



October 7, 2004

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Head's Column

### October

Last Friday, sitting on the edge of our new sandbox in our new preschool playground with 214 students seated around me, I felt a magic moment. The students were all silent. It happened without my asking. I said, "Listen. This is the sound of silence. [long pause] Isn't it marvelous? [long pause] This is the sound of fall, of autumn. [long pause] It's like the sound of a leaf falling."

Indeed, there are days this time of year when the sun is softer, the air seems to be resting, and I imagine that the birds, having chosen their mate and raised their children, are sitting quietly in their nests enjoying what I am enjoying. It feels to me that surely this moment of stillness extends across this entire continent to the East Coast. We are done with hurricanes and heat waves and thunderstorms and fires, and we can have a moment just to sit and admire our work.

This moment at assembly last week reminded me of something I learned from my friend the builder one October as we were putting the roof on my cabin in the Mendocino County woods. We were racing along, focused on the importance of getting the cabin water-tight before November, when he stopped and voiced one of his maxims, "Stop every 50 minutes and admire your work."

I learned that a moment of quiet is not only a good time to rest, drink water, and feel good about what you have done, but it encompasses much more. As I have tried to practice this discipline, I've discovered that when I take a moment to change perspective on what I am doing, I almost always discover a better way. In that moment of peace I almost always see a more effective way of accomplishing what I'm trying to do.

One of the nice things about this school is that there are many places to go to get a different perspective on things. To sit at a table under the big elm watching the preschoolers come out to play in and around the sandbox after their nap is something each of us should do at least once this year. I also like to go up to the lounge and look down on the children and teachers playing happily on the playground below. Changing point of view is a great heuristic device.

Now that we have moved the southwestern section of the fence to enclose the bay laurel, the elm and the buckeye, we have added a bit of heaven to our playground. The mere fact that no fence separates us from this piece of earth changes my perspective on our school.

In June, at the last assembly of the school year, we named this plot of land the Papa Artie Bower in honor of Cassi Alexander's grandfather. We thanked her

## Hot Dates

**Thursday, October 7**

Picture Day

**Friday, October 8**

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday Assembly

2nd Grade presenting

**Friday, October 8**

5:30-8 p.m.

Library Opening Festival

New Library

**Monday, October 11**

Government Holiday Observed

No School

No Extended Program

**Thursday, October 14**

7-9 p.m.

Parent Education Night

Faculty Lounge

**Friday, October 15**

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday Assembly

1st Grade presenting



## Thank You!

- To Cara Keller for donating Ranger Rick magazines to the library.
- To 6th and 7th grade parents for a beautiful faculty appreciation breakfast.
- To Nadya Bratt for the delicious apple pie she baked for the Community Breakfast.
- To Georgia Muerle for her colorful donation of sidewalk chalk.
- To Hae-Lim, Justin and Erin Minus for donating several books to the third grade library. The students and teachers are thrilled!

grandmother, Joan Alexander, for a leadership gift in the campaign to purchase the CDS school. We dedicated this land as a quiet place, a place where a student or teacher or parent can go and be quiet long enough to change perspective, to hear the muse or to feel the magic that resides in this place.

What happens there will evolve slowly. We are not even using it, yet. But little by little members of this community will begin incorporating it into our lives. As five-year-old Katherine said during announcements, “We all need peace and quiet sometimes.”

## The Dirt

### Getting Dirty

The next time you are in the schoolyard, come take a look at the classroom gardens. Students have been hard at work getting dirty while preparing their garden plots and planting. Ask your child what kind of garden their class is planting this year!

—Misty, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

## From the Office

### Thank You for Sharing Your Parents Last Week

Last Friday, Rick and members of the Board of Trustees had the pleasure of hosting approximately 25 CDS grandparents from the Bay Area and beyond for breakfast, a tour of our campus and classrooms, and Friday assembly led by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade singers. We were thrilled at the turnout, enthusiasm and volunteer spirit of our grandparent community and encourage grandparents who

live in the area or are here for a visit to stop by CDS. Grandparents and Special Friends Day will be held on Wednesday, November 24 this year, but grandparent visitors are welcome at other times as well. If you would like to add a grandparent to the Weekly e-mail distribution list, please let Marion know at [marionq@cds-sf.org](mailto:marionq@cds-sf.org) or 861-5432 x23.

## Annual Fund Phonathon

The third annual CDS phonathon will be held this year from 6-9 p.m. on the evenings of Tuesday, October 19 and Wednesday, October 20. Parent and Trustee volunteers will be calling parents to ask for their support of the CDS Annual Fund, which supports the many programs and people that make CDS special – environmental education, sliding scale tuition, increased teacher salaries, our growing library collection and the art and music programs, to name a few. The generosity of parents, Trustees and other friends of CDS has allowed us to plan for the future with confidence and optimism, and gifts of any size are appreciated. All parents will receive a letter in the mail next week about the CDS Annual Fund, along with a booklet written by the National Association of Independent Schools regarding volunteering and fundraising at independent schools. Please read these materials and be prepared to support CDS during the phonathon. Thank you for your help!

## Events

### Parent Education Night

Parent Education Night is fast approaching! Back by popular demand, the evening will be themed, “What CDS Teachers Know That You Can Use at Home.” The event will be held on Thursday, October 14 from 7-9 p.m. in the faculty lounge. This event will include an overview of CDS limit-setting techniques and guidelines offered by a panel of CDS teachers, followed by a breakdown into age-specific groups (preschool, elementary, middle school) to discuss the specifics of applying these techniques at home. In addition to wine and cheese (provided by the generous first grade parents!), free childcare will be provided on-site. If you will be attending, please call Rose at the reception desk at 861-5432 x10 by October 8 to RSVP.

## Extended Program News

### Where is My Child?

After school elementary and middle school teachers are conducting many exciting projects in the afternoons this year. At times they may need to use the kitchen or the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor art space, or join up with another class in a room different from the one they are usually in. When you come to pick up your child at the end of the day, please assume they are in the yard or in their day classroom unless there is a note posted above the sign out desk saying otherwise. All after school teachers will be posting a sign when their activities take them to a different school location. Thanks for your patience while we work out the details on this and know that your children are being engaged in great activities!

### Fall Enrichment Classes

Classes are off to a great start. Please check the student roster by the glass doors if you need to double check on the day, time or location of your child's class. The teachers are excited about the great turn-out and their enthusiastic students. Thank you for participating.

### Sibling Pick-up

If you have sibling students in different classes and would prefer to pick them up at the same time (i.e. when the older child gets out of his or her class), you need to enroll in the after school program. We offer this service at no cost, but do require parents to complete an Extended Program Agreement for the youngest child. This lets the teachers know that your younger child will be staying in their classroom until the older sibling picks him or her up and heads to the "double-doors" for pick-up by you. **Please note that it is NOT the aftercare teacher's responsibility to bring your younger child to the double doors for you.** You or your older child need to come and pick up the younger sibling and let the aftercare teacher know what is happening.

### Wheels Day is Back

Wheels Day is a special day in the afternoon program where kids get to ride bikes and scooters and other wheeled vehicles in the yard. Wheels Day is scheduled for October 20. We have lots of bikes for students to use, but if a child would like to bring a special vehicle from home, please park it in the space to the left of the glass door with your child's name on it, and bring her/his helmet from home as well.

## The Front Gate

After 5 p.m., Rose (the receptionist) leaves for the day. If you are coming to pick up your child after 5 p.m., please just dial "0000" right away. This is not the code to the gate. Pressing those numbers automatically calls the CDS cell phone so we can let you in. It is important that once you dial "0000" you wait by the speaker so that the person who answers the phone can verify you are part of the CDS community. When you hear the phone answered, please state your name and you will be let into the yard. Thank you for helping keep CDS safe!

### Evening Adult Classes

This fall, we are starting an exciting new extended program for ADULTS! Sign-up packets are being sent home to parents in students' backpacks this week. If you have not received one by Friday, please call Jenna (x15) or ask for one at the front desk. Classes offered are: Hatha Yoga, Memoir Writing, Introduction to Painting and Beginning Spanish. Classes are open to CDS staff, CDS parents, Notre Dame Plaza residents and friends of the school (staff and parents). There will be on-site child care offered while each class is being taught. Classes will happen on Tuesday or Thursday evenings for an eight-week session. Classes will begin the week of October 25. Please help spread the word and support this great, new community-building program.

## Go Bulldogs!

### Co-ed Volleyball Scores

September 30, CDS vs. CAIS

Game 1: CAIS 25, CDS 19

Game 2: CDS 25, CAIS 17

Game 3: CAIS 15, CDS 10

October 4, CDS vs. CAIS

Game 1: CAIS 25, CDS 13

Game 2: CAIS 25, CDS 17

### Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Tuesday, October 19, 4 p.m.

Lycee Francais, 755 Ashbury St.

Wednesday, October 20, 4:30 p.m.

Katherine Delmar Burke School, 7070 California St.

Monday, October 25, 3:45 p.m.

SF Christian School, 5655 Mission St.

## PM Program Open to All

Thanks to those of you who have helped to spread the word to your friends and neighbors about CDS opening its programs. Please continue to get the word out that we have opened the vacation camps, enrichment classes and aftercare program to children who don't attend CDS during the regular school year. Families interested in receiving more information can call Jenna at (415) 861-5432 x15.

## Upcoming Field Trips and Events

October 20: 4th/5th grade after school students will be going to Creativity Explored from 3-4 p.m. to experience their Day of the Dead exhibit.

October 28: After school students will be brainstorming all month to create a spooky, haunted house in celebration of Halloween.

Notes will be sent home with individual classes about these opportunities as well.

## PM Preschool Art on Display

Examples of some of the fabulous and creative art projects that aftercare preschool students have been working on are on display in the main building across the hall from the 6th grade classroom near the double doors. Take a look!

## Library Corner

### CDS Library Opening Festival

IT'S HERE!! Tomorrow's opening festival promises to be a fun and interesting event for the entire family. There will be activities for all ages and interests – from readings by several best-selling authors to book-related art projects – and a delicious Chinese buffet dinner. Be sure to arrive by 5:30 p.m. to see Walter the GIANT Storyteller read to the kids. At 6:30 p.m. a grand opening gesture will officially launch the new CDS Library. This will be followed by several best-selling authors reading passages from their favorite children's stories:

- **Dave Eggers** – Best-selling author of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, *You Shall Know Our Velocity*, and founder of 826 Valencia writing lab frequented by CDS middle school students.
- **Susan Straight** – Acclaimed author of seven works of fiction including *Higwire Moon*, *California Book*

Award winner, National Book Award nominee and CDS writing workshop instructor.

- **Vendela Vida** – Critically applauded author of *And Now You Can Go*, cofounder of the popular literary journal "The Believer" and a founding teacher at 826 Valencia.
- **Ayelet Waldman** – Author of the *Mommy Track* mystery series and the highly admired novel *Daughter's Keeper*.

Budding CDS authors will also share the stage and read their own works of poetry or short pieces of fiction. On behalf of the library committee, we sincerely hope everyone will bring their friends and family for a special evening of books, reading and writing. Come celebrate another great milestone for CDS! RSVP with Debra Levin (415) 861-6308, or by email to [library@cds-sf.org](mailto:library@cds-sf.org) or at the front desk.

## PTTA Update

### Wraps and Greens

All wraps and greens packages have gone out to parents! If your child didn't bring one home, please contact Tina Corse at [tjcorse@comcast.net](mailto:tjcorse@comcast.net) or (415) 824-6290.

Please remember that the sale runs until October 22 and all proceeds go to staff holiday bonuses. Buy your holiday wraps and greens today!

## PTTA Corner

### Friday Morning Coffee

Come join other parents for coffee and doughnuts in the yard after Friday drop-off, 8:30-9 a.m. This is your chance to meet other families, have a few minutes of grown-up conversation and grab sustenance and caffeine before you start your day.

In addition, we need volunteers on occasion to help set up and bring doughnuts. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Nothing gets the kids out of bed in the morning like the knowledge that they will stop off for doughnuts during the drive to school!

### PTTA Questions or Ideas?

Contact Marianne Evans, PTTA President, at (415) 648-1731 or [goevansgo@yahoo.com](mailto:goevansgo@yahoo.com).

## Meeting Update

Thanks to all who came to Tuesday's PTTA meeting and participated in the discussions. In preparation for the annual phonathon, CDS board members Kit Land and Bill Gaede delivered informative presentations on CDS finances and fundraising goals followed by a productive Q&A session. Our next meeting (originally scheduled for November 2 but moved because of election day) will be held on Tuesday, November 9 from 4:30-5:45 p.m. The preliminary agenda will go out in the *Weekly* prior to the meeting. Please let me know if you have something you would like to add to the agenda.

Also, a quick reminder to new parents to please turn in your volunteer forms. You can give them directly to Amanda Richard or leave them at the front desk. If you have any questions about the form, possible volunteer opportunities, or if you need another form, you can contact PTTA volunteer coordinator Amanda Richard at 695-0657 or [amanda.richard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amanda.richard@sbcglobal.net).

## Hola Familias de CDS

Hola Familias!

October is Spanish heritage month and we're celebrating! Elementary students are sharing Latin objects, researching Latin clothing and music, studying artists such as Frida Kahlo and learning to read books in Spanish.

*La frase de la semana es:*

*Vamos a estudiar español!* Let's study Spanish!

— Spanish Department

## Upcoming Dates

**Tuesday, October 19-Wednesday, October 20**

6-9 p.m.

Annual Fund Phonation

**Friday, October 20**

Wheels Day

**Friday, October 29**

Halloween Celebration

Noon Dismissal

No Extended Program

**Sunday, October 31**

Daylight Savings Ends

**Monday, November 1**

Professional Day

No School

No Extended Program

**Tuesday, November 2**

Election Day!

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)

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Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via email

