



∞ The CDS Weekly ∞

Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
October 23, 2003

Children In Action *Swapping Learning*

We were discussing making a bat house, and I mentioned that the kindergarten classes have been learning about bats. Isaac Teich chimed in with, "I know! They can teach us about bats, and WE can teach THEM about bread!" Project work in action!

—Candy Mabry, Teddy Bears

Words From Rick *On Learning and Knowing*

Last week second grader Miranda said: "I was in the garden looking at the aftercare plot with Patrice and Josh, and we saw a wasp tackling a fly. Then it tore the fly's head off and flew away with the body. An ant found the head and started eating it and the fly's eyes separated from its head."

Morgan asked her, "What did you think about when you were watching this happen?"

She replied, "I thought, this is a once in a lifetime experience, and I wouldn't want to be that fly."

Later that same afternoon, Sasha and Kate joined in the insect hunt and Kate said, "The garden seems to be so calm when you first look at it, but when you look closer it's very alive."

Everyone can recognize that these students learned many things on many levels, and that the facts they learned are memorable and vital (though not in any textbook). I would add that they are important springboards for learning more. Knowledge builds on knowledge. The more you know, the more you can know.

When my daughter, Lizzie (who these days is a student teacher) was seven, she said to me: "I love Ms. Lexton. You know how some teachers just want you to play? Well, Ms. Lexton teaches you stuff, and I want to know stuff." Out of the mouths of babes. She had taken a stand on the fault line between the educational revolutionaries and reactionaries of the 1980's.

A generation ago in America a revolution began in education. Simon and Garfunkel expressed it succinctly in the opening lines of one of their songs: "When I think back on all the crap I learned in high school/it's a wonder I can think at all." The sixties revolutionaries generally agreed that schooling was a deadening experience, and they wanted teachers to improve their methods of teaching so that students kept their natural love of learning as they went through school. "Memorizing meaningless facts" was one of the epithets hurled by the revolutionaries at the establishment. The establishment,

∞ This Week's Hot Dates ∞



Friday, October 24th

10:45 a.m.

All-school assembly, Starfish class presentation

Parents welcome!

Yes, school IS open

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

Friday, October 31st

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!

Thank You!

- ▶ To Tina Corse, Patrice Costello, May Elawar, Lisa Eltinge, Barbara Jones, Dharam Khalsa, Karen Randig, Kathryn Selleck and Robin Wander for covering books on the library workday, and for all the volunteers who continue to stop in and see what they can do to help!
- ▶ To Darcy Provo for being an enthusiastic, informative CDS parent at the San Francisco Preschool Preview night last week.
- ▶ To Susie Carlson, Lisa Eltinge, Marianne Evans, Bree Humphries and Amanda Newstetter for helping out with tours.
- ▶ To Sally Nielsen, Vanessa and Edan Lambright (LL), Jody Debs, Michael Gigiolio (K), Nicholas and Mathy Chapin (LL) for their work in the native plant garden during workday last Sunday.
- ▶ To board member, Kit Land, for donating the beautiful assortment of pumpkins, corn and gourds to the art department.
- ▶ To Susi Alexander, Lisa Eltinge, Rick England, Bill Gaede, Tracy Kirkham, Kit Land, Kate Moses, Marion Quinones, James Rucker, Stephanie Scarpulla, and Gayle Tsern Strang for calling parents at the annual fund phonathon Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

however, has never been ousted. It is even further entrenched behind bulwarks like “back to basics” and “standards.”

I think one of the reasons that the revolutionaries are still in the minority is that they have failed to give proper due to their reactionary opponents’ love of facts. E. D. Hirsch had a point in Cultural Literacy, when he asserted that there are things people ought to know. Although his Euro-centric focus undermined his case and made him the whipping boy of righteous revolutionaries, he was onto something the revolutionaries didn’t talk about; i.e. that knowing stuff is an important part of learning stuff (what my daughter knew at the age of seven.)

CDS is taking a stance that spans the ideological chasm: kids need and want to know stuff. We have no problem with knowing stuff being the test of how well our kids are learning. We have no problem using standardized tests as one measure of our children’s achievement. As one of our CDS teachers, Doug Garfinkel says so eloquently: “If focusing on learning how to learn is a good thing, surely it is because by doing so you will end up knowing more.” The reason we emphasize projects, play and undirected exploration is that these are necessary for maximizing a students’ learning potential AND it is true that memorizing facts, practicing skills and doing homework are also important components of becoming a good learner. To maximize children’s learning potential a school needs to be a full-service school.

Every morning in the upper right hand corner of the white board in the middle school classroom is a date, and it is not today’s date. On Monday it was October 20, 1643, the birthday of Sir Christopher Wren. Why are CDS students being exposed to such isolated facts? Because they want to know stuff.

—Rick Ackerly, Head of School

Early Drop-off Is Now Available On a Drop-In Basis

Have an early meeting or conference call? Maybe you would like to squeeze an early workout in? If so, you can now drop your child off early any school day of the week on a drop-in basis. No notification is necessary.

Early care is available Monday through Friday in the Teddy Bear room from 7:30-8:00 a.m. The cost for drop-in is \$10.00. If you prefer, you may sign up for the whole month at \$60.00, or if you know what your schedule looks like already, you can sign up for the whole school year at \$500.00. See you in the morning!!!

Reminder: 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 accommodated with a yellow safety strip and sidewalk. And, unlike the south driveway, there are no Notre Dame residents living 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.

This Friday, October 24th No Extended Care

This Friday, October 24th, school will be open. 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.

Reminder About 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 canceled. 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!

Sign-up for November Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are being held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, November 20th and 21st. (Reminder that there is no school on these days). Sign up sheets to schedule a conference with your child’s teacher will be posted on the bulletin board just inside the front door of school starting November 3rd. You must come into the school to sign up for a conference. Conferences will be 30 minutes in length and sign-up will be on a first come-first served basis. Thanks!

Hola Padres!

Hola Padres!! Como estan? This week in the 5th and 6th grade we are learning about Nationalities and we are also doing a presentation on Spanish culture (dance, opera, sprots, bullfights, etc.)

La frase de la semana es “La Familia”. This week we are studying the following words: *tío* (uncle), *tía* (aunt),

padrastru (stepfather), *madrastra* (stepmother), *primu* (cousin) and *prima* (cousin). Hasta la vista!

—The Spanish Department

A Spanish Dance Event

Parents, families and friends of CDS, please support art and culture with a magnificent event. Miss Consuelo's (Cochu) dance and music company, *Grupo Andanza*, is presenting a wonderful new show.

Founded in 2001, this multi-talented group has received critical acclaim for its numerous productions of famous Zarzuela (Spanish Opera) scenes, Classical Spanish arias and Classical Spanish, Bolero School (18th Century), Folkloric and Flamenco Dances. Based in San Francisco, *Grupo Andanza* is currently the only company on the West Coast presenting Spanish repertoire little-known to the North American public in an attempt to preserve and promote Spanish music and dance and to broaden audience awareness of the tremendous variety and beauty of the Spanish arts. World Premiere "Antologia" features tenor Claudio Santome, sopranos Mimi Ruiz & Vhismaya Lhi and dancers La Mora & La Cochu along with a superb cast of 15 musicians and dancers. They will bring you an eclectic program of Spanish Opera and dance you will not forget!

***Grupo Andanza* presents the world premiere "Antologia"**

An evening of Spanish opera and dance
Sunday, November 2nd, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts.
2640 College Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704

Tickets: \$20 General Admission
\$18 Students (ID required) & seniors

You can purchase it directly from *Grupo Andanza* (checks or cash) by calling (415) 826-3297 or by email:
grupo_andanza@hotmail.com

Order by phone: (925) 798-1300 or visit www.juliamorgan.org
(to pay by credit card)

If you need further information, please contact Miss Consuelo at x37.

CDS Volleyball

The CDS volleyball team played its first game at Katherine Del Mar Burke on Monday, October 20th. Although they only won one out of six games, they were very competitive against a more experienced team.

Game 1: Katherine Del Mar Burke: 25 CDS: 17

Game 2: 25 to 19

Game 3: 25 to 15

Game 4: 21 to 25

Game 5: 25 to 14

Game 6: 25 to 16

A special tip of the hat from the Coach to all CDS players!

Community Thrift

Thanks to those of you who have brought your "gently used" items in to school or taken your donations directly to

Community Thrift. We recently received a check from the store for third quarter proceeds of \$263.62. During the 2002-03 year we raised \$984.73 from the items we donated. In order for CDS to continue to receive a portion of the proceeds from Community Thrift, their sales of items donated by CDS must equal or exceed \$400 per month. Let's keep those donations coming and make sure that the things you donate are saleable. You may leave your donations by the bin across from the outdoor stairs/fire escape at CDS or take them directly to 623 Valencia. If you deliver them to Community Thrift, be sure you tell them it's for Children's Day School. If you have questions about acceptable donations, please call Community Thrift at 861-4910 or Teddy Bear parent, Linda Glover, at 255-6885.

—Beth Ditlefsen, Development Director

K-6 Tours and Open Houses

Rick, Aimee and some current elementary and middle school parents will be hosting several events for CDS parents who would like to learn more about our K-6 classrooms. A K-6 tour for CDS parents only will be held on October 24th from 8:45-10:55 a.m. This tour is an opportunity for you to see our K-6 classes in action. An all-school evening Open House will take place on November 6th and January 13th, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. for prospective and CDS families. These events will give you an opportunity to talk with our K-6 teachers and parents. Please RSVP to Aimee (861-5432 x22) if you plan to attend the tour or Open House.

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 x22

The CDS Quilt Group

We are now looking for an old or new quilter from the **2nd grade class** 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 824-6290.

Holiday Wrap and Greens

*Only Two More Weeks to Place Your Orders!!
All Profits Go To Staff Holiday Bonuses!!*

Wondering how you are going to wrap your gifts this holiday season or for the rest of the year? Then stock up on Sally Foster gift-wrap and never think about it again. Have gift-wrap already? Then brighten your home with greens or buy a wreath for a friend or sell some to your family, co-workers and neighbors. All proceeds from wrap and green orders go toward holiday bonuses for all CDS faculty and staff.

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

Out-of-town families can also order wrap by visiting 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.

Look for the wrap display at school for larger sample pieces. You may talk to Tina Corse during morning drop-off about wrap. All checks need to be made out to CDS and included in your wrap and/or green orders to school.

Call with any questions to:

Wrap Tina Corse 824-6290; tjcorse@comcast.net

Greens Emma Donovan 861-4283; ed@globeconsultants.com

Do You Prefer *The Weekly* by Email?

If you would like to help us reduce our paper usage and receive the *CDS Weekly* via email, please drop us a quick email at cdsweekly@cds-sf.org and give us your email address. 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

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.

PTTA Questions or Ideas?

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

Upcoming on the CDS Calendar



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Monday, November 3rd

Professional Day; No School

(No Extended Program)

Thursday, November 6th

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Admission Open House (All grades)

Friday, November 7th

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