



March 23, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL
Weekly

Words from Rick

Empathy at Work

On Friday morning, while eating his snack of pretzels and oranges, Tadpole William suddenly started to cry, for no apparent reason. Margaret went up to him to find out what was wrong.

Margaret asked, "Are you hurt?"

William shook his head through his tears.

"Did somebody do something to you?"

William shook his head again.

"Do you miss your mom?"

William nodded and started to cry harder.

The room grew quiet, which often happens when a child is crying; from the woodworking space to the dramatic play area, William's crying was practically the only sound heard and most attention was turned toward the upset child.

Meghan came up, concerned about her friend William and asked, "What's the matter with William?"

"He misses his mom," Margaret answered.

"Ooohhh," she said understandingly. She looked at him sympathetically.

"Let's ask William what will make him feel better," said Margaret. "What will make you feel better, William?"

"What will make you feel better?" Meghan asked.

The crying continued, and the Tadpoles' interest heightened.

"Do you need a hug?" asked Margaret.

William nodded tearfully. Margaret gave him a hug, but the tears kept coming. Margaret and Meghan asked several more questions, to no avail.

"Maybe you need a glass of water?"

"Maybe you want to draw a picture for your mom?"

"Do you want to write a note to your mom?"

Margaret was beginning to run out of ideas. "I'm going to get you a tissue," she said. "I'll be right back."

As Margaret walked to another part of the classroom to get the box of tissues, two five-year-olds, Sofia and Vida, who had, moments ago, been drawing detailed and elaborate pictures, began conferring. Neither child is a stranger to, on occasion, missing their grownups. They got up and headed toward the book shelf on the rug. Something about their purposefulness made Margaret pause. She watched the girls go to the basket of family pictures and start searching. (Each child has a laminated collage of pictures of the people in his/her family which they keep in a basket on the rug.)

Hot Dates

Friday, March 24

10-10:15 a.m.

Friday assembly

Leaping Lizard class presenting



Thank You!

- To Ray Baxter, Michael Silver and Yvelise Cabral for calling all of the newly enrolled CDS families and welcoming them to our school community.
- To Susi Alexander, Anshu & Atri Chatterjee, Betsy Cordes, Sanlin Cory, Marianne Evans, Bill & Tacy Gaede, Tracy Kirkham, Tina Leung, Mylene & Nerius Mercado, Karen Randig and Michael Silver & Carlos Vasquez for being on the CDS “call list” that was mailed out to all students admitted to CDS two weeks ago. Thanks for taking the time to talk with the newly admitted families and help them determine if CDS is the right fit!
- To Georgia McNamara, Rosemarie MacGuinness and Bill Littmann for hosting a St. Patrick’s Day tea and coffee in the yard last Friday with fresh baked treats, including Irish soda bread.

“Margaret!” Sofia called. “William’s family picture isn’t here.”

Then Margaret remembered that William often rests with his family picture. “He likes to have it on his mat with him during rest time. Maybe it’s in his rest cubby,” she said.

Vida ran to the rest cubbies and searched for William’s name. “I found it!” she called excitedly after locating his name. Both girls rushed over to deliver the picture to William. It worked like magic. The girls both gave William a hug, made sure he had stopped crying and then headed back to their table. They all went back to their work. William leaned his family picture against the wall and put his head down on the table, looking wistfully at the photograph, munching on his snack once again: all in a days work for a community of little people.

By the time they get to eighth grade, this is what empathy sounds like:

“I want to call University High as soon as possible to let them know I’m not coming—some of my classmates are on the waiting list.”

“If we aren’t going to a school, can Rebecca call and see if they can take someone else from CDS off the waiting list?”

“I got into more than one school – if I could have my

wish, I would give one of those admits to one of my classmates that really wanted to go there”

This is what CDS kids are made of and it all starts in preschool.

—Co-authored by Tadpole teacher Margaret Piskitel and Rick Ackerly

The Dirt

Family Farmer Parent Coordinator

Do you love being a family farmer? Are you interested in spending more time with the sheep and the hens? If so, consider becoming the new Family Farmer Parent Coordinator. The volunteer position starts in May, at the next family farmer training. The position’s responsibilities include attending the family farmer trainings (there are 3 every year), reminding family farmers via phone or e-mail that they need to pick up the key the week before their weekend farm duty, keeping a key at your home in case someone forgets to pick up the key, and being willing to help as a substitute or in case of an emergency. If you are interested, please contact Misty at 861-5432 x321.

From the Office

High School Admittance

Congratulations to our amazing 8th graders! Members of our very first graduating class were accepted at the following schools:

Independent Schools

The Bay School
Drew College Preparatory High School
International High School
Lick-Wilmerding High School
The Urban School
University High School

Private Schools

Archbishop Riordan High School
Bridgemont High School
Convent of the Sacred Heart High School
Immaculate Conception Academy
Sacred Heart Cathedral High School

School Wish List

- WOOD is GOOD is starting up again during the after school program! Please donate old hooks, screws, nails, metal brackets and doodads from your garage or tool box (the stranger the better, anything that can be attached to wood). We'll also take any old cans of spray paint or wood stain (water-based, please). We have enough wood, but if you have some small bits we can certainly use them. Thanks so much for all of the donations!
- The middle school photography class needs working manual or semi-manual 35 mm cameras. Please contact Christopher Gonzalez-Crane at christopherg@cds-sf.org if you are able to make a donation. Thanks for your support.

Public Schools

Galileo High School
Gateway Charter High School
Lincoln High School
Lowell High School
School of the Arts
Washington High School

2006-07 Staff Changes

As you know, this time of year brings the beginning of change. Faculty and staff renew contracts for next year and in some cases, we set out to hire additional teachers and staff members. We know that all of these developments are incredibly important to parents; however, in an effort to respect everyone's decisions and choices, we will announce all staff changes for the 2006-07 school year, at one time, in early June. Thanks for your support. If you have any immediate concerns, contact Rick Ackerly at 861-5432 x313 or Rebecca Kroll at 861-5432 x311.

Campaign Planning Study

In 2004, under the leadership of the Board of Trustees, CDS embarked upon a strategic planning process. Among the most pressing concerns identified as a result of the task force process was the need for improved facilities. The Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees is now focusing on the facility needs

of CDS. Bill Bondi, a San Francisco architect who has extensive experience in the design of schools, has provided us with a preliminary plan to renovate our main classroom building, St. Joseph's Hall. In addition, we are considering what facility expansions would benefit the School. As a key step in this process, the Board has retained the services of a national consulting firm, Marts & Lundy, Inc., to conduct a limited campaign planning study.

The purpose of a campaign planning study is to invite comments from the CDS community about priorities important to the future of CDS. This is a process in which many schools engage in order to prepare for future campaigns, and is considered "best practice" to undertake prior to moving into the implementation of a campaign. A campaign planning study applies a combination of strategies for soliciting community opinion regarding priorities, willingness to volunteer and confidence in moving forward. The analysis we are undertaking, through a combination of reaching out to the entire community and internal assessments of operational structures, will provide CDS with the quality and quantity of information necessary to determine priorities over the next 3 to 5 years.

Questions and comments about this study should be directed to Rick Ackerly at rackerly@cds-sf.org or Amanda Richard, Capital Campaign Coordinator, at amandar@cds-sf.org.

Nuevo Calendario Mensual

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

Monthly Calendar

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

Lost & Found

All lost and found items will be on display at the front gate on Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24 (today and tomorrow!). Please claim your lost items; all leftover items will be donated to Community Thrift at the end of the day on Friday. If it rains, all items will be in bins at the end of the first floor hallway by the bathrooms.

Assembly Schedule

Please note that the Friday assembly schedule has changed slightly. On Friday, March 31, the Starfish class will present and on Friday, April 7 there will be a school-wide Cesar Chavez presentation.

From the Classrooms

Adopt a Chick?

In conjunction with the Kindergarten class's study of the life cycle of a chicken, they would like to watch eggs hatch and study the baby chicks. To do so, they need volunteers to adopt the baby chicks and commit to raising them. If you are interested in adopting a baby chick, please call Ms. Carlene at 861-5432 x356 and let her know that you'd love to adopt and how many you'd like. Thanks for your help.

Yearbook Photos

The CDS yearbook committee needs photos for the 2005-06 yearbook. If you have any CDS photos (from the last two years) that you'd like to donate, please send them via e-mail or on CD to Doug Garfinkel (dougg@cds-sf.org) by Friday, March 31. They are especially interested in photos from sporting events.

Events

Cesar Chavez Celebration

Classes are planning many activities and field trips in celebration of Cesar Chavez and our all-school spring theme of "Labor." Check in with teachers to find out about how you can participate. Also, check out the "Cesar Chavez Retrospective" poster by the front door. It shows some of the Cesar Chavez celebrations that CDS has organized since 2001. On Friday, April 7 our morning all-school assembly will highlight many of the projects students have worked on in celebration of this great leader.

Fiesta 2006

Raffle Time!

Tickets go on sale for the Fiesta raffle on Monday, March 27! The Fiesta raffle is your chance to win any live auction item of your choice for \$100, the price of one raffle ticket. We will only sell 100 tickets so your odds are guaranteed to be great. You don't have to be present at the auction to win, but you do need to have someone there to claim your prize. Buy your tickets

early—only 100 tickets will be sold! Check out the list of amazing items attached to today's *Weekly* and good luck!

Childcare

Childcare will be provided free of charge for the Fiesta and will be held at CDS from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Bring pj's and sleeping bags for a fun night of movies, pizza and popcorn. Brittany Musler and Geoff Hinman will be hanging out with the older kids and Ngoc Tran will watch the preschool aged kids separately. If you are interested, please sign up with Ryan at the front desk—no drop-ins, please!

Please note: as usual, childcare is available for any CDS student and any sibling in grades K-8. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate non-CDS siblings who are preschool aged or younger.

Catalog

The Fiesta catalog will be available very soon; an amazing group of volunteers are busy entering in item information as you read this! In the meantime, check out some of these exciting items to bid on:

- La Costa getaway including golf
- Highlands Inn getaway with dinner
- Tickets to SF Ballet and SF Giants game
- Dinner at Delfina
- Amazing clay strawberry pot designed and decorated by the art department and CDS kids
- Dinner party at the Quinones house and karaoke at the Mint afterward
- Awesome teacher-sponsored activities including movie dates and bike rides

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to volunteer for this event. Many parents have been willing to lend a helping hand and make this event a true community celebration.

We hope you all can make it to the event on Friday, April 7. The Fiesta is a great place to socialize with teachers, parents and friends, kid-free. Also, please remember that the ticket price is SUGGESTED. Pay what you can; most importantly, we'd love to see you there!

As always, if you have any questions or comments about the Fiesta, please don't hesitate to call Stephanie Scarpulla at 415-206-1107. Thanks for all of your support.

Extended Program News

Summer Camps

Summer camps are starting to fill up! The preschool-K camps are three quarters full and the middle school writing camps are completely full! There is still plenty of room in the 1st-4th grade elementary camps. If you need registration forms, please check at the front desk, e-mail Charlie at charlies@cds-sf.org or download forms from our website at http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/summer.html. Also, there is a summer camp resource box with literature about other city-wide camps for all ages in the library. Check it out!

Spring Enrichment Classes

Spring enrichment classes began this week and are off to a great start. Please check the roster posted on the after school bulletin board to check your child's schedule.

Spring Vacation Camp

Registration sheets for the spring vacation camp have been sent home; more are available at the front desk. Camp runs from April 17-April 21 and the theme is, "San Francisco Explorations." You can also download forms on-line at http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/vacation.html. For middle school students, we are offering a spring vacation camping trip to Point Reyes National Seashore. If you didn't receive a sign up sheet and would like one, please check at the front desk or contact Charlie at charlies@cds-sf.org.

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, March 30

4 p.m.

Student vs. staff basketball game

Boys & Girls Club

Friday, April 7

10 a.m.

Cesar Chavez presentation

Friday assembly

Friday, April 7

6:30 p.m. – midnight

Fiesta 2006

St. Mary's Cathedral

1111 Gough Street

Children's Day School

333 Dolores Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

415-861-5432 (ph)

415-861-5419 (fax)

www.cds-sf.org

Editor: Mary DeNardo, maryd@cds-sf.org

Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail