



October 27, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Mr. Rick's Ghoulish Mistake

As the handbook says, taking responsibility is the best predictor of success—at least at Children's Day School. In hopes of becoming more successful, I want to step forward and take responsibility for a communal mistake. It is my mistake that we do not have school on Halloween and that an important communal ritual will not happen as it has before.

This is not a small mistake. Communal rituals are not to be taken lightly. Until a meeting with the PTTA officers a month ago, I was surprisingly insensitive to how important the Halloween parade is to the CDS community. When someone at the meeting said that Halloween has been one of the most important events at the school since the school's beginning in 1983, I suddenly realized I had goofed. I wasn't paying close enough attention to the importance of Halloween to Children's Day School.

If I wanted to take less responsibility, I could say that it was the result of a calendar shift that puts Halloween on an inconvenient Monday this year. I could say that it's part of our effort to reduce the number of half days and short weeks as a result of PTTA discussions last year. I could say that some middle schoolers said that Halloween was babyish. I could talk about the variety of disagreements among the teachers about the events of Halloweens past and what we should do in 2005-06. I could say, (here is standard cop-out #1), other schools are doing it, too.

But I don't want to. When you don't take responsibility you undermine community as well as your own integrity. The more each member of the community takes responsibility, the stronger the community. The boss must take responsibility or the whole social fabric is at risk.

I want to be clear to the community (kids, parents and teachers) that we have to be very careful about our communal rituals: assembly, Friday coffee, winter performance, the auction, in all its many names, the book fair, and of course, our country fair. As the school grows, our rituals may need to change. As a new school we should expect more change than in a more established school. We have outgrown the gym, for instance, as a place for performances. Our friends at Mission High have graciously agreed to let us use their auditoriums depending on availability. This opportunity may result in more change.

What we should have done with Halloween was re-design it rather than try to ignore it. As it is, this year classes are doing things that fit in with their curriculum. The preschool classes will sing songs, read stories and engage in Halloween-inspired activities. The kindergarten class is studying skeletons, measuring and weighing pumpkins and trying to predict whether they will sink

Hot Dates

Friday, October 28
10-10:15 a.m.

Friday assembly
First grade presenting

Sunday, October 30
Daylight savings ends

Monday, October 31
Professional development day
No school
No extended program

Tuesday, November 1
4 p.m.
CDS Bulldogs vs. KDBS
7070 California Street

Thursday, November 3
4:30-5:30 p.m.
Fiesta 2006 planning meeting
Library



Thank You!

- To Jerel Glassman and Beth Mazie for the donation of a saw and other tools for the woodshop.
- To Jacob Glickman for writing a letter in support of our grant application to the Bill Graham Foundation.
- To Liz Terbolizard and Stephanie Scarpulla for donating fabric to the first grade classroom.
- To Ann Van Gelder, Elizabeth Seirmarco and Marianne Evans for their super-excellent help with admission tours.

or float. The first grade will be leading a Halloween assembly on Friday, October 28, and dressing up will definitely be involved. Second grade will dress up at the end of the day and have a Halloween party after first being an audience for their buddies in the fourth grade. The third grade is preparing for Day of the Dead on Tuesday, November 1. The fourth graders will dress up in pioneer costumes, and the fifth and sixth graders, with any luck, will tell ghost stories around the campfire out in the woods.

It is true that Halloween falls on an awkward day for schools this year, and that will be true for the next few years. In fact, all of my possible excuses are valid. Their validity, however, means that we will have to be creative, because it is just plain wrong to ignore a communal tradition. Halloween will be offered in 2006-07. We just haven't figured out how, yet.

The Dirt

Winter Vacation Family Farmers

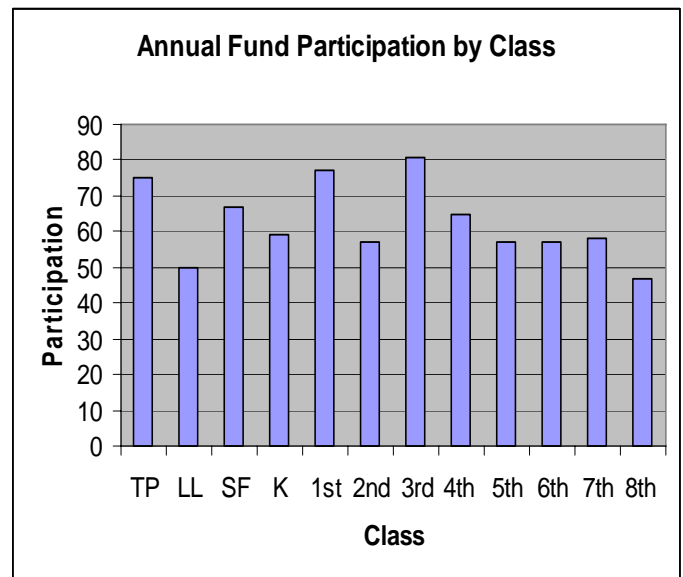
Do you stay in San Francisco during winter vacation? Do you miss the morning sounds of the chickens and the sheep? If you are interested in being a family farmer and are able to take care of the animals during the winter vacation, please call Misty at 861-5432 x321 to schedule an individual training session. The dates that are still available are December 23-25. Thanks for your help in keeping the animals fed and cared for.

From the Office

Annual Fund Update

A huge thank you to parents on both ends of the telephone for making last week's phonathon both successful and fun. Parent participation is breaking records for October – 63% of families have made a pledge or gift to the Annual Fund so far, and over \$63,000 has been raised toward the parent goal of \$115,000. Participation has been truly school-wide, as reflected in the graph below, and your response has been gracious, generous and enthusiastic.

We invite all parents to participate in this campaign by contributing what you can. Giving to the annual fund allows CDS to lead the Bay Area in sliding scale tuition. Gifts support your children's teachers and favorite programs including music, sports, art and the farm and garden. Please contact your annual fund class captain or Marion Quinones (861-5432 x323 or marionq@cds-sf.org) if you have any questions or would like to make a donation. Thank you for your help reaching our goals.



Sibling Applications

Sibling application materials have been mailed to all families who notified the Office of Admission of their interest in applying for sibling admission. If you would like a sibling application, please contact Diane Larrabee, Admission Assistant, at 861-5432, x337 dianel@cds-sf.org. Sibling application packets also are available at the reception desk. The deadline for sibling applications is November 18, 2005.

School Wish List

Art Department

The art department needs your old magazines, such as National Geographic, for collage projects. Please drop them off in the third floor art area. Thank you.

Music Program

Kyoko Kimura, our new middle school music teacher, is in need of instrument donations for the new after school music lessons:

- Violins
- Woodwind instruments (flute, clarinet and sax)
- Small electronic keyboards

If you have a used instrument you would be willing to share with a CDS student, please contact Kyoko at 86I-5432 x379.

Childcare for School Events

CDS is committed to offering childcare for as many evening events as possible, and also while parents attend afternoon meetings that are over by 6 p.m.

For evening events, we encourage parents to RSVP with Ryan Gordon, the afternoon receptionist, so we can staff each event appropriately. Childcare for evening events is open to any CDS student (grades pre-8), and for siblings who do not attend CDS in grades K-8. We unfortunately cannot accommodate children who do not attend CDS who are not yet in kindergarten.

If you are volunteering or attending a school meeting in the afternoons, we offer free childcare in the after school program for CDS children only. Simply sign up with the receptionist by 10 a.m. on the day you need care. When you sign out at the end of the day, make sure you check the box on the right side of the sign-out sheet that is marked "Meeting."

Picture Ordering

Thanks to everyone for making picture day so successful! Proofs will be sent to CDS in two weeks and sent home in backpacks; parents will have one week to decide if they wish to purchase pictures. Parents can return forms to school or order pictures online (www.mugshotsphotography.com). More information will be provided as necessary, particularly with respect to a make-up day.

Drop Off Safety

Parents, please remember to drive slowly and cautiously through the CDS and Notre Dame Plaza parking lot. Also, please do not double park on Dolores Street to drop your children off and have them walk in the south entrance on their own. It is unsafe to double park on Dolores street under any circumstances, especially to drop off your children. We know drop off can take a few minutes in the mornings, but we make every effort to move cars and kids through our driveway as efficiently and safely as possible. Thank you for slowing down, following our drop off procedures and keeping our students safe and neighbors happy.

From the Classroom

Food Drive

The 3rd grade and kindergarten classes are leading a buddy food drive. Students from these two classes will be asking all CDS students to donate nonperishable canned goods (no glass, please). Please send the food items with your student to their respective classroom; donations will be tracked by class. The food drive will run from November 7-30. All items will be donated to the San Francisco Food Bank. Thanks for your support.

Extended Program News

Halloween Celebration

Parents are welcome to celebrate Halloween with K-8 grade students in the after school program from 3-5:30 p.m. on Friday, October 28. From 3-4:30 p.m., events will include pumpkin carving, face painting, a costume box extravaganza and mask-making. From 4:30-5:15 p.m. there will be a spooky piñata with tricks and treats!

Activities will be held outside unless it is raining, in which case the 3rd floor art space will be used.

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

October 24, CDS vs. Lycee Francais

Game 1: LF 25, CDS 23

Game 2: LF 25, CDS 12

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Tuesday, November 1, 4 p.m.

Katherine Delmar Burke School, 7070 California St.

Don't forget to come out and support the Bulldogs!

PTTA Update

Math and Science

All parents, faculty and staff are welcome and encouraged to join us for the November PTTA meeting where Doug Garfinkel, Head of Middle School and middle school math/science teacher, will be delivering a presentation on the topic, "Using math and science to make sense of the world around us—Math/science teaching in the middle school." Please bring a pen and paper (really!) and join us in the David Minus Science Center on Tuesday November 8, from 4:30–5:45 p.m. for this informative discussion. Childcare is provided; sign up at the front desk before 10 a.m.

Yahoo Group

Are you looking for share care or a pediatric dentist? Do you need a painter, architect or housecleaner for your house? You can tap the collective wisdom of the CDS community via e-mail by joining the CDS Community Yahoo group. Posting volume is low and information content is high. If you'd like to participate, send a blank e-mail to cdscommunity-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Community Thrift

Now that you have cleaned and painted, what are you going to do with all that junk? Donate it! Community Thrift accepts donations of your used household items, clothing, books and electronics, except for computers, mattresses, car seats and similar items. Community Thrift then sells the items and proceeds benefit CDS. Items should be freshly cleaned and in good condition. Community Thrift is located at 623 Valencia Street between 17th and 18th Streets and accepts donations from 10-5 every day at the Sycamore Street entrance. Enter Sycamore from Mission Street. Mentioning the CDS code, 83, will speed you through the process. If you have any questions, contact Linda Glover at 415-255-6885 or linda.glover@mindspring.com.

Wraps and Greens

Envelopes containing information for the sale of Sally Foster Gift Wrap and Sherwood Forrest Greens were sent home with all students last week. If you did not receive one, there are extra copies at the reception desk. Order envelopes, with payment, may be turned in at drop-off, pick-up, or at the reception desk. All checks must be made payable to Children's Day School. The sale must end Friday, November 4 to guarantee delivery the first week of December.

Please support our incredible staff and teachers by participating in this fundraiser. Half of every dollar purchased will go directly to their holiday bonuses. Shop now and scratch these details from your holiday "to-do" list. Please direct any questions to:

Wraps: Tina Corse 824-6290 or tjcorse@comcast.net.

Greens: Susie Carlson 552-2804 or

johnacar1@pacbell.net.

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 PTTA Events

- General PTTA Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 4:30–5:45 p.m. David Minus Science Center. Guest speaker: Doug Garfinkel, Head of Middle School and middle school math/science teacher discusses, “Using math and science to make sense of the world around us—Math/science teaching in the middle school.” Everyone is invited.
- Community Building Committee Meeting: Monday, November 21, 5–6 p.m. For information about the Community Building Committee please contact Laura Pliska (415-641-5116, laura@sfbabyworks.com).

All parents are welcome at PTTA meetings. CDS is committed to parent participation and provides free childcare while parents are in meetings; sign up at the front desk before 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

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

Tuesday, November 8

4:30-5:45 p.m.

PTTA meeting

David Minus Science Center

November 16-November 18

Library Book Fair

Friday, November 18

Sibling applications due

Monday, November 21

5-6 p.m.

Community Building Committee meeting

Wednesday, November 23

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Noon dismissal

No extended program

Thursday, Nov. 24 & Friday, Nov. 25

Thanksgiving break

No school

No extended program

Children’s Day School

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via email