



∞ The CDS Weekly ∞

Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
April 29, 2004

Words From Rick

Uncovering Our Genius

After hearing the book "Owl Moon" in the Teddy Bear class, many of the children became interested in "owling". When do you go owling? Well, at night, of course! Where do you go owling? I looked up where owls might live in San Francisco and discovered that a great horned owl lives in Glen Canyon Park. Birding is one of my hobbies, so I sent a general e-mail to the parents of the Teddy Bears telling them that my husband and I would be owling in Glen Canyon one Friday night in early March and all were welcome to join me. That Friday night, just about the entire class showed up, and we walked along the trail for a ways, stopping to call the owl every so often. When we reached the end of the trail we gave one last call, and a few of us are sure we heard the owl call back, ever so faintly, from the other side of the park. Our evening ended then, but not without an agreement that we would try again in April.

We met again on April 9th, a bit earlier this time so we might have more light with which to see. We had heard from a local resident that the owls had taken up residence in an abandoned hawk nest down the trail and had some babies. I sat the kids down at the side of the trail near the nest and read the book "Owl Moon" at twilight, and just as we finished the story and gave our own "hoot", Mo's Uncle Chris said, in a loud whisper, "There he is!" and a large owl went swooping past! It was a very magical moment. We saw both mother and father owl, as well as the nest. I went back the next day and saw all three babies in the nest. I have been back to watch the progress of the babies, and hope to meet the Teddy Bears there again soon.

—Candy Mabry, Teddy Bear Teacher

And here we have a snapshot of one of the great beauties of this school. The walls of the classroom are not the boundaries of a CDS education. It shows up in so many places, that trying to list them all would be long and boring. But even the most casual observer can see it and feel it because it is everywhere, in and out of the classroom, beyond the gates of the school, and in the minds of the teachers. It is in a library full of 3,600 books lovingly chosen by a group of passionate parents, in an art room spilling over with cool stuff for creating, in the after school program, break camps and summer programs. Teachers here are teaching out of love—love of children to be sure, but also a love of interesting things and a love of learning. I asked Mr. Jim what was so distinct about this school and he said, "the kids are such quick learners—they are so responsive." We all experience that. From preschool through middle school, intellectual curiosity is palpable and contagious. It's hanging on the walls.

∞ This Week's Hot Dates ∞



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

Country Fair

Tuesday, May 4th
4:30 pm.-5:45 pm.

Last PTTA Meeting of the year
Third floor art space

Wednesday, May 5th
3:00-5:30 pm.

Extended Program goes to Heron's Head Park
Parent volunteer drivers still needed!
Contact Jenna at x15

Thursday & Friday, May 13th & 14th

Parent/Teacher Conferences
No School & No Extended Program

Thank You!

- ▶ Thank you to Winnie von Eherenberg for continuing to edit the preschool newsletter.
- ▶ Thanks to Lisa Eltinge for getting videos about gardens from KQED for the preschool classes.
- ▶ Thanks to Amy Howard, Massage Therapist at Body Therapy (www.bodytherapy-sf.com) for providing gift certificates to our Administrative Assistants for Administrative Assistant Day.
- ▶ Thanks to Laura Moon for donating art supplies to the Art studio.
- ▶ Thank you to Gary Strang and GLS Landscape/Architecture for planting and irrigating the gardens between the parking area and the fence.

It is natural for children to see the world as full of wonder, and it was in the vision of the founders to design an educational program that waters that wonder into full-blown, disciplined, intellectual curiosity. Where did it start? In the southeast corner of the property with parents, kids and teachers showing up at all hours to take care of animals? On the third floor, with teachers for whom creativity is not something that only happens between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.? In a preschool program based on pursuit of student interest? Did it start in founder Jim Robinson's apartment, which now, as the lounge, is still the school's living room? I don't know, but today that vision is a reality.

One of the results is a feeling of generosity that pervades the culture of the school. People give because their hearts are full. It shows up also in student academic performance from a second grader who wants to stay up past her bedtime to do more multiplication, to a middle schooler whose determination to complete the assignment drives her to a moment of brilliance. Often, I am told, student enthusiasm for what they are learning spills over to reawaken that enthusiasm in their parents.

In a culture driven by aspiration for success (and fear of failure), it would be smart for educators and parents to consider the determinants of success when designing schools. I.Q. does not predict success. Neither do grades in school nor scores on standardized tests of achievement. Mel Levine likes to say that the only thing SAT scores predict are grades freshman year in college. One thing that does predict success, however, is the passionate pursuit of interests. Perhaps that is what Children's Day School is: parents, teachers and students in league with one another to discover and demonstrate the determinants of success.

For now we are content to build on our enthusiasm collectively to keep opening our eyes to the wonders of the world.

The Country Fair Is This Saturday!

The Country Market will feature hand made items inspired by our wonderful art and environmental education faculty. Items from the home workshops of CDS families will be available as well. CDS knitters and spinners have been at it again. Come early to claim a knitted hat if you missed them last year. The Market will also offer fresh seasonal produce from Eatwell Farms. After sampling what some of us enjoy in our farm boxes every week, you may be inspired to sign up as a subscriber. We'll also inaugurate a fun new array of CDS logo items.

After browsing the market, meet your kids at the midway where you can try the beanbag toss or the trickier tic-tac-toe ring toss. Visit for a moment with newly shorn Lucky and Jojo and the chickens in the farmyard. Then get your hands deep in our own sheeps' wool at the wool-washing near the grotto. Listen for race and contest announcements—there will be three or four heats of each race—organized by age group. Still dripping from the water balloon toss, you might want to spend some quieter moments at the art and craft tables, making sachets or beaded crowns. When you're hungry, check out the barbeque—chicken, hot dogs, veggie burgers, oysters, sausage, and corn. Top it all off with sweet, freshly churned ice cream.

The Country Fair is a true community effort. Many thanks to all who are helping with the organizational efforts and to those of you who have signed on to help make it all happen on Saturday. We still need people to supervise some activities, so please consider giving some of your time if asked. Also, be sure to stay around for the community clean up. This year should be especially exciting as we leave the yard in good shape for the entry of the bungalows on Monday!!!

Limited parking will be available **in designated CDS parking spaces only**, on a first come-first served basis. Plan to park outside and walk in, or come on foot or by transit.

It's not too late to **RSVP** to help with our planning for the fair. Call and leave a message at 851-5432, extension 24.

Call for Bake Sale 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. We have no place to store them overnight. Many thanks.

Special Call for Cupcakes

The cup-cake walk is a perennial Country Fair favorite. We need **cupcakes** to make it happen. Contact Karen Randig (krandig@msn.com) if you can bake a dozen or two.

2nd Annual CDS Raffle CDS Country Fair

Join us for a fun-filled time and purchase tickets for this year's Country Fair raffle. Winners will be drawn and announced hourly, beginning at 12:00 p.m. this Saturday at the Country Fair. Fabulous prizes including donations from Jamba Juice, World Wrapps, Pasta Pomodoro, Starbucks, Toys R Us, Wolf Camera and many more.... Get a chance to win this year's Grand Prize: 2 VIP box section seats to the Christina Aguilera concert on Tuesday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m.

If you can't be at the event but would like to purchase tickets, please contact Lydia Yaffe at 305-8881.

The Dirt

Bovine Bones in our Backyard

During spring break, a crew of workers came and dug a five-foot trench through the garden to put in new water and sewer lines for the bungalows. The excavation unearthed several bones and artifacts which were separated by an archeologist who was on-site to monitor the process. The preschoolers were amazed by these mysterious pieces and wondered if these objects could provide them with some ideas about the past of our school. The Leaping Lizards, Starfish and Teddy Bears began the meticulous cleaning process last week. They removed lots of dirt from each piece with toothbrushes. Little by little, the children were unveiling new but puzzling clues about their origin and age.

"These are dinosaur bones," said James.

"No, ocelot bones," added Mo.

"This piece belongs to a teapot," asserted Mathilda.

"It belonged to our ancestors," replied Davis.

As each piece was cleaned and more details about these objects were revealed, the Leaping Lizards realized they had quite a few questions and invited our in-house “bone experts.” A tray with clean bones was taken to the second grade classroom for analysis.

Monday morning at circle time, Marina, Ava and Leyla came armed with knowledge and shared their own archeological experiences with the class. They showed pictures of their archeological dig in the garden last fall. The second graders explained that the biggest bone they had cleaned probably belonged to a cow. They also affirmed that one mysterious piece was a tooth, but they weren’t sure if it came from the same cow.

“There is also a vertebra,” Marina proclaimed with authority.

Since the Leaping Lizards did not recognize the word, Simon asked its meaning. Marina explained that a vertebra is a bone from an animal’s spine or a backbone. There was some disappointment that none of the bones had belonged to a dinosaur, but they were very thankful that Marina, Ava and Leyla had come in to share their knowledge and answer their questions. The next step is to find someone who could tell us how old these bones and artifacts are. Any volunteers?

—Morgan Taggart, Environmental, Education Resource Teacher and Teresa Calle-Streicker, Leaping Lizards Teacher

Calling All Family Farmers

Family Farmer Training

Do you dream of getting up at the crack of dawn on a Saturday to come to school and feed some bleating sheep and clucking hens? Make that dream a reality and come to the family farmer training at CDS on Saturday, May 8th at 9:00 a.m. and learn how to care for the sheep, the chickens and the garden. The training will provide you with all of the information, skills and confidence you’ll need to care for the farm and garden on the weekends. At the end of the training you’ll sign up for the dates you want from May through September. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please call me if you have any questions about the training or the responsibilities of a family farmer. Hope to see you there!

The Sheep are Looking for their Keys

The sheep are nervous that no one will be tending their weekend hay requirements; they caught wind of the scarcity of farm keys in these parts. Please see that the keys make their way back to the CDS front desk. Thanks again for doing farm duty.

—Morgan Taggart, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

Speech Pathologists Visit in May

Parents who’d like their child(ren) to be screened for speech and language-related issues may sign up for an appointment with two pathologists scheduled to visit CDS in May. Dr. Barbara Rockman and Julie Manyak will be at CDS to screen those in 2nd grade or younger May 18th, 19th and 20th. The schedule is:

- **Tuesday, May 18th** (Teddy Bears, Leaping Lizards and Starfish from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
- **Wednesday, May 19th** (Kindergarten I and Kindergarten II) from 9 to 10:30 a.m.)
- **Thursday, May 20th** (1st grade and 2nd grade from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

If you’d like your child to be tested, please complete the attached permission slip and return it to Martha at the front desk **with your \$30 check (per child) payable to Dr. Barbara Rockman by Friday, May 7th**.

The importance of early identification and treatment of speech and language delays is well recognized, Dr. Rockman points out. Participants will receive a copy of the screening results, and she will be available to talk with parents by phone to answer any questions they may have. Also, she will provide information about follow-up options, if appropriate.

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)

Earn Extra Funds for CDS Through Summer Vacation

Looking for a workbook and a fun *Learning Company* CD for your children for summer break? Then look over the Summer Vacation flyer attached to this *Weekly*. Educational and fun workbooks and CDs will be going home with students next Thursday. After previewing these CDs and workbooks, you can either return them or purchase them to use over the summer. How does this benefit CDS? If you purchase the CD/workbook, all proceeds will go to CDS. Any questions, see the back page of the flyer or contact Tina Corse at: tjcorse@comcast.net

Extended Program News

Summer Camp is Quickly Approaching!

Summer camps at CDS are filling up for both preschool-K and elementary-middle school. If you would like your child to attend any part of the summer camp at CDS, please let me know so that I can reserve a spot for you. The first deadline with 50% of tuition due is on May 15th. The teachers and camp offerings are truly incredible this year, so don’t miss out!

*PM Program Spring Community Service Project:
WE NEED PARENT DRIVER VOLUNTEERS!*

In May, after-school participants will have the opportunity to work with the organization “Literacy for Environmental Justice” doing wetlands and habitat restoration work at the beautiful Heron’s Head Wildlife Area located on the bay.

Dates are:

Wednesday, May 5th, 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19th, 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26th, 3:00-5:30 p.m.

If you can help, please call Jenna at extension 15.

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!

Congratulations 2nd grade! You are at the top of my list right now for only speaking Spanish in class and are ready for your piñata party! *¡Felicidades!*

La frase del a semana es:

¡Viva la semana nacional de danza!

For a complete listing of free National Dance Week events visit www.bacndw.org

—Consuelo Aparicio-Cercos, Spanish Department

Book Drive for Notre Dame Plaza

Need to make room in your house for more books? The seniors at Notre Dame Plaza would love some reading material. Please consider donating your gently used books or even buying a new one. They have residents whose native languages are Chinese, Spanish and Russian as well as English, so books in those languages would be especially appreciated. There will be a box by Martha’s desk for the rest of the year. Please place your book donations in the box or leave them with a staff member at drop-off.

The Library Corner

Back in Books

The CDS library, after many moons, finally opened to students—during National Library Week, no less. They have bounded in enthusiastically, excited to be allowed in the heretofore mysteriously closed room. Students have requested books on everything from dinosaurs to magic, poems, sports, insects, pets, fairytales, art and unicorns (handily appeased with “Black Beauty”), and all have left happily with book in hand.

Library Policies

Each student may check out one book for one week. Books can be renewed twice. Younger students are still learning library skills and will need parents to help remind them to take care of their books and bring them back on library day (see schedule below). Overdue notices will be issued, and books not returned for one month will be considered lost. A \$20 fine will cover replacement and processing.

Library Schedule

2nd, 5th/6th grade: Monday

Kindergarten 1: Tuesday

Kindergarten 2: Wednesday

Preschool classes; 1st grade: Friday

Anyone who still wants to volunteer to work in the library can contact Sue Barnett (suebarnett@yahoo.com) to sign up for computer training and a library overview.

Donations

Although appreciated, book donations must wait until the library moves into the Teddy Bear room. The current library simply does not have the space to store or process donations. So hang onto all those great, near-new books until further notice!

This Just In

National Poetry Month is coming to a close—but of course every month is poetry month at CDS. The following recommended books, chosen *completely* at random from a huge number of worthy submissions, can be found in the CDS library or at your local public branch.

“Falling Up” by Shel Silverstein

“Tie Your Socks and Clap Your Feet” by Lenny Hort

“Insectlopedia,” “In the Swim,” “On the Wing” by Douglas Florian

-Submitted by Noah Winshell, 2nd grade

—Sue Barnett & Debra Levin, Library Committee co-chairs, library@cds-sf.org

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

The last PTTA meeting of the year will be this Tuesday, May 4th in the art space on the third floor from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. Childcare is free; just sign up with Martha before 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

For those of you who have not been upstairs recently, the third floor is now home to a rotating exhibit of cool art created by the multi-talented CDS faculty and staff. We’ll sip wine, nibble cheese and ooh and aah appreciatively; then we’ll discuss next year’s proposed PTTA calendar and how best to encourage and organize parent participation in school events and programs.

At this meeting I'll also have the pleasure of introducing next year's PTTA officers – President, Marianne Evans (mother of Teddy Bear Tess Veiga), VP/Classroom Liaisons, Adam Feuerstein (Kindergartener Chloe and Starfish Graeme), VP/Parent Volunteers, Amanda Richard (2nd grader Mina and Teddy Bear Serena) and Secretary, Kevin Killen (Starfish Flynn). I'm thrilled and grateful to have such a terrific group of new and veteran officers signed on for next year, and I hope you will join me in raising a glass to them and planning another great year at CDS.

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

Saturday, May 29th

Middle School Picnic **CANCELLED**

Monday, May 31st

Memorial Day Observed

No School

No Extended Program

Friday, June 11th

Last Day of School

Noon Dismissal

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 cdsweekly@cds-sf.org