



November 17, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

For the World

It would be no surprise to anyone, I suppose, that running a school is hard work. Some people have told me, "I wouldn't have your job for the world."

But who would want the world anyway. You can't hug it, you can't eat it, you can't talk with it. I kind of like just sitting in my own little borrowed corner of it, as I am right now, looking out the faculty lounge window at the eastern sky as it turns shades of red, orange, yellow, green and gold. It silhouettes the skyline and the hill that brings me home, the city spread out below me.

It's true that these days I often go home muttering to myself, "People, people, people." But all I have to do is look out this old window and be reminded that two hours from now the yard below me will fill up with the awesome beauty of children growing up. It's also true that for every "challenging" interaction I have with homo sapiens I have twenty delightful ones, and I am reminded of the importance of our work together. Yes I am "running" the school but all I am really doing is playing a position on a team, and it doesn't matter so much whether we win or lose as long as I play my position well.

Yesterday, Doug Phelps, the Head of Marymount School in Santa Barbara, visited CDS all morning and into the afternoon because he is the chair of the visiting committee for our CAIS accreditation. (A team of four colleagues from other California independent schools will visit CDS on January 29-31 to "check us out.") It was indeed confirming to hear him say that our "markers" look good. Enrollment over the last 4 years: 167-177-211-247; 04-05 annual fund goal achieved: \$361,000; 04-05 annual fund parent participation above 90%; consistent debt reduction; good long range planning; Board of Trustees focused on increasing space and capital funds; etc. He didn't even say anything about happy kids—I guess that will wait for January.

So though most of the rest of the day was spent helping people with their conflicts, at least I could find some small comfort that overall we seem to be winning. But what is winning and losing, anyway? I have been in the business long enough to know that just because it feels bad doesn't mean it is, and that Rudyard Kipling was right about meeting with "triumph and disaster" and treating "those impostors both the same."

Serendipitously I am joined in the lounge by a mother and daughter who have come here early to work and have their bowls of cereal. The perfection of this moment brings tears to my eyes and helps me put the rest of this business in proper perspective.

Hot Dates

Thursday, Nov. 17-Friday, Nov. 18
8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Library Book Fair
Library

Friday, November 18
10-10:15 a.m.
Friday assembly
Leaping Lizards presenting

Friday, November 18
Sibling applications due

Friday, November 18
8:45-10 a.m.
K-8 tour for CDS parents

Monday, November 21
5-6 p.m.
Community Building Committee
meeting

Wednesday, November 23
Grandparents & Special Friends Day
Dismissal at noon (pre-3)
Dismissal at 12:15 (4-8)
No extended program

Thurs., Nov. 24 & Fri., Nov. 25
Thanksgiving break
No school
No extended program



Thank You!

- To Geddes Fielder for attending the LGBT School Fair with Aimee on Saturday.
- To Georgia McNamara for continuing to help keep the CDS website up-to-date.
- To third grade parents for providing an excellent faculty breakfast, including a copy of the *New York Times*.
- To Linda Glover and Ray Baxter for taking unclaimed lost and found items to Community Thrift.
- To Karen Randig, Tina Leung, Ann Van Gelder, Katherine Whitney, Kristen Wurz and Amanda Newstetter for their super-excellent help with admission tours.
- To Sue Barnett, Marilyn Rogers and Debra Levin for organizing the Library Book Fair and to all parent volunteers and shoppers who helped make it a success.

The Dirt

Information on Avian Flu

Recently, several parents have approached me to ask questions about bird flu. I thought it would be helpful if I spent some time answering a few of the common questions about avian (bird) influenza (flu). For those of you that don't want to read the details, basically there is currently nothing to worry about but that *could* change in the future. All of the information here came from the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If you want more information about avian flu you can visit their website (www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/fact.html).

Can the chickens be vaccinated? There is no vaccination against the avian flu available for chickens. **What is avian influenza (bird flu)?** Bird flu is an infection caused by avian influenza viruses (only influenza A viruses can infect birds). These flu viruses occur naturally among birds, are contagious among birds and can kill birds. Bird flu viruses vary from human flu viruses because they carry a different set of proteins. Symptoms of bird flu in humans have ranged from typical flu-like symptoms to eye infections, pneumonia and acute respiratory distress. Most of the current concern has come from the H5NI strain that lead

to the death of 6 people in China. **Will our chickens get bird flu?** The risk to our hens is very low. Certain birds, particularly water birds, act as hosts for influenza viruses. Domesticated birds may become infected with avian influenza viruses through direct contact with infected waterfowl or other infected poultry. People can also be vectors for the spread of avian influenza from one farm to another. Our hens don't come into contact with waterfowl or other hens. A person who is a carrier would be the most likely way that they would contract avian influenza. **Do bird flu viruses infect humans?** Bird flu viruses do not usually infect humans, but several cases of human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred since 1997. Most cases of avian influenza infections in humans are thought to have resulted from direct contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces. The spread of avian influenza viruses from one ill person to another has been reported very rarely, and transmission hasn't been observed to continue beyond one person. **What about the H5NI virus that killed 6 people in Hong Kong?** So far, the spread of H5NI has been rare and has not continued beyond one person. Viruses are known to mutate so it is possible that the situation could change in the future. If the H5NI virus were able to infect people and spread easily between people an influenza pandemic could begin. No one can predict if this will happen or not. Experts are watching the H5NI situation closely and are preparing for the possibility that it could begin to spread more easily between people. Vaccine development efforts are currently taking place. **Are there any accounts of H5NI in California?** There have not been any cases of the H5NI virus in the United States. **Are there any precautions we can follow to protect our hens?** The CDC recommends that travelers to countries with known outbreaks should avoid poultry farms and contact with animals in live food markets. During outbreaks people should avoid contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces, and should be careful when handling and cooking poultry. People in the CDS community who have recently traveled to Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Tibet, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia and Russia should not interact with our hens. (These are all of the locations with confirmed accounts of H5NI.) **What will happen if there is an outbreak of H5NI avian influenza in California?** We will follow the precautions and recommendation given by the CDC. In the worst case scenario the hens would be humanely euthanized and we would have a memorial in their honor at school.

From the Office

Annual Fund Update

In a burst of generosity, friendly competition and strong leadership from class captains Kim Tennis and Susi Alexander, the third grade has claimed the coveted title of 100% participation for the second straight year. Thank you parents! A delectable pizza lunch is on its way to the third grade class soon, date TBD. There are several other classes who are very close to 100% participation – about 95% of Starfish and Tadpole families have contributed, and parents throughout the school have donated in record numbers. In all, 77% of families have made a gift or pledge to the annual fund, raising approximately \$80,000 toward the parent goal of \$115,000. We are very grateful for your generosity and support of Children's Day School.

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 an application, please contact Diane Larrabee, Admission Assistant, at 861-5432, x337 or dianel@cdfs-sf.org. Application packets are also available at the reception desk. The deadline for sibling applications is tomorrow, November 18!

November 23 Pick Up

On Wednesday, November 23, following Grandparents and Special Friends Day and an all-school assembly at 11:30, there will be early dismissal beginning at noon. The preschool pick up will take place at noon. For kids' safety and to avoid driveway gridlock, preschool pick up will be via walk-in only. K-3 pick up will take place at noon as well at the double doors, and parents can walk in or drive through. Grades 4-8 will be dismissed at 12:15 and pick up (drive through and walk in) will take place at the double doors.

Student Pictures

A reminder: student pictures can be ordered online at www.mugshotsphotography.com.

Nuevo Calendario Mensual

Por favor observe el calendario adjunto de Diciembre, ¡en Inglés y en Español! Cada mes, estaremos adjuntando el calendario del siguiente mes en el *Weekly* con el

objetivo de mantener a todas las familias informadas de futuras fechas importantes. ¡Note cuanto hay en el horario para Diciembre y tenga un gran mes!

New Monthly Calendar

Please note the attached calendar for December, in English and Spanish! Each month, we will be attaching the following month's calendar to the *Weekly*, in an effort to keep all families informed of upcoming and important dates. Check out all that is on the agenda for December and have a great month!

Events

Support the Library...Twice

Library Book Fair

I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a good book. ~Groucho Marx

Tomorrow is the last day of the Library Book Fair. For all those people who did not have time to stop by the library on Wednesday or Thursday, Friday is your day. Stop by the yard for the PTTA's coffee and donuts and then come into the library and purchase a great new book for the collection. If you don't have time in the morning, please stop in when you come to pick up your child. You and your child can purchase a book for the collection and then be the first to check it out!

The Book Fair will be happening from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday. We hope to see you there.

Holiday Book Fair

On December 1, the Holiday Book Fair is being held from 6-9 p.m. at Books Inc. on Market & 16th Streets. You are cordially invited to wine, dine and shop for family, friends, colleagues and associates. With great holiday cheer, Books Inc. will donate 20% of all purchases to the CDS library fund, enabling future acquisition of some of our library wish list items.

Go Bulldogs!

The Bulldog volleyball players are resting and enjoying their third place finish in the league. Basketball players have begun practicing, gearing up for the winter season which begins in December. Stay tuned for more Bulldog action!

Holiday Book Fair Childcare

Childcare is available from 6-9 p.m. during the Holiday Book Fair on Thursday, December 1. Pizza and a movie will be provided. Please RSVP with Ryan at 861-5432 x310 by Tuesday, November 29 so we can staff the event appropriately.

A reminder: 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 preschool children who do not attend CDS.

Extended Program News

December 16 Extended Care

Do you need extended program care after the winter performance on Friday, December 16? We will be offering childcare from 12-6 p.m. on Friday, December 16. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Charlie at 861-5432 x315 by Friday, December 9. For staffing reasons, sign ups after this date will not be allowed.

Fall Preschool Celebration

On Tuesday, November 22 the preschool will celebrate fall with festive decorations, student-made stone soup, fresh bread and other treats. The party starts at 3 p.m. Families are welcome to join in the fun!

Fall Enrichment Classes

Since there have been several holiday/general school closures this term, all of the fall enrichment classes are ending on different weeks:

- December 5: last day for Monday classes
- November 22: last day for Tuesday classes
- December 1: last day for Thursday classes

Please add two weeks of classes onto the dates above for Robin Pittel's chess, computer technology and guitar classes; she was out two weeks due to illness.

Winter Vacation Camp

This year's winter vacation camp will be held from Monday, December 19 through Thursday, December 22, from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. The cost for the camp is \$50/day. If you did not receive a registration form with last week's *Weekly*, please pick one up at the front desk.

PTTA Update

Parenting Potluck

Some parents have expressed interest in getting together informally to discuss concerns and share advice on topics related to parenting. With the holidays around the corner, the Community Building Committee thought it would be fun (and helpful) to gather and discuss the topic, "How to get through the holidays." Topics may range from how to deal with all the gifts, good ideas for gift exchanges, an abundance of sweets, relatives, traveling, religion, familial obligations, being out of school, etc.

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

Parents, faculty and staff are invited to gather in the faculty lounge from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6. Childcare and food will be provided free of charge, but if you'd like to bring an appetizer or dessert, it'd be much appreciated. Please sign up with Ryan (afternoon receptionist) for childcare at the front desk or ryang@cds-sf.org by Monday, December 5.

If there's enough interest we'd like to hold these monthly with varying topics. If you have an idea or would like to present something, let us know! Each month we'll ask for a parent coordinator to help with logistics, and to kick it off, Georgia McNamara has volunteered to coordinate December's event. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia at georgia@mcmuerle.com.

CDS Yellow Pages

Last call! Do you have a business you'd like the rest of the CDS community to know about? Is there a great handyman you'd like to share with the CDS community? Do you have a babysitting referral you'd like to pass along? Any submission to the CDS Yellow Pages needs to be submitted no later than Friday, November 18. Please send all submissions to Lydia Yaffe at lyaffe@pacunion.com. Please include business name, phone number, address, e-mail, website and a brief description.

Upcoming PTTA Events

- 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).
- PTTA Meeting: January 10, 2006. There will be no PTTA meeting in December. The next PTTA meeting will be January 10.

All parents are welcome at PTTA meetings. Remember that CDS is committed to parent participation and provides free childcare while parents are in meetings. Sign up at the front desk before 10 am 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, December 6
6-8 p.m.
Parenting potluck
Faculty lounge

Thursday, December 8
7-8:30 p.m.
Sliding scale tuition workshop

Thursday, December 15
Sliding scale tuitions applications due
for returning families

Friday, December 16
11 a.m.
Winter performance
Noon dismissal
Extended program available

December 19-December 22
Holiday vacation
No school
Extended program available

December 23-January 2
Holiday vacation
No school
No extended program

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 email