



March 30, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

A Better Recipe

Earlier this year the Leaping Lizard class studied school. During this time and for months afterward, the dramatic play area became a school. The children asked for a dry-erase board, markers and a dry-erase calendar. Some of the children taught morning meeting, which includes copying the morning message from the board, telling the rest of the class what is happening for that day and writing numbers in a calendar pattern.

Our eighth graders' remarkable success in the high school placement process is in part due to the fact that the culture of internal motivation and self-discipline established years ago in the preschool has continued all the way into the eighth grade. Teija Corse (just enrolled at Lick Wilmerding High School for next year) has never lost her love of meaningful projects. She is still acting as if school is something that kids do rather than something that adults do to kids.

Recently, Teija interviewed government officials for an article she chose to do for the 8th grade class newspaper about gay marriage. She emailed Senator Feinstein, Governor Schwarzenegger, Vice President Cheney, Mayor Gavin Newsom, and got an immediate response from our Mayor.

Dear Teija Corse,

Thank you for your letter. I love to hear from young people, and I admire your interest in civil rights and gay marriage.

To answer your questions, you are absolutely right in questioning the inconsistency between the Constitution and the current prohibition of same-sex marriages. These are some of the same questions I asked when I considered allowing same-sex marriage in San Francisco, and I am impressed that you understand our country's constitution so well.

The 14th amendment does guarantee equal protection under the law for same-sex couples in my view. This is why in 2004 I took the initiative to allow same-sex marriage in the City of San Francisco, and although this decision is currently held up in the California State Supreme Court, we have made a bold statement in favor of equal rights.

Some Americans may be afraid of same-sex marriage, especially those with little exposure to the amazing Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning (LGBTQ) community we have in San Francisco. I truly believe that once people get a chance to meet and speak with members of the LGBTQ community, most will be able to overcome their prejudices and see them as the compassionate people they truly are. As Mayor of San Francisco, I will continue to push for the right of same-sex couples to marry and stand in full support of the LGBTQ community.

Hot Dates

Today!

4 p.m.

Students vs. staff basketball game
Boys & Girls Club

Friday, March 31

10-10:15 a.m.

Friday assembly
Starfish class presenting

Wednesday, April 5

Class photo day



Thank you for your insightful questions, and best of luck with your class newspaper, I am sure it will turn out wonderfully.

Sincerely,

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Here at CDS, we have a vision of children as natural learners and that vision requires that we redefine the job of teacher and go back to the original meaning of education, which is to lead a person's genius out into the world. Teija is leading her genius out of CDS.

We are doing something different here. In 1983 three thorough, independent studies in America found the education system tragically and fundamentally flawed. One study was entitled "A Nation at Risk." Since this study, things have not improved and have probably gotten worse. We are still at risk. How do we want our students to become adults and move into the world?

In writing the prospectus for our capital campaign study, "Fulfilling our Potential: Creating a 21st Century School," Diane Larrabee paraphrased Stanford economist Paul Romer when he said that big advances come from "better recipes, not more cooking." This is what we are doing here. Rather than doing more cooking, imposing education on kids and requiring more tests, we are creating better recipes. Our goal, to quote the former director of the Columbia Boy's and Girl's Club, is "to graduate young people from Children's Day School who see education not as a chore, but as a way of life."

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

Assembly Schedule

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

Class Photo Day

Class photo day has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 5. CDS will provide each student with one free class photo; additional photos can be purchased directly from Mugshots.

Events

Fiesta 2006

Please see the attached documents highlighting important and exciting Fiesta information, including raffle ticket information and a full list of the wine included in the Instant Wine Cellar live auction item!

Cesar Chavez Celebrations

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.

The preschool after school program will also hold a celebration in honor of Cesar Chavez tomorrow, from 2:45-4 p.m. Activities include singing, cooking, art projects and more. Families are welcome to join the fun.

Extended Program News

Summer Camp

There is still plenty of room in the 1st-4th grade elementary camps. Some of the preschool-K camps and middle school writing camps are full. You can check availability on our website (and download registration forms for open camps) at <http://www.cds-sf.org/life> at [cgs/summer.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/life). Also, there is a summer camp resource box with literature about other city-wide camps for all ages located in the library.

School Wish List

- The after school program needs old or broken electronic toys (battery operated only.) Students are going to fix them up or harvest the parts for a kinetic sculptures project. Please give any donations to after school teacher Rob Gillespie. Thanks!

Spring Enrichment Classes

Spring enrichment classes began last week. Please see the roster posted on the extended program bulletin board to check your child's schedule.

Spring Vacation Camp

Registration sheets for the spring vacation camp have been sent home and 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 online 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.

PTTA Update

Upcoming Events

There will be no PTTA meeting in April. See you at the Fiesta! Join us for the final PTTA meeting of the year in May.

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

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

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