



January 20, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Giving, Receiving and Giving Back

I don't know when the annual fund palm tree will be updated, so I want everyone to know right away that the parent annual fund surpassed its goal on Friday, January 14. Just as importantly, parent participation passed the 85% mark and some classes are within easy reach of being able to say, "100% of our class gave to the annual fund." We have similar good news from the admission office. At our final open house last week many of our own parents showed up to help new parents understand what CDS is all about. As the admission application deadline arrived last Friday, we were swamped with over 100 applications on that day alone.

At the open house my favorite question was, "You have the most enthusiastic teachers of any school in San Francisco (and by now we have visited almost all of them). How do you do it?"

My answer wasn't quite accurate, because the right answer is, "By everything we do." I started on a list that included our mission, collegiality among the faculty, a program that focuses on student enthusiasm for learning and the goal of making just the right difference for each individual child. Then I began to describe the efforts of the task forces: Access and Affordability, Diversity and Social Justice, Community Outreach, Programmatic Excellence, Site and Facilities, Developing Resources, and I realized that this community's values are directly connected to teacher enthusiasm.

Now, a week later, I realize that I have been taking the most important thing for granted: the community of the school. Our community has become the water we swim in. You can feel it everywhere; in assembly, in the classrooms, at Friday coffees, in the hallways where kids are working or hurrying to the next class and in all the contributions parents make. There are grandparents who come to work in the library just because it makes them happy to be here. There are trustees who put in hundreds of extra hours for Children's Day School just because it is what it is.

We are so fortunate.

When we are fortunate it is spiritually essential that we express our gratitude by giving it away, otherwise the gifts we are given spoil in our ungratefulness. Children know this and in them it happens naturally. It shows up in little notes they are inspired to give parents, teachers, each other and sufferers of the tsunami. It shows up in bigger things like the seventh grade tsunami task force, the fourth and fifth graders getting a taste of hunger and deprivation during their campout at Heifer International Education Center and families and teachers showing up to join thousands in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hot Dates

Friday, January 21

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday Assembly
Third Grade Presenting

Tuesday, January 25

4:30 p.m.

Spring Celebration &
Auction Meeting
Library



Thank You!

- To Jeff Levin for donating a television.
- To Zachary Fisher, Bill Glenn, Bill Littmann, Richard Bennett, Nick Chapin and their families for their continued work on the Papa Artie Bower. They spent last Sunday jack hammering, sawing and digging in order to permanently place the bower's entrance arch.
- To Jaime Portillo at Action Rentals for the free use of a jack hammer for the installation of the arbor.

birthday march.

It all comes back around again. These activities and those like it provide meaning that underlies the academic work the children do and inspire them to work harder.

Two months away is one of our large all school celebrations, the Spring Celebration & Auction. A small committee of dedicated leaders has just invited everyone to participate. I encourage each member of the community to use this as an opportunity to give thanks by doing or contributing something to make it successful. Even more importantly, I encourage everyone to attend the celebration. The event's purpose is to celebrate community, to raise money and to have fun together. This event helps the school offer excellent education to families who otherwise couldn't afford it, and this year we want to make sure that everyone comes. Instead of "tickets" the committee is asking for donations with a suggested donation of \$75 per person. It is essential to the community of Children's Day School that everyone feels they belong. So don't worry about the money—just come and give what you feel is right for you to give and enjoy the great community spirit that we work, play and learn in everyday.

The Dirt

Protect the Snails

Fazion, James, Gabe, Jeremy, Srinand and Spencer (all first graders) were recently exploring the garden in an earnest search for any living animals. They were all hard at work creating a collection of animals in a large bug house when I made a suggestion that was quickly opposed by all. The

moment I suggested that we feed the snails to the chickens I heard a loud "Noooo!" coming from Gabe. The rest of the boys quickly agreed that they also didn't want the snails to become chicken food. I assured them that we didn't have to send the snails off to their death and was instantly met with a sigh of relief for allowing the snails to live. Out of curiosity I asked, "Why don't you want the chickens to eat the snails?" Srinand answered my question by saying, "Snails are a part of nature and we need to respect nature so we can't kill them." I was very charmed by the first grade boys' passionate desire to protect the snails.

From the Office

Annual Fund

We did it! Thanks to all parent donors, callers, writers and askers, we exceeded the parent annual fund goal of \$105,000 (the official up-to-the-minute tally is \$106,113) in total contributions last weekend, right on time for our January 15 deadline. An impressive 86% of parents have made a gift or pledge; last year at this time only 69% had contributed. Kudos and thanks to third grade families for being the first class to reach 100% participation and earn lunch for the kids. Several other classes are very close to matching the third grade.

We rely on the generosity of the CDS community to support our school and appreciate the investment parents have made in CDS teachers and students. Thank you for your support and for breaking all of our records for parent participation. If you have any questions please contact Marion Quinones at x23.

Papa Artie Bower

What's going on under the bay laurel tree? Thanks to a generous donation from Joan Alexander, 2nd grader Cassi Alexander's grandmother, we have been able to reclaim a bit of CDS dirt! With the moving of the iron fence adjacent to the bungalows came the creation of the "Papa Artie Bower," named for Cassi's late grandfather. The plan for this area is to make it a place for quiet activities while still respecting and caring for the one hundred-year-old California Heritage bay laurel tree. The "wild" look and feel of the area will remain and will be enhanced by the addition of benches, pathways and a split-rail fence, all of which will be added over time. The first permanent addition is the arbor (thanks again to Bill Glenn, Bill Littmann, Zachary Fisher, Nick Chapin and Richard Bennett for their installation expertise), which marks the entrance to the Bower. For

an idea of what the Bower will ultimately look and feel like, look for the beautiful watercolor rendering by our own Elizabeth McClellan which will soon hang just inside the glass doors at the entrance to the school.

After School Emergency Phone

In order to reach the after school program teachers between 5 and 6 p.m., please use this new phone number: (415) 595-1965. It is appropriate to contact teachers in the event of an emergency, a late pick-up and/or any changes that need to be relayed to students or teachers.

Kid Chow

Have you given Kid Chow a try? Kid Chow serves a selection of seasonal organic fruits and vegetables, sandwiches, pastas, salads, vegetarian sushi, yogurt parfaits and more. Kid Chow's lunches are ordered via the web at www.kid-chow.com. You may order lunches as often as you like to suit your schedule and budget. There is no set weekly minimum. Kid Chow's ordering deadline is Monday, the week prior to the upcoming lunch week. If you have any questions about Kid Chow's lunches, please contact Kid Chow at 552-7111.

Events

Spring Celebration & Auction

By now you should have received your white folders, containing everything you need to know to get involved with the Spring Celebration & Auction. If you have not received your packet please contact one of the volunteers below and we'll be sure to get one to you.

We are asking all families to try and donate or solicit two items and we'd like to thank those families who have already donated items. For any donation questions, suggestions or ideas please contact Tina Corse at (415) 516 5297 or email tjcorse@comcast.net.

We are still looking for volunteers to help so please try and come to the next auction meeting on Tuesday, January 25 at 4:30 p.m. in the library.

Emma Donovan, 415 861 4283,
ed@globeconsultants.com

Stephanie Scarpulla, 415 206 1107
Stephanie@bluebird.com

Extended Program News

MLK March

Thanks to those of you who participated in the CDS contingent of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. march and celebration. It was a great success! Please check the bulletin board across from the 6th grade classroom to see pictures and student-made signs from the celebration.

Winter Enrichment Classes

Classes are underway! Please call if you have any questions or check the after school program bulletin board for further details.

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 graders participate, but only two families have turned in their registration forms. If you are interested, please call Jenna at x15 ASAP.

Upcoming PM Field Trips

Monday, January 24: 1st and 3rd Graders, KidPower Park 3-5 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.

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball Calendar

Monday, January 24, Boys, 3:45 p.m.
San Francisco School, 300 Gavin Street

Saturday, January 29, Girls, 11 a.m., Boys, 12 p.m.
French American School, 150 Oak Street

Please continue to come out and support the Bulldog basketball teams. The season is just getting started and is bound to be phenomenal!

Upcoming Dates

Monday, February 7

6:30-8:30 p.m.

State of the School Night

Thursday, February 10

Parent/Teacher Conferences

No School

No Extended Program

Friday, February 11

Parent/Teacher Conferences

No School

No Extended Program

Friday, February 11

Reenrollment Contracts Mailed

Friday, February 18

Reenrollment Contracts Due

With 10% Deposit

Saturday, March 19

6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Spring Celebration & Auction

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.

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