



∞ The CDS Weekly ∞

Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
May 27, 2004

Words From Rick

...And Yes, Virginia, There Is a Future

Living and making decisions in the moment, which I focused on in last week's *Weekly*, is about building our own unique character day by day. It is about character being more powerful than context and the power humans have to create our own reality. It is not, however, about ignoring context.

As we design the educational opportunities of the moment we need to pay attention to what the world around us is telling us about the future. This is what the strategic planning process is all about. The world that our children are moving into is unknown, but it is not entirely unknowable. The irony about schools which focus on "preparation" is that they are usually not giving much thought to what the world will be like. They are usually preparing children for the past not the future.

One thing we can safely predict is that the world into which our children are growing will be different. Change is the only constant. Perhaps we can also predict increased diversity, increased globalization, increased blossoming of technology, and increased demand for creative solutions to new problems. As I reported in "Creativity and Survival," the *New York Times* recently reported that, "Increasingly, the mothers and fathers of invention are not American." I don't know, but I am pretty sure we want to be. And if we want to be, what does that imply for the school experience we provide for our children?

Last fall, in giving the administration some feedback on the new brochure for our school, one of our parents wrote me an email:

Showcase our academic advantage. Here is a great place to expand on what our idea of academics means – yes, we do really well on tests scores – but we actually take the term to mean much more. Parents want their children to be engaged in the learning process, take initiative, be inquisitive, resourceful, creative, spirited, and develop strong communication skills. We should explain our commitment to these qualities that enable students to realize their individual goals.

When I talked to this parent afterwards she said something even sharper: "We are building mental capacity." I couldn't have said it better myself.

If you have been around school, you have, of course, noticed evidence that we are building our indoor capacity (three new classrooms out in the south 40.) What you may not have noticed is the work going on behind the scenes to build

∞ This Week's Hot Dates ∞



Saturday, May 29th
Middle School Picnic **CANCELLED**

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

Wednesday June, 2nd
8:00-9:00 a.m.
David Minus Science Center Coffee
Faculty Lounge

capacity inside the main classroom building. Just last evening we had a nice meeting of the Library Design Committee. That came hard on the heels of the Science Center Task Force. These meetings are thrilling, even a little heady, as we imagine preschoolers and middle schoolers sharing these new spaces. I find myself going, "Oh, yeah. That's right. We are growing. I almost forgot." I still spend most of my time focusing on the life of this vibrant community—in the moment. But it is nice to look up from time to time and realize that next year we will have over 200 students and seventh graders. It will be wonderful.

2004-05 Date Change

State of the School, Part II has been moved to Monday, February 7th, 2005. Please make note of the change on the 2004-2005 calendar.

Development News

By now you should have received a letter from Hae-Lim Minus telling you all about the campaign to establish the David Minus Science Center. This exciting addition to the CDS campus will be created this summer in the current Starfish room. Please come to the Faculty Lounge next Wednesday morning, June 2, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., to learn more and sip coffee with friends. Doug Garfinkel will be there to talk about the new CDS science curriculum, and Judith Crutcher, grandma to Starfish James Crutcher and our architect for the project, will also be on hand to provide more details and answer questions. THANK YOU to all who have already contributed to the \$92,850 that has been raised toward our goal of \$125,000.

Extended Program News

Summer Camp Update

The Preschool-Kindergarten summer camp is almost full. Many of the elementary camps have also filled up. If you haven't turned in your forms yet, please call me first (x15) so I can tell you which of those camps are still available.

Spring Enrichment Classes

Friday marks the last day of the spring make-up week. The only exception is that on Wednesday, June 2nd is the last piano class. Please join the pm program in the 5th/6th grade room on Friday, May 28th at 3:45 p.m. for a showing of the Movie Making and TV News Show student-created videos. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Environmental Service Project

Thanks to everyone who participated in our series of trips to Heron's Head Park in Bayview. Our visits were a great, inspiring success and several students have informed me that, "It was the best field trip EVER". Please take a moment to look at some of the pictures from our time there. They are posted on the bulletin board across from the Leaping Lizards classroom.

—Jenna Stephens, Extended Program and Summer Coordinator

Calling All Tablecloths!

Over the year, the PTTA's supply of 16 sturdy striped tablecloths have slowly disappeared, no doubt because so many parents have generously taken it upon themselves to launder them at home after various school events. Please check your laundry room (or classroom) to see if one of our tablecloths -- enormous blue/green or red/orange striped cotton -- is languishing there. They can be returned to the safekeeping of Aimee Giles on the 3rd Floor. We'd like to have them all back in time for the faculty lunch in June.

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.

Upcoming on the CDS Calendar



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