



June 1, 2006

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Children's Day School Has an Apostrophe In It

*Darcy Provo, mom of Pierce Thompson in second grade, sent in this wonderful story:*

After three years of boys-only birthday parties, Pierce requested a party with only the girls in his class. And he wanted a slumber party, his first-ever. "I always get together with the boys. Why don't I get together with the girls?"

Oh my, what would that be like? I imagined there would be general chaos, lots of noise, no sleep, competition and glitter hair spray. Thankfully, my assumptions were way off. Instead, I saw a day-in-the-life at CDS replicated at night and in the morning of our sleepover with the children pretty much managing the event themselves.

For example, when it got too noisy, there was a general call to bring down the volume to "Level 2." When there were lively requests for specific parts of the icing on the cake, others chimed in that, "You get what you get and you don't get upset." Okay! There was no arguing with that. When there were too few swings at the park for the 14 children, they devised their own plan for rotating on and off. It worked.

At bedtime, they all wanted to stay up late. I expected that. But what did they do? No pillow fight. No pranks. Instead, they read to one another and took turns sitting in the chair to tell stories to those on the floor in their sleeping bags. Huh? You're kidding.

In the morning, I was surprised to find them sitting in a circle discussing what they were going to do that day and dividing up a set of toy dogs Pierce was giving away. The girls negotiated with Pierce and with one another. No one huffed away. Everyone participated. And everyone seemed to end up pleased.

Let's just say that the event exceeded my expectations and provided me with an up close and valuable demonstration of exactly what it is that our children learn and practice at CDS...and bring home, too.

Thank you second grade teachers, and everyone else at CDS for modeling and teaching this collaborative, considerate and self-sufficient behavior to our children. It works. And it's all good.

*That's what we mean when we say there really is an apostrophe in Children's Day School—*  
Rick

## Hot Dates

Friday, June 2  
10-10:15 a.m.

Friday assembly  
Third grade presenting

Monday, June 5  
8:15-9 a.m.

Alumni Breakfast for eighth graders  
Davis Minus Science Center

Thursday, June 8  
10-11 a.m.

Passing the Torch ceremony  
1-3 p.m.  
Eighth grade graduation  
CDS yard

Friday, June 9  
8:30-9 a.m.

Friday morning "thank you" coffee  
hosted by the administration

Friday, June 9

Last day of school (full day)  
Extended program available to 6 p.m.

Dates now posted on CDS website!  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)



## Thank You!

- To the 2005-06 PTTA officers: Marianne Evans, Amanda Richard, Laura Pliska, Ray Baxter and Michael Silver. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and inspiring commitment to CDS!
- To Georgia McNamara for serving as the CDS Yahoo Group moderator this year and to Lydia Yaffe for volunteering to serve as moderator next year.
- To Sam Hunt, Ray Baxter, Bill Littmann, Charlie Fineberg, Bill Glenn and Zachary Fisher for building the new bench that surrounds the palm tree in the center of the yard.
- To Sally Nielsen and Dan Keller, Joe Cooper, Tina and Kevin Corse, Ben Quinones, Jeff Levin and Susie and John Carlson for painting the beams in the arcade of St. Joseph's Hall and working hard for doughnuts and sandwiches. Your continued dedication to CDS is greatly appreciated.

## From the Office

### 2005-06 Annual Fund

You did it! Thanks to the hard work and generosity of many, we have exceeded our 2005-06 annual fund goal of raising \$350,000 this school year. The total of pledges and gifts received so far is \$354,376; unpaid pledges can be paid any time until the close of our fiscal year on June 30. Contributions have come from many sources – the Board of Trustees, parents, faculty and staff, grandparents, friends, foundations, corporations and events including the wildly successful *Fiesta*.

Participation this year has been terrific – 91% of parents and 100% of the Board made a gift to the annual fund. We still have two foundation proposals outstanding, so we may have more good news soon. From phonathon callers to class captains to development committee members and *Fiesta* planners and workers, volunteers play a critical role in fundraising at CDS. On behalf of the entire administration, thank you to our dedicated volunteers and generous donors for everything you have done this year to further development efforts at our school.

## High School Acceptances

Congratulations to our eighth graders as they graduate from CDS and enter the following phenomenal schools of their choice:

- Sonja Carlson - Drew School
- Taja Conley - Terra Nova High School
- Teija Corse - Lick-Wilmerding
- Haden Cory - Lick-Wilmerding
- Katherine Cusguen - Bridgmont High School
- Samuel Garcia - The Bay School
- Aaron Garfinkel - The Urban School of San Francisco
- Frida Hess - School of the Arts
- Christian Hipolito - Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep
- Max Peterson - School of the Arts
- Cara Keller - Lowell High School
- Amrit Khalsa - The Urban School of San Francisco
- Beth Levin - Convent of the Sacred Heart
- Justin Minus - Drew School
- James Pickerrell - Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep
- Erick Reyna - The Urban School of San Francisco
- Emme Woollard - Drew School

In addition to selecting these amazing schools to attend next year, the following numbers of CDS students were accepted at:

- The Bay School: 3
- The Drew School: 6
- International High School: 2
- Lick-Wilmerding: 5
- University High School: 3
- The Urban School: 6
- Convent of the Sacred Heart: 2
- Archbishop Richard Riordan: 1
- Lowell High School: 2
- School of the Arts: 3

## 2006-07 Line-Up

As we prepare for graduation and the last days of the school year, we also look ahead to next year. The 2006-07 school year line-up of teachers and staff includes many familiar faces and several new faces. Today we will list class teams as we know them. As always, there may be a few more changes but we wanted to bring you up to speed as you prepare for summer vacation, and in a few months, the new school year. Bios and more information about new teachers will be sent home over the summer.

- Leaping Lizards: Alicia Sheridan, Gladys Miyahira, Ngoc Tran
- Starfish: Gretchen Ott, Gloria Argueta, Rose Haas
- Tadpoles: Margaret Piskitel, Carmen Gerughty, Robin DiJoseph
- Kindergarten: Candy Mabry, Brittany Musler, Rebekah Cantor (Spanish)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Jen Weiss, Robyn Moss, Christian Kaup, Rebekah Cantor (Spanish)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Sara Switzman, Madora Soutter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Ginny St. Denis, Ellie Graham
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Paula Symonds
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kirk Bell
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Melanie Liu
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Doug Garfinkel
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Terry Ashkinos
- Librarian: Sesheta Hanible

Please welcome new faces and thank old faces for all of their hard work. Have a great summer!

## Friday Coffee & Thank You

Everyone is invited to the last Friday morning coffee of the school year on Friday, June 9, hosted by the administration. This is a chance for us to say thank you; we will provide coffee and treats. Please stop by hungry after drop-off!

## Lost & Found

All lost and found items will be on display tomorrow and Monday morning—this is your last chance of the year to claim any items. All leftover items will be taken to Community Thrift.

## From the Classroom

### Eighth Grade Science Projects

The eighth graders will demonstrate/discuss their scientific models and research projects on Wednesday, June 7 at 11 a.m. We will launch (or watch failure to launch) bottle rockets for two projects from the playground. Those wishing to learn about how to tap a telephone conversation, make a microscope from basic materials, or build an anemometer for checking hurricane wind speed will find the projects and their makers in the science room.

### Seventh Grade Debates

The seventh graders will be debating two questions, one on Tuesday, June 6 and one on Wednesday, June 7, at 8:30 a.m. Interested parents and families are invited to attend. Debates will last 41 minutes—from opening statement to the judges announcement of a winner.

Here are the questions that will be debated:

Tuesday: Is it correct to say that human civilization began fairly suddenly about 50,000 years ago with the appearance of homo sapiens sapiens, or was the actual start of human civilization earlier and more gradual?

Wednesday: Is it primarily cosmic events (such as asteroids or gamma ray bursts) or earthly events (such as volcanoes and normal climate change) that account for the five great extinctions?

Those staying after the Tuesday debate can also see scientific models and experiments created by seventh graders and hear about their science research projects. Hope to see you there!

## Events

### Eighth Grade Graduation

Please join us in honoring our incredible eighth grade class on Thursday, June 8 from 1-3 p.m. in the yard for our first ever eighth grade graduation! All families are invited to attend. There will be a reception immediately following the ceremony—we'd love to see you there!

Please note that extended care will be offered after graduation. For families picking up students at the end of the school day, pick up for all classes, including preschool, will be at 3 p.m. via walk-in only. Preschool students can be picked up at the preschool gate near the bungalows and all other students can be picked up (and signed out) from their classrooms. When you pick up your child, please enter through the double doors. Middle school students will be in first floor classrooms.

#### Parking

There will be a limited number of parking spaces available during graduation at Mission Dolores School. This parking lot can be accessed on the east side of Church Street between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> streets, right next door to the Children's Council. Spots will be available after 12:30 p.m. and will be first come-first served. Because parking is so limited in the area, we urge people to consider taking public transportation to the day's events. Thanks for your cooperation.

#### Passing the Torch Ceremony

The Passing the Torch ceremony will take place Thursday, June 8 from 10-11 a.m. During the ceremony older students will pass the torch to students in the grade below them, honoring the completed school year and the passage to the new grade. Families are invited to attend.

#### Join CDS in the Pride Parade!

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual CDS contingent of San Francisco's LGBTQ Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25. Last year many families participated in the festivities, which included marching in the parade with a CDS banner and enjoying various child and family activities available after the march. This is a great, festive way to show San Francisco and Children's Day School pride as well as actively celebrate family diversity at CDS.

Three volunteers are needed to help coordinate the CDS

contingent. Volunteers will need to attend a brief training with parade organizers and meet early on June 25 to secure our parade spot—mingling and donuts make the morning even better!

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to RSVP, please e-mail Charlie at [charlies@cds.sf.org](mailto:charlies@cds.sf.org). More detailed information will be sent out closer to Sunday, June 25. See you there!

## Library Corner

### Return Your Books

As the school year comes to a close, the library needs the books you have checked out. Overdue notices have been sent out; if you have an overdue book, please return it as soon as possible as this will help us tie up loose ends. All books are due tomorrow, Friday, June 2 (despite the stamped due date that may say June 6!) Thanks for your assistance.

## PTTA Update

### From the President

Prior to my stint as PTTA President, our family motto was (and sometimes still is) "don't add!" In fact, as I've mentioned to some of you before, five years ago when Tess was a toddler and I was visiting potential preschools, the drive-through drop-off at CDS was high up in the CDS "pro" column as an important factor to consider. Think, I told myself, of all the time and personal energy a drive-through drop-off will save in the mornings.

No one, certainly not Bill or I, would have predicted the path of parent involvement that followed—from my first gut reaction—*conserve all possible personal energy as we start this new routine*, to this—a sentimental goodbye as I wrap up two years as President of the PTTA.

What I learned throughout this tenure seems obvious now, but it's something I didn't know. Sometimes, in particular when it comes to CDS, adding can actually create more space and personal energy. Because we were willing (tricked by former PTTA officers??) to step out of our comfort zone, our family gained so much. We will forever be grateful for the experiences we have had and the friends we have made.

This year I was lucky to share PTTA officer responsibilities with some wonderful people: Amanda Richard (stepping down after seven tireless years as a

PTTA veteran!), Ray Baxter, Laura Pliska and Michael Silver. If you see them be sure to thank them for their hard work, graciousness and commitment to our school. And I'd like to welcome and introduce next year's officers: Ann Van Gelder, Patrick Everett and Yvelise Cabral, who will join veteran officers Ray, Michael and Laura in making up the 2006-07 PTTA team. I am really excited about next year's group and look forward to working with them (albeit in a small, quiet behind-the-scenes support type of way!).

As for me, as many of you witness each morning, it turns out I don't really use the drive-through drop-off. Tess still prefers a personal escort and a walk from the street into school each day. Luckily it has also turned out that stepping foot on the grounds of her school, and seeing so many smiling members of the school community before our morning commute, energizes rather than depletes. Thank you all for making that a reality.

Have a great summer and see you at graduation!

## Upcoming Dates

**June 19 – June 30**  
Summer camp session #1

**July 3 – July 14**  
Summer camp session #2

**July 17 – 28**  
Summer camp session #3

**July 31 – August 11**  
Summer camp session #4

**Sunday, August 27**  
Parent-faculty work day

**Monday, August 28 & Tuesday, August 29**  
Parent-teacher conferences

**Wednesday, August 30**  
Preschool and kindergarten orientation

**Thursday, August 31**  
First day of school

**Monday, September 4**  
Labor Day  
No school  
No extended program

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### Children's Day School

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