



February 16, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Some of Our Best Teachers

Ever since I began to get to know Children's Day School children I have entertained the hypothesis that their compassion and thoughtfulness come from the fact that they have been caring for animals. I imagine that they have all had the experience, at least once, of holding a warm chicken's egg in their hand. Caring for another life! When children start running into conflicts, and the urge for self-protection makes its demands, it is crucial that a place inside of them has been cultivated to care about the other person, about their feelings and happiness—about that other life.

This week I discovered that Misty has been teaching behavioral science—from preschool through fourth grade. She decided to try her own experiment; if she taught the kids how to tame the chickens, they won't run away from them when they come into the farm. Therefore, the students have been learning to use positive reinforcement to train the chickens, conditioning the chickens to associate something positive (food) with being touched. The kids collect sour grass and snails and offer the food and at the same time pet the hens.

Already this year the hens are choosing to walk toward the children instead of running away from them. A number of students have learned how to get the chickens to jump up on their laps and be pet. All but Ginger and Pom Pom are tolerating being pet, and Moonlight is now sitting on laps (when food is used as a lure). Occasionally they revert to running away when the children come in the farm. Misty is beginning to explore the hypothesis that this behavior results when the children try the old methods of chasing them around, determined to pet or pick up a hen that is fearful and trying to get away.

The last two weeks of balmy weather have made me feel—contrary to some groundhog's alleged feelings—that spring is not only just around the corner, but already here. The flowering trees all over town belie the "six more weeks of winter" theory, and the appearance of daffodils cinches the issue for me.

Besides this, meetings about the Country Fair have been going on in the lounge ever since the days started to get longer. Parents and teachers have already stepped up to the manger and have begun planning all the various aspects of the event: Karen is busy planning art projects for the kids to work on. Misty, Karen and Elizabeth have started the Country Fair Club which will meet every Thursday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to work on farm and garden crafts to sell in the Country Market. Katherine Whitney (mom of Leyla and Kian) will be knitting with the Country Fair Club as well. Everyone is invited to join this club. Elizabeth and the preschoolers are preparing the wool sheared from Lucky and Jojo at last year's fair. This will be turned into hats, scarves and other wonderful things. Kathleen DiGrande, mom of kindergartener Ava and third

Hot Dates

Friday, February 17

10-10:15 a.m.

Friday assembly

Second grade presenting

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



Thank You!

- To Vanessa Lambright for donating a scooter to the preschool yard.
- To Amanda Richard for helping greet potential kindergarten families during visiting day on February 9.
- To Sanlin Cory, Susi Alexander, Ann Van Gelder and Andrea Reynolds for their enthusiastic help with the Saturday visiting day for prospective preschool families.
- To the middle school families for providing an absolutely outrageous breakfast spread.
- To Rick Ackerly, Sam and Diana Hunt, Danielle Franco and Michael Silver for hosting recent Friday morning coffees.
- To all who participated in the blood and bone marrow drive sponsored by the kindergarten class. It was a great event; 34 people came to donate blood and 7 people joined the bone marrow registry!

grader Tyler, has volunteered to be one of our co-chairs. Adam Feuerstein, dad of kindergartener Graeme and second grader Chloe, has volunteered to be Barbeque King. This is the last Country Fair for a number of parents: especially Sanlin Cory who has coordinated the barbeque for as long as I can remember and Sally Nielson, who has chaired the event for the past three years. It is wonderful to see a new wave of parents stepping forward.

There are so many other reasons why our children learn how to work and play well together: a strong cadre of well-trained five-year-olds move into the elementary school from the preschool every year, an entire faculty makes sure to create a safe environment for one other, and so on; but I still hold to the theory that some of our best teachers are in the farm.

The Dirt

Country Fair Club

Come join the Country Fair Club every Thursday in March and April from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to work on farm and garden crafts to sell at the Country Fair. Katherine Whitney (Leyla and Kian's mom) will be leading a knitting group. Ms. Elizabeth, Ms. Karen and Ms. Misty will lead a variety of craft projects that may include

making candles, cards or bookmarks with pressed flowers, rosemary vinegar, lavender scented soap and lavender honey. If the craft projects finish early, Ms. Misty will lead work projects to help beautify the garden for the Country Fair.

Family Farmers

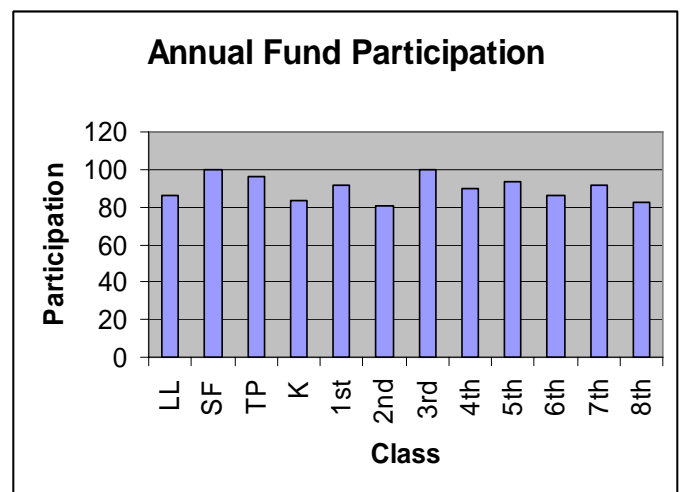
We still need a few more family farmers for April 17 and 18! If you are available, please contact Misty at 861-5432 x321 so she can set up a time to train you.

From the Office

Annual Fund Update

A huge thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, friends and community members who have donated to the Annual Fund, and to those who have helped garner support and build enthusiasm along the way. The success of the annual fund campaign is truly a testament to the community at CDS. The Development Committee recently held a celebration and toasted the following class captains for their outstanding leadership during the campaign: Jonathan Hubbard, David Jasso, David Klaus, Patricia Buse-Ruppert, Jacob Glickman, Nina Robin, Kim Tennis, Susi Alexander, Wini von Ehrenburg, Don Zirulnik, Jackie Haslam, Yvelise Cabral, Cindy and David Wilson and Susie Carlson.

We are incredibly close to reaching our parent participation goal of \$115,000. If you haven't already made a donation and would still like to, we are accepting gifts up until June 30, 2006. We'd love to reach our goal! The Starfish and the third grade classes have each reached 100% participation and several more classes are very close to 100% participation (see graph below). Once again, thank you for your incredible generosity.



Welcome Cecilia Ruth Quinones

Help us welcome Cecilia Ruth Quinones, the new addition to the Quinones' family. Cecilia arrived on Friday, February 2, weighing 9 lbs., 5 oz. and measuring 21 1/2 inches long. Both Marion and Cecilia are doing great and can be found cruising the neighborhood during drop-off and pick-up time.

BASIC Fund Scholarships

The BASIC Fund is a privately funded scholarship program created to expand educational opportunity for families in the San Francisco Bay Area. The program is available to students entering K-8 grade who will be attending a private school in Alameda, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. CDS is a member of the BASIC Fund. The program provides partial scholarships to help families send their children to the private or parochial school of their choice. The BASIC Fund scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need. Scholarships are for a maximum of \$1,500 annually per child. Application forms are available at the front desk or online at www.basicfund.org. Applications are due April 14, 2006.

Nuevo Calendario Mensual

Por favor observe el calendario adjunto de Marzo, ¡en Inglés y en Español. ¡Note cuanto hay en el horario para Marzo y tenga un gran mes!

Monthly Calendar

Please note the attached calendar for March, in English and Spanish. Check out all that is on the agenda for March and have a great month!

From the Art Department

Is that a Van Goat?

Thanks to Mickie Kerr, donor of the many fiberglass angora goats donning the CDS yard, you too can paint, decorate and/or create your very own Van Goat. The goats come in three sizes and are ready for artistic inspiration. Simply call Ms. Elizabeth at 861-5432 x363 to set up a time to come in and create your own Picasso goat.

Events

Fiesta 2006

You may have noticed friendly parents outside during morning drop-off, answering auction questions and reminding families to donate auction items. Auction volunteers will be available during drop-off through March 3. They have donation forms and answers to all of your auction-related questions.

Here are some great donation ideas:

- Host a theme party, dinner, wine tasting or cocktails at your home.
- Donate frequent flyer miles or two nights at your favorite hotel.
- Part with your season tickets for one day or night at the opera or a sporting event.
- Create a gourmet picnic basket or earthquake provisions basket.
- Take a group of children/adults hiking, camping, skating or plan your own special activity.
- Ask a friend or relative to donate time at their vacation home.
- Present a gift certificate from your favorite restaurant or store.
- Donate a gift certificate from your child's ballet, gymnastics or swim school.
- Donate a gift certificate from your favorite yoga, pilates, tennis or gym instructor.
- Make available services for an attorney, graphic or interior designer, financial planner, contractor or home improvement or gardening skills for a CDS family.

Thanks for your continued enthusiasm and support.

Extended Program News

February Vacation Camp

Registration packets for February vacation camp were sent home with the *Weekly* last week. The theme for the camp is an old favorite, "Urban Wildlife." Check out calendars of all the amazing activities posted on the extended program bulletin board. The camp will be divided into three age groups: preschool, kindergarten and grades 1-8 and runs from Tuesday, February 21 through Friday, February 24, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. If you didn't receive a registration form, extras are available at the front desk.

Summer Camp 2006

Summer camp descriptions and registration packets for preschool through 4th grade are being sent home with today's *Weekly*. Forms are also available on-line at http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/summer.html. For students entering grades 5 through 9, Andre Perry will be leading two incredible writing camps. Registration forms are being sent home with today's *Weekly*.

As in previous years, camps are open to CDS families and community families so spread the word and tell your friends!

PTTA Update

PTTA Officers and Liaisons

Are you interested in serving as a classroom liaison or PTTA officer next year? Do you know someone you think would be ideal in one of these positions? If so, please contact a current classroom liaison or officer. Liaisons are responsible for building and strengthening the CDS community in the classroom. PTTA officers are responsible for building and strengthening community in the school. The titles of current PTTA Officers are President, Vice-President for Liaisons, Vice-President for Community, Vice-President for Volunteers and Secretary.

Volunteer Opportunities

Yearbook

We need editorial-minded and detail-oriented volunteers to assist the seventh and eighth graders in producing the 2nd annual CDS yearbook. Also needed are candid photos from the classroom and other school activities from this year. Contact Leslie Edelman (415-

334-8108, 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 to make a major contribution to this quintessential CDS event.

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. To volunteer, contact Michael Silver at 415-518-1803 or michael.silver@barclaysglobal.com or sign up on the sheet posted in the first floor entryway. 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?

- Marianne Evans, PTTA President, (415) 648-1731 or goevansgo@yahoo.com
- Amanda Richard, VP, Classroom Liaison Coordinator, (415) 695-0657 or amanda.richard@sbcglobal.net
- Laura Pliska, VP, Community Building Coordinator, (415) 641-5116 or laura@sfbabyworks.com
- Ray Baxter, VP, Secretary, (415) 902-0765 or ray@warmroom.com
- Michael Silver, VP, Parent Volunteer Coordinator, (415) 597-2413 or michael.silver@barclaysglobal.com

Upcoming Events

PTTA Meeting: Tuesday, March 14. Diversity and the CDS Mission. Discussion of the Values Statement of the CDS Mission: “The Children’s Day School community nourishes and celebrates diversity, promotes justice and respect for all people, and aspires to act always with integrity, compassion and generosity.” What does that statement of values mean to the CDS community and how close are we to that ideal?

Community Building Committee: Date for the next meeting is TBD. For information about the Community Building Committee please contact Laura Pliska (415-641-5116, 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 (415-902-0765, ray@warmroom.com).

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, March 8
7-9 p.m.

Parent Education Night
Third floor art space

Monday, March 13

Professional development day
No school
No extended program

Tuesday, March 14

4:30 p.m.
PTTA meeting
Faculty lounge

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via email