



April 14, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

This week's column is guest written by Emilie Robrbach, CDS music and drama teacher.

Something Wicked This Way Comes... To CDS

Ahh...Shakespeare. From tongue twisters to love sonnets, from the comedy of a dream one midsummer's night to the tragedy of Hamlet, Shakespeare has something for everyone, as long as you have the patience to dissect old English and a passion for laughter and moral dilemmas. As we've studied Shakespeare this year, particularly *Macbeth*, I have found myself in quite a few dynamic ethical discussions with the seventh graders. *Macbeth* provides a backdrop to address those questions we start to ask as adolescents and revisit often over the course of our lives. What is death? Is it possible for one to have good *and* evil inside of them? What does it take to stand up to someone who is causing harm? What does it mean to be a traitor and how do you define loyalty? How is it possible that someone can do no wrong and still not be safe? How can greed build so much momentum and be so destructive?

Our *Macbeth* is about teamwork. Instead of having a few select students take on lead roles, we chose to do a scene study - seven scenes in all - in which each actor has the chance to experience the demands and rewards of a lead role, particularly the challenge of breaking apart and rebuilding a complex character in order to truly understand his or her motivations. Every scene is separate, yet woven into the larger fabric of our performance with the help of narrators in between each scene to keep the story fluid. We have five Macbeths (six, if you count our understudy who will perform Friday night) and three Lady Macbeths. Our audience will need to be proactive in order to avoid being confused. We hope you understand.

Our *Macbeth* is about hard work. These students (and their parents, bless them) have had quite a few seven a.m. rehearsals in order to bring their work to performance level. They've written character studies and memorized hundreds of lines. They've come to know the monotony and precision of blocking, the rigors of playing several characters and the task of mastering their stage fright, which often rears its ugly head in the form of incessant giggles.

Our *Macbeth* is also, perhaps most importantly, about nurturing strengths and talents inside of us that we may not know we have. Emme is our costume designer, with the help of devoted parents and an amazing art department. Max and Haden are stage combat coaches. Sonja stepped up two weeks before the performance to take on understudying a lead role. Beth has a death scene. Teija goes insane. Kathy is able to scream onstage. The list goes on and on.

I am unbelievably proud of these students. Beginning with our trip to Ashland,

Hot Dates

Thursday, April 14

5:30 p.m.

2nd and 3rd grade girls soccer game
Boys and Girls Club gymnasium

Friday, April 15

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Fourth/fifth grade presenting

Thurs., April 21 & Fri., April 22

8 p.m.

As I Descended: A Scene Study of Macbeth
Third floor stage

Friday, April 22

10:15 a.m.

Earth Day celebration
CDS yard



Thank You!

- To Ray Baxter, Sonia Martinez, Georgia McNamara and Amanda Richard for making individual “welcome” calls to all the newly enrolled CDS families who will be joining us in the fall.
- To Sanlin Cory for her recent donations of toys, games, books and music tapes to the after school program.
- To all of the families who have brought in and continue to bring in plants for the pollinator garden.

Oregon in October and ending with the proverbial curtain call at the end of the show next Friday night, they will have spent a full school year studying the most influential playwright in the world. As a result of their studies, they have created a performance that has heart and soul and is entirely unique. Come join us next Thursday and Friday night at 8 p.m. on the third floor for our production, *As I Descended: A Scene Study of Macbeth*, and see what all the fuss is about...just don't say his name!

The Dirt

Family Farmer Training

The summer family farmer training will be held Saturday, May 21, in the CDS farm and garden. The training will last approximately one hour and will provide you with all of the information you need to care for the animals and the garden. We have space for ten families (a maximum of five during each time slot) so please RSVP to sign up for a training at 9 or 10 a.m. (Hopefully, childcare will be provided because the training is for adults only.) Remember to bring your calendars as we will be scheduling dates for the next four months. If the training fills up you will be given priority in September at the next family farmer training. If you were already trained this year and want to be a family farmer just call ahead to let me know and show up at 11 a.m. to choose weekends. We only have room for five families that have already been trained so please RSVP. You only need to commit to two weekends and/or holidays during the next four months and in return you'll have the chance to bury your fingers in 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

Goodbye Amanda

For 3 wonderful years I've been fortunate to be a part of this growing community. It has been a rich learning experience and I will miss all aspects of CDS very much: my friends and co-workers, parents and the kids. In 2002, I remember stepping into the office and saying to Aimee and Rick, “we need a newsletter,” and here began *The CDS Weekly*, among so many other things that have continued to evolve. I will be leaving CDS to pursue my passions of writing, photography, travel and whatever else should come into my path. I will spend the summer working on my travel memoir in Idaho and then continuing my studies in Oaxaca, Mexico, learning how to teach photography and writing to children.

I'm lucky to have found this community and to have experienced support and growth opportunities by giving to and learning with the best educational institution I know. I hope to be back in San Francisco in the fall and hope to teach a CDS elective or two. That said, we have begun our search for a new Assistant to the Head. We trust that you know the kind of people who would like to work here, so please check the CDS website in the coming days for a full job description.

And, if you ever need wonderful photographs of your children in their element, drop me an e-mail through my website at www.cogginphoto.com.

Love,
Amanda Coggin

Assistant to the Head

We have an exciting position open at CDS – the Assistant to Head of School. The position reports to the Head of School and will provide high-level administrative support to the Head and Assistant Head of School as well as the Board of Trustees. In addition, the new Assistant will manage our administrative support staff, coordinate technology for the school and help organize school events such as Parent Education Night, State-Of-The-School Night and Back-To-School Night. This position provides a great opportunity to be involved in the daily administrative operations of CDS and all of the exiting projects that happen here regularly. To view the detailed job description, please visit our website (www.cds-sf.org). If you are interested in the position or know of a great candidate, please have them send a cover letter and resume addressed to Mary DeNardo.

Parking Reminder

Spring is here! What a perfect time to remember guidelines for the parking lot at CDS. In the morning, please remember to use the north driveway and sidewalk when walking into school. It is much safer to walk against the flow of traffic. If driving to school in the morning or afternoon, please make sure you don't park behind any Notre Dame Plaza (NDP) cars or parking spots. Thanks for continuing to respect our neighborly relations and safety in the parking lot.

Events

Country Fair

Have you ever licked the dasher? Are you curious about sheep shearing? Have you been waiting all year for a chance to get really messy at the pie eating contest? From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 7 we will gather in the CDS yard to have fun, enjoy our children and friends and celebrate the creativity flowing from our classrooms and farm and garden.

Luscious barbecued oysters will be back. The bake sale features treats from our own kitchens; watermelon, lemonade and hand-cranked homemade ice cream round out the menu. The country market features handicrafts and delicious concoctions from the CDS garden. Fresh Eatwell Farm produce, an expanding array of CDS wearable items and children's titles from Chronicle Books will also be for sale.

There will be activities to engage the youngest pre-schoolers and we are planning mummy wraps and other crazy contests to challenge the middle schoolers.

Admission to the fair is free. In the spirit of the fair, everyone is called upon to donate time and energy to make it happen. In fact, some of the best ways to enjoy the fair are by judging a three-legged race or cupcake walk, doling out servings of fresh ice cream, trying your hand at face painting, experiencing the tactile pleasures of washing freshly shorn wool, flipping garden burgers on a six foot barbecue grill or monitoring cash flow at the bake sale and country market.

As in the past two years, we have assigned each class to specific activities. We are asking families to sign up for one or more ½ hour shifts on the day of the fair.

- 7th Grade: Games
- 6th Grade: Country market

- 4/5th Grade: Hand-cranked ice cream and CDS merchandise market
- 3rd Grade: Ticket sales
- 2nd Grade: Wool washing and fiber crafts
- 1st Grade: Break-down
- Kindergarten: Barbeque
- Leaping Lizards: Bake sale
- Starfish: Face painting and art table
- Tadpoles: Games

Please help make the fair a success by volunteering. Contact Sally Nielsen at 415-861-4575 or sally@keller.com to sign up for a shift today.

Hola Familias de CDS

Hola a todas las familias de CDS!

The kindergarten class has been studying how to play with friends and talking about safety, *la seguridad*.

The first graders have been studying *Yo tengo*, I have.

2nd graders have been learning how to say, *Como se escribe tu nombre y tu apellido?* (How do you write your name and your last name?) They are also learning how to say, *Como estas?* (How are you?) They respond, *Bien, gracias*.

3rd grade students have finished their skits and are now reviewing their sounds and greetings before moving on to reading short stories using total physical response storytelling.

The 4/5th graders are finishing their skits and will be working on a series called *cuenta me*, tell me.

Ms. Gladys' 6th and 7th graders are working on verbs and words for food preparation.

Ms. Geddes' 6th and 7th graders are reading the story of a rather odd man named Rodolfo and will be preparing an enactment of the story today. They will also be creating a map of their special interests and Geddes will be creating individual projects for each student based on those interests.

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

Como se escribe? How do you write?

— Spanish Department

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 already filling up. Camps that are almost full:

- Session I: Elementary Farm and Garden
- Session IV: Elementary Theater

Spring Enrichment Classes

Classes began on Monday, April 11. Please refer to the schedule posted on the PM bulletin board to double-check times or days.

After School Sports

CDS parent Mario DiGrande is offering a free sports workshop (students must be signed up for the after school program) every Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. for students in grades 2-7.

Boys and Girls Club

After school groups have a new schedule for visiting the Boys and Girls Club.

- 4/5th grade: Mondays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 3rd grade: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 2nd grade: Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 1st grade: Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Field Trip

On Friday, April 15, the fourth and fifth grade class will be participating in a Mission neighborhood mural walk during the after school program from 3:30-5:30 p.m. They will be viewing murals in Clarion Alley and at the Women's Building. Be sure to ask them about the neighborhood art they discovered.

Go Bulldogs!

Come out and support the CDS soccer players! Tonight the 2nd and 3rd grade girls soccer team will go head-to-head with the Boys and Girls Club team at 5:30 p.m. in the Boys and Girls Club gymnasium. See you there!

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, May 7
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Country Fair
CDS yard

Children's Day School

333 Dolores Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-861-5432 (ph)
415-861-5419 (fax)

www.cds-sf.org

Editor: Mary DeNardo, cdsweekly@cds-sf.org
Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.
Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via email





