



March 10, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Inspiration, Part Two

Last week I reported that the fourth and fifth graders went to hear Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai speak. I thought it would be inspirational for them, but with kids you never know what they will get from a lecture by an adult. Normally, one would expect them to find it long and boring. However, Dr. Maathai's story of growing up in poverty, making the simple decision to plant trees and ultimately winning the Nobel Prize, was compelling. Here is what some of the students said after the lecture:

"I learned that sometimes you feel like things are out of control, but when you can take control of the thing, it feels way easier."

"She was just someone who wanted to help the world."

"We can make a difference, too."

"Even if you can't do very much, you should still do something, because something is better than nothing."

"If you do a little bit, it's still good because you're doing something. You don't have to be wealthy to change the world"

"She was smart to notice what was going on around her and do something. She started by just planting one tree."

One interesting spin-off from this adventure has to do with someone else, Mohandas Gandhi. When Dr. Maathai mentioned his name as an inspiration for her, an electric current of recognition went through the class. The class studied Gandhi as part of their India project last fall. This added fuel to a class already fired up about social justice. They had learned something I imagine most of us did not know, that Gandhi never won the Nobel Prize.

The fourth and fifth grade class is preparing an internet petition including the following message and call to action:

A great wrong has been done to the Indian people and to the world as a whole by overlooking Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) in the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Peace. M.K. Gandhi is today the strongest symbol of non-violence to emerge in the 20th century. Though he was nominated several times for the Prize (1937, 1938, 1939, 1947 and, finally, a few days before his assassination in January of 1948), he was never awarded the prize.

We, the students of Children's Day School of San Francisco, the city of Saint Francis, and our friends throughout the world who have registered here, believe that M.K. Gandhi should have been selected and honored with this prize. He has been nominated twice by former award recipients: the Quakers, as a group, who received the prize in 1947, and Emily Green Balch, who received her prize in 1946. In addition, in 1989 when the 14th Dalai Lama was selected for the prize, the chairman of the Nobel Committee said that the prize was given, "in part as a tribute to the

Hot Dates

Friday, March 11

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Leaping lizard class presenting

Monday, March 14

Professional day

No school

No extended program

Saturday, March 19

6 p.m.-12 a.m.

Spring Celebration & Auction

Annunciation Cathedral

245 Valencia Street



Thank You!

- To all students, teachers and quilters who helped to design and create the beautiful class quilts: Tina Corse, Laurance de Vries, Amy Hecht, Debbie Jasso, Beth Mazie, Georgia McNamara, Merrill Buice, Susan Chastain, Diana Hunt, Theresa Petry, Laurie van Loben Sels, Robin Wander, Kathryn Selleck, Liz Terbolizard, Alexandra Strashnaya, Wini von Ehrenburg, Don Zirulnik, Kristen Wurz, Meredith Dwyer, Sanlin Cory and Victoria Woolard.
- To Tacy Gaede for providing food for the Parent Education Night and to the teachers for providing their expertise for the evening.
- To Marianne Evans, Karen Georgiades and Pat Rose for helping out with the kindergarten admission visits.

memory of Mahatma Gandhi."

In 1948, the year of Gandhi's death, the Nobel committee decided to award no prize despite the fact that he was at the time a member of the short list of 3. In 1949 they decided not to spend the prize money for 1948. What many thought should have been Mahatma Gandhi's place on the list of Laureates was "silently but respectfully left open" as noted by Øyvind Tonnesson, Nobel e-Museum Peace Editor, 1998-2000. It is time to make this right. The blank spot left in the roles of Nobel Laureates in 1948 needs to be filled with the name of the man who earned it then and has, even since his death, continued to inspire those who champion the cause of peace.

Young people want to have opportunities to make a difference—at least CDS students do. It is one thing to know something about a leader like Gandhi, but it is even more remarkable when young people get inspired as a class to take action for justice. Good job fourth and fifth grade.

The Dirt

Helping Native Plants

The first grade class went on a field trip last week to the Ft. Funston Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We participated in a native plant restoration project by removing ice plants up on the coastal dunes. The first graders took a lot of pride in pulling out super long pieces of ice plant, some of which were longer than the students! Ice plant is an invasive plant that quickly out-competes the native plants that wildlife depend on for food and shelter. One animal that depends on the native plants is the endangered bank swallow which nests along the sand cliffs at Ft. Funston and feeds on insects that are attracted to the native coastal brush plants that grow on the dunes. Thank you first graders for helping to take care of our Bay Area plants and animals!

From the Office

First Week of School

Mark your calendars! Here are the dates for the beginning of the 2005-06 school year.

- Monday and Tuesday, 8/29-8/30: parent/teacher conferences
- Wednesday, 8/31: preschool and kindergarten orientation
- Thursday, 9/1: first day of school

Go Bulldogs!

Futsal coach needed!

The CDS athletes are in need of a futsal (indoor soccer) coach for the spring season. If you are interested in volunteering to coach the girls and boys team, please contact Mr. Jim at x17 by Tuesday, March 15.

Events

Spring Celebration & Auction

Saturday, March 19, 2005

6 p.m.-12 a.m.

Annunciation Cathedral

245 Valencia Street

The Spring Celebration & Auction is nearly here and we look forward to seeing you all there!

Silent Auction

Arrive at 6 p.m. for champagne and hors d'oeuvres and a chance to browse the silent auction. Come early to secure your place for the "first come, first serve" silent auction items. Be first in line for the following items:

- Women's hike and brunch - first 8 women
- Champagne & Schubert - first 15 families
- Cocktails with Kate - first 25 women
- Kilimanjaro slide show and buffet - first 18 people

Dinner

Work up an appetite for the delicious buffet dinner beginning at 7:45 p.m.

Raffle

The raffle is an exciting addition to the event this year. The lucky winner will have the choice of any live auction item (except for the African Safari).

The raffle drawing will take place at 8:30 p.m., just prior to the live auction. The cost is \$100 per ticket and tickets will be available from Rose at the front desk until 3 p.m. on Friday, March 18.

Tickets will also be available at the event front desk from 6-7 p.m. (subject to availability). Only 100 tickets have been printed.

Event Tickets

Event tickets are available now until Friday, March 18, and can be purchased every morning at CDS drop-off.

Even if you can't make it to the celebration you are still welcome to purchase tickets for CDS teachers!

Childcare

Childcare will be available during the event at CDS from 5:45-midnight. The cost is \$5 an hour per child, to be paid in cash at the end of the night. Please sign up with Rose at the front desk by Thursday, March 17.

Live Auction Items

The beautiful quilts are back and each CDS class is represented. See the quilts displayed in the first floor hallway. The following items can also be bid on during the live auction:

- A day on the Bay - sailing & lunch
- Two Sonoma home retreats
- Russian River vacation
- Puerto Vallarta vacations
- A week in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
- Plane ride over the Bay
- Portrait by Elizabeth McClellan
- Vermont vacation package
- African safari for two

Music & Dancing

Uplifting sound will be presented by London based DJ, Crazy Gaz.

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.

Student Art Show

We are happy to announce that CDS will be having a student art show at Flax, a local art supply store, during the month of April. What started as an idea to display Ms. Amanda's photographs of the Ganges River in India and corresponding writing by the 4th/5th grade class, turned into a grander idea of an all-school art show exhibiting the work of students in our fabulous art program. Ms. Karen, Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Amanda are working to prepare various pieces from students in all grades for the exhibition. There will be three themes: the India photographs with writing and painting done by the 4th/5th grade class, ceramic work and sculpture from all grades, and wool and fiber art exhibiting the integration of our farm into the CDS curriculum. The artwork will be displayed throughout the store for one month. This is a great opportunity to share our school's mission and art program with the greater community and display the amazing artwork our students produce throughout the year. Please make a special trip to Flax (at Valencia and Market streets) to support student art and encourage your family and friends to visit as well.

Extended Program News

Winter Enrichment Classes

Friday, March 11 marks the end of winter enrichment classes. Thank you to all who participated. Spring class registration packets will be sent home the week of March 21.

Upcoming Field Trips

Friday, March 11: 1st and 2nd graders will be going to KidPower park from 3-4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 11: 4-7th graders will be spending the afternoon at Dolores Park from 3:30-5:30 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 has been going very well. 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 haven't, 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. There are extra registration forms at the front desk. The theme for the camp is *Urban Wildlife*.

Hola Familias de CDS

Hola a todas las familias de CDS!

The students in Spanish classes are working hard on their respective endeavors.

The kindergarten class is studying how to make a crown and how to make and decorate a piñata.

1st graders are studying words such as *flor* (flower) and *margaritas* (daisies.)

3rd grade students are completing small role plays which they will film on Thursday.

4/5th graders are working on skits using the regular present tense verbs.

Ms Gladys' 6th and 7th grade students are learning the days of the week in Spanish.

Ms Geddes' 6th and 7th grade students are completing their biographies. They will then work on children's stories which they will make into Spanish picture books for kindergarten students. The oral component of that activity will be to read the books to the kindergartners.

La frase de la semana.

The phrase of the week (from 1st grade).

Mariposa bonita. Pretty butterfly.

Don't forget to help your child speak Spanish outside of the classroom. We will be posting more hints on how to do this in the next newsletter.

— Spanish Department

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, March 22
9 a.m.

Class photos by Mugshots

March 28-April 1

Spring vacation

No school

Spring vacation camp offered

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