



∞ The CDS Weekly ∞

Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
February 12, 2004

Words From Rick

Tom Sawyer 'Em

There are two ways of doing curriculum. The most common practice is for the adults to decide what needs to be taught, and then to figure out how to impose it on the students. The other is to figure out what we want our graduates to look like and then figure out how we can use the curriculum to get them there. Needless to say, CDS uses the latter approach. In both approaches the adults consider what is important (and most groups of adults generally agree on the most important things.) The trick is that with the former approach, the adults get so committed to the content they are faced with the dilemma of how to make the students learn it. The latter approach recognizes three important realities: 1) forcing kids to learn has negative side effects in addition to not being very effective, 2) kids learn ten times more if they are enthusiastically engaged, and 3) the most important educational objective is that students graduate with a love of learning they will carry with them all the way through school and for the rest of their lives.

Nonetheless, I am often asked, "But how can you be sure that the important content is covered?" I say, "Deciding on what needs to be covered is the easy part. The hard part is how to get them to learn it well so that it sticks. For that, we Tom Sawyer 'em."

There is a puzzle map of the United States in the kindergarten classrooms that no one used until today. While the whole class was working on other things, one of the teachers took it out and started tracing one of the pieces onto a sheet of paper, then coloring it in. One of the students came over. He watched for a while and then said he wanted to try, but was afraid he couldn't hold the piece firmly enough. The teacher assured him it wasn't as hard as he thought, and offered her help. On his first try he held it steady all on his own, although the teacher kept her hand on his. After his initial success, he was hooked, and wanted to do all the states. Then he made an attempt at naming them: California, Africa, Egypt, etc. Once he started talking, a conversation ensued. Africa is a continent, not a state. Egypt is not "a United State," (he giggled) it is a country in Africa...and on and on. Two other students came over to see what was going on and one of them got marginally engaged. My prediction is that many more students will become engaged soon.

It is not a CDS graduation requirement that our students know the capitals of the fifty states. (Nonetheless, one parent told me than on a recent car trip her fifth grade daughter knew all the capitals of all the states but three.) We do, however, want them to have an awareness of the world in which they live. This includes so many things. We will be having faculty meetings to

∞ This Week's Hot Dates ∞



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In the Library

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Deadline for ordering Kid Chow
for the week of February 23rd
www.Kid-Chow.com

Monday, February 16th – Friday, February 20th
February Break Week

Tuesday, February 17th – Friday, February 20th
February Break Camp Offered
(President's Day Observed on Monday)

Wednesday, February 25th

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sexuality Education Forum
Faculty Lounge

Thursday, February 26th

Last Photo Retake Day

See below for classes and dates

Saturday, February 28th

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sexuality Education Forum
Faculty Lounge

****Please see the PTTA Update below for future hot dates and important Ball & Auction and Country Fair information!***

talk about what the important concepts are in the next six months—after we finish nailing down the science curriculum this month. In the meantime, we are proceeding with the obvious, and continents, countries and states are now part of the curriculum in kindergarten.

The same process continues all the way through eighth grade. These days the middle schoolers are finishing up their electricity projects. Yesterday, one 6th grader reminded me how an armature works with textbook precision. He had made this presentation to a large number of kindergartners before he got to me. In the process he covered all the major concepts about electricity—and then some. I couldn't remember how the circuit could be completed if the two poles the wires were

supposed to connect to were in motion because they were rotating. Can you? Well, one 6th grader can and several kindergartners have some notions about how cool it can be to learn stuff.

How do you get kids to learn the important stuff? Tom Sawyer 'em.

Last Call for Annual Fund Pledges

We will wrap up this year's Annual Fund by April 1st, 2004. To date we have raised \$234,307 in pledges or gifts.

We would still like to raise our parent participation level. Since classes are small, every gift makes a dramatic impact on the participation percentage. The following chart indicates how each class is doing.

Class Participation in Annual Fund

If you have not yet pledged, please call or email development director Beth Ditlefsen (ext. 23 or bethd@cds-sf.org).

Remember, the amount of your gift is not as important as your participation. Pledges can be paid any time before June 30th.

Thank you to everyone who has participated!

Changes in the Administration

I know I speak for the community when I express my regret that Beth Ditlefsen has announced her intention to leave CDS. In addition to leading us in raising more than \$700,00 for Children's Day School in the last year and a half, she has been a close personal friend and partner with me since she arrived in the Development Department of St. Paul's Episcopal School in Oakland eight years ago.

Beth has been most generous and responsible in allowing CDS the time and flexibility to find a new Development Director. In spite of the many pressures on her to leave sooner, Beth gave me a whole year to find the right new person.

Thanks to Beth, I believe we have found someone who will do an excellent job building on the groundwork Beth lay. Marion Quinones, who spoke to me eighteen months ago about going into development, will step in as the new Development Director when Beth steps down sometime between now and June 30th. In the meanwhile, Marion will be having regular training sessions with Beth so that we don't miss a beat completing this year's

projects and designing fundraising efforts for the future.

Marion, mother of Laurel, a kindergartener, and Sarah, who will start preschool in the fall, has been a leader in the Annual Fund and member of the Development Committee for the last two years. As you know, she has been a Trustee and President of the PTTA. She will of course, be stepping down from these two positions in order to step fully into her role as Development Director. Marion has been an attorney with Farella, Braun and Martel LLP in San Francisco where she practiced business litigation. Marion received an A.B. in history and communication from Stanford University and graduated from UCLA law school. Marion lives down the street from CDS with her husband, Ben, and two girls, and enjoys playing soccer, skiing and keeping up with *The New Yorker* as much as possible. Please join us in welcoming Marion to the CDS administrative team.

—Rick Ackerly, Head of School

Extended Program News

February Break Camp

The theme for this year's February break camp is: Where We Live. Within this theme students will have the opportunity to participate in games, field trips, cooking, art and music activities related to life in the Bay Area.

Natural history, social issues, San Francisco wildlife, heritage, and folklore will all be explored in various ways throughout this fun week. Sign-up packets have already been sent home in students' backpacks. The camp will run from Tuesday, February 17th – Friday, February 20th and is open to all. If you have not yet received a packet, please pick one up at the front desk or call Jenna at extension 15. I will not be sending out confirmations on break camp this year. If you've turned in a registration and payment to me, you should assume that there was room for your child. If you'd like to confirm for your own peace of mind however, feel free to call me. Spaces are filling up though, so please sign up soon.

Winter Electives

Electives began on January 12th and are continuing to be amazing. Students are making some beautiful mosaic art pieces (displayed in the 3rd floor art studio), learning new chess moves, singing new Spanish songs, and much more. Please check the roster posted at the front doors if you need to double-check on your child's elective day, time, or location.

Afternoon Art

Students in the after-school program have been doing lots of incredible art projects. Please stop by the bulletin boards across the hall from the LL room to see some of their creative work on display. The artwork is rotated each week!

The PM Program is Open to All

Thanks to those of you who have helped to spread the word to your friends and neighbors about CDS opening its programs. Please continue to get the word out that we

have opened up the Break Week camps, Elective/ Enrichment Classes, and PM Program up to children who don't attend CDS during the regular school year. Families interested in receiving more information can call Jenna at extension 15.
—Jenna Stephens, Extended Program Coordinator

Report In: Kid Chow is Delicious!

Many parents had the opportunity to meet Jamie Feuerman, co-owner of Kid Chow, the new brown bag lunch program that will begin at CDS starting Monday, February 23rd. Parents got to taste some sample lunches and ask questions about how it all works at last Friday's morning coffee. All of your answers can be found at: www.Kid-Chow.com.

Remember that your lunch order deadline for the first week of Kid Chow is this Sunday, February 15th Letters and schedules of order deadlines went out with last week's *Weekly*.

Teachers and administration had this to report after they got a sample lunch to try:

"Kid Chow's lunch was super fresh, the portions were great and the food tasted delicious!" -Emily Van Allen, Kindergarten teacher

"I thought the lunch was healthy, tasty and filling. I loved the brown bag because I can reuse it (or recycle it) and the plastic containers I could reuse for art supplies or compost it in our CDS garden. I wish we had known about Kid Chow long ago." -Paula Symonds, 3rd/4th teacher

"I thought the sushi, granola and fruit kabobs were fantastic. I'm thrilled to see that basically all of the packaging in my lunch is either compostable or recyclable. I told Miss Morgan right away as this could be a great Farm and Garden education project." -Amanda Coggin, Assistant to the Head

So go on and order your Kid Chow lunch for your kid today! Any questions? Email Kid Chow directly at: chow@kid-chow.com.

What to Say After You Clear Your Throat: Talking to Your Kids About Sexuality

Join a lively skill-building session for parents of 2nd – 6th graders to confirm or improve your skills as a sexuality educator. Parents are the most effective sexuality educators and we will address how to begin conversations and answer tough question in age-appropriate ways. There will be two opportunities to join the discussion Wednesday, February 25th from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. or Saturday, February 28th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. These sessions will be conducted by the 2nd – 6th grade teachers and 3rd grade parent Amanda Newstetter. For more information, call Amanda Newstetter at (510) 835-3700.

1st & 2nd Grade Hoopsters Take on the Competition

The 1st and 2nd grade CDS Basketball squad, dubbed the Warriors, has been shakin' and bakin' on the court since January. During twice-weekly practices and Saturday games, the team has been sharpening its basic skills, learning how to play position and "takin' it to the hole."

We don't keep score at our YMCA contests at Miraloma Elementary School, but we have been giving our opponents a tough time while also managing to get in a good laugh. A high point in the January 31st game was our first fastbreak of the season. This Saturday nearly everyone got a bucket or two during our best game thus far. They definitely had fire in the belly! Come cheer us on.

New CDS Car Decals!

Last week, you should have received one of the new CDS car decals with your *Weekly*. If you'd like more than one, they are available for purchase from the CDS office for \$2.00.

CDS Wear...Get Your T-shirt or Sweatshirt Today!

Are you interested in a t-shirt, or better yet, a sweatshirt announcing your CDS pride? Just fill out an order form by Amanda's desk on the 3rd floor and leave a check made out to "CDS," and we'll put your new CDS Wear item in your child's backpack. It's that easy. More CDS products coming soon! All proceeds benefit CDS.

Knit and Spin Every Monday Evening

Are you looking for a fun, creative way to spend time with members of the CDS community? Join a group of enthusiastic knitters as we share our knowledge and learn new skills, like spinning yarn! Beginners are welcome every Monday evening, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lounge. We'll be taking the Presidents' Day Holiday off, but will meet at our usual time the following Monday. Hope to see you there!

Update on School Photos

Those families who still have not received your child/ren's school portraits (individual or class photo), do not fret...they are on their way. The photographer was given a list last week of missing photos and is working with the lab to get them printed. **Remember that another Photo Retake Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 26th**, if you are unhappy with your child's individual class photos. **The Leaping Lizard class photo didn't turn out so well, so we will be retaking that group class photo on that day. The Starfish class photo did not turn out at all, so that class photo will also be retaken.** Contact me at extension 12 with any questions.

—Amanda Coggin, Assistant to the Head

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

Black & White Spring Ball & Auction
Saturday, March 20th, 2004
6:30 p.m. – 12:00 midnight

By now you should have received your invitation to the Black & White Spring Ball & Auction! If you haven't, please let Beth Ditlefsen know (extension 23) right away. We hope you and your friends can join us. Everyone is welcome to The CDS Event of the Year!

Personal or Business Advertising
Space Available in the Black & White
Spring Ball & Auction Program

You are invited to purchase an advertising space in the Ball and Auction program. **Advertise your business or service** in the program and gain exposure to families, teachers, staff and friends of the school community. **Be creative and submit a personal ad.** Children can participate by submitting a drawing, poem or a special message to a teacher or class. Parents, relatives and friends may like to congratulate a child or class on a recent accomplishment. Or maybe you're relocating and would like to say goodbye to your class or school by submitting photographs. The possibilities are endless!

Advertisements are available in various sizes. Submissions and materials need to be turned in by: March 3rd, 2004. To purchase an ad or for further information, please contact Lydia Yaffe at (415) 305-8881 or Robin Wander at (415) 286-3689.

Thank you for supporting the biggest CDS celebration of the year!

Auction Items Are Pouring In!

We are already being deluged with exciting auction items! Destined for the auction block already are: kids Patagonia jackets, tennis lessons, and weekend and weeklong holidays in CDS family vacation homes. *Please keep the February Break week in mind in light of the February 27th deadline for auction items.* Call Tina Corse at (415) 824-6290 or e-mail her at tjcorse@comcast.net with any questions.

Community Thrift Donations

Your donations to Community Thrift continue to benefit the school. Clean clothing and linens, unbroken toys, kitchen items, hi-fi equipment, CDs, books and knick-knacks are all in demand. Please do not donate computer software or hardware, mattresses, car seats, strollers, or exercise equipment. Donations can be made at the Community Thrift Store at 625 Valencia Street, between 17th and 18th. The drop off point is on Sycamore, a one-way alley accessible from Mission Street, open every day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please make sure to tell them you are donating on behalf of Children's Day School, and give them account code 83. For more information contact Linda Glover at (415) 255-6885.

Friday Morning Coffee

Suffering from separation anxiety...from fellow adults? Schedule a few minutes in your Friday morning to join other parents for hot coffee and grown-up conversation in the yard after drop off, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

PTTA Questions or Ideas?

Contact Marion Quinones at (415) 701-1957 or MQuinones@fbm.com.

Do You Prefer *The Weekly* by Email?

Help us reduce our paper usage by receiving the *Weekly* via email. Please email us at cdsweekly@cds-sf.org and give us your email address. 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!

Upcoming on the CDS Calendar



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Black and White Baall and Auction
Annuciation Cathedral

How to Submit to *The CDS Weekly*.

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

