



The CDS Weekly

Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
May 12, 2004

Words From Rick

Giving

Two weeks ago, someone left the elementary bathrooms a mess. Candy asked three girls to clean them up, which they happily did. Last week there was another mess. Candy asked two third grade boys to clean it up. They not only did it without complaint, but with great enthusiasm. I was able to thank them at the assembly last Friday.

The remarkable thing was that none of them said something like, "Why me? I didn't make the mess." So Candy didn't have to say, "I know, but we all have to take care of our community," or "I know, but you would be helping me out if you would clean it up."

I have long believed that this "altruistic" behavior is natural for children. People want to make a difference, and are actually searching for ways to be generous. We can create the conditions which bring out this natural generosity. In America today, however, where so many have so much, it is ironic that there is an expectation of selfishness. In fact, we should be downright shocked. America has created a culture of scarcity in which all that we have is not enough. Most people in the world don't even dare to dream that they could be healthy, free, and loved. That and a meal in front of them whenever they need it would be like having it all.

At Children's Day School, we are all so lucky to be a part of a community where the children are free to give, and enthusiastically choose it. Surely, it's not just that they have been given enough that they have so much to give. It also seems to be the thing to do around here: take care of creatures, take care of your environment, and take care of others.

What are we to do with ourselves when we have it all? Maybe we can learn from the children. In *Guide for Grown-Ups*, Antoine de Saint-Exupery says, "In giving you are throwing a bridge across the chasm of your solitude." Maybe that's it.

The Dirt

The Farm Loses a Lady

Lady Brahma, one of our most beloved chickens, died at the veterinary hospital last Thursday morning. She had been moving a little slower than usual, spending a lot of time basking in the sun with her wings extended like solar panels positioned to capture the sun. I thought she may have been stressed due to all of the noise and commotion from the installation of the bungalows, but her health was not improving. The vet agreed that her age had finally caught up with her. She spent many years as part of the CDS flock and was one of the most gentle and patient hens I have ever known, and I have known many chickens in my life. Almost any kid could catch and hold her,

This Week's Hot Dates



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

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

Thank You!

- ▶ To all of the family farmers who came to the family farmer training on Saturday and offered to help care for the farm and garden this summer.

feel her comb, touch her beak, and she wouldn't squirm or make any attempt to escape. Ms. Candy regularly brought her into the classroom during the "Chicken Project," giving her students the chance to observe a chicken up close and develop a relationship with an animal different from themselves. She taught us many lessons about empathy and how to care for the living things around us; lessons that could only be learned through experience. She will be missed.

—Morgan Taggart, Environmental, Education Resource Teacher

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Begin Tomorrow

Thursday & Friday, May 13th and 14th

Parent/Teacher conferences begin tomorrow on Thursday & Friday, May 13th and 14th. **There is no school or extended program on these days.** There will be childcare in the yard during your scheduled conference time. 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: brittany@cds-sf.org)

Seeking Volunteer Front Desk Helpers

Want to be in-the-know on CDS happenings? Interested in connecting with other school parents? Consider volunteering at the front desk for an hour and a half on Wednesday afternoons. This will allow Martha to attend the weekly staff meeting. Let Martha know if you can help by email: marthap@cds-sf.org

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 registration deadline 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 is Underway!

Last week we had our first trip to Heron's Head Park for the beginning of our month-long community service project. Three great parent drivers and nine kids loaded up and we arrived at the park in good time. After meeting our leaders, Ben and Josh, we got our binoculars and put on our wading boots and began our walk along the edge of the water. We learned about lots of native and non-native plants that live in the area and also saw many birds including killdeer, a snowy egret, and several other small shorebirds. Haden was the first to notice three well-camouflaged eggs in a ground nest as we walked by on a small trail. At the far shoreline, students uncovered rocks and tiny crabs and learned about some of the issues facing the area. For the last part of our trip we loaded up the wheel barrel with shovels and tools and worked together to remove the non-native fennel plants that were taking over one grassy area of the park. The first trip was a huge (and fun!) success and we're all excited for our upcoming visits on May 19th and 26th.

Spring Enrichment Classes

Spring enrichment classes end on May 21st. The make-up week for this session is May 24th - May 28th. Please check the PM bulletin board by the glass doors to find out which classes will be offering a make up session.
—Jenna Stephens, Extended Program and Summer Coordinator

Hola Familias!

I want to congratulate 3rd and 4th grade for having their expectation almost finished.

La frase de la semana es: Las estaciones The Seasons

Primavera- Spring

Verano- Summer

Otoño- Fall

Invierno- Winter

Gracias y hasta la semana que viene!!!

—Consuelo Aparicio-Cercos, Spanish Department

Library Corner

New After School Hours

This week marks the beginning of after-school hours for the library, Tuesdays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Students may return and check out books during this time. June 1st will be the last day the library is open after school and June 4th will be the last day we're open for the school year. Thank you to all

parents and students who are ensuring that books are being returned on time and in good condition.

Books Don't Fit Into Lunch Boxes

Library books have been appearing on cloakroom floors in some classrooms. In order to protect the books and help everyone keep track of them (especially your child), please have your child bring a book bag or backpack to school on library day.

Birthday Book Program

Grandparents and special friends are now getting the opportunity to donate books to the library in honor of students' birthdays. Postcards explaining the easy steps are sent around each student's birthday. Postcards were sent out this week to grandparents and special friends of students who have summer birthdays so that they can participate before school ends. Those students will also be receiving birthday cards.

So far, the several students who have participated seemed delighted to explore the chest filled with books about science, sports, riddles, math, music, and much more. The program helps fill the library shelves with titles that are needed, loved and pre-processed by the book distributor. A big help in a library with a small, volunteer staff!

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



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

