



∞ The CDS Weekly ∞

Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
April 1, 2004

Words From Rick

Thinking Strategically

Today, I thought I would be reporting on the PTTA and faculty visioning meetings we had this week, but I am sitting here in the lounge surrounded by sheets of newsprint and colorful stickers with handsome handwriting on them—a sea of words representing the values, hopes and visions of this community, and I am intimidated. For two days in a row the lounge was full of intelligent, creative, thoughtful, caring people who are on a mission—the same mission I am on. It's exciting—and a bit breathtaking. One parent envisioned a play structure specially designed for older and younger children to play together. Another envisioned CDS graduates setting up food drives and other initiatives giving back to the world that gives them so much, another envisioned the CDS Symphony and Chorus winning a Grammy for their performance of the Verdi Requiem with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

It is certainly gratifying to see and hear we are all working for the same cause. A “broad-based understanding of education,” which includes “exemplary teaching,” in the context of a “community of learners,” who care for and support one another's uniqueness and belonging. Finding a synthesis feels like a big challenge. How about this: CDS, a place where everyone wants to come to work every day to learn about themselves by making a difference, to deepen their understanding of themselves and their environment, to have fun challenging the students and to watch students enjoy the challenges, and to participate in a school community laced with creativity, generosity, learning, and joy.

Then, almost as an afterthought someone asks, “Academics, too, right? We value academics, don't we?” And there we have it, the lingering fear that if we have too much fun, if we are too much ourselves, if we spend too much energy being generous, our test scores will suffer. If we step off the academic escalator, we won't get to the top. I was reminded that while our highest values are love of learning, educating the whole child, caring for others and the environment, we can get a kind of buyer's remorse and become afraid we are not preparing our children for a competitive world.

It would be wise for this community to begin rather than end with the word “academic,” not because it is the most important thing in life, but because it is our business. Ironically, it will help us pursue our communal values if we remember these values are in the service of maximizing learning potential, and that no child will be served if their academics suffer.

It's nice to see that the fear is small at CDS. I know that is in part because parents can see their children are progressing academically, learning great stuff, and learning how to learn in

∞ This Week's Hot Dates ∞



Sunday, April 4th
Daylight Savings Begins

Monday, April 5th
Last Day to Claim Lost & Found Items
First Floor Hallway

Monday, April 5th
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Knit & Spin
Faculty Lounge

Monday, April 12th – Friday, April 16th
Spring Break
No School
Spring Break Camp Available

the process. We are awash these days with resumes of teachers who want to teach here, because here they will be able to practice their profession rather than process children through a fixed curriculum.

What we are looking for in order to establish CDS as a leading educational institution in the Bay Area in perpetuity is the slogans, the sound bites, the vision statements which will drive our communal decisions in the future. Things like: CDS: Great Teaching. CDS: Caring Leaders. CDS: The place where everyone feels they belong.

We made some great progress down this road this week. If you missed the meetings, not to worry. Strategic thinking is work that is never finished. Again, I am thrilled to be in the midst of a movement.

The Dirt

Tales of Mud & Empathy

Tuesday, the PTTA held a strategic planning session providing members of the CDS community the opportunity to brainstorm about the future of the school. The faculty planned a similar meeting the following day so I hadn't planned on attending, but when Carrie asked me to attend on her behalf, I agreed. I can't believe I almost missed the opportunity to engage in this dialogue with the families of this community. We discussed the core values of CDS and what it is that makes this community of learners so unique. I loved hearing parents speak about why they chose CDS, and realized faculty and families are here for the same reasons. We both want

to provide an incredibly rich learning environment that sees potential in every child and values their individuality. We also seek to ground this education in a concrete context that instills a sense of social and environmental responsibility. One parent said she loved CDS because we let "our kids be kids," and, "really experience childhood."

While she was speaking, I thought back to earlier in the afternoon when a kindergarten class was in the garden gathering materials to create "bug habitats" for their classroom. When it was time to return to class, a student fell in line with his pants completely covered in mud. I asked him what happened. He said with a big grin on his face, "I was just trying to get some soil for the bug habitat and found a lot of worms." He was so engaged in his quest for soil and worms that a layer of mud on his pants was the last thing on his mind.

Later, Natasha was asking me for help in her search for insects. Without any prompting from me Jeremy, took Natasha by the hand and said, "I know a few spots that bugs like, let me show you." This sense of empathy and caring for each other was another core value many parents found truly special about this community. I left the meeting on Tuesday proud to be a member of a community of learners that lives up to its core values everyday and has grand visions for the future.

—Morgan Taggart, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

Extended Program News

Spring Break Camp

Spring Break Camp will be held from April 12th– 16th, and the theme is Urban Wildlife. **Remember to sign up in advance**; drop-ins are difficult to accommodate with our reduced camp staff.

Spring Enrichment Classes

Classes began Monday and are off to a great start. Classes still open are: Guitar, Aikido, Movie Making, and TV News Show. Please call Jenna at extension 15 to sign up.

Boys & Girls Club

Please make sure if you pick up your child directly from the Boys and Girls Club, that you first let the teacher know you are taking your child from the club, and that you sign out at CDS.
—Jenna Stephens, Extended Program Coordinator

Hola Familias!

Thanks to all of you who inquired about the fundraiser last Sunday for the March 11th victims in Madrid. We raised more than \$20,000 and had a wonderful show.

La frase de la semana come from a poem about spring:
La alegre primavera de verde se vistió. The happy spring is dressed in green.

Gracias a todos

—Consuelo Aparicio-Cercos, Spanish Department

Lost & Found

Lost and found items are now neatly displayed on a table in the first floor hallway. Please make a point to stop by and have a look this week. All unclaimed items will be donated to

Community Thrift on Monday, April 5th.

Knit and Spin, Monday Evenings

The Knitters and Spinners continue to meet every Monday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lounge to share our projects, offer one another help and learn new skills. You're invited! Hope to see you there!

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

The Auction Numbers Report

While the numbers are not final, we are happy to report a gross income at this year's auction of approximately \$85,000!!! Our expenses were a mere \$11,000 thanks to the kindness of so many who helped keep our costs down. We will net approximately \$74,000 to be used for our middle school expansion, keeping at least two teachers in every classroom and for sliding scale tuition so that a CDS education can remain affordable to a broad spectrum of families.

Last year's auction netted just under \$67,000 so we are pleased to see an increase in the Black & White Spring Ball's income. It was a wonderful party with most of our faculty attending. Thank you everyone who helped sponsor a teacher and their guest this year.

We are grateful to all of the CDS community. Virtually everyone participated in some way - donating an item, helping make a quilt, placing an ad in the catalogue, volunteering to staff the event, bidding on an item. This event happens because of the commitment and generosity of everyone at CDS. We all share in the excitement about the wonderful program we have at Children's Day School. See you at the Ball next year!

The Country Fair Needs Your Talent!

The Country Fair Committee is seeking talent for our Country Fair celebration on May 1st. Are you a musician? A juggler? A balloon sculptor? Do you have a magnificent talent you'd like to share with the CDS community? Don't hide your talent from your potentially adoring fans! Contact Sally Nielson at sn@hausrath.com to get involved.

eScrip Update

Thank you to all our new eScrip subscribers: Rick Ackerly, Noam Birnbaum, Patricia Buse, Kathleen Cologne, Cristi Dingle, Ed Ditlefsen, Bill Glenn, Robert Hauser, Stephanie Holdenried, Kevin Killen, Stephen Lambright, Vanessa Lambright, Sandi Lutsko, Hae-Lim Minus, Amanda Newstetter, Ann Phelan, Patricia Phelan, Karen Randig, Kirk Souder, Kim Tennis, Katherine Whitney and David Young.

EScrip is an easy way to get more money to CDS without it coming from your budget! Dozens of merchants such as Safeway, Mollie Stone's, and Tower Market have agreed

to contribute a percentage of what you spend at their stores to your chosen school through eScrip. All you have to do to take advantage of this opportunity is to go online and register your merchant loyalty cards, debit and credit card(s) with eScrip. Go to www.eScrip.com and when it asks you for the school you wish to support, enter 138042485 to designate CDS.

In 2003, CDS parents, friends and relatives raised \$4467.58 through eScrip. This money went into the annual fund to help pay for sliding scale tuition and our middle school expansion.

For those of you who registered a while ago, please go to http://www.cds-sf.org/news_escrplist.html and check to see if your name is on the current CDS eScrip list. Whenever you receive a replacement credit card or your expiration date is changed, you must update the information with eScrip in order to continue having donations sent to CDS. If your name is on this list then your account is active. Please review your account to be sure all the information is current. You will need your subscriber identification number and password to update your account. If you have lost or forgotten your ID number or password, contact supporters@escrrip.com. They usually respond within several days. Once you have the correct information you can go to www.eScrip.com and select "my eScrip" to update your information.

Several of our eScrip supporters are grandparents and friends of CDS children. Please let your friends and relatives know they can join eScrip and contribute to CDS as well.

Please contact me at pak2you@earthlink.net for additional questions or assistance. Thank you all for your support.
—Cathy Hazlewood, eScrip Coordinator

Friday Morning Coffee

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.

Library Corner

Good news! Due to popular demand and a lot of lonely books, the library will open in its current space starting April 20th for several hours each week. Students will be able to come in and check out one book per week, accompanied either by their teacher or by a parent after school.

This will be the last opportunity for the community to visit the library in its current location before the Big Move into the Teddy Bear classroom, as well as to enjoy some of the wonderful new books purchased at the book fair and by the library committee. A lot has been happening behind the closed door all these months!

Volunteers will be needed to fill one or two-hour shifts through the end of the school year -- checking materials in and out, helping students find books and maintaining the library. Training on the new computer system is a prerequisite for volunteering. Trainings will be held 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 7th, and Friday, April 9th. Email

suebarnett@yahoo.com to sign up for training.

Also, if anyone out there has some tall, sturdy shelves (no more than 6' wide in total) that the library can borrow for a couple of months, please email library@cds-sf.org. Look in this space next week for further details and announcements. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the library!
—Sue Barnett & Debra Levin, Library Committee Co-Chairs

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



Monday, April 19th – Friday, April 23rd
Week of the Young Child

Thursday, April 22nd
Earth Day

Saturday, April 24th
Spring Work Day

Saturday, May 1st
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Country Fair

Thursday & Friday, May 13th & 14th
Parent/Teacher Conferences
No School
No Extended Program

Monday – Friday, May 17th – 21st
ERB Testing Week
(3rd – 6th grades)

Wednesday, May 26th
Step-Up Day

Friday, May 28th
Spring Electives End

Saturday, May 29th
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Middle School Picnic

Monday, May 31st
Memorial Day Observed
No School
No Extended Program

How to Submit to *The CDS Weekly*.

Submissions are to be received **no later than 800 am Wednesday**. Please email them to cdsweekly@cds-sf.org

