



March 24, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Thought for the Week from a Colleague

Donna Rowland, who visited last Friday as a candidate for Assistant Head of School, sent me this note that her boss, Bernie Noe, the Head of Lakeside School in Seattle, WA, sent to the faculty last week.

“With second trimester comments due today, you may not have read the “Close Up” feature in Sunday’s *Seattle Times*. The study was sobering and worth sharing with you, as some of you are living its reality and all of us are working with families for whom, “Lives [Are] Structured to a Fault.” Scientists at UCLA spent the last four years observing 32 Los Angeles families to determine how they live their daily lives. This is one of six long-term projects examining the intersection between family life and work.

“The study’s requirements were to find households with two parents who work outside the home, pay a mortgage and have two or three school-aged children. Participants were paid \$1,000 and drawn from various ethnic groups living in far-flung parts of greater LA. Each family was observed over a week’s time and real reactions and conversations were documented as the day unfolded.

“Four trends emerged. First (and most worrisome) was how indifferently people treat each other, especially when they reunite at the day’s end. The study’s director reported, ‘Elsewhere in the world, in all societies, there is some kind of greeting. But here, the kids aren’t greeting the parents and the parents are allowing it to go on. They are tiptoeing around their children.’

“Second, there is little time for daydreaming. Time is structured from morning to evening. Not only do American kids spend less time at home and virtually no time in the yard, but play time tends to be organized and supervised by adults.

“A third hallmark of the families studied is clutter. The archeologist planned to treat each house like a dig site, cataloguing and mapping family belongings as artifacts, but there was too much stuff. Her staff resorted to taking thousands of photographs. ‘The world has never seen consumption on this scale. Every week more is arriving. People can’t stop.’

“Finally, a fourth family trend, created by the clashing of schedules and clutter, is flux. Families gathered in the same room just 16% of the time. In five homes the entire family was never in the same room while scientists were observing. In only six families did the parents spend more than 10% of their waking hours in the same room without a child present. ‘People just don’t come together very frequently in our society. They may say they want community, but they don’t seek it.’

Hot Dates

Friday, March 25
10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Seventh grade class presenting

March 28-April 1

Spring vacation
No school
Spring vacation camp offered

Sunday, April 3

Daylight savings time begins

Tuesday, April 5

4:30-5:45 p.m.
PTTA meeting
Faculty lounge



Thank You!

- Three cheers for the whole team of auction volunteers for a fantastic evening of fun and shopping last Saturday. Many people contributed to this event: auction co-chairs Emma Donovan and Stephanie Scarpulla, volunteer team leaders Tina Corse, Robin McClarren, Wini von Ehrenburg, Karen Axel, Jackie Haslam, Steve Donovan, Lisa Eltinge, Ynze Byl and Anne Funsten, as well as all of the parents, teachers, staff, trustees and guests who helped make this a true community celebration.
- To Liam Branch and Riley Timken for bringing in plants for the pollinator garden.
- To Amy Howard, massage therapist at San Francisco Body Therapy (1041 Guerrero Street), for providing stress relief for CDS teachers and personally delivering gift certificates.

“While you might think the sample is limited or that the families studied reflect the unique lifestyle of Southern California, I encourage you to think about what these trends mean as we educate the next generation. Are the values that Lakeside School espouses congruent with those of our students’ families? Society at large? I believe we agree that it is important to notice one another and treat each other with respect; to reflect, dream and nurture creativity; to conserve our natural and man-made resources and give generously of our time and talents to those with less; and to foster community intentionally each and every day.”

Well, I couldn’t have said it better myself. Perhaps this research would be useful material for a parent education night.

Sending the weekly out by e-mail and mail seems to encourage letters to the editor. We welcome your feedback as well as thoughts, ideas and questions that the *Weekly* provokes. I encourage you to reply to [cgsweekly@cgs-sf.org](mailto:cdsweekly@cds-sf.org) with your reactions. Perhaps with this kind of feedback we can engage in dialogue.

The Dirt

Flower and Garden Show

Last week the first and second grade students went to the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show to see their gardens in the Dirt Mama’s Children’s Garden. The first grade entered a rainbow garden full of colorful plants and artwork that they designed with Ms. Elizabeth. The second grade entered a mosaic garden using low growing plants to create a pattern and a backboard with mosaic artwork inspired by Ms. Karen. One of the highlights for the group of children was the landscape designs that incorporated running water and good smelling flowers. At one point during the day I looked over to see Xenia completely captivated by an exhibit. Xenia’s face was literally touching some jasmine as she watched a small waterfall. It was such a peaceful sight amongst a bustling crowd of people moving about the exhibition floor.

From the Office

Auction Success

The good news keeps coming regarding the Spring Celebration & Auction – it was both a great party and a very impressive fundraiser. Although we are still working out final details on income and expenses, it looks like the event will net over \$82,000 for the CDS Annual Fund, bringing us very near our total annual fund goal for the year. A record 300 or more guests attended and joined in the fun and shopping. So much work goes into this event every year – from parents and teachers who begin quilting projects in the fall to florists and designers who make the room beautiful to behind-the-scenes volunteers who enter data, produce programs and invitations, organize, catalog and display more than 500 items and huddle over laptops on the night of the event. From all of us in the administration, thank you for all of your hard work and good cheer and for bringing community together for a great celebration in support of our school.

Auction Photos

Second grade dad John Kraus has been busy printing and putting finishing touches on the amazing portraits he took at the auction. They are full of smiling faces and provide a beautiful record of the festive spirit of the event and of CDS families in general. Photos will be ready for pick-up at school on Monday, April 4, after next week’s vacation and a display for the first floor hallway is in the works.

Lost & Found

Come and claim your lost items today and tomorrow during drop-off and pick-up. Items will be displayed on the gates or inside in the first floor hallway (weather depending) and will be promptly delivered to Community Thrift on Friday afternoon.

From the Students

Yearbook Photographs

If you have photos from any school event, the CDS yearbook staff would love to use them in our yearbook. We are in need of photos from everything from basketball games to the winter performance. We will also accept digital video images.

If you have any of the above, please e-mail the yearbook staff at cdsyearbook@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Events

Country Fair

On Saturday, May 7 all will be sunshine, smiles and laughter at the CDS Country Fair. The famous pie-eating contest will be back, as will the delectable CDS BBQ, the country market featuring the bounty of our garden and other handiworks: wool washing, spinning, face painting, performance, bake sale, midway games, tug-of-war and other good natured contests. Festivities begin with sheep shearing at 11 a.m. The Country Fair is a celebratory event that caps our school year. Admission is free and everyone is invited to participate. We hope all families and staff will consider signing up to work a half-hour shift during the fair. More details will follow after spring break. Watch and listen for your chance to flip burgers, oversee the churning of ice cream, assist with jewelry-making and other creations or count change at the bake sale. Call or e-mail Sally Nielsen with questions and ideas at 415-861-4575 or sally@keller.com.

Auction Vases

If you took home a centerpiece from the Spring Celebration & Auction, please return the vases to a box located next to Rose's desk.

Extended Program News

Summer Camp

Everyone should have received a summer camp registration packet. If not, there are more available at the front desk. Enrollment has started and is open to non-CDS families. If you are interested in having your child participate, please register soon. Camp spaces are limited and are filling up.

Spring Vacation Camp

The theme for the camp is *Urban Wildlife*. We are looking forward to an exciting week of adventure-filled activities. Thanks to those who signed up!

Spring Enrichment Classes

Classes begin again the week of April 11. Complete (and exciting) registration packets will be sent home before spring break. If you do not receive one, please pick one up at the front desk beginning Friday, March 25.

PTTA Update

Thank You and New Ideas

The PTTA has spent the last two meetings discussing ways we can improve some of our current community building programs. There is great energy for our school and our community at these meetings and I would like to take this chance to thank the parents, teachers and administrators who participated in the discussions. In particular, thank you to faculty and administration members Brittany, Misty, Ngoc, Rick, Marion and Aimee and to all the classroom liaisons and parents for sharing ideas and enthusiasm. It makes our jobs as PTTA officers fun when we get to collaborate with such terrific people.

One of the key ideas to come out of these discussions is the addition of our new Welcoming/Community Committee (suggestions for better names for this committee are welcome!). Laura Pliska, mother of Starfish Iliana, will head up this committee whose focus will be to strengthen our community of new and returning families. Next year, a classroom liaison in each of the classes will work with Laura in these efforts and we are hoping other parents will be interested in helping as well. If you are interested in knowing more, would like to join the committee, or wish to suggest a parent we might want to ask to join, please don't hesitate to contact me, Laura or Amanda Richard.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5 from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the faculty lounge. Agenda items include a continuation of our parent volunteerism discussions and plans for some of this year and next year's PTTA events. At this meeting I will also have the pleasure of introducing next year's PTTA officers—VP/Classroom Liaisons, Amanda Richard (3rd grader Marina, kindergartener Serena and Leaping Lizard Ciara), VP/Parent Volunteers, Emma Donovan (1st grader Harriett and Tadpole Alice), VP/Community Committee, Laura Pliska (Starfish Iliana Pliska-Bloch) and Ray Baxter, Secretary (kindergartner Roland and next year's preschooler Martha). I am absolutely thrilled to have such a great group of new and veteran officers to work with next year and I hope you will join me in welcoming them aboard.

As always, childcare for the April 5 meeting is free if you sign up the day of the meeting. If you are interested in adding to the discussions, but will be unable to make the meeting, feel free to contact me or any of the other PTTA officers to chat and share ideas.

Thank you for all your continued help and support.

Marianne Evans, PTTA President

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.

Upcoming Dates

Monday, April 11

Spring enrichment classes begin

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Contact Mary to receive the *Weekly* via email





