



January 6, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

A Visit from the Boys and Girls Club

Thanks to the vision and hard work of several people, Children's Day School has been blessed by a close relationship with the Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco. I had the pleasure of having a cup of coffee with three of these people yesterday: Alexandra Vila, Michael Cosby and our very own Mr. Jim.

Alex is the Clubhouse Director for the Columbia Boys & Girls Club, and Michael is the Senior Director of Program Services for all eight neighborhood clubs in San Francisco. Each student in our kindergarten through seventh grade classes is a member of the club simply by being a member of CDS. For years we have benefited from the relationship through the use of their gymnasium, and more recently our students have been using the fabulous resources of their facility in the after school program.

But our commonality goes beyond the space we share. I discovered at our meeting that we share not only a common educational mission, but also an identical philosophy of education. We differ only in terms of the challenges we face, and it seems that their challenges are significantly greater than ours. For one thing, they can only work with students in the late afternoon after they are tired from a long day in the classroom. More importantly, many of the young people they serve have learned that school is not an opportunity but a drag. The Boys & Girls Club seeks to change that misimpression. Alex said: "Our job is to help them see that education is not a chore, but life itself." This is about as tidy a mission statement for CDS as I have ever heard.

Before the cup of coffee, I had the pleasure of showing Alex and Michael around the school. They were not surprised by what they saw, but were delighted to see first hand that what they had believed was true, i.e., that Children's Day School—its teachers and its culture—is teaching young people to love learning. Out of that love they take responsibility for their learning. For instance, we saw three second graders working on poetry by themselves in the hallway, first graders going about their business in the classroom with independence and self-sufficiency and sixth graders organizing themselves into new cooperative learning groups.

It was exciting to talk with fellow educators working within a similar agenda. It was striking to experience and talk with two highly competent, enthusiastic and dedicated professionals who are so close in mission, so close in proximity, so together with us in our work in the world, and yet so far away. The small divide that separates our buildings is perhaps symbolic of a larger divide, one that encompasses racial, cultural and economic differences. For the sake of our children it is important that we work to bridge the abyss of ignorance that divides us. It is, also, of strategic importance to the school.

Hot Dates

Friday, January 7

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday Assembly

Seventh Grade Presenting

Monday, January 10

Winter Enrichment Classes begin

Tuesday, January 11

4:30 p.m.

PTTA Meeting

Faculty Lounge

Friday, January 14

Wheels Day

CDS Yard



Thank You!

- To the wonderful PTTA and fabulous parents for all of the end-of-the-year cheer: the faculty/staff holiday party, generous staff bonuses and many other treats and goodies distributed during the holiday season.
- To Karen Georgiades and Marie Cross for assisting with admission tours.
- To Bill Littmann for continuing to support the PTTA with his excellent and cheerful hosting and organizing of Friday coffee in the yard.
- To all of the family farmers who lovingly cared for the sheep and chickens during the fall: Nick Chapin (daughter Mathilda), Peter Kusnierczyk and Cathy Hazelwood (daughter Patrice), Tina and Jerry Liang (son Patrick), Kevin Killen and Marilyn Rogers (son Flynn), Kim Tennis (daughter Kirby), Jonathan Hubbard and Merrill Buice (daughter Caroline), Andrea and Jim Reynolds (daughter Taylor), Lydia Yaffe (daughters Kira and Nikki), Kate Moses (daughter Celeste), Melanie Fife (daughter Isabel), Neena and Niraj Lama (son Wilson), Jane Seabrook (daughter Haley) and Michael Silver and Carlos Vasquez (son Julian).

Building bridges like this is not a simple matter. It involves efforts on a number of fronts. We will meet again in the coming weeks to consider specific programs that would express our shared goals. The most obvious moves (like a door through the wall from the farm to the gym) may not be so easy. But the idea for me is at least symbolic of the kinds of things that have to happen for each of our institutions to fulfill its potential. After talking with Alex and Michael I can now see it as an idea that has the potential for helping us realize how much we both could benefit by our increased collaborations. What I learned is that, in fact, we are laboring in the same vineyard.

Mission Feedback Needed

While we are on the subject of missions, let me call your attention to the attachment from Matt Schwartz, chair of the strategic planning committee. The committee is requesting feedback on the development of the CDS mission statement. Well-written, a mission statement can serve to drive our decision-making. For instance, the first sentence of a mission statement focuses attention on our

core business-which is what we want our students to look like. If this is what success looks like to us, that has implications for how we invest our energies.

We welcome your input and thank you for taking the time to respond.

The Dirt

Family Farmer Training

Winter family farmer training will take place on Saturday, January 22, in the CDS farm and garden. The training will last approximately one hour and will provide you with all of the information you'll need to care for the animals and the garden. Please RSVP to sign up for a training at 9, 10, or 11 a.m. We have space for fourteen families (a maximum of five during each time slot). If the training fills up you will be given priority in May at the next family farmer training. We will be scheduling dates for the next four months so bring your calendars. You only need to commit to two weekends and/or holidays during the next four months. In return, you'll have the chance to bury your fingers into JoJo's warm, soft wool and collect fresh eggs for Sunday morning breakfast. If you want to sign up as a family farmer call Misty at x21.

From the Office

Welcome Sara

Please welcome Sara Switzman as a new member of the first grade teaching team. Sara has been with us as the first grade extended program teacher and is now taking over for Nicola. She has her teaching credential from the Ontario College of Teachers and brings many years of teaching experience to the CDS community. Stop by and say hello!

Welcome Mollie

Please welcome Mollie Ring, our new first grade extended program teacher. Mollie brings extensive arts and education experience to CDS as a muralist, teen mentor and arts teacher. Please say hello and welcome her to the CDS community.

Welcome John

In the spirit of the New Year and new beginnings, please also welcome John Hooker, our new Co-Head Kindergarten teacher. John came to CDS as a substitute teacher with impressive teaching skills and joins CDS

with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education, K-12, a Teacher's Certificate from the state of Missouri and a Master of Fine Art in Sculpture. Again, stop by and say hello to John.

Refrigerator Needed

The staff and faculty lounge is in need of a new refrigerator. If you would like to donate a refrigerator that is relatively new and in good working condition, please contact Laurance at x14. We will pick up the refrigerator and install it here.

Extended Program News

MLK March and Celebration

You and your families are invited to join after school teachers on Monday, January 17 for the annual San Francisco Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom March and Celebration. Participating CDS families will meet at 9:30 a.m. at CDS and walk together to meet up with our after school partner school, Marshall Elementary. From there, participants will take a BART Freedom Train (free BART tickets at: <http://www.norcalmlk.org/2005/transportation.html>) to the start of the Freedom March at the San Francisco Caltrain Station (4th and Townsend Streets.) The march begins at 11:30 a.m. and heads toward the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. The celebration continues at Civic Center with speakers including Congresswoman Barbara Lee, American Idol finalist Latoya London, the Glide Ensemble, Fiyawata, Jason Matteo and other special guests. Also on site will be a vendor fair featuring health, arts and crafts and food booths. Please fill out the accompanying form and return to Jenna Stephens.

Enrichment Classes

An exciting array of enrichment classes is being offered this winter and detailed packets were sent home in student backpacks before vacation. If you didn't receive one, please pick one up at the front desk. The final day to sign up is this Friday, January 7. Classes begin soon, on Monday, January 10. Please call Jenna at x15 if you have any questions.

The After School Program

Please be diligent about signing up and signing out correctly. Each child needs to be signed out by a parent every day. This is critical for ensuring safety and proper billing. Thank you!

Wheels Day

Wheels Day is a special day in the afternoon program where kids get to ride bikes and scooters and other wheeled vehicles in the yard. The next Wheels Day is scheduled for Friday, January 14. We have a modest supply of bikes and helmets for students to use, but if a child would like to bring a special vehicle from home, please park it in the space to the left of the glass door with your child's name on it and bring her/his helmet as well.

Where is Your Child?

After school elementary and middle school teachers are conducting many exciting projects in the afternoons this year. At times they may need to use the kitchen, the third floor art studio or join up with another class in a room different from the one they are usually in. When you come to pick up your child at the end of the day, please assume they are in the yard or in their day classroom, unless there is a note posted above the sign-out desk saying otherwise. All after school teachers will be posting a sign when their activities take them to a different school location.

The Front Gate

After 5 p.m., Rose (the receptionist) leaves for the day. If you are coming to pick up your child after 5 p.m., please just dial "0000" right away. This is not the code to the gate. Pressing those numbers automatically calls the CDS

Go Bulldogs!

The Bulldog basketball season is officially underway! Mr. Jim will be coaching the boys team and the new girls team coach is Karolina Garrett. Please come support the Bulldog basketball team tonight in their first game of the season.

Basketball Schedule

Thursday, January 6

CDS vs. Creative Arts School

Boys game, 3:30 p.m.; Girls game, 4:30 p.m.
665 DeHaro Street

January 10

CDS vs. Katherine Delmar Burke

Girls game, 4:45 p.m.

7070 California Street

cell phone so we can let you in. It is important that once you dial "0000" you wait by the speaker so that the person who answers the phone can verify you are part of the CDS community. When you hear the phone answered, please state your name and you will be let into the yard. Thank you for helping keep CDS safe.

Holy Family Day Home

Starting this month, students from CDS will have the opportunity to be guest presenters at Holy Family Day Home's preschool classes and read to them from a storybook of their choosing. Many families called me to express interest in having their 4th-7th grader participate, but only two families have turned in their registration forms. If you are interested, please call Jenna at x15 ASAP.

The PM Program is Open to All

Thanks to those of you who have helped spread the word to your friends and neighbors about CDS opening up vacation camps, enrichment classes, the after school program and summer camps to all Bay Area children. Please continue to get the word out to children who don't attend CDS during the regular school year. Families interested in receiving more information can call Jenna at x15.

PM Program Field Trips

Wednesday, January 12: 2nd Graders, Marshall Elementary for Protest Song Singing, 3-4:30 p.m.

Friday, January 21: 2nd Graders, Harvey Milk Library Field Trip, 3-4:30 p.m.

Friday, January 28: Preschool trip to visit Mission Dolores, 2:45-4 p.m..

Friday, January 28: 4-7th Graders, Dolores Park, 3:30-5 p.m.

Friday, January 28: 2nd Graders, Dolores Park, 3:30-5 p.m.

Library Corner

Calling All Book Lovers

Volunteers are needed to help fill regular one hour library shifts. Several classes need volunteers to sustain weekly periods. The library is a wonderful place to hang out, especially when kids are in it. Volunteer librarians help students look for books, check materials in and

out, read aloud and shelve books. This is enjoyable, rewarding and important work. If you are interested in volunteering, please email the library (library@cds-sf.org) with your availability, and a time can be arranged for training on the library software.

For K-3, two volunteers are needed per shift. Library periods are as follows (asterisks indicate greatest need):

- Preschool (reading): Fridays 9-10 a.m.
- *Kindergarten: Mondays 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- 1st grade: Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- *2nd: Thursdays 9-10 a.m.
- 3rd: Fridays 9:30-10:15 a.m.
- *4th/5th: Wednesdays 9-10 a.m.
- *6th: Mondays 11:30-12 p.m.
- *7th: Mondays 2:30-3 p.m.

There are many ways to help out. Volunteers are needed to come in occasionally to shelve, process or cover books. Volunteers may also choose to work on displays or special events. Email the library if you want to get involved, or stop in and say hello during a library period. If you come when no one is there, leave a note on the clipboard (near the printer), and someone will contact you.

PTTA Corner

Friday Morning Coffee

Come join other parents for coffee and doughnuts in the yard after Friday drop-off, 8:30-9 a.m. This is your chance to meet other families, have a few minutes of grown-up conversation and grab sustenance and caffeine before you start your day.

In addition, we need volunteers on occasion to help set up and bring doughnuts. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Nothing gets the kids out of bed in the morning like the knowledge that they will stop off for doughnuts during the drive to school!

PTTA Questions or Ideas?

Contact Marianne Evans, PTTA President, at (415) 648-1731 or goevansgo@yahoo.com.

PTTA Update

Acknowledgements

Greetings and Happy New Year to parents, trustees, teachers and administrators. I want to thank all who braved the somewhat frenetic month of December and rallied to support the PTTA during the busy holiday time. It ended up being a very fun month to be a PTTA officer because of the parents who jumped in to lend last minute support at various hectic moments. I especially would like to thank Amanda Richard, Stephanie Scarpulla, Robin McClarren and Adam Feuerstein who jumped in on numerous occasions, smiling, laughing and helping to make the end of the year fun.

Our next PTTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11 from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the faculty lounge. Remember, childcare is free if you sign up by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

Thank you and hope to see you there.

Marianne Evans

Hola Familias de CDS

Hola a todas las familias de CDS!

Sixth and seventh graders are producing a fashion show that they'll also film. This is a vocabulary and verb building activity that will lead them into a project utilizing math to create math problems in Spanish.

Second, third, fourth and fifth graders are studying *puedo* and *no puedo*. They will be discussing things they can and cannot do, using Spanish to explain what they are good at. During this lesson, students will create books utilizing *puedo* and *no puedo* as well as any new and old vocabulary they know.

Kindergarten students are studying verbs to do with actions such as smiling (*sonreír*) and sleeping (*dormir*).

First graders are studying vowels and a singing new songs.

La frase de la semana. The phrase of the week.

Puedo. I can.

— Spanish Department

Upcoming Dates

Monday, January 17
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No School
No Extended Program

Children's Day School

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