



March 3, 2005

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Inspiration

The fourth and fifth grade students went to the Fairmont Hotel yesterday to listen to Nobel Laureate, Wangari Maathai speak. Dr. Maathai grew up in Kenya in the forties and fifties where her job, like most women, was to gather wood and cook. Just as one of our kids might, she noticed that wood was getting harder and harder to find and the practice of cutting down the forest was not only a dead-end (they were running out of wood), but was also degrading her environment. She did a sensible thing. She started planting trees.

World Affairs Council of Northern California celebrated Wangari Maathai because, "She is a voice for sustainable development, environmental protection, democracy and peace. As founder of the Green Belt Movement, she has challenged conventional wisdom and opened new avenues for citizen action. She is emblematic of the kind of leader who is changing our world. While global stewardship is a collective enterprise, Wangari Maathai reminds us of the power of one brave individual."

Could our students have a better example of what an educated person looks like? It's so easy for our children to grow up feeling powerless in a world that sometimes seems like a runaway locomotive. We all need examples to remind us that one person can make a difference.

It is also a reminder to us, the adults responsible for our children's education, about the appropriate use of school. The idea that the main purpose of school is to teach students academic skills pales when you think that school could actually inspire a child to make something of themselves and positively impact the world around them.

The notion of school as an inspiration factory rather than an achievement mill is developmentally appropriate, too. Kids give us fleeting glimpses of their readiness to be inspired all of the time (a second grader giving me a "proposal" to teach an elective, a kindergartner saying, "someone has got to turn off that cell phone, we are trying to learn in here.")The trick for all of us is to keep our eyes out for those sparks of enthusiasm and be ready to fan them into flames of desire.

Congratulations to Paula and Amanda for seeing an opportunity and taking it. They are showing us that the real purpose is not to "learn about Africa," but to use a study of Africa to learn about one's relationship to the world.

### Hot Dates

Friday, March 4  
10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday assembly  
Tadpole class presenting

Wednesday, March 9  
7-9 p.m.

Parent education night  
Faculty lounge

Saturday, March 19  
6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Spring Celebration & Auction  
Annunciation Cathedral  
245 Valencia Street



## Thank You!

- To the Starfish class parents for providing a delicious staff and faculty appreciation breakfast.
- To Discount Builders Supply for donating wood for woodworking projects in the preschool classrooms.
- To Georgia McNamara for donating a laptop bag to the David Minus Science Center.

## The Dirt

### Hummingbird Project

The fourth and fifth grade class is studying hummingbirds this spring as part of a larger school-wide pollinator project. As part of the study they are making hummingbird feeders they will hang up at school and maintain. They will also spend time observing hummingbirds and tracking their use of the feeders. If you are interested in seeing some of the hummingbirds that live at CDS, there are two reliable places you can look. One place is the small tree in the parking lot directly across from the double doors. If you walk up to the tree you can actually see a teeny tiny hummingbird nest. The nest is quite beautifully laced with lichen in varying shades of green. It is also very fragile so be sure not to touch it! The other reliable place you can see hummingbirds is near the Mexican sage (large bush with purple flowers) in the garden.

### Eatwell Farm

Did you know that Eatwell Farm delivers boxes of their fruit and vegetables to CDS each Wednesday? Everything is grown near San Francisco and almost entirely on Eatwell Farm, a 65-acre organic family farm. The produce is delicious and the cost is less than if you bought the equivalent at a store. Plus you get the benefit of supporting a farm and being part of the organic food community. Supporting Eatwell Farm is also supporting CDS because Eatwell Farm is the provider of the fruit and vegetables that CDS kids eat as snacks during the day.

Subscribers can receive a box every week or every other week. For more information, or to sign up, visit their website at [www.eatwell.com](http://www.eatwell.com). Or you can call Tom, the box manager, at 800-648-9894. Misty Cummings (x21) is the CDS contact person for Eatwell Farm.

## From the Office

### Class Photos

Mugshots will take class photos on Tuesday, March 22, beginning at 9 a.m.

## From the Students

### Attention Animal Lovers

There is a new club in the 3rd grade, but all students are welcome. It is called the Society to Save Almost Endangered Animals and we would love your help in protecting the many almost endangered animals. Our first challenge is to help the otter population grow and stay healthy. We are beginning by asking all cat owners to please not flush cat litter down the toilet or compost it! Cat litter is dangerous to otters when it enters the ocean, where it can give otters a disease called toxoplasmosis. Instead of flushing or composting cat litter, it should be carefully thrown away in sealed plastic bags. To find out more information about how cat owners can protect sea otters, please read these articles:

<http://cats.about.com/cs/parasiticdisease/a/seaotters.htm>

[http://cats.about.com/cs/parasiticdisease/a/seaotters\\_2.htm](http://cats.about.com/cs/parasiticdisease/a/seaotters_2.htm)

If you'd like to join our club, please contact Celeste Kamiya, Kaitlin McKinnon, Jamie Gravittwood or Sally Khomikh at school.

### HyperStudio Final Projects

Come see the HyperStudio elective final projects at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8 in the science room. Gus Becker, Jamie Gravittwood, Taesia Turner and Elise Marlin will present their work. All are welcome!

## Events

### Parent Education Night

Parent Education night will take place on Wednesday, March 9 from 7-9 p.m. Your favorite teachers will be imparting their vast knowledge about developmentally appropriate behaviors for your child. Food, beverages and free childcare will be provided. Please call Rose at x10 to RSVP.

## Spring Celebration & Auction

### Auction Quilts

The Spring Celebration & Auction is just around the corner. The class quilts (created and designed by students, teachers and parents) are now on display in the first floor entryway and hallway. Please come and view these stunning quilts before the live auction when you will get the chance to bid on these one-of-a-kind art pieces.

## Extended Program News

### Winter Enrichment Classes

Afternoon enrichment classes officially end on Friday, March 4. A make-up week is scheduled for the week of March 7-11. Please check the PM bulletin board and student backpacks on Thursday for a list of classes that will be holding make-up sessions.

### Upcoming PM Field Trips

Friday, February 4: The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be going to the 826 Valencia pirate store from 3:30-5 p.m.

### Holy Family Day Home

We will continue with our reading project at the Holy Family Day Home on Tuesdays from 4-4:45 p.m.. It's been going very well. Thanks to all for participating. If you would like your middle school student to join us, call Jenna at x15.

### Summer Camp 2005

Everyone should have received summer camp registration packets. If you have not, more are available at the front desk. Enrollment has started and is open to non-CDS families so if you are interested in having your child participate, please turn in your forms soon.

### Spring Vacation Camp

Registration forms for the spring vacation camp were sent home in backpacks before February vacation. The spring vacation camp will run from March 28-April 1. Please sign up as soon as possible if you'd like your child to participate. The theme for the camp is *Urban Wildlife*.

## February Camp Highlights

Last week's vacation camp was incredible! Highlights included learning how to make Vietnamese spring rolls, a visit to Mission Dolores, time in the gym at the Boys and Girls Club, a field trip to a local mechanic's shop, a hike to Corona Peak and a mural tour with Precita Eyes Mural Center. Thank you to all who participated.

## Go Bulldogs!

### Boys Basketball Scores

February 16, CDS vs. Chinese American School  
CDS 39, CAIS 8

February 17, CDS vs. Synergy  
Synergy 21, CDS 16

### Girls Basketball Scores

February 16, CDS vs. Chinese American School  
CAIS 23, CDS 16

### Season Highlights

The girls basketball team finished their first season playing The San Francisco School and Chinese American School. They continued to improve every game and always gave 100% on the court. Each and every player exhibited great team effort!

The boys basketball team finished their season with 4 wins and 3 losses, missing the playoffs by just one game. Everyone who participated did a fantastic job and the Bulldogs will definitely make the playoffs next year.

### Futsal (indoor soccer)

The next CDS sport is futsal. If you are interested in playing with the boys and girls futsal team, please contact Mr. Jim.

## Hola Familias de CDS

Hola a todas las familias de CDS!

The Spanish department is glad to be back in school after the break and we hope you all had a wonderful vacation. This week we would like to give you some hints on how to help your child practice speaking Spanish outside of the classroom.

PBS has many popular kids shows in Spanish on Saturday mornings such as Dragon Tales and Arthur. This will help them to hear Spanish in a different context and enhance their ability to hear the sounds of the language. Renting popular movies in Spanish is another way to help them hear the language. Why not visit that popular Spanish speaking restaurant in your neighborhood and let your child order your meal for you? Also, the phrase of the week will help you begin your day by asking them how they slept in Spanish.

Kindergarten students are learning vocabulary about flowers and the song *De Colores*.

1<sup>st</sup> grade students are also learning the song *De Colores* and are studying syllables and vocabulary such as *gracias* (thank you).

2<sup>nd</sup> graders are beginning a unit about food and are learning commands and actions using total physical response techniques.

3<sup>rd</sup> graders are putting together some wonderful plays using the vocabulary and verbs they've been studying.

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade students are taking the verbs they've been studying and are making skits using the verbs in their correct conjugations.

Ms Gladys' 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are studying the verb *tener* (to have) and are creating a dialogue about being at a hotel.

Ms Geddes' 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are studying the past tenses in Spanish and are completing their biographies which will end in an oral presentation to the class.

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

*Como amaneciste?* How did you sleep?

— Spanish Department

## Upcoming Dates

**Monday, March 14**

Professional day

No school

No extended program

**Tuesday, March 22**

9 a.m.

Class photos by Mugshots

**March 28-April 1**

Spring vacation

No school

Spring vacation camp offered

Children's Day School

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