

May 5, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL
Weekly



Words from Rick

The Sound of Silence

At the Earth Day assembly, William Chung raised his hand to make an announcement. Christian Hipolito, the seventh grade MC, called on him. William stood up and left his seventh grade buddy Aaron. He walked to the sandbox, got up on the sandbox and stood looking out at the faces of the couple of hundred members of the CDS community.

But William, who at that moment seemed like the littlest Tadpole, did not speak; he just smiled and stood there. Christian, who was standing by his side, didn't move. He just stood there too. He offered a word of encouragement, but William said nothing. Christian waited. He leaned over and said, "Whisper to me what you want to say." William still said nothing. Aaron got up from where he was sitting, came over to stand with William on the stage and still William said nothing.

After a while, Mr. Doug in the audience said, "Maybe William just wants to say hello." We all burst into applause. Aaron took William's hand, and they went back to where they had been sitting. The Earth Day assembly then proceeded with the third grade class deftly leading the class presentations.

In Chapter 4 of *The Little Prince*, when the fox is teaching the Little Prince how to tame him, author Antoine de Saint-Exupery gives the fox what to me is one of the most important lines in literature: "Don't say anything. Words are the source of misunderstanding."

Hot Dates

Friday, May 6
10:15-10:30 a.m.

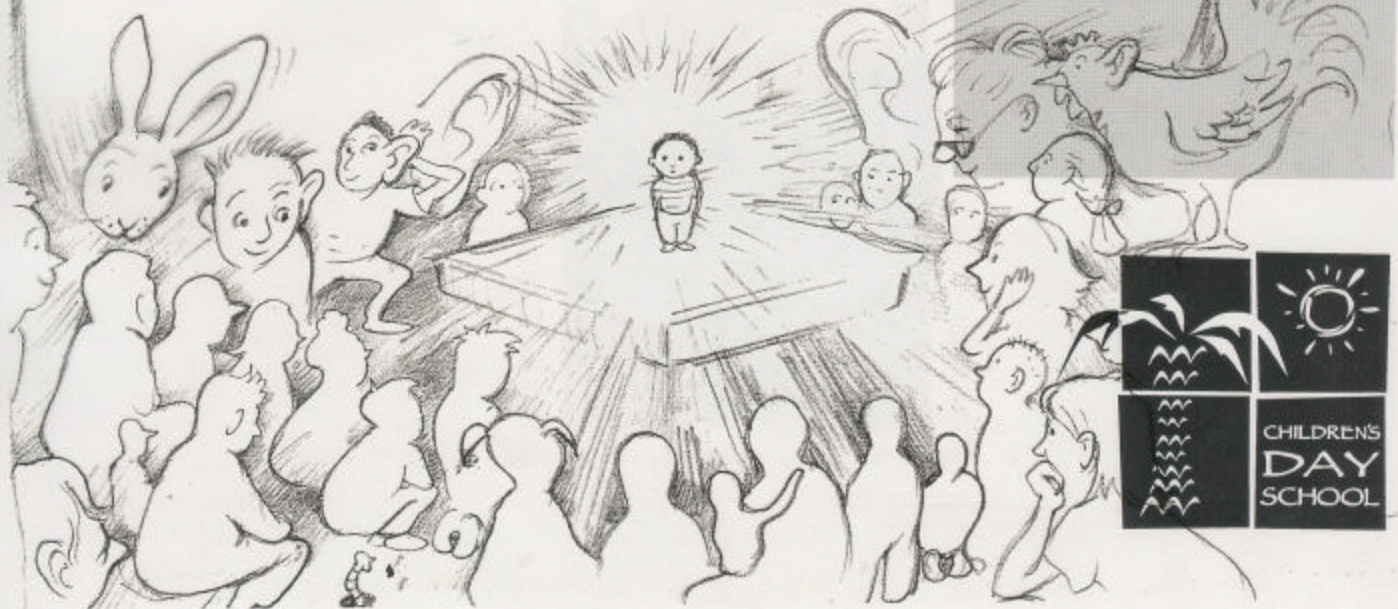
Friday assembly
Second grade presenting

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

Country Fair
CDS yard

Thursday, May 12
6-8 p.m.

Mr. Josh's report from Iran
Library



Thank You!

- To all the hard-working spring cleaners who volunteered their time to beautify the CDS yard: Jonnie and Robert Sharp; Danielle Conrad and Hemant Shah; Laura, Andy and Teddy Northrop; Niraj, Neena and Wilson Lama; Howard, Leslie and Isaac Edelman; Gerardo Flores; Greg and Sanlin Cory; Bill and Aisha Glenn; David and Gabriel Jasso; Marion and Ben Quinones; Sally Nielsen and Dan Keller; Christina and Rafael Hernandez; Catherine Herrera; Candy Mabry and Richard Bennett; Nadya Bratt; Marla Zemanek; Sonia, Rigoberto, Nancy and Rigo Martinez; Madora Soutter, Elizabeth McClellan, John Hooker, Misty Cummings and Rick Ackerly.

The Earth Day assembly was wonderful. The third grade led it beautifully. They were a proud, disciplined group with a lot of important things to say. Bees have many uses in medicine; different bees have different responsibilities in a hive; honey tastes different depending on the environment of the hive; bees can get drunk from fermented nectar; the honey bee is the only insect that makes food for humans; honey bees don't sting humans because they are after something sweeter, the nectar. The other classes showed that they had been learning many important things, too. But what was truly remarkable about Earth Day was what didn't happen.

William didn't say anything. Christian didn't change the confident, loving look on his face to worry. Aaron did not speak for his buddy. None of the students started to squirm or titter or giggle. Doug did not try to rescue William. (In fact, if anyone thought William needed rescuing, they didn't let it show.) Just think of all the things that didn't happen.

Mel Levine, one of the national leaders in how children learn, how teachers should teach and what should go on in schools, says, "All children in school are trying to maximize one thing above all others—and it is the same for all children. They are trying to avoid embarrassment." If we have created under the branches of the elm trees, the bay laurel, the palm, the hawthorn and the camellia, an environment where you can stand up in front of hundreds of people and say whatever is on your mind or in your heart, and know that hundreds of people support you in your self-expression free from the fear of being thought stupid, we have truly done a wonderful thing. This is something worth institutionalizing, preserving and

spreading throughout our educational system.

I was very proud and grateful to be a part of this wonderful community.

From the Office

Respect Our Neighbors

Please remember to respect the outdoor garden space of the Notre Dame Plaza. The garden area (including the gazebo) is private property and is not for general use by CDS community members. Please use the perimeter sidewalk and not the interior sidewalk. Thanks for your help.

Knitters, Quilters and Sewers

No time to work on big projects but still interested in learning how to knit, quilt or sew? Bring your skills and/or interest in knitting, quilting or sewing to the creation of a new group at CDS. Teachers, parents and interested kids will get together in the library on Tuesday, May 17 from 4-6 p.m. Feel free to come by whenever you can. We will answer questions and take a survey of days and times to hold a once-a-month stitch group to start in September. Hope to see you on Tuesday, May 17.

—Elizabeth McClellan and Tina Corse

Events

Country Fair

Saturday, May 7

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sheep shearing opens the fair at 11 a.m. The country market will feature hand-made items inspired by our unmatched farm and garden. The market will also offer fresh produce from Eatwell Farm. After sampling what some of us enjoy in our farm boxes every week, you may be inspired to sign up as a subscriber. The fair is also another chance to replenish your supply of CDS water bottles, hats, the popular chicken pencil, as well as t-shirts and tote bags.

After browsing the market, meet your kids at the midway where you can try the beanbag toss or the trickier tic-tac-toe ring toss. We've added a "High-Striker" to the midway this year...test your strength! Soothe any blisters by putting your hands deep in our own sheeps' wool at the wool-washing near the grotto.

Listen for race, raffle and contest announcements—there will be several opportunities to join a pie eating contest, tug-of-war, a crazy costume race and win raffle prizes. Spend some quieter moments at the arts and crafts table. When you're hungry, check out the barbeque—chicken, hot dogs, veggie burgers, oysters, sausages and corn. It's always delicious. Top it off with sweet, freshly churned ice cream.

As a special entertainment treat, the fair will feature Joe Becker's band, The Sippy Cups. Joe is father to Gus (3rd grade) and Clara (kindergarten). The Sippy Cups have been making quite a name for themselves on the local multi-generational entertainment scene, performing a kid-oriented show "with music that doesn't drive the parents up a wall." With tunes ranging from 60's and 70's psychedelia to funk and punk, there will be something for everyone...and then some. Check out their web site at www.thesippycups.com.

The Country Fair is a true community effort. Many thanks to all who are helping with organizational efforts and to those of you who have signed up to help make it all happen on Saturday. We still need people to supervise some activities so please consider giving of your time if you're asked. Also, be sure to stick around for the community clean up.

Limited parking will be available in designated CDS parking spaces only, on a first come first serve basis. Plan to park outside and walk in, or come on foot or by public transit.

It's not too late to RSVP to help with planning the fair. Call and leave a message at 861-5432, x37.

Bake Sale Donations

Add your own touch to the Country Fair by bringing baked goods to the bake sale, organized 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 (824-1784 or krandig@msn.com) if you can bake a dozen or two.

Rain Date

Please note that if the forecast calls for significant rain, the Country Fair will be cancelled and you will be informed via notes in backpacks on Friday afternoon. If you don't receive notice on Friday afternoon, the fair is on! The rain date for the fair is TBD.

Buy a Book, Support CDS

At the Country Fair on Saturday, May 7, San Francisco publisher Chronicle Books (along with CDS parents), will be selling great books for kids and adults.

Stop by and buy books! When you purchase books you are simultaneously supporting CDS. 40% of the cover price of all books sold will be donated to CDS. In addition, CDS teachers have put together a wish list for classroom books and 40% of the cover price of wish list books also will be donated to CDS and your teachers will have new books in the classroom.

A limited number of titles will be available on Saturday. If you want even more books to choose from, you can browse Chronicle's site ahead of time (www.chroniclebooks.com) and bring the names of the titles you would like to purchase. You can also browse the catalogs at the fair. Order any books you like, pre-pay, and we'll bring them to CDS in about a week to be picked up. 40% of the cover price will go to CDS on these orders, too!

Welcoming New Families

Do you remember coming to the Country Fair after being admitted to CDS and not knowing a soul? Your family may have wandered around aimlessly for awhile before grabbing some food and heading home. This year we are making an effort to reach out to next year's incoming families at the Country Fair. Please join us at 12:15 p.m. on the preschool deck for an informal meet-and-greet. New families will be wearing pre-printed nametags (the rest of us will make our own when we arrive). Please say hello and reach out to them should you cross paths during the day.

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 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 full or nearly full:

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

Preschool PM Garden Project

Parents should have received a letter two weeks ago requesting plant donations for the two large garden beds in the preschool yard. Feel free to start bringing plants in so that our young gardeners can get started planting! Contact Gloria, Rachael or Misty for more details.

Hola Familias de CDS

The kindergarten class is learning lots of new words such as *el sol*, the sun.

1st graders are studying position words such as *encima*, on top, and *cerca*, near.

2nd graders are writing and illustrating the members of their families. *Quien esta en mi familia?*

4/5th graders are designing and illustrating story books for kindergartners and travel posters for Spanish speaking countries. The first project is teaching them about the present tense verbs, adjectives and pronunciation. The 2nd project is introducing them to the imperative tense used in travel advertisements.

Ms Gladys' 6th and 7th graders are studying the French intervention in Mexico and Cindo de Mayo.

Ms Geddes' 6th and 7th graders are studying cooking shows in Spanish. They will take a virtual tour of the Field Museum of Chicago, currently hosting a chocolate exhibition, and will be studying chocolate within the ecosystem and the economy.

This summer check out The Academy of Science; they are hosting the chocolate exhibition in San Francisco from June 11– Septmeber 4.

— Spanish Department

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, May 17

4-6 p.m.

Knitting meeting

Library

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day

No school

No Extended Program

Thursday, June 9

Last day of school

Noon dismissal

No extended program

Children's Day School

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