



May 12, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Upstaged

On Friday I arrived on campus from a downtown meeting late and missed assembly. I received a barrage of greetings from the kids.

"You missed assembly."

"It was a great assembly. Charlie did announcements"

"Charlie was funny."

"Yeah, Charlie was great."

Then others greeted me. A teacher said, "Charlie is going to replace you. He has quite a gift."

An administrator said, "He's great. The kids love him. The kids (especially the girls) were mobbing him."

I heard from a parent as well: "Charlie embodies all that is great about CDS and he's incredibly cute, too."

It looks like I might be out of a job. I have watched Charlie manage the crowd before and I know I am no match for him. Embodying all that is great about CDS? Well, I don't know exactly what CDS can take credit for--certainly, not being cute. However, I think I would agree that his performance on the sandbox reveals something that is at the core of the CDS vision of education: the nexus between the self and others.

When I was in school the game was more about conformity than self-development. But by the time I was head of a school in the mid-seventies things had shifted; it was all about the development of the self. From the point of view of an educator whose mission is to help each child find and develop his or her genius, this was a salutary shift. It is important for children and the adults who are raising them to pursue interests, define goals and discover gifts. In the letters of Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize winning scientist and creative thinker, he advised his students, friends and mentorees to passionately pursue their interests. (*Perfectly Reasonable Deviations from the Beaten Track: The Letters of Richard P. Feynman*, by Timothy Ferris et al.) Mel Levine keeps saying that interests predict success, not SAT scores. Each child has a unique set of inclinations, intelligences, interests, gifts and talents and it is the job of education to help a child bring all of this out.

But the Age of Self has its shadow side, and I see it in our children. In the Age of Self we forget that the self exists only in relationship. We, teachers and parents alike, often treat the students as if it is all about them. Maybe the best way to get a child to read is to have her read to others. Maybe the best way to get a child to do chores is to ask him to take responsibility for the family. Maybe the best way to get middle schoolers to be responsible is to give them responsibility worthy of their abilities. We are our relationships, and

Hot Dates

Thursday, May 12

6-8 p.m.

Report from Iran with Mr. Josh
Library

Friday, May 13

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Kindergarten presenting

Tuesday, May 17

4-6 p.m.

Knitting meeting
Library



Thank You!

- An enormous thank you to the dedicated Country Fair organizers, overseers and entertainers: Sally Nielsen, Amanda Richard, Susie Carlson, Sanlin Cory, Karen Randig, Jennifer Pickerrell, Joe Becker and The Sippy Cups, Elizabeth McClellan, Karen Slovak and Misty Cummings. It was a fabulous day!

paradoxically, the best way to strengthen the self is to focus the self on strengthening others. If we are frustrated with the development of self, the first place to look is not inward toward diagnosis, but outward toward others. In my fortune cookie last week I found, "The only way to have a friend is to be one."

During his moments on stage, Charlie demonstrated the perfect mutuality of being oneself and giving to others. Charlie needed the audience just as much as the audience needed him. He was, for those brief, shining moments, harmonizing himself with others. He was demonstrating his gifts by giving them to others.

Yes, I think I just talked myself out of a job.

The Dirt

Family Farmer Training

We still need family farmers! Please sign up for the summer family farmer training to be held on Saturday, May 21, in the farm and garden. The training will last approximately one hour. 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 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. 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

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. See you on Tuesday, May 17.

—Elizabeth McClellan and Tina Corse

CDS In 7x7

Check out a copy of San Francisco's 7x7 magazine, where CDS is mentioned as one of the most desirable preschools in the city. The author, a local parent states, "I began accosting strangers with strollers, demanding to know how they got interviews and tour dates at such desirable places as Children's Day School..." What's *really* desirable here is the amazing community of parents, students and staff.

Events

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 tonight from 6-8 p.m. in the library to see photographs and hear travel stories.

Country Fair

The country fair was a great success! The sun came out, the sheep were sheared, new families mingled with veterans, everyone played games, ate barbequed chicken and cupcakes and enjoyed the fabulous Sippy Cups. Many individuals helped make the fair fun for all. Thank you to Laura Pliska-Bloch for organizing the new family welcome and to all teachers and staff members who came out on a Saturday and volunteered their time. Thank you also to class liaisons and class fair coordinators for making sure things ran smoothly and to Scotty Yaffe for running a terrific raffle. And last but not least, thank you to all of the parent volunteers who cooked, cleaned, sold, played, created and in general made the Fair happen. Great job!

Book News

Thank you to Chronicle Books and CDS parents Amy Kaneko and Tom Fernald for organizing and working hard at the book booth at the Fair. Two large boxes of books were purchased for CDS classrooms (thank you book buyers!) and 40% of the profits were donated to CDS, raising approximately \$450. Purchasing Chronicle Books on behalf of CDS will become an ongoing project; stay tuned for more details.

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. We are hoping to receive native, shade tolerant plants. 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

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Hola Familias!

The 2nd graders have been studying their families and creating a pictorial dictionary of terms for use in their next assignments. They have begun to learn a new song.

The 3rd graders have begun work on a restaurant project. They will learn how to order food, create menus and will turn the 3rd grade classroom into a restaurant.

The 4th/5th grade class is working on travel posters of Spanish speaking countries and bilingual books to read to kindergarten students.

Ms. Geddes' 6th and 7th graders have been learning the imperative tense by cooking with chocolate and have made yummy dishes. (Thank you to the 6th and 7th grade parents who helped Geddes in the kitchen area.)

La frase de la semana (from the 2nd grade). The phrase of the week.

Con mis manos puedo tocar el piano y con mis dedos la nariz.
With my hands I can play the piano and with my fingers I can touch (pick) my nose.

— Spanish Department

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, May 21

9 or 10 a.m.

Family Farmer Training
CDS garden

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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