



June 2, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

What It's All About

Seven second graders were using the hallway outside my office as a stage. The space is L-shaped with three sets of steps to work with, a framed opening and a piece of furniture. They were using all this very creatively. Because they were so engaged, their noise did not distract me from the strategic planning meeting in progress in my office. (Time with children has taught my ear the difference between constructive noise and fooling around.) The door to my office was open and the adults were focused on crafting our mission statement.

Both groups were working seriously with lots of give and take. All were playing their part; each person unconsciously seemed to know when it was their turn to lead and theirs to follow. Ideas built on other ideas and the creation was not the product of one or two leaders, but truly the work of a collective organism. I love it when a group is "playing out of its head."

Tyler came to my door and very respectfully and thoroughly explained that he and his classmates were practicing a play and invited us to shut the door if their noise bothered us. We all looked at each other in shocked delight as if we had heard thunder. (Not the terror of Californians but the electricity of Midwesterners in summer.) This level of maturity coming out of this eight-year-old body!

It has been this way all year long. Time and again the students surprise us with how committed they are to their own learning and the learning of others. Time and again groups of CDS students, in and out of school, have worked together to produce something, sometimes better than a group of adults. In the classroom, on the volleyball and basketball courts, in assembly, in musical and dramatic productions, in the children's art, at the Country Fair, on the playground, in the garden, in the hallways of the Boys and Girls Club and Holy Family Day Home and out in the neighborhood the values and vision statements that have framed the work of the strategic planning task forces are showing up day after day.

The second graders have been reading with their kindergarten buddies for much of the year. They recently presented their projects, "Urban Animals." Some selected reports:

Kwesi: "I really had fun teaching my buddy. I mean, it's amazing that I can teach someone else so much. I taught my buddy all about snails and it felt great."

Bradley: "I think it was really fun to get to teach another person. My buddy was very interested and he was looking at all my work and it felt really good

Hot Dates

Friday, June 3
10:15-10:30 a.m.
Friday assembly
Starfish class presenting

Friday, June 3
8:30 a.m.
Friday coffee &
Thank you to volunteers
CDS yard

Monday, June 6
5-6 p.m.
Community building meeting
Library

Tuesday, June 7
10:15 a.m.
Lemon tree planting in honor of
Marilyn Tepper
CDS yard

Wednesday, June 8
1:30-2:30 p.m.
End of year ceremony

Thursday, June 9
Last day of school
Noon dismissal
No extended program



Thank You!

- To the outstanding team of PTTA officers – Marianne Evans, Amanda Richard, Kevin Killen and Adam Feuerstein – for leading our community with enthusiasm, dedication and good cheer throughout the year. We appreciate your service and welcome next year’s officers – Marianne Evans, Amanda Richard, Ray Baxter and Laura Pliska – for more community building and fun.
- To all the parents who helped welcome new families at the New Preschool Family Event last week: Merrill Buice, Patti Cazzato, Marie Cross, Patrick Everett, Neena Lama, Aisha and AJ LaMarque, Tina Leung, Mylene Mercado, Laura Pliska, Amanda Richard, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Michael Silver, Carlos Vasquez and Cory Warren.
- To Steve Donovan for donating time and energy to train the staff in how to use our new library technology.
- To Bill Littmann for offering his jackhammering skills, making space for the new lemon tree.
- To John Kraus for spending a day with us last week attempting to capture the “CDS spirit” on film. Look for his wonderful new photographs on our website soon!

because I know he was listening and liking it.”

Cassi: “It’s fun to talk with the kindergarten class about my project and all that I learned about butterflies. It’s interesting to work with another class and do something different.”

We may be having trouble coming up with one sentence that defines our mission, but the students are showing us daily what our mission is. Certainly each student is on a mission of his or her own, and it is wonderful when we see all of those missions harmonized into one.

From the Office

2004-05 Annual Fund

Due to the hard work and generosity of many, we are within \$3,000 of reaching our 2004-05 annual fund goal of \$335,000 by June 30. Contributions have come from many sources – the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, grandparents, friends, corporations and foundations, events including the Spring Celebration & Auction and

parents. Participation this year has been terrific – 92% of parents, 67% of faculty and staff and 100% of the Board made a gift to the annual fund, and we are of course happy to accept last-minute donations to push us over the top before the end of the CDS fiscal year on June 30. This is a strong school and we have a strong annual fund; it is impressive to see so many diverse constituencies contribute to these achievements.

Our most recent piece of good news came from the Genentech Foundation for Biomedical Sciences, which granted CDS \$10,000 to support the David Minus Science Center. Parents Patricia Buse-Ruppert and Tina Corse drafted the proposal and shepherded it through the approval process, and we are grateful to them for helping us reach this milestone in corporate giving to our school.

In addition, the Teacher Support Initiative is making great progress. We have received over \$9,000 in gifts already and volunteers are in the process of contacting parents, grandparents and special friends to ask for their support. As with all of our fundraising efforts, volunteers do so much of the heavy lifting, calling, talking and asking. On behalf of the entire administration, thank you to all of our volunteers and donors for everything you have done this year to further development efforts at CDS.

Turning the Tables

The last Friday coffee of the year – tomorrow! – will be guest-hosted by the administration and faculty as a thank you to all of the dedicated, enthusiastic and helpful parent volunteers who have made this year so much fun. Please stop by and enjoy a coffee toast by Mr. Rick and treats on the house. From all of us, thank you for your support.

Ms. Elena

As you all know, during spring vacation Ms. Elena (Starfish teacher) took a fall and fractured her arm. The fracture was serious enough to require surgery and her recovery time has been extended for the rest of the school year. Thankfully, Elena should have a full recovery and James Bannister will continue to work with the Starfish class through June 9.

Last Day Pick-up

On Thursday, June 9, the last day of school, no parking will be available so parents should plan to drive through or park on the street and walk in for our noon dismissal.

A staggered pick-up schedule will be followed:

- 12:00: grades 4-7
- 12:15: preschool
- 12:30: kindergarten through 3rd grade

Events

A Lemon Tree for Marilyn

On Tuesday, June 7 we will gather our school community as well as friends and family of Marilyn, Bob and Eddie for a tree-planting ceremony in the CDS yard. At Eddie's suggestion, we will plant a lemon tree in memory of his mother. The ceremony will take place as part of a school assembly at 10:15 a.m. and a reception will follow for adults in the CDS library. Marilyn was an avid photographer and her work will be on display in the library all week. We invite you to join us for this special day.

End of Year Celebration

Come join us in honoring all students on Wednesday, June 8 at the End of Year Celebration. The ceremony will run from 1:30-2:30 p.m., beginning with preschoolers and ending with middle school students. Please help us celebrate the end of another great school year and all of the student accomplishments!

Book Party for Elizabeth

Our fabulous art teacher, Elizabeth McClellan, is the illustrator of the new children's book, *Stop this Birthday!* The book was written by local author Rowan Cutler and chronicles a birthday wish gone terribly wrong. The book is hot off the press and we are having a book release party for Elizabeth on Wednesday, June 8 at 3:30 p.m. during the faculty meeting. Families and students are invited to attend. A limited number of books will be available to purchase for \$14.95. Please RSVP with Rose at x10 if you plan to attend.

Gay Pride

This year CDS will participate in the San Francisco Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26! The parade begins downtown at 10:30 a.m. and runs up Market Street (from Beale to 8th). There will be a CDS banner to hold and plenty of t-shirts for marchers. We are looking for organizers to help gather marchers, make creative signs and rile everyone up for a great march. The theme this year is "Stand Up, Stand Out, Stand Proud." Please

contact Amanda Coggin (x12) if you would like to attend and/or help out.

Extended Program News

Summer Camp

Extra summer camp registration forms are available at the front desk. Preschool camp is full and all four sessions of elementary and middle school camps are almost full. If you are interested in having your child participate, please call or e-mail first to make sure there is still space. Camps that are still open (for elementary and middle school only):

- Session I: Sports and Games
- Session II: Farm and Garden, Sports and Games
- Session III: Sports and Games
- Session IV: Farm and Garden, Sports and Games

There are still several spaces left in our middle school youth leadership camp. E-mail or call Jenna, or go to our website for more information.

Enrichment Classes

Spring enrichment classes ended on Friday, May 27. Make-up sessions will be held for the following classes:

- Thursday, June 2: Yoga, Beading
- Monday, June 6: Drama, Piano (an extra long session, contact Emilie directly for details!)

Library Corner

End of the Year Details

A final library clean-up day will be held Tuesday, June 7 at 1:30 p.m. to get the library in great shape before the summer break. We'll put books back in order on the shelves, process donated materials, cover books—whatever is needed. This is your last chance this year to soak up the library's ambience!

Go Bulldogs!

Fall sports are just around the corner! When you return to school in the fall be sure to find the co-ed volleyball sign up sheets located in each classroom (grades 5-8). Start thinking about spikes, serves and volleys today and sign up to play for the CDS Bulldogs as soon as you return.

Parents, please help your kids remember to return all outstanding books as soon as possible to help us in this effort.

Finally, thank you to all the parent volunteers who made a difference this year in the library, by showing up for class time, popping in occasionally to help out or working at special events. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

—Sue Barnett & Debra Levin, Library Committee co-chairs

PTTA Update

Community Building

Come join us Monday, June 6 from 5-6 p.m. in the library as we share updates from our first meeting, get feedback on the New Preschool Family Night and New Parent Orientation and brainstorm ideas for welcoming and community building (including organizing outreach groups and offering assistance to families going through a personal and/or medical emergency). If you cannot make the meeting, but would like to receive updates on the committee, please contact Laura Pliska at laura@sfbabyworks.com. Childcare for the hour is provided free of charge if you sign up with Rose at the front desk by 10 a.m.

Hola Familias de CDS

Hola a todas las familias de CDS!

All of the students are working on their final projects of the year.

The 2nd graders are finishing a photo project about the verb *nosotros* (we) and the 3rd graders are finishing their menus in Spanish.

4th and 5th graders are completing their books and menus and the 6th and 7th graders are working on their final individual projects.

Tengan un feliz verano! Have a great summer!

— Spanish Department

Upcoming Dates

June 20 – July 1

Summer camp session #1

Monday, July 4

Independence Day

No summer camp

July 5 – July 15

Summer camp session #2

July 18 – July 29

Summer camp session #3

August 1 – August 12

Summer camp session #4

Sunday, August 28

Parent-faculty work day

Monday, August 29 & Tuesday, August 30

Parent-teacher conferences

Wednesday, August 31

Preschool and kindergarten orientation

Thursday, September 1

First day of school

Monday, September 5

Labor Day

No school

No extended program

Children's Day School

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