



∞ The CDS Weekly ∞

Catching Up on the Coming Weeks

(415) 861-5432
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Words From Rick

End of Year 21

I sit in a donated, coffee-stained chair at a donated table in our freshly painted faculty lounge. I am surrounded by tall, 80-year-old windows, and elegant, comfortable couches and I am looking out over the city, remembering how this used to be the living room of the person who got this wonderful school started, Jim Robinson. We are in transition from funky-late-garage-sale to elegant=excellence, and I am a bit in mourning for the former as I prepare for the latter.

Over my right shoulder to the south, the roofs and walls of the ungainly new preschool cluster attract my attention like a baby whose father is trying to see the beauty in the reddish wailing mass of flesh called my son. I know the cottages will look better as we live in them and add color, style and living things. We will make them ours, because we wanted them and because we need them in order to be who we are becoming. We will increasingly see their beauty as we leave our marks on them. Already, so many people have added to them in their imagination: murals, windows and star jasmine. We will love the new classrooms when the children are happy playing and working in and around them. I know this; I can almost feel it.

Last Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m., as the memorial weekend approached, our schoolyard was flooded with an April-new crop of little children and their parents. What a thrill: the new members of the classes of 2014, 15 and 16. This is what life is about: faces as fresh as the first light-green leaves on the elm trees, smiling and crying—life that keeps charging forward like one of those three-year-olds pushing a plastic car down the ramp hell-bent-for woodchips. I am happy we won't have to say goodbye to any of our classes for the next two years. But when we graduate our first class in two years, we will!!

We are coming to the end of the year in which we've been quietly celebrating our twentieth birthday, and I realize I've been so busy helping Jim Robinson's child into adulthood that I haven't stopped to do the math. I had to get out the spreadsheet to be sure. Yes...if the first year of Children's Day School was the school year 1983-1984, then, when we acknowledged our 20th birthday in September, we were noting that the school had already experienced twenty years of life. This means we are nearing the end of our 21st year. One more summer, and we will be an adult—technically speaking.

Then I think of my 59-year-old self, in my sixtieth year of life still integrating into this community to which I first came as a mere consultant and realize that all these numbers are just arbitrary hooks I use to try pathetically to organize an unorganizable phenomenon. For the last two years I've been getting up early and driving myself with a cup of coffee to Jim

Hot Dates



Wednesday, June 9th

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Middle School Literary Magazine Release Party
Faculty Lounge

Friday, June 11th

Last Day of School

Noon Dismissal

No Extended Program

Robinson's living room to write. For two years I have been trying to put into words why this school is so magical. Although many people (including me) like what I write, I know I've still not succeeded.

Are we really adult, yet? Yes, I guess we are. We have translated our raw ability and talent into disciplined, loving productivity. We can take care of ourselves. My daughter, Katie, will graduate from college this month; I guess she, too, can be described as an adult. On the other hand, Katie doesn't know what she will do with the rest of her life. There is still something so fresh and clean about her, like those fresh, clean roofs and walls of the bungalows that have still not integrated themselves into our environment.

Our relationship to our environment; I believe that is what our future is about. Both this school and my daughter have to answer the question: who are we in our community? We can say, as she can, "I am **SOME-BODY**, but who am I in the marketplace? I have a lot of potential, but what difference will I make to my community?"

From here on out, the quality of our school will be a function of the difference we make in our environment. The Extended Day Program is leading the way into our future, making sure our children experience the joys of making a difference: courageous social action; active involvement in the lives of people, institutions, and other forms of life in our environment. The time for looking inward has passed. We have established "Trust," "Autonomy," "Initiative," "Industry," "Identity," and "Intimacy." The next phase of our lives is to move into what Erik Erikson calls "Generativity." (Childhood and Society, 1950). It is the challenge of both people and human institutions to consider what beauties or what wreckage they will leave in their wake.

Some brave, far-sighted people picked up the torch from

Jim Robinson in 1996. Thanks to them, we are all here to celebrate the end of our 21st year. There are so many that I stagger, considering how to recognize them all. There were innumerable parents who gave generously of time and money, many whose children have left the school, some who are with us still—people like Tina and Kevin Corse who are always on the front line—making it happen. There are those who are behind the scenes that no one ever hears of, like Joan Alexander, grandmother of Cassi. Joan lives in New York City and five years ago made a large gift to the school to help us acquire this beautiful place.

Then there are the teachers, working for love, who give of themselves day in and day out. The quality of their work is with us still in an approach to teaching and learning which has made this school a model of excellent education. Most of all there are the children who enthusiastically invest themselves in this place year after year, leaving behind and taking with them their creations and their relationships. It is truly the children's school.

We are heirs to all of this beauty, all this human imperfection and glory. I feel an enormous debt of gratitude to all that has gone on before—all the smiling-laughing-crying, all the giving and taking. We are stewards of it all. What we do in the next eleven years will reveal the quality of our understanding and appreciation of what so many have given to us, and to our children.

Development Update

The 2003-2004 school year is rapidly coming to an end and with it comes the close of our fiscal year on June 30th. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our families, our trustees, our faculty, and our friends in the community, we have raised a phenomenal \$349,982 for the annual fund! If you have not yet completed your pledge to the annual fund, please try to do so before June 30th. CDS is counting on your commitment.

Yesterday morning, twenty-one parents joined Doug Garfinkel and architect Judith Crutcher for coffee and a continental breakfast in the Faculty Lounge and heard details about the David Minus Science Center. Thank you to all who have contributed. We have already received \$100,925 of the \$116,725 that has been pledged toward our goal of \$125,000! If you have any questions about the science center or would like to make a contribution or pledge, please call Marion Quinones at extension 23.

Thanks to the joint efforts of everyone in the CDS community, we can consider this year's fundraising to be a remarkable success, and a testament to the strength and passion of our community. THANK YOU for a job well done!!!

Eraserhead Release Party

Join CDS Middle Schoolers as they celebrate the release of their self-published literary magazine, Eraserhead. Next Wednesday, June 9th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge, come enjoy the company of some gifted writers and get your own copy of Eraserhead while supplies last!

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.

—Jenna Stephens, Extended Program and Summer Coordinator

Hola Familias!

Congratulations to the 3rd/4th grade for your hard work in Spanish class. While all CDS students showed great improvements through out the year speaking only in Spanish during our time together, the 3rd/4th grade class really shined, and has won the piñata party. Way to go!

I am excited to let everyone know the Spanish department plans for next school year. Ms. Gladys and myself are pleased to offer the opportunity to teach Spanish to CDS parents, grandparents, and teachers. We are building a great curriculum for adults and invite you to inquire with us to find out more. You can contact me at extension 37, or by email: consueloa@cds-sf.org. Hope to see you!

La frase de semana:

Vamos aprender español. Let's learn Spanish

—Consuelo Aparicio-Cercos, Spanish Department

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

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, June 4th marks the last Friday morning coffee of the year. Stop by to visit with 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

The library is no longer checking out books to students. All materials must be returned to the library as soon as possible. This will give volunteers time to get books checked in and the library organized and back in good order before the summer break. So please, don't wait until the last minute to return books! Reminder notices will be sent home next week for those students with overdue books.

These last few weeks have been extremely gratifying for library volunteers and students alike. The library was enthusiastically embraced by all - it is clear that everyone loved having it open again! Thanks go to the students who were respectful and diligent about returning books on time and in good shape; to the teachers who participated in the library and were willing guinea pigs for

the new systems; and to the parents who showed up every week to volunteer as de facto librarians. It was a true team effort.

Over the summer, the Teddy Bear room will be transformed into the new library. In order for this to happen by the time school reopens, plenty of volunteers are needed who can come in occasionally over the summer for various tasks, menial to major. Anyone who is interested in being a part of this exciting, hands-on project should contact the Library Committee at library@cds-sf.org

—Sue Barnett & Debra Levin, Library Committee Co-Chairs

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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