child by not bringing wheat. Every other class after we eat lunch, we wash the tables, so the child won't touch gluten and get sick. You could think of some solution like that too.
> Sincerely, 4thgrader

Academic achievement is so much more meaningful when it is not merely academic.

It is such a joy for me to be here in the middle of all of this exploding creativity and learning. I wish you could be here, too. There are so many first week stories, and not the time or space to report them to you. I invite you to email me stories that have come home to you. I look forward to seeing you all at the Welcome Picnic in Golden Gate Park on Saturday.

—Rick Ackerly, Head of School

New CDS Brochure!

Attached, please find one of the new CDS brochures. Please take the time to read it, and as you do, I hope our commitment to academic excellence jumps off the page! If you know someone who is interested in CDS, please pass this along. And if you would like more, they are available from Martha at the front desk, or from me in the Admission Office. I would like to send out a huge thank you to the Publications Subcommittee of the Marketing Committee who helped me design, write and edit (and edit, and edit, and edit…) this publication during the spring and summer. (Read their names in the front page "Thank You" box.) It was a big job.

—Aimee Giles, Director of Admission

A Yarn About Sheep

After Corrie's death, I studied the issue of raising livestock in urban environments. I visited a few farm programs in the area, and studied different breeds of sheep, the variety of fiber animals that might be appropriate for CDS, and different care and feeding regimens. Because of the unique environment we have for animals at CDS, I decided that we needed to find a small breed of sheep that would provide quality wool for our fiber arts program and also have the ability to form a strong and positive bond with the children and adults who care for them. We also need to change how and what we feed our sheep.

I am happy to announce that two new sheep will be joining the CDS community this Friday. The two ewes (females) were born this spring at Slide Ranch. They are 3/4 Black Welsh Mountain and 1/4 Romney. The Black Welsh Mountain is a rare breed of sheep that originates from the United Kingdom. It is both prized for its gorgeous black wool and its rich, excellent meat. It is one of the smaller breeds of sheep. A mature ewe weighs about 80 pounds, about half the size of Corrie and Poppy. These particular lambs lost their mother after they were born and were bottle-fed by the staff at Slide Ranch so they are quite used to being with people. I think these sheep will be an excellent addition to the CDS community.

Poppy spent the summer at Slide Ranch with their herd of sheep and goats. At the end of July, I took Poppy to his new home in the Sierra Foothills, near Grass Valley. Carmen Carroll, a friend of Chase Waterman's family (1stgrader), generously offered to let Poppy join her herd of sheep and goats at her ranch. Poppy did not return to CDS because I wanted to find a smaller breed of sheep for our farm and prevent an unpredictable relationship in a small urban environment between two sheep who weren't raised together. So it was wonderful for me to watch Poppy in his new home where I found he easily adjusted to his new life on the rolling, grassy hills with a new herd.

I appreciate all the support and patience I have received from the CDS community during the past several months when I needed time to find answers to the questions that lingered after Corrie's death. After much research and many thoughtful conversations, I believe sheep will be able to live healthy lives at CDS and will remain a vital part of our educational experience.

—Morgan Taggert, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

Updates to the School Year Calendar

To find out about changes to the School Year Calendar, visit our website at www.cds-sf.org. Click on News and Events page, followed by the School Calendar page to pull up the latest info!

Oh, Microwaves…

Microwaves have been a "hot" issue for many faculty members and some parents at CDS. Here's why we **cannot** allow microwaves in our classrooms:

- Our wiring cannot handle it. Experimenting with microwave cookery last year found circuits blowing with disruptive frequency.
- Saving work for parents in the morning means creating extra work for teachers at lunchtime. Heating 20 lunches can take as long as a ½ hour, and is a poor use of our teacher's time.
- There is a viable alternative to the microwave for hot lunches…the thermos! Not to mention the multitude of healthy cold lunch options.

Thank you for your understanding on this issue.

Classroom Wish Lists

Many thanks to the generous families who've helped us attain some of the items on our classroom wish lists. Just a reminder, it is not in our minds that these items be purchased by parents. But, if you recognize an item on our list as something that's been haunting your garage or closets, we'd be more than happy to take if off your hands. Thanks again!

Extended Program Update

The Extended Program has gotten off to a great start this year. Afternoon projects have already included arts and crafts, lots of group games, and time in the farm and garden. In addition, Jim has already started practices for Fall Sports. The elementary teachers are gearing up for several year-long community service projects utilizing methods from the Responsive Classroom and project-based learning. Also exciting is that Fall Electives Packets will be sent home in student backpacks early next week. In addition to our regular offerings, we have some exciting new courses including preschool and elementary courses led by Tree Frog Treks, music lessons to include guitar, piano, and percussion, Pinhole Photography with an all new in-house photo darkroom on the third floor, and much more.

Please continue to turn in your Extended Program contracts, even if you only use the PM program sporadically. Simply mark the DROP IN line on the contract and return it as soon as possible. This way, if there's an emergency or a special event you'd like your child to stay late for, you'll already be set.

Also, please introduce yourselves to our great new PM teachers, Michael Gast who works with the 1st grade class, and Lauren Gersick who works with both Kindergarten classes.

Thanks for participating in the extended program. It is great to have you!
—Jenna Stephens, Extended Program Coordinator

Do You Prefer *The Weekly* by Email?

Help! The computer virus of this last July hit CDS particularly hard, and one of the casualties was our *CDS Weekly* emailing list. If you've received the *CDS Weekly* via email in the past and would like to continue helping us reduce our paper usage, please drop us a quick email at cdsweekly@cds-sf.org, and remind us who you are. Also, let us 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. Thanks!

CDS Parent-Teacher-Trustee-Administrator Association PTTA Update

Many thanks to all of the enthusiastic participants at our first PTTA meeting of the year. Thanks also to the very creatively inclined sign-maker who reminded all of us to attend. Led by Rick, we had a productive discussion regarding the PTTA's theme for the year: communicating academic excellence. We will focus on ways to implement this theme in the future PTTA meetings and we welcome your input. We will hold our next meeting on October 7th, from 4:30 p.m.– 5:45 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge.

On a less academic note, please join us Saturday, September 13th for the all-school, all-family Welcome Picnic. The picnic will be held in the Sharon Meadow Picnic Area, just west of the carousel in Golden Gate Park, from noon to 3:00 p.m. Please bring a lunch and a blanket for your family; we will provide drinks, watermelon and cookies. See you Saturday!
—Marion Quinones, PTTA President

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.

Upcoming on the CDS Calendar

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 a.m.** Please email them to cdsweekly@cds-sf.org