



The CDS Weekly

Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
April 22, 2004

Words From Rick

Welcome Four New Teachers for Next Year

CDS was fortunate to have such a fantastic pool of highly qualified candidates interested in teaching at CDS for next school year. The word seems to have gotten out that Children's Day School is a great place to teach. After a three-month search, we are happy to introduce four new teachers for next year.

Katherine Hines, our new 3rd grade Head Teacher, comes with seven years experience teaching in the third grade. For the last five years she was the Head Teacher at Echo Horizon School, a fellow independent school in Culver City, CA. Katherine obtained her Masters in Education at the University of New Haven in Connecticut. She fell in love with the farm the moment she saw it, having grown up herself on a farm in Sonoma while also participating in 4-H. Josh Conner, who is working toward his credential and who has been working with these students for two years in the extended program, will be joining Katherine full time as the teacher in the third grade.

With 14 years of experience in teaching, much of it in Kindergarten, Mark Wise will be joining Jennifer Weiss and Gladys Miyahira as the new second Head Teacher in the Kindergarten class. Mark will be moving here with his partner from the Washington D.C. area and had a beaming smile on his face during the three days he spent observing and teaching at CDS. Mark has taught Kindergarten at St. Clement Episcopal School in Alexandria, VA and was also their Director. He received his Masters in Education from Georgia Southern/Armstrong Atlantic in 1994 and his Masters in Divinity from the Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Carrie Birgbauer and Nicola Valentino will be joined next year in the first grade by Madora Soutter. Madora was awarded a New York City Teaching Fellow while obtaining her Masters of Elementary Education at Lehman College in the Bronx. She attended Yale University for her undergraduate degree in history and has a diverse background teaching children for the last seven years. She has been the second grade teacher at The Sidney Silverstein Little Sparrow School in New York for the last two years. She is excited about her new venture at CDS; the team of Carrie, Nicola and Madora bonded almost immediately during the interview process.

The Teddy Bear class will be headed by Margaret Piskitel. Margaret joins CDS having completed her Masters in Early Childhood Education at Bank Street College of Education in New York. Margaret's independent study topic was finding ways to integrate simple digital technology into the classroom, which thrilled Miss Candy to no end, of course. Margaret has

~ This Week's Hot Dates ~



Saturday, April 24th
Family Farmer Training and Spring Work Day
CANCELLED due to construction for the hunklows

Saturday, May 1st
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Country Fair

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

Thank You!

- ▶ To Marianne Evans and Amanda Newsletter for helping lead an all-school tour on Tuesday.

over seven years teaching experience in private schools in and around New York.

We are all thrilled with these new additions to the faculty. The process was long, but educational for everyone. We watched many interesting demonstration lessons and had some great conversations. One of the things that was so impressive to me and to our visitors was that this faculty is dedicated to modeling, day in and day out, excellent teaching.

We welcome our new teachers to the CDS community and look forward to their arrival in August!

A Day in the David Minus Science Center

By: Doug Garfinkel
Middle School Math & Science Teacher

Welcome to the David Minus Science Center at Children's Day School. With the dedicated support of the Minus Family, parents, friends and the community, we will open this new Center in September, just in time for our first seventh grade class and to roll out the new CDS science curriculum.

Here is a description of what you may see next year in the Science Center.

As you observe from the back of the room – watching students at work under the natural light brought in by the Center's innovative lighting system – you will have a

chance to see several typical daily activities underway.

First, the seventh grade class arrives. The room is suddenly filled with the intense, boisterous energy of middle schoolers. After a brief morning meeting and homeroom check in, each seventh grade table sends representatives to pick up microscopes, slides and stored vials of water samples taken as part of their water quality projects. Some students are making observations of life in the water. One table has checked out a probe to use with their graphing calculator to check water acidity/alkalinity. One table is ready to upload data from a calculator and checks out a laptop. Partners at the table collaborate to produce a first draft of a report and print it via the room's wireless network.

While we are working, Ms. Brittany stops by to check out two of the dissecting microscopes – the second graders are going to get a very close look at some unusual worms they've unearthed in the garden.

The double period goes by fast. Students are largely self-directed. I wander the room, assisting with technology here, making an observation there; listening to a debate at one table, an excited discovery at another. Shortly before the period ends, I signal clean-up. Work in process is stored in the large student project storage area or on the computer network.

The students head out for recess. While they are out, a group of fourth graders stop by from Ms. Paula's class. They are doing a controlled experiment with Ms. Morgan to examine how differences in moisture and light affect composting and need to check on their project and add some water to their delightfully maturing rot.

While they are working in the back of the room, the sixth grade arrives for math. They are doing a unit on ratios and measures. Today, they are checking out balance scales and picking up materials from the prep area – they will be measuring the weight of three soil components and then using their knowledge of ratios to determine how much of each is mixed into a mystery mixture. The fourth graders return to their classroom. I circulate among work partners helping them decide how to use the ratios for different weights and mixtures. As we work, a group of prospective parents comes through to observe the class and tour the room to see some of the science projects from different grades that are on display.

Later, I enjoy a quiet prep period. The sixth graders will begin a geology project next week. You can't do geology without a good volcano, so I'm starting to put one together in my prep area. Wish me luck! The good news is whatever mess I make can easily be cleaned up from the stain-proof, non-reactive work surfaces in the room.

As I'm completing my day, the PM program is coming in. They are building a Rube Goldberg apparatus inspired by a visit to the Exploratorium and are coming in to do some careful weighing and measuring.

It's been a very full day in the Science Center – doing so many things that we couldn't have done last year without this

great new facility. We love this place and are so thankful to everyone who helped to make it possible.

The Dirt

Waxwings and Bulldozers

Site preparation for the arrival of the new bungalows began last week and the animals seem to be doing just fine. The sheep have spent the last couple of days in the barn while the workers worked on the plumbing inside the farm. I bribed them, the sheep, with a little extra hay and I turned on the soothing voices of NPR to keep them company. It's working like a charm. The chickens have been in a temporary coop the past few days while they move the chicken coop and farm fence. The coop is now in a temporary location and the chickens will move back in today. I also threw some extra goodies their way, a few old cabbages covered with aphids. We lost quite a few plants in the garden and a few of the beds have been temporarily moved due to the trenching for the water lines. When the dust settles the kids will have some good work projects to do in the garden.

It has been a hectic week in the farm but as I fed the sheep last night after the workers had left, a flock of 30 cedar waxwings settled into the trees in the back of the schoolyard. Waxwings are beautiful, crested birds with yellow bellies and striking black masks over their eyes. They were chattering away in their high-pitched calls and feeding each other the seeds from the elm and pepper trees. I sat down on the cob bench in the garden observing them with my binoculars noticing that the bulldozer had gone quiet. And I found myself thankful that all of the traffic and commotion was just a temporary disruption for the sheep, the chickens, the plants, the waxwings and me.

—Morgan Taggart, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

Workday and Family Farmer Training Postponed!

The workday and the family farmer training scheduled for this Saturday, April 24th has been postponed. The site preparation for the arrival of the bungalows has made the farm and garden inaccessible. The rescheduled Family Farmer Training will be held on Saturday May 8th at 9:00 a.m. This training will provide you with all of the information and skills you need to care for the animals and the garden. At the conclusion of the training you may sign up for the dates you would like to take care of the farm during the summer. The workday has also been postponed until further notice. Please call me if you have any questions!

—Morgan Taggart, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday & Friday, May 13th and 14th

Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up in a couple of weeks on Thursday & Friday, May 13th and 14th. **There is no school or extended program on those days.** There will be childcare in the yard during your scheduled conference time. Your child's teachers will be in touch with you to let you know their sign-up process. If you have any questions, contact your teacher directly by email. Reminder that teachers' email addresses are their first name and last name initial@cds-sf.org (example: brittanym@cds-sf.org)

Extended Program News

PM Program Spring Community Service Project Needs Parent Volunteers

Each Tuesday in April, the PM elementary program will be focused on projects and activities related to urban wildlife and community service. This work will culminate in May when we work with the organization "Literacy for Environmental Justice," restoring wetlands and habitat at the beautiful Heron's Head Wildlife area on the bay. **We still need parent volunteers for driving and assisting on May 5th, 19th, and 26th from 3:00-5:30 p.m.! If you are available and interested, please call Jenna at extension 15.**

Boys & Girls Club

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

Sign-Up Reminder

If you want your child to stay in the after-school program for any reason, **you must sign up** at the front desk or contact Martha by 10:00 a.m. of the morning you need care. If you are volunteering for the school or attending a CDS meeting, you will not be charged for the time your child is in the PM program, **but you still need to sign up!** Simply check the box marked "meeting" when you sign out to avoid charges. We need to have an accurate count of students in the after-school program for safety and teacher's sanity!

—Jenna Stephens, Extended Program Coordinator

Hola Familias!

La frase de la semana es Las Horas. The Time.

A la una, como tuna. At one o'clock, I eat a prickly pear.

A las dos, como arroz. At two o'clock, I eat rice.

A las tres, todo al revés. At three o'clock, all is backwards.

Gracias a todos y hasta pronto.

—Consuelo Aparicio-Cercos, Spanish Department

The Country Fair Is Less Than Two Weeks Away!!!!

Come to the CDS yard on **May 1st** from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to enjoy good company, good food (rumor has it that oysters will be on the BBQ this year!), old fashioned fun and games, wool washing, hand-churned home-made ice cream and a market brimming with produce and hand-made treasures.

This year we'll have more entertainment and activities for kids of all ages.

*The Sheep Shearing Opens the Fair at 11:00 a.m.
Don't Miss It!*

Then try your hand (or mouth) at the pie-eating contest or cheer on the brave entrants in the three-legged races.

Remember that one of the best ways to enjoy the fair is to help out. We need people to supervise the games and races as well as churning the ice cream, mixing the paper mache goop, painting faces, helping with simple arts and crafts, selling baked goods and food tickets, staffing the barbeque, and overseeing the 5th/6th grade merchants at the Country Market. We also need a good crew to help with set up before the Fair. We hope all will join in the Community Clean-up after the fair at 2:30 p.m. **Please sign up for a ½ hour shift when your class contact calls you.**

Call for Bake Sale and 2-liter Bottle Donations

Add your own touch to the Country Fair by bringing baked goods to the Bake Sale, organized by the 2nd grade class. Bring items suitable for eating at the Fair—cookies and bars, sweet breads, cupcakes. Items are packaged for sale in \$1 increments. Please deliver your baked goods to the Fair on Saturday as we do not have any place to store them overnight.

The Art teachers are asking for donations of empty and clean 2-liter plastic bottles for a birdfeeder project at the Country Fair. So hang onto your used 2-liter bottles, rinse them out and start donating them to the 3rd floor Art Studio.

Special Call for Cupcakes

The cupcake walk is a perennial Country Fair favorite. We need **cupcakes** to make it happen. Contact Karen Randig (karen.randig@bizgenics.com) if you can bake a dozen or two.

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

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.

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 – Friday, May 17th – 21st

ERB Testing Week
(3rd – 6th grades)

Wednesday, May 26th

Step-Up Day

Friday, May 28th

Spring Electives End

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 8:00 am Wednesday**. Please email them to [cgsweekly@cds-sf.org](mailto:cdsweekly@cds-sf.org)

