



# ∞ The CDS Weekly ∞

## Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432  
October 9, 2003

### Children in Action

#### *Hello! We Are Trying to Learn in Here!*

To my horror, I heard my cell phone go off in the middle of a reading class I was teaching. (I could have sworn I had switched it to vibrate.) Immediately, Christopher Ross said "Somebody's got to turn off that phone. We're tryin' to learn in here!"

—Emily Van Allen, Kindergarten

#### *Is This a Garden or What!*

During the first grade garden observation time last week, I noticed that both Cheyenne and Bianca were drawing the heart bench in the garden. A lot of kids choose to draw this bench when they are asked to choose a special spot in the garden, so I asked Bianca why she chose this spot.

She said that this bench and this garden feel like her mother. "It looks like my mother. When I sit on this bench, I feel like the arms of the bench are wrapped around me, giving me a big hug and I feel loved. I love this garden."

—Morgan Taggart, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

### Words From Rick

#### *The Importance of Being New*

In her essay entitled "Over Rated" published in the last weekly, Sonia Carlson demonstrated a writing skill which never appears on a list of "standards," but which is essential to the ability to write well. Since it does not appear on the canon of disciplines, we are free to call it by many names. Lately, I have been calling it the discipline of being new.

The discipline of being new is the ability at any given moment to be free enough from the brain's well-traveled pathways to create something new. This discipline is necessary not only for writing well, but also for many other areas of human endeavor. Although its value may be most obvious in the arts, it is required for any significant work in any field, from physics and astronomy to biology and psychology.

In human relations it is actually rare for us to be new in our relationships. Our interactions have a tendency to become ritualized so that we treat each other the same way day after day. This is a good thing, of course. It frees us from the requirement of thinking too much about simple, routinizable things, and provides us with the necessary comforts of predictability, friendship, tribal recognition, and so much more. Problems only really come when the behavior loop we are in with someone else is not satisfying anymore, or perhaps even destructive. Then we have the challenge of our life: how to be

### ∞ This Week's Hot Dates ∞



**Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**  
8:45 – 10:00 am.  
Community Breakfast  
Faculty Lounge

**Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Columbus Day Observed; No School (No Extended Program)

**Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Yes, school IS open  
(But the Extended Program is closed because of the Faculty Ranch Retreat)

### Thank You!

- ▶ To Kristen Wurz and Stephanie Holdenried for helping with the first kindergarten tour of the year.
- ▶ To Richard Ross for helping Aimee continue to think about how to creatively expand the CDS website.
- ▶ To David Peterson for the delicious cake at this week's PTTA meeting.

new with this person so we don't keep doing the same old stupid things to each other. A New Yorker cartoon of several years ago portrayed two rats in a maze talking at the lever that dispensed the rewarding pellets. One is saying to the other: "I've got this guy trained. Everytime I press this lever, he gives me a pellet." One of Einstein's famous quotations is: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

So, for best results in our relationships we need also to have in our toolbox, along with the social conventions, the discipline of being new.

I happen to know that Sonia, like so many writers, can get stuck sometimes, not knowing what to write. So imagine my pleasure when she proudly brought in her essay for me to read. I read it with delight while she waited, and when I got to the word "squose," I laughed.

Before I could ask, she said, "past tense of squeeze." I laughed again, and said, "Wow, you even invented a word."

She laughed. When I saw the final draft in the newsletter I noticed that she had written the correct past tense of squeeze. I changed it back without her permission. I liked squose better at that point in her story (and I also wanted to write this article.)

Learning correct spelling and all the correct conventions that allow us to communicate with each other are essential for the educated person. They are necessary, but not sufficient. No one will excel who has not nurtured and learned and sophisticated the discipline of being new. In terms of appropriate educational objectives for Sonia in September of 2003, it was vastly more important for her to be free enough to invent squose, than to have learned that the past tense of squeeze is squeezed.

Most of school is spent learning the right way to do things. That is right and proper, of course. At CDS, however, you can count on us, also, to be helping people to be new every day.  
—Rick Ackerly, Head of School

### South Side Driveway Closed to Foot Traffic

If you walk your child through the CDS parking lot in the mornings or afternoons, please use the north driveway, closest to 16th Street. This driveway is accomodated with a yellow safety strip and sidewalk. And, unlike the south driveway, there are no Notre Dame residents directly at street level that can be disturbed by our comings and goings. In an effort to address the concerns of our neighbors and the safety of our students and families, we ask that you please adhere to this request.

### October 24<sup>th</sup>

On Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, school will be open. There was some confusion from the updated calendar you received last week. However, **there will be no extended care available** as the faculty will be leaving town for the Faculty Ranch Retreat. Please make a note of this.

### Halloween At CDS!

Halloween is gearing up to be a blast this year. All parents are invited to attend the Elementary and Middle School Parade which will begin in the yard at 11:20 a.m. The regular Friday all-school assembly has been cancelled. If you plan to come for the parade, we encourage you to consider public transportation or leave yourself plenty of time to park on the street. As usual, there is no parking in the CDS parking lot.

After the parade, parents will be invited to follow their kids back to their classrooms for photos and celebration. Like normal, before leaving CDS, **ALL parents must sign their children out with their teachers.** New this year for noon dismissal days, to provide an easy pick-up process for parents who are not coming to the parade, we will also be offering our standard drive-through pick-up at the double-doors (**please note - this is a new procedure for noon dismissal at CDS**). In an attempt to allay a massive traffic jam at noon, drive through

pick-up will be staggered. Preschool and kindergarten children who have not already left, will be available for pick-up at the double-doors at 12:00. Elementary and middle school students in grades 1-6 will be available for pick-up at the double-doors at 12:15. Happy Halloween!

### Extended Program Update

**Upcoming Special Events** On Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, Coyote Point Museum will be doing a special hands-on workshop/presentation with the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders from 3:30-4:30pm. Come join us!

**Upcoming PM Closures** There will be no PM program available on the following days:

- **October 24<sup>th</sup> because of the annual Faculty Retreat**
- **Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> because of Halloween**

**Electives Update** Electives have gotten off to a great start. A complete roster is posted on the PM Bulletin board by the front doors if you need to double check on elective days or times.

**Reminder:** Your child must have an extended program contract on file to participate in **any** PM program activities, including electives. If you haven't yet filled out a PM Contract, please pick one up from the front desk as soon as possible and return it to Jenna or Laurance. Also, when you sign your child out at the end of the day, check the electives box so you are not overcharged. If you don't see your name on the sign out sheet, please write it in at the bottom of the page. Thank you!

**Late Sign up charges** If you sign up AFTER 10am on the day your child needs to stay late in the PM program, you will be charged the Emergency Drop In rate of \$12.50/hr. Avoid extra charges by letting us know your afternoon needs with as much advance notice as possible! You can always call Martha before 10am that day at the front desk at x10 to make this known. Thanks for participating in the PM Program!

—Jenna Stephens, Extended Program Coordinator, x15

### Siblings at CDS

Do you have a child who is the sibling of a CDS student that you would like to enroll at CDS in the fall of 2004? If so, it's time to think about submitting your applications! As you know, CDS gives preference to sibling applications and we expect to admit siblings and keep families together. We also view each child as a unique, distinct individual and we are committed to meeting the needs of each child individually. For this reason, we cannot guarantee that a sibling will be admitted automatically to CDS. But siblings will usually be admitted unless unusual circumstances dictate that a sibling's needs cannot be met here.

The mechanics of the sibling application process are as follows: for Fall 2004 enrollment, the deadline for

submitting a sibling application **for priority enrollment** is November 7, 2003. Applications are available from Martha at the front desk, and completed applications should be returned to Martha or Aimee with a \$50 application fee. After Aimee receives the application, she will schedule a classroom visit and parent interview for you and your child. This visit provides an opportunity for our preschool faculty to meet your child, and for all of us to discuss and make sure that CDS can meet the needs of this child. Sibling decisions will be mailed with your family's re-enrollment contract on February 6, 2004. We realize that uncertainties about the status of a sibling's application create uncertainties for the whole family. By giving strong preference to sibling applications, we hope to minimize these difficulties while maintaining some flexibility in our admissions policy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Aimee Giles, Director of Admission, at 861-5432 ext. 22

### Hola Padres!

This week the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders finished the "La Familia de los Esqueletos": Mama: Pepa, Papa: Pepe, y Hijo: Pepito (Mother is Pepa, Father is Pepe and Son is Pepito). This week we are studying a vowel rhyme:

"A, e, i, o, u... Yo me llamo Ms. Consuelo"

*(insert your name)*

"Como te llamas tu?"

*(and then the student chooses someone to ask).*

Hasta luego!

—The Spanish Department

### Fall Garden Workday

Everyone is invited to a workday in the CDS garden on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. There are a variety of projects that you can help with from weeding, pruning and transplanting to taking down the greenhouse. Come and join us for a great fall day in the garden! Questions? Please contact me at x21.

—Morgan Taggart, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

### Retrieve Lost & Found Items

Has your child's closet seemed disparagingly empty lately? Wondering where their best sweaters, or sun hats or bags have gotten to? There's a strong possibility you'll find these things in our Lost & Found! Everyone should know that the location of the CDS Lost & Found closet is at the end of the hall near the children's bathrooms. But for the first Thursday of the month, we'll be placing a table on the yard in the afternoon displaying the contents of the closet. Please make a point of visiting the Lost & Found at your earliest convenience. We'll be making quarterly donations of unclaimed Lost & Found articles to Community Thrift so don't wait!

### Speaking of Lost & Found...

Community Thrift, where we donate items and receive a kickback in return, has a request of our community. Please only donate those items in CDS' name that you deem worthy of purchasing yourself. In order for Community Thrift to keep us on their roster for receiving a portion back for our donations, we must donate \$400 worth of items. Many items that have been donated in the past have been more trash than good. If you would like to donate something, you can leave it by the bin across from the outdoor stairs/fire escape at CDS. If you have questions if something is considered a donation or "trash", contact Linda Glover at: (415) (415) 255-6885. Let's help keep CDS on Community Thrift's roster and get some money back for our community from our donations!

### Help Out at the Faculty Retreat

Spend a weekend walking in the woods, picking heirloom variety apples, writing, breathing mountain air, and ... washing dishes. The 2nd Annual CDS Faculty Retreat needs 2 more parents to help organize, cook, clean and act as hosts for the weekend of Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>-Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. (Food is being provided by the Teddy Bear and 2nd Grade classes.) The retreat is being held in Calaveras County (about 3 hours away), with parent volunteers leaving around noon on Friday 10/24 and returning Sunday evening 10/26. Accommodations indoors will be dorm style, and camping is also an option. Perks include a beautiful drive, historic buildings and two lakes on a 320-acre pioneer homestead, an optional 2-day writing workshop & art projects, a bonfire in the "party meadow" on Saturday night, and the good company & appreciation of the CDS faculty and staff. Interested and available? Call or email Kate Moses, Retreat Coordinator, at 771-1659 or kmoses@salon.com

### CDS Book Recommendations

#### *New Deadline*

Read any good books lately? The CDS Library Book Fair wants your recommendations! Displayed on our book tables at this year's fair will be "CDS Recommends" cards, with information about great books for parents, teachers, children, friends – in other words, a handy guide for deciding which books will best fit the people on your holiday gift list this year.

All parents, staff, children and friends of CDS are invited to submit their recommendations for great books - fiction, poetry, histories, cookbooks, children's books, gift books, you name it. Please send your suggestions with title, author, a short description of why you recommend the book, and your name to: library@cds-sf.org. Or, drop off your recommendations at the Library mailbox on the Third Floor. The new deadline is Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Library Work Day

Next Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., drop by for a few minutes or a few hours and help us cover books with plastic jackets. This will protect our books so they can be enjoyed by students for years to come. It's also a great opportunity to meet other library volunteers, browse the collection, learn about the exciting changes in the library and find out ways to get more involved. Drop-in child care is free; just sign up before 10:00 a.m. on the workday. Email Debra Levin at DJLevin78@aol.com or Sue Barnett at suebarnett@yahoo.com if you can't attend the workday but want to help another time, if you have experience relevant to computer cataloging or want to join a subcommittee.

## The CDS Quilt Group

We are still looking for an old or new quilter from the Teddy Bear and Leaping Lizard classes to put together a quilt for the school auction this year. We have help and sewing machines available. If you can sew a straight line, then you are the perfect person to make a quilt. It is easy to learn and there is lots of help available. Contact Tina Corse at 415-824-6290.

## Wrap is Back! Greens, Too!

All profits from the sales of wraps and greens will go to staff holiday bonuses. Stock up on gift wrap, buy your years supply and never think about it again. Brighten your home with greens, buy a wreath for a friend or sell some to your family, co-workers and neighbors. All checks need to be made out to CDS, and are to be sent along with your orders to school.

There is a box by Martha's desk to drop off your completed orders. **The due date for all orders is October 31, 2003.**

Look for the display at school for larger sample pieces. Wrap can also be ordered by out-of-town families by visiting [www.SallyFoster.com](http://www.SallyFoster.com). They must list our city, state, our school name and account # 357069. If possible, please do your shopping with a check, as email orders take up to four months for us to receive payment. Call with any questions to:

Wrap – Tina Corse 415-824-6290

Greens – Emma Donovan 415-861-4283

## 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](mailto: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.

## CDS Parent-Teacher-Trustee-Administrator Association: PTTA Update

In an effort to avoid numerous last-minute pleas for volunteer assistance, we are hoping that a couple of good people will be willing to sign up to help at various school activities planned

for the coming months. We are looking for approximately 3 or 4 helpers for each event and will post a sign-up sheet in the first-floor hallway at school, next to the family of the week area on the bulletin board. First up is the Faculty Ranch Weekend, which will take place over the weekend of October 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. We would like a couple of parents to attend this creative, community-building weekend with Kate Moses at her family's ranch property in Calaveras County, about three hours from San Francisco. Parents are needed to help serve food and enjoy the fun, games and clean air. Development Director Beth Ditlefsen, who is organizing Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day at CDS on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, also needs a few parents to help her meet and greet grandparents, direct them to classrooms and present snacks and nametags to visitors. Last but not least, we are looking for several parents to attend and help out at the Faculty Holiday Party on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We have a site already arranged and Katherine Whitney has graciously agreed to organize the party but could still use a few more helpers. Please sign up in the hallway if you are available to help with any of these events, and thanks very much for your assistance.

—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

## PTTA Questions or Ideas?

Contact Marion Quinones at 701-1957 or [MQuinones@fbm.com](mailto:MQuinones@fbm.com).

## Upcoming on the CDS Calendar



### Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

8:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Community Breakfast  
Faculty Lounge

### Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Columbus Day Observed; No School  
(No Extended Program)

### Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> & Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Annual Fund Phonathon  
CDS Office, Third Floor

### Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

Yes, school IS open

(But the Extended Program is closed because of the Faculty Ranch Retreat)

**Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Halloween; Noon Dismissal

No Assembly

11:20 a.m.: Elementary/Middle School  
Halloween Parade

12:00 p.m.: Drive-through dismissal for  
Preschool and Kindergarten

12:15 p.m.: Drive-through dismissal for  
Elementary and Middle School  
(grades 1-6)

*Parents welcome!*

**Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Professional Day; No School  
(No Extended Program)

**Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Admission Open House (All grades)

**Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m.

CDS Sibling Applications Due

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](mailto:cdsweekly@cds-sf.org).