



May 4, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

I and We, III

Character

On Tuesday afternoon out in the yard after rest time, Riley, Sarah and Anya (all preschoolers) were discussing what to play. They all decided that they wanted to be sisters, but became stuck when they had to figure out who would be what sister. Riley wanted to be the baby sister and both Sarah and Anya wanted to be the medium sister. They both ran up to Ms. Margaret, upset.

"I want to be the medium sister and Anya wants to be the medium sister, too, and I'm really a medium sister!" wailed Sarah, who really has a brand-new baby sister, Cecilia, and a big sister, Laurel.

"But I want to be the medium sister, too, and it's not fair!" exclaimed Anya.

"Well, how could you solve this problem? Maybe you could both be the medium sister?" said the wise teacher.

"But we can't both do it! Then there would be nobody to be the big sister and you can't have two medium sisters and no big sister!" cried Sarah. She had a point.

"Yeah! We need a big sister and I want to be the medium sister too!" shouted Anya.

"Well, maybe you need another person in your game, then," said Margaret.

Sarah and Anya both looked around the yard. Both girls' eyes stopped on Meghan who was carefully trying out a new trick, crawling from picnic bench to picnic bench just near them.

Sarah nudged Anya. "Maybe Meghan wants to be a sister with us?"

"Yeah!" cried Anya.

"Meghan, do you want to play with us?" called Sarah.

"Um, okay! Just let me finish my trick," Meghan said to the two older girls.

Meghan crawled to the end of the bench and jumped off. Sarah grabbed her hand and the three of them ran off to baby sister (Riley). As they were running off, Sarah said, "Come on, Meghan! You get to be the big sister, me and Anya are medium sisters and Riley's the baby sister."

Nobody likes conflict; and yet conflict is the engine of learning. Character does not grow like a flower—all you have to do is water it; character develops in adversity. The self of Emerson's *self-reliance* needs disagreement, disappointment and "No." Emerson recognized that the struggles life presents are the

Hot Dates

Friday, May 5

10-10:15 a.m.

Friday assembly

Seventh grade presenting

Saturday, May 6

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Country Fair

CDS yard

Sunday, May 7

Midnight

Capital Campaign survey closes

Thursday, May 11

6 p.m.

"Talking to Your Kids About Sex"

Discussion for all parents led by

Amanda Newstetter,

CDS parent and sex educator

Faculty lounge

All dates now posted on the CDS
website!

www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html



Thank You!

- To Marshall Crutcher for donating an IMAC computer.

opportunities to develop one's character.

Difficulties exist to be surmounted. The great heart will no more complain of the obstructions that make success hard, than of the iron walls of the gun which hinder the shot from scattering. It was walled round with iron tube with that purpose, to give it irresistible force in one direction. A strenuous soul hates cheap successes.

In Emerson's metaphor the challenges of our environment are like the barrel of a gun; they give our life direction by their very finality. This idea has been all but lost by modern American can-do culture. Our cultural metaphor of the last century has been not of iron walls but of hurdles. Opposition is a hurdle to be gotten over, rather than a constraint to be pressed against and respected. Today, the self-respecting, assertive person in the world should blow past or "blow off" the opposition and do exactly what he or she wants to do on the way to the inalienable right of happiness.

Emerson saw the pursuit of happiness as existing in the tension between an irresistible force meeting an immovable object and creating something new and often better out of the tension between the two. The development of character is not simply doing the right thing (the dominant notion of the fifties) nor in doing your own thing and "being a character." Rather character (the self-that-is-becoming) is the result of a dynamic relationship between the self and its environment, a tension which educates both the self and others, a conflict which creates new (and often wonderful) moments—moments of beauty, truth, love and justice that have never before existed in the world.

Out in the yard when Anya, Riley, Meghan and Sarah had that character building moment something else happened, too. As each was working for herself, empathy caused love to get involved, and justice prevailed. Even though there is no truth to the idea that Riley is the little sister, it was truly a beautiful moment. Besides, whoever thought there could be two medium sisters.

From the Office

Talking to Your Kids About Sex

Please join us for a discussion led by parent and sex educator Amanda Newstetter on Thursday, May 11 on talking to your kids about sex. Details are provided in the attached flyer. Free childcare will be provided from 5:45-8 p.m.; please sign up at the reception desk or turn in the attached form.

Capital Campaign Survey

Just a reminder that our survey for the Capital Campaign feasibility study is up and running. If you were not interviewed by the Capital Campaign consultants, we invite you to give us feedback on our Capital Campaign prospectus if you have not already done so. You should have been sent an e-mail from Amanda Richard via SurveyMonkey at the end of last week. This survey will take no more than 10 minutes and all responses are anonymous.

If you did not receive the e-mail or have any questions, please contact Amanda Richard at 861-5432 x323 or amandar@cds-sf.org. The survey will close on Sunday, May 7. Thank you in advance for taking the time to help us with this very important project.

Events

Country Fair

Please join us this Saturday for our annual Country Fair! The famed sheep shearing opens the fair at 11 a.m., with many activities to follow. The Country Market will feature hand-made items inspired by our unmatched farm and garden and fresh seasonal produce from Eatwell Farm. The fair is also a chance to replenish your supply of CDS post-its, water bottles, the popular chicken pencil, as well as t-shirts and tote bags.

Sooth your blisters with your hands deep in our own sheeps' wool at the wool-washing near the grotto. Listen for race and contest announcements—there will be several opportunities to join pie-eating contests, tug-of-war or a crazy costume race. Spend some quieter moments at the arts and crafts table and when you're hungry, check out the barbeque—chicken, hot dogs, veggie burgers, sausages and corn. It's always delicious. Top it all off with sweet, freshly churned ice cream.

School Wish List

- The faculty lounge needs a new (or used) microwave. If you have a microwave to donate, please call Mary at 861-5432 x320. Thanks.

As a special entertainment treat, the fair will feature music by Ms. Emilie with the band Rapid Transit, as well as Mr. James.

The Country Fair is a true community effort. Many thanks to all who have helped with organizational efforts and to those of you who have signed up to help make it all happen on Saturday. We still need people to supervise some activities, so please consider giving your time if you're asked. Also, be sure to stay around for the community clean up. If you'd like to help out, please call Tanja Beck at 415-377-8756.

Please note that limited parking will be available at the Mission High School parking lot on Dolores Street, on a first come-first served basis. There will be no parking available in the CDS parking lot.

See you there!

Call for Bake Sale Donations

Add your own touch to the Country Fair by bringing baked goods to the bake sale, organized this year by the Leaping Lizards class. Bring items suitable for eating at the Fair—cookies and bars, sweet breads or cupcakes. Items are packaged for sale in \$1 increments. Remember that simple treats are great; cupcakes and brownies were the hot items at last year's sale. Please deliver your baked goods to the Fair on Saturday; we have no place to store them overnight.

Special Call for Cupcakes

The cupcake walk is a perennial Country Fair favorite. We need lots of cupcakes to make it happen. Contact Diana Hunt at samanddi@pacbell.net if you can bake a dozen or two.

We Need Coolers Too

Do you have a large cooler around the house you could lend to the Country Fair? We need large coolers to store barbeque items; if you'd like to lend us yours, please drop it off tomorrow near the front desk, labeled with your name. Thanks!

Upcoming Dates

Monday, May 15-Friday, May 19
ERB testing week
Grades 3-8

Friday, May 19
7 p.m.
CDS middle school students' adaptation of
Twelfth Night
Dolores Street Church

Saturday, May 20
2 p.m.
CDS middle school students' adaptation of
Twelfth Night
Dolores Street Church

Monday, May 29
Memorial Day observed
No school
No extended program

All dates now posted on the CDS website!
www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html

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