



April 28, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

The Quality of a Community

Marilyn Tepper, mother of fourth grader Eddie Curley, who has been fighting a multi-year long battle with cancer, went into a coma earlier this week. Paula and Elizabeth, a psychologist named Eric, a friend named Jania, parents from the class and neighbors who have been providing support for the family have rallied these past weeks, intensifying their involvement, each person providing according to their gifts. Elizabeth has been in touch with the family daily as she drives Eddie to school in the morning. Paula always seems to know just how to talk about it and how to help Eddie and his classmates talk about it.

For me, this is the hardest part. I don't want to talk about death. I don't even want to admit the existence of death. But it is critical for our children, for each of us individually and for our community, collectively, to find ways to talk about death. As usual, the students have led the way. Under Paula and Amanda's guidance they have proven, yet again, that they are better able to talk about things than many adults. They have been supportive of Eddie in just the right way—each in his or her own way.

On Tuesday evening Marilyn's husband, Bob Curley, came to see Eddie perform in the class play about Gandhi. After I gave him a hug to express my sympathy and support, Bob didn't have much to say, just, "Two, three days. Only two, three days." After I nodded in understanding, he repeated, "Peace. Joy. Peace. Joy."

As with all societies, there are things we have trouble talking about: sex, death and "negative feedback" being among the most obvious. Two hundred years ago, when death practically had a room in every home, it had to be discussed. Today, our affluent society in pursuit of life, liberty and happiness would just as soon avoid the topic altogether.

But that just won't do. Our job of raising strong children requires strengthening their reality-testing mechanism and this requires a community strong enough to handle difficult topics. Whatever children can face will strengthen them. Facts they can't face will haunt them and weaken their ability to deal with a challenging world.

At my last school, out of a commitment to diversity we challenged ourselves to develop the skills needed to build the trust required to address difficult issues. In one faculty meeting we were talking about our personal experiences with racism, homophobia, rejection, humiliation—difficult topics to say the least—when a math teacher spoke up and said, "I get it. The quality of a community is a function of the things we can't talk about—an inverse function."

Earlier on Tuesday, Elizabeth brought in donuts for the class because she was

Hot Dates

Friday, April 29
10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
First grade presenting

Saturday, April 30
9 a.m.

Spring Work Day
CDS yard

Tuesday, May 2
4:30-5:45 p.m.

PTTA meeting
Faculty lounge

Saturday, May 7
11 a.m.-2p.m.

Country Fair
CDS yard



Thank You!

- To 1st grade families for providing a delicious staff and faculty breakfast.

sure that Marilyn would have wanted to thank the kids for their kindness to Eddie. When Eddie told Luke and Nick about the donut plan, they responded, "Eddie, we aren't kind to you because we want donuts. We are kind to you because you are our friend, and you need us now."

If this is the way we handle things around here, we have arrived.

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. 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

Speech & Language Pathologist

Julie Manyak, M.S., Speech-Language Pathologist, will be at CDS on Thursday, May 12 and Friday, May 13, to provide speech and language screenings for students in preschool through second grade. If you would like your child to be screened, please complete the permission slip sent home with preschool through second grade students and return it with your payment to Rose at the front desk by Monday, May 9. The fee for the screening is \$35 and checks should be made payable to Dr. Barbara Rockman.

Plastic Bottles Wanted

The art department needs plastic 1 liter bottles (plastic water bottles will also work) for the upcoming Country Fair. If you have any at home, please hold onto them and bring them to the third floor art area. Thank you for your help.

Events

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 or with your classroom liaison.

Student Art Exhibit

If you haven't gone to Flax to see the CDS art show, now is the time. This week is the last week of the art show. Run over to Flax and see 4th/5th grade miniature paintings and writing in response to Ms. Amanda's India photographs. View 2nd grade bone sculpture, middle school medieval environments, elementary school clay sculpture and preschool fiber art. Flax is located at 1699 Market Street (Valencia/Market). Store hours are Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Country Fair

Saturday, May 7

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Now is the time to answer the call to help at the Country Fair! We guarantee a good time and all you have to do is show up. We need to fill the roster for each half hour shift...though we do know there are some who can't be pulled away once they get started at the BBQ. Here is the list of class assignments:

- 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: Set-up and break-down
- Kindergarten: Barbeque
- Leaping Lizards: Bake sale
- Starfish: Face painting and art table
- Tadpoles: Games

To help with fair planning, please RSVP by calling Lauren at 861-5432, x37.

If you have questions or can help in any way, please contact Sally Nielsen at 861-4575 or sally@keller.com.

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 baked goods 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.

Cupcakes

The cupcake walk is a perennial Country Fair favorite. We need cupcakes to make it happen. Contact Karen Randig (824-1784 or krandig@msn.com) if you can bake a dozen or two.

Extended Program News

Summer Camp

Extra summer camp registration forms are available at the front desk. Enrollment is in full swing 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

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.

- 1st 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.

Upcoming PM Field Trips

On Friday, April 29, the 1st and 2nd grade classes will be going to the Mission playground (Valencia/19th) from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The kindergarten and fourth and fifth grade classes will be going to the Dolores Park playground at the same time.

PTTA Update

Meeting News

Greetings to parents, teachers, trustees and administrators! The last PTTA meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, May 3 from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the faculty lounge. The subject of this meeting is planning for next year. We hope to start by officially passing the torch to next year's PTTA leaders and have invited next year's classroom liaisons and PTTA officers to join us for refreshments and brainstorming. Agenda items include a discussion of how best to encourage and organize parent participation in school events and programs, next year's PTTA theme, next year's PTTA calendar (including the timing of meetings) and an update on our community building/welcoming efforts.

As always, all adults in our school community are invited to attend and share their thoughts and ideas. Childcare is free if you sign up at the front desk the day of the meeting. If you have something you would like to add to the agenda, please let me know.

Thank you all for your continued help, support and participation. Hope to see you next week.

—Marianne Evans, PTTA President

Hola Familias de CDS

Hola Familias!

The kindergarten class is studying new words such as *libro*, book.

1st graders are studying the differences between things such as *el pajaro* (the bird) and *la rana* (the frog).

2nd graders are studying the location of Spanish speaking countries and how to say, *Pablo es de Colombia*. (Pablo is from Columbia.)

The 3rd grade class is studying dialogue and Spanish speaking countries.

The 4th and 5th graders are creating travel posters in Spanish.

Ms Gladys' 6th and 7th graders are studying geography.

Ms. Geddes' 6th and 7th graders have studied the history of chocolate and are now preparing cooking shows in Spanish and making chocolate recipes such as chocolate spiders.

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

Donde esta la nueva casa? Where is the new house?

Have a great weekend!

— Spanish Department

Upcoming Dates

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day

No school

No Extended Program

Thursday, June 9

Last day of school

Noon dismissal

No extended program

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