



September 30, 2004

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Head's Column

### Do as I Say, Not as I Do

...is commonly understood to be a parody of good leadership and good parenting, and in one way it is. But let's not take the notion too far.

Two years ago I was trying to help a teacher expect better discipline of her students. She said, "But I can't do it. How can I expect my students to do it?"

I said, "You have to expect your students to be disciplined whether or not you are disciplined, because disciplines are essential for helping people achieve their goals." In our post-sixties culture, discipline has acquired negative connotations because of what it meant in the fifties. The truth is, if we want our children's future to be limitless, we have to teach them the disciplines for bringing their genius successfully into the world.

There is a natural tendency to limit ourselves and to limit our children by our own lack of imagination, and our fear of not being good enough. The only antidote for this fear is to accept as our fundamental assumption that we will never be good enough. I have seen parents and teachers compromise their authority by buying into the premise that it is hypocritical to say to a child, "Do as I say, not as I do." Yes, we should model for children the behavior we want. But it does not follow that if I can't model it, I can't insist on it. Our adult failings must not be the limits of our children's success.

Someone who says one thing and does another is commonly understood to be a hypocrite. If so, we are all hypocrites. But this common understanding of hypocrite is limiting. There is always a gap between what Chris Argyris calls our "espoused theories" and our "theories in use" ("Theory in Practice: Increasing Professional Effectiveness," 1974). The wrong way to handle that gap is to lay a guilt trip on ourselves and fearfully try to hide the gap. The right way is to open ourselves up to public scrutiny with the hope that we could even enlist others in the never-ending project of closing the gap. For our children as well as for our school, let's turn the concept on its head.

This year, and on into the next, this school will begin a self-study in preparation for becoming accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools. Early in 2006 we will be visited by several of our independent school colleagues for our formal evaluation. Evaluation usually conjures up for people feelings of being judged, which in turn translates into action intended to please the judges. Our natural tendency will be to show that we are good by some vague external standard. It is interesting and important for us to remember that our evaluators don't see it that way. The highest compliment we could receive is the simple statement, "This is the school that does what it says it does."

### Hot Dates

**Friday, October 1**

8:30-9 a.m.

Jamie Feuerman from Kid Chow

Friday Morning Coffee

CDS Yard

**Friday, October 1**

8:45-10 a.m.

Community Breakfast

New Library

**Friday, October 1**

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday Assembly

3rd Grade presenting

**Monday, October 4**

Fall Electives Begin

**Thursday, October 7**

Picture Day

**Friday, October 8**

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Friday Assembly

2nd Grade presenting

**Friday, October 8**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Library Opening Festival

New Library



## Thank You!

- To all of the State-of-the-School Night parent helpers – Sanlin Cory for bringing ice and lending a hand setting up, Karen Axel for the lovely flowers, Eric Guthertz for helping us hire students from Mission High School and Lisa Eltinge for pinning roses on guests.
- To Danny Zemanek for arranging to have State-of-the-School Night and the David Minus Science Center dedication videotaped.
- To Steve Donovan for graciously agreeing to provide components and expert programming services for the new audio visual system in the library.
- To Jane Seabrook for donating gardening supplies: soil, plants and fertilizer. Also for setting up a wholesale account for CDS at Guerrero Street Gardens.
- To Sally Nielsen for picking up hay, straw and feed in Half Moon Bay for the chickens and sheep.
- To Dan Keller for donating computer equipment for the computer tech enrichment class.

I can tell you right now, we will not receive this accolade. No school ever does. A report by a CAIS visiting committee is always a list of commendations and recommendations. There is always room to grow, and a school that could actually achieve complete congruence between mission and action isn't trying hard enough. I believe that an independent school, to be worth the money, has to be striving for something big, something like: the best possible education at the lowest possible cost, or to provide excellent education without regard to a person's ability to pay.

The word excellence, itself, has built into it the concept of the impossibility of ever arriving. Two of my children went to a college whose slogan was:

“Climb high  
Climb far  
Your goal the sky  
Your aim a star”

Similarly, schools or parents who have an aim for children that they measure up to a set of standards are selling their children short. All children, whether they are sons of the rich, daughters of poverty, orphans or immigrants,

naturally want to imagine the sky as the limit.

Today, in common parlance, integrity is the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high moral principles or professional standards. It has been trivialized to be synonymous with honesty. These common understandings of integrity will never get us to integrity, but only to hypocrisy. More formally, integrity is the state of being whole, complete and in right-relationship in the world. The only way humans can achieve integrity is to admit to and own our own internal inconsistencies and try with others to be true in the moment.

In an organization, this looks like publicly engaging in the continuous project of comparing what we say with what we do. For us as humans it looks like admitting mistakes, asking forgiveness and moving on. For parents and teachers it looks like insisting on what we know is good for kids, even if we don't always do it ourselves perfectly.

## The Dirt

### Ants!

Last week I was watering plants with Asher, Alena, Celeste, Patrice and Sally. We were chatting away while watering the fava beans when all of a sudden Patrice yelled, “ants!” My past experience in similar situations with children (or adults) led me to anticipate the kids would scurry away from the area and start brushing off the ants in a panic. Not this group of third graders. It just so happens that Ms. Katherine, Mr. Josh and I are collaborating on an ant project with the third grade class, and learning about ants seems to be already influencing students' relationship to the creatures. Instead of scurrying away, all of the students moved in closer for a better look at what the ants were doing. We observed the ants working together to try and rescue ant eggs we'd unintentionally drowned in water. They were working together to move the eggs out of the wet plant bed in search of dryer ground. It was a beautiful reminder of how fortunate students at CDS are to be able to relate what they learn in the classroom to real-life situations.

—Misty, Environmental Education Resource Teacher

## From the Office

### Farewell to Julianna

It's with sadness that I bid a fond farewell to CDS. My partner and I have made the decision to move to Portland where a warm and familiar music and art scene awaits. What an honor it's been to be a part of CDS' growth in the last two years! I will truly miss this wonderful and inspiring community.

The capable and charming Mary De Nardo will be taking my place. We'll be training together next week, which will find her assuming the role of *Weekly* editor and administrative assistant. Be sure to make Mary welcome and very best wishes to everyone!

—Julianna Bright, Administrative Assistant (and *Weekly* editor)

### New Faces Around Campus

We're sure you've noticed all the new faces around school this fall. We're so glad to welcome them to our community!

**Marco Austin** joined CDS as Bookkeeper after twelve years in finance.

**May De Nardo** will re-join CDS as an Administrative Assistant. She has taught in our summer program during the past 2 years, and worked in the Development Office last year.

On the first floor, **Rose Haas** is our new receptionist. Rose joined the staff at CDS after having volunteered in the preschool during the 2003-04 school year.

**Rachel Hammerlein** has joined us as the Preschool Outside Teacher. A teacher in several of the CDS summer camps, she officially joined the faculty in the fall.

**Katherine Hines**, third grade Head Teacher, joined CDS in 2004. Prior to joining CDS, Katherine spent four years teaching fourth grade at Echo Horizon School, an independent school in Los Angeles.

In the Tadpole classroom Bay Area native and Bank Street School of Education graduate **Margaret Piskitel** is the new Head Teacher.

**Marion Quinones**, the new Director of Development, served on the CDS Board of Trustees and as President of the PTTA in 2003-04, and is mother of Laurel '12 and Sarah '15.

**Madora Soutter** taught first grade at The Sidney Silverstein Little Sparrow School in New York City before joining CDS this year as a first grade Head Teacher.

**Eric Subido**, the new 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Extended Program Teacher, worked in the East Palo Alto School District as a tutor for a sixth grade class of at-risk boys prior to joining CDS in 2004.

The first grade is also excited to have **Sara Switzman** as their Extended Program Teacher. Sara served as a coach with a nonprofit called Future Possibilities before coming to CDS.

**Mark Wise**, who has just moved from Virginia, has joined Jen and Gladys as a Head Teacher in the kindergarten classroom.

### Safety Updates

Slow down in the parking lot!!! Many people are driving frighteningly fast through our parking lot, forgetting that this is a place where children can be at ANY time during the day. Please help keep our community members safe. And remember: stay in your car during drop-off and pick-up times, a staff or faculty member will escort your child from or to your car.

In other safety news, our new gate system has raised a few questions. So you know, "0000" is NOT the code to open the gate. When you use the keypad to dial "0000" you are connected to a cell phone carried by a CDS staff member. You will be asked to identify yourself via the speaker under the keypad in order to gain entry. The staff member will not open the gate until they know who is at the gate (there are times when the person

### Go Bulldogs!

#### Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Monday, October 4, 4 p.m.

Chinese-American International School, 151 Oak St.

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.

answering the cell phone can see you on our security monitor or through a window and may automatically open the gate for you). Remember also to help us keep our campus safe by being aware of anyone entering the gate behind you.

## Kid Chow Lunch Program

Kid Chow is a healthy, kid-friendly lunch service that prepares and delivers brown bag lunches to CDS five days a week. Since its launch last fall, Kid Chow and its lunches have received rave reviews from kids and parents alike. Parents love the convenience, variety and healthy fare while kids enjoy the delicious, theme-based foods Kid Chow creatively prepares. Kid Chow's lunches are ordered via the web at [www.kid-chow.com](http://www.kid-chow.com). You may order as often as you like to suit your schedule and budget.

We invite you to meet Kid Chow co-founder Jamie Feuerman at the October 1 Friday morning coffee. Jamie will be available to answer questions regarding Kid Chow's lunch service and bring samples of Kid Chow's lunch fare. In the meantime, we encourage you to visit Kid Chow's website at [www.kid-chow.com](http://www.kid-chow.com).

Kid Chow operates independently from CDS so please direct any and all Kid Chow related questions to Kid Chow at 830-0089 or email, [chow@kid-chow.com](mailto:chow@kid-chow.com).

## Lectern Needed

CDS is in need of an attractive lectern for presentations on campus. If anyone has a lectern collecting dust in their attic or office storage closet, we'd be delighted to take it off your hands. Thank you!

## Lost & Found

Lost and Found items are stored in a plastic tub near the entrance to the K-8 boys' bathroom. On the last Thursday and Friday of every month, we'll be displaying these items at the drop-off and pick-up area. Whatever is unclaimed at the end of school on that Friday will be donated to Community Thrift.

## Events

### Picture Day

Next Thursday, October 7 is CDS' annual picture day! The shots taken on this day are individual shots only. Class photos will be taken in the spring. Please make sure your child is dressed nicely with their hair combed.

Photos for the Tadpole Class begin promptly at 9 a.m., so please be on time.

Here's the photo schedule by class:

- Tadpoles – 9 a.m.
- Leaping Lizards - 9:30 a.m.
- Starfish - 10 a.m.
- Kindergarten - 10:30 a.m.
- 1st grade - 11 a.m.
- 2nd grade - 11:30 a.m.
- 3rd grade – 12 p.m.
- 4th/5th grade -12:30 p.m.
- 6th grade - 1 p.m.
- 7th grade -1:30 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact Rose at 861-5432 x10.

## 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,

## 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).

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

### Fall Enrichment Classes

**Classes are filling up, but there's still time to sign up!** Please pick up a registration form at the front desk if you need one and call Jenna at x15 if you have questions or need more information. Enrichment classes are a great opportunity for students of all ages to participate in something of their own choosing, make friends with students in different classes with similar interests and have a lot of fun with a new teacher! Final deadline has been extended to Thursday, September 30. The enrichment class participant list will be posted by the glass doors on Friday morning. Please assume that your child is enrolled in the class you registered him/her for unless Jenna has called to inform you of a cancellation. Feel free to call Jenna to confirm.

### Adult Enrichment Classes

An exciting new extended program for ADULTS! Classes will run weeknights and Saturdays and be open to CDS staff, CDS parents, Notre Dame Plaza residents and friends of the school (staff and parents). There will also be on-site childcare offered while classes are in session. Classes will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings (after 6 p.m.) for one hour for an eight-week session, and on Saturdays for four, two-hour sessions. Classes will begin the week of October 18. If you're interested in participating in a class, please stay tuned for the upcoming informational/registration packet that will be sent home in students' backpacks.

### PM Program Open to All

Tell your friends! The after school program, vacation camps and enrichment classes are open to all San Francisco students. Families interested in receiving more information can call Jenna at 861-5432 x15.

## Library Corner

### Library Opening Festival

The library's opening festival has shaped up nicely, with 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. And then, several Bay Area literary all-stars will delight us with readings from their favorite children's books. Reading authors include:

- 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-schoolers.
- Susan Straight – Acclaimed author of seven works of fiction including *Highwire Moon*, California Book Award winner, National Book Award nominee and CDS writing workshop instructor.
- Vendela Vida – Critically lauded 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 and short pieces of fiction. If you think your child would be interested in participating, please contact Debra Levin right away to secure a place in the program. 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, and to celebrate another milestone for CDS! RSVP by October 6 to Debra Levin at 415-861-6308, or by email to [library@cds-sf.org](mailto:library@cds-sf.org).

## Hola Familias de CDS

Hola familias!

Our second and third graders are doing just great with their Spanish lessons. Their spelling and writing is advancing with every week. Bravo!

The middle schoolers are working hard and reading really well. Encourage your middle schoolers to keep up the good work!

*Feliz Semana!*

— Spanish Department

## PTTA Update

### October Meeting

We hope new and returning parents will join us for the October PTTA meeting. The meeting will be held Tuesday, October 5 upstairs in the faculty lounge from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Childcare for CDS students is free if you sign up at the front desk by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. The preliminary agenda is as follows:

- Wine and cheese (!), casual mingling and introductions.
- Overview of October calendar (library opening, parent education night, Halloween, etc.).
- Presentation and Q&A from special guests – CDS board members Kit Land and Bill Gaede – on the CDS annual fund, finances and phonathon to be held October 19 and 20.
- Q&A and comments from group.
- If time permits, the beginning of an on-going discussion of last year and this year's PTTA theme—Communicating Academic Excellence.

If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda, please let me know. We hope to see you there!

—Marianne Evans, PTTA President

### CDS Community E-Group

We have recently launched a Children's Day School Community e-group and hope you will join! The CDS community is such a great resource, and e-mail makes it so easy to communicate with each other. This new e-group will be like an in-house Craig's List. If you have something to sell, need to get a recommendation for a babysitter, dentist, piano teacher (or whatever), want to announce an event outside of school, or have an apartment to rent, you'll be able to communicate this information easily by just typing a message and pressing "send." Reach out to the hundreds of people who make up the CDS community, live in your neighborhood, know your kids and have a lot in common with you.

This group is open to the entire CDS community (teachers, administrators, parents) and is exclusively about life outside of school.

To join, simply send a blank e-mail to:  
[cdscommunity-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:cdscommunity-subscribe@yahoo.com).

## Upcoming Dates

### 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 15th

10:15-10:30 a.m.  
Friday Assembly  
1st Grade will be presenting

### Tuesday, October 19-Wednesday, October 20

6-9 p.m.  
Annual Fund Phoneathon

### 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

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