



April 21, 2005

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Once More With Integrity

I received some comments from people about the *Weekly* article I wrote two weeks ago, "Growing Nice Kids." One person said that although she liked the point of the essay, she quibbled with the word "nice." To her, nice is not a particularly complimentary word. Kind, friendly, honest, generous—she hopes that her children will grow up to be these things, but "nice" is not on her values list. To her, nice just means socially inoffensive, and although that would be O.K., nice isn't necessarily something we should shoot for.

Good point. I'm sure she is in good company, too. What does "nice" mean, anyway? It is one of those words that seems to have been used to death. According to my dictionary it means a wide variety of things: "1) difficult to please; fastidious; refined 2) delicate; precise; discriminative; subtle (a nice distinction) 3) calling for great care, accuracy, tact, etc., as in handling a discrimination (a nice problem) 4) a) able to make fine or delicate distinctions; delicately skillful; finely discriminating b) minutely accurate, as instrument 5) having high standards of conduct; scrupulous."

Of course I was referring to CDS students (Samuel and Christian in particular), and meant nice as in the kind of person you enjoy being with. I think it is the most common usage of the word. John Schwartz wrote an article that appeared in the *New York Times* last Sunday about Colonel Eileen M. Collins, the first female shuttle commander. Schwartz wrote that, "Those who work with Colonel Collins invariably use the word 'nice.'" The article goes on to talk about the qualities that make up this star astronaut.

"Like many astronauts, she is unassuming, even cool."

"She brings far more to her role, providing support in ways that ease the long hours and tension of training."

"I don't think I've ever heard a negative comment regarding anybody come out of her mouth."

"She waited tables at a pizzeria to earn money for flying lessons, and she took the hardest classes, even though in those days few girls were encouraged to go into science and engineering."

"She values decisiveness and tries to provide it herself."

"She listens, listens, listens."

"People who are only nice don't get to be F-16 pilots," he said. "There is a backbone, competitiveness and a competence there in addition to a pleasant personality." But, Dr. Logsdon added, "Eileen really is nice."

Nice can be merely a pleasing personality, but I think there is a meaning of nice that encompasses most of the definitions in my dictionary as well as the

## Hot Dates

Thurs., April 21 & Fri., April 22  
8 p.m.

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

Friday, April 22

10-10:30 a.m.

Earth Day celebration  
Third grade presenting  
CDS yard

Saturday, April 30

9 a.m.

Spring Work Day  
CDS yard



## Thank You!

- To Tina Corse for donating fabric to the art department.
- To Sanlin Cory and Victoria Woollard for their help with the *Macbeth* sets and costumes.
- To Melissa DuBose for pruning and tending the happy plants near the CDS driveway.

descriptions of Colonel Collins. The challenge all of us face is to harmonize what we want with the needs and wants of our environment and especially the other human beings who are also striving to make something of themselves. To do this with a smile on your face is indeed nice, nice in the fullest sense of the word. It is nice when our competencies include enough self-control to get the job done in concert with others. It is nice when the ball slips through the net without touching the rim, nice when someone says just the right thing to a friend who is struggling with something, nice when a teacher finds just the right activity for giving a student the breakthrough they need, nice when the class comes together on a project and everyone feels like an important part of a communal success.

Nice guys finish last? I have never thought this was true. Nice can mean merely socially inoffensive. But this kind of nice can be lacking in integrity. Integrity is difficult because we do not exist in a vacuum, but in relationship to others. Making decisions which do justice to all of our relationships is tricky business and takes practice—like getting the ball to drop cleanly through the net—but it is our business. I value nice when it means acting with this kind of integrity because we are fully ourselves when all of our relationships are working right.

## The Dirt

### Preserve the Garden Classroom

Please remember that while the garden is a space intended to be enjoyed by everyone in the CDS community, it is also a classroom. The plants waiting to be planted in the garden are for class projects. Sometimes I purchase the plants and sometimes families buy them for class projects. This spring several plants that have been brought in by families for the pollinator garden have disappeared. If you happened to take them home or plant them somewhere I haven't noticed, please return them or let me know where they are. Please remember to ask before planting anything, taking plants home or using garden supplies. Thank you for your consideration.

## From the Office

### Fall Changes

As we approach the end of the school year, we also prepare for new beginnings. We want to let you know about some staff changes. Carrie Birgbauer and Madora Soutter, this year's first grade head teachers, will be leaving CDS after this school year. Carrie is planning a 3 month trip to Asia this fall, traveling to Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal and India. She is excited about scuba diving, cooking classes, lots of adventure, yoga and meditation while abroad. She'll miss everyone and is very grateful for her three years at CDS. Madora will be moving to Argentina for a year and hopes to travel around South America. She is very sad to leave CDS and a little nervous about going to a new country, but is excited to learn Spanish and live in a new culture. She hopes to return to CDS in the future and we hope to have a spot for her. Please join us in thanking them for all of their hard work and wishing them the best in their exciting endeavors.

We are pleased to announce that the new first grade team will include Jennifer Weiss (currently in kindergarten), Robyn Moss (currently in second grade) and Rose Haas (currently in administration). The second grade teachers will be Sara Switzman (currently in first grade), John Hooker (currently in Kindergarten) and Brittany Musler (currently in second grade). Candy Mabry will resume teaching in the kindergarten classroom and is still in the process of solidifying her team. We will announce the entire faculty and staff lineup at the end of the year. We are looking forward to a great upcoming year.

### Spring Work Day

On Saturday, April 30, all parents and middle school students are invited to perform spring cleaning outside at CDS in preparation for the Country Fair. Come at 9 a.m. and work as long as you can, beautifying the CDS yard. Pizza and beer (yes beer, for adults!) will be provided. Please RSVP with Candy at x11, [candym@cds-sf.org](mailto:candym@cds-sf.org) or with your classroom liaison.

## From the Students

### CDS Yearbook

The middle school students need your help in producing the first ever CDS Yearbook! In order to raise money to produce the yearbook they are selling advertisements for incredible prices.

- ¼ page: \$40
- ½ page: \$75
- Full page: \$100

They are also accepting donations in the form of printing costs, copies and the use of a digital camera. If you have questions, would like to make a donation or place an ad in the yearbook, please e-mail the yearbook committee at [cdsyearbook@yahoo.com](mailto:cdsyearbook@yahoo.com). Please note that ads are due by Friday, April 29. Thank you for your support.

## Events

### Country Fair

Saturday, May 7

11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Longer evenings and balmy weather means May is just around the corner...as is the CDS Country Fair. Come to the CDS yard to enjoy good company, good food (oysters will be on the BBQ again this year), old fashioned fun and games, wool washing, hand-churned homemade ice cream, a market brimming with produce, hand-made treasures and entertainment and activities for kids of all ages.

The sheep shearing opens the fair at 11 a.m. Then try your hand (or mouth) at the pie eating contest, cheer on the brave entrants in the mummy wrap or join a team for tug-of-war. Little ones will enjoy the ring toss and bean bag toss. The milk bottle pyramid was popular with all ages last year.

Remember that one of the best ways to enjoy the fair is to help out—and you don't have to come to any meetings! We need people to supervise games, races and the churning of ice cream. We also need help with face painting, simple arts and crafts, sales of baked goods and food tickets, staffing the barbeque grill and overseeing the student merchants at the Country Market and CDS merchandise booth. We also need a crew to help with set-up before the fair and we hope all will join in the community clean-up afterward. Please sign up for a ½ hour shift when your class liaison or contact calls you.

### Call for Bake Sale Donations

Add your own touch to the Country Fair by bringing baked goods to the bake sale, organized this year by the Leaping Lizard class. Bring items such as cookies and

bars, sweet breads or cupcakes. Items are packaged for sale in \$1 increments. Please deliver your baked goods to the fair on Saturday as we have no place to store them overnight.

### Special Call for Cupcakes

The cupcake walk is a perennial Country Fair favorite and we need cupcakes to make it happen! Contact Karen Randig (415-824-1784 or [krandig@msn.com](mailto:krandig@msn.com)) if you can bake a dozen or two.

### Report From Iran

Parents, middle schoolers, faculty and staff are invited to a slide show and report from Josh Connor, PE assistant and third grade after school teacher, on his travels in Iran. Please come on Thursday, May 12 from 6-8 p.m. in the library to see photographs and hear travel stories.

## Extended Program News

### Summer Camp

Extra summer camp registration forms are available at the front desk. Enrollment is well underway and is also 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. Camps that are almost full:

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

### 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. Come out to the yard and have fun!

## Go Bulldogs!

### Soccer Scores

The second and third grade girls soccer team played a great game against the Boys and Girls Club last week. While the score (3-0) favored the Boys and Girls Club, the CDS team played hard and showed great teamwork. Stay tuned for more Bulldog action!

## Boys and Girls Club

After school groups have a new schedule for visiting the Boys and Girls Club. This is a revised schedule so please make note of it.

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

## Earth Day Field Trip

On Friday, April 22, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. preschool classes will be going to Dolores Park for an Earth Day field trip. The after school program is free that day (until 3:30 p.m.) for children who don't normally stay late and students will be back at school for pick-up at 3:30 p.m. Fourth and fifth graders will be helping as youth leaders. If you'd like to come along as a parent volunteer or if you would prefer your child NOT attend, please contact Rachael at [rachaelh@cds-sf.org](mailto:rachaelh@cds-sf.org).

## Hola Familias de CDS

Hola a todas las familias de CDS!

The kindergarten class is learning a new song about butterflies.

1<sup>st</sup> graders are learning a new song as well as numbers from 100–120. They are learning how to say, *A mi me gusta el helado.* (I like ice cream.)

3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been learning the parts of the body, how to greet people, how to ask someone how they write their first and last name and the capital cities and cultures of Spanish speaking countries.

The 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade students are making travel posters for the Spanish speaking country of their choice.

Ms Gladys' 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are studying the imperfect future tense.

Ms Geddes' 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been working on skits, reviewing previously learned material and are about to begin a chocolate project in which they will learn the history of chocolate and make some too.

If you wish to help your child with Spanish from home, please visit [www.studyspanish.com](http://www.studyspanish.com).

— Spanish Department

## 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](http://www.cds-sf.org)

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





