



February 2, 2006

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### A Landmark Moment

At 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, the four-member California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) Visiting Committee packed up their laptops and steno pads and left our third floor art space. They took a snapshot of our school over the course of two and a half days and gave us a 20 minute synopsis of their commendations and recommendations based on what they saw.

In the wake of their report, enthusiasm among the faculty, administrators, parents and board members present was palpable. Conversations swirled! Ideas bounced! Congratulations were offered and suggestions made. We were thrilled that the essence of the CDS community showed up in the team's interactions with every member of our community. And as a community of learners, we were inspired by recommendations that gave us suggestions about ways to improve.

The committee was composed of two heads of other California independent schools, a middle school head and an assistant head. Their mission was to put together a report for CAIS to recommend Children's Day School for accreditation. Although they have been trained to hold their cards pretty close to their chests, it was obvious that they liked what they saw.

Of course what most impressed them were the children. They recognized over and over again how loved, engaged, curious and self aware our students are, and how much our students love being here. Other highlights for them included a strong connection between students, teachers, parents and trustees—a community with a deep commitment to diversity and inclusion—and they loved the sheep. Although they were complimentary of what was going on in the classrooms and impressed with the students' ERB scores, they noted that we need to keep working on measuring what matters and the articulation of our curriculum from grade to grade. (We're already moving on that one - the social studies/social science committee met yesterday to dive into that piece of our curriculum.)

Though the members of the visiting committee came from quite different schools, they were impressed with the clarity with which we define ourselves uniquely as a school that is committed to creating a safe place for each student to be themselves and maximize their unique potential. They were very complimentary of the Board and commented on the improvements in the school's financial stability and the commitment to faculty compensation. The governance, community and action plan sections received no recommendations. Since governance and finance are the two areas that CAIS scrutinizes most when it comes to accreditation, I will go out on a limb and predict that we will be accredited when the CAIS board meets in the late spring.

### Hot Dates

Friday, February 3  
10-10:15 a.m.

Friday assembly  
Fourth grade presenting

Friday, February 3  
2:30-6 p.m.

Blood and bone marrow drive  
Fourth grade classroom

Monday, February 6  
4:15 p.m.

Girls basketball game  
vs. Synergy  
Boys & Girls Club

Monday, February 6  
7-8:30 p.m.

State of the School night  
Third floor art space

Tuesday, February 7  
4:30 p.m.

PTTA Meeting  
"Cultivating Individual Genius"  
Faculty lounge



## Thank You!

- To Springer Huseby, Kate Torres, Darcy Provo and pinch-hitter Ann Stuhldreher for helping with Saturday's visiting/interview day for prospective preschool families. They were wonderful ambassadors for CDS!
- To Ray Baxter and Linda Glover for donating leftover lost and found items to Community Thrift.
- To Betsy Cordes for designing an ad for the CDS Summer Camp.
- To Neil Olson and Jessica Lanning for donating a microwave to the faculty lounge.

From a professional point of view, their highest compliment was their approval of our action plan. They did not see anything we need to work on that we do not already know we need to work on—and as a growing school there is still plenty to do. They had nothing to add to our own self-study. So we are attaching a copy of our action plan for your bedtime reading enjoyment. Take a look, and let us know what YOU think. Tracy Kirkham and other Trustees will elaborate on some of these themes at the upcoming State of the School night on Monday, February 6. I look forward to seeing you there.

Please join those of us who were in the room at 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2006, in spirit or in practice, by raising a glass to the many people who contributed to this landmark moment—formal recognition by the California Association of Independent Schools.

## Hola Familias

### Spanish Update

Spanish classes have been busy this month! Check out all the great activities students have been working on:

- 1<sup>st</sup> graders are learning to express themselves via adjectives and verbs using the Muzzy program.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been studying objects that surround them in the classroom. They will also be writing a cinquain in Spanish.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are becoming adept at describing others and are studying for a spelling test in Spanish.

- 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been studying verbs, how to describe people, how to ask and answer questions and have begun a project on migrant workers in the United States.
- 5<sup>th</sup> graders are writing stories based on total physical response activities.
- 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been working with total physical response activities, creating stories, and have been doing quite well with commands and movement. They will be writing a cinquain this week.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are working on biographies of one other.

Additional resources for middle school students can be found at [www.colby.edu](http://www.colby.edu) in the verb chart area, for extra help with tenses. For younger children, games in Spanish can be found at Office Depot.

## From the Office

### State of the School Night

State of the School night is quickly approaching. Please join us on Monday, February 6 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the third floor art space. Topics include balancing the competing goals and needs for future growth, and reviewing the school's revised mission and values statements. Cookies and coffee will be provided.

### Childcare

Childcare is available for State-of-the-School night from 7-8:30 p.m. on Monday, February 6. Please sign up with the receptionist before noon on February 6 so we can staff the event appropriately. Please note: this service is provided for any CDS student (grades pre-8), and for siblings who do not attend CDS in grades K-8. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate children preschool aged and younger who do not attend CDS.

Drop off for childcare begins at 6:45 p.m.; there is no care from 6-6:45 p.m. Popcorn and a movie will be provided.

## From the Classrooms

### Blood and Bone Marrow Drive

How would you like to potentially save a child's life in only 15 minutes time? All parents, teachers and staff are invited to donate blood and/or have their bone marrow "matched" for potential donation in the future.

In conjunction with their class project on the human body, the kindergarten class will be holding a blood and bone marrow matching drive at CDS tomorrow! Parents can give blood and do bone marrow matching in the fourth grade classroom.

"We thought it would be a great opportunity to build upon the kindergarten class's work while tangibly connecting with both the CDS community and greater communities at large in an act of giving," said teacher Carlene Lim.

Getting your bone marrow typed is quick, easy and painless. Finding a match outside someone's family is a one-in-a-million process. A small sample of blood (not marrow) is drawn and tested along a complex set of criteria. Information is permanently entered into a series of national and international databases. When a match is found (sometimes years down the road) the donor is contacted to anonymously make the donation at a local facility that can easily save a life. Normally this is an expensive process, but the cost of all testing will be covered in honor of kindergartener Carlyn Strang's seven year old cousin Matthew who is currently undergoing a bone marrow transplant that will save his life as he fights leukemia.

Thank you for your support.

## Events

### Kaleidoscope Theater

Kaleidoscope Theatre, a first semester theatre selective, will be performing its culminating event next weekend entitled "Pituitary Gland Blues: Hormones, Homework, and Hysteria." (This was named by the students!) They will be performing at the Little Theatre, located on the 4th floor of Mission High School, on Saturday, February 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 12 at noon. Please join us for an entertaining, yet quite dramatic, theatrical study of adolescence. Hope to see you there!

## Extended Program News

### Summer Camp

Summer camp descriptions and registration packets will be sent home the week of February 13. If you want to get a head start, all forms are available on our website at [http://www.cds-sf.org/life\\_at\\_cds/summer.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/summer.html). As in previous years, camps are open to CDS families and community families so spread the word and tell your friends!

### February Vacation Camp

You should find registration packets for February vacation camp in your child's backpack today! The theme for the camp is an old favorite, "Urban Wildlife." The camp will be divided into three age groups: preschool, K-I, and 2-8, and runs from Tuesday, February 21 through Friday, February 24, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

## Go Bulldogs!

### Futsal Coach Needed!

The co-ed futsal (indoor soccer) team is still in need of a coach. The futsal season is just around the corner. Please contact Mr. Jim at 861-5432 x372 as soon as possible if you are able to coach.

### Basketball Scores

Girls: January 23, CDS vs. KDBS  
KDBS 18, CDS 8

Girls: January 25, CDS vs. SFS  
SFS 35, CDS 10

Boys: January 24, CDS vs. CAIS I  
CAIS I 25, CDS 19

Boys: January 30, CDS vs. CAIS II  
CDS 35, CAIS II 8

### Basketball Calendar

Girls: Monday, February 6, 4:15 p.m.  
Synergy, at the Boys & Girls Club

## PTTA Update

### Upcoming PTTA Events

#### Fiesta 2006

Fiesta 2006 will be held on Friday, April 7. We are currently seeking people to help with solicitations, writers who can produce marketing materials for donation requests and set-up/clean-up volunteers. Interested volunteers should contact Stephanie Scarpulla at 415-999-6227 or Robin McClarren at 415-235-0295.

#### Yearbook

We need editorial-minded and detail-oriented volunteers to assist the seventh and eighth graders in producing the CDS yearbook. Also needed are candid photos from the classroom and other school activities from this year. Contact Leslie Edelman at 415-334-8108 or [leslieedelman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leslieedelman@sbcglobal.net) with your materials and assistance.

#### Country Fair

Want to dwell in the warm heart of CDS? Consider stepping up as parent co-chair of the Country Fair. This is a unique opportunity to work closely with many members of the CDS community and make a major contribution to this quintessential CDS event.

### Upcoming Meetings

- PTTA Meeting: Tuesday, February 7. "Cultivating Individual Genius." Rick, Rebecca and other staff members will lead a discussion of this pillar of CDS philosophy. Discussion will center on a magazine article, "The Problem with Problems," attached to today's Weekly for you to read prior to the meeting.
- Community Building Committee: date for the next meeting is TBD. For information about the Community Building Committee please contact Laura Pliska at 415-641-5116 or [laura@sfbabyworks.com](mailto:laura@sfbabyworks.com).

If you have any comments, questions about the PTTA Updates, or items you would like included on the PTTA calendar, contact Ray Baxter at 415-902-0765 or [ray@warmroom.com](mailto:ray@warmroom.com).

### Upcoming Dates

Friday, February 10

Re-enrollment and sibling contracts mailed

Saturday, February 11 & Sunday, February 12

8 p.m. (Saturday), Noon (Sunday)

Kaleidoscope Theater selectives class performance

Mission High School

Little Theater

Friday, February 17

Re-enrollment and sibling contracts due

Monday, February 20

President's Day observed

No school

No extended program

Tuesday, February 21 – Friday, February 24

February vacation

No school

Extended program available

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail