



December 8, 2005

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

A Man Hanging on the Moon

Look. There is a man hanging from the moon.
 He is going to turn on that light to brighten our night.
 And when he first pulls that string the Moon will say a prayer.
 I hope that we will be fair.
 So pull that string and light up a world
 that has no fighting but just has peace.
 —Margaux, 4th grade

To Margaux

Someone has been trying to paint
 My baby blue morning sky
 Pink.
 Now, he's got pink all over it,
 And now he's trying to dot it
 With clouds of black dots,
 But they keep flying off the page.
 I wonder if your man
 Is the same as mine.
 —Mr. Rick

Stephen Lambright gave me *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas Friedman. Friedman is full of insight and important stories about how the world has changed since November 9, 1989 (when the Berlin Wall fell) to a smaller more "level" world where diversity, collaboration and increasingly rapid change dominate. Success for individuals as well as businesses in this new, "flat" world order will depend on open-mindedness, mental flexibility and the creative use of imagination. In preparing students for a liberal arts education these three skill sets have always been critical; in this smaller global village, where we can collaborate with someone in Bangalore almost as easily as in the desk next to us, it's now even more obvious.

The timing was perfect. I had already started writing about imagination inspired by Margaux Gaede's poem as I watched dawn breaking over San Francisco a couple of weeks ago. Margaux's expression of what she saw inspired me to see the world differently. I had been trying and failing to express what I see each morning; now I felt I was getting somewhere. What is important is not that my poem, or Margaux's, wins any awards. What is important is that her creative self-expression communicated to me and helped me solve a problem I had been working on. She too got a little something back when I helped her edit her poem; perhaps she will also gain from knowing she made a difference.

Hot Dates

Tonight
 7-8:30 p.m.
 Sliding scale tuition workshop
 Faculty lounge

Friday, December 9
 10-10:15 a.m.
 Friday assembly
 Eighth grade presenting

Wednesday, December 14
 3 p.m.
 Preschool holiday party
 Tadpole room

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

Friday, December 16
 11 a.m.
 Winter Performance
 First Covenant Church
 455 Dolores Street
 Noon dismissal at CDS
 Extended program available



Thank You!

- To all organizers, shoppers and volunteers who made each library fundraiser so successful. Both events show the incredible support for the CDS library. See the Library Corner for a complete update.
- To Rebecca Grey and Chris Luomanen for donating a keyboard to the music department.
- To Michelle Kriebel and Ted Arleo for donating many *National Geographic* magazines to the art department.
- To the 4th grade class parents for providing an excellent staff and faculty breakfast last Friday.
- To Marianne Evans, Jenny Lefcourt, Ann Van Gelder and Kristen Wurz for braving the weather and leading terrific admission tours on Thursday, December 1. And to Kathleen Cologne, Springer Huseby, Tina Leung, Elizabeth Seirmarco and Ann Van Gelder for their super-excellent help with admission tours this week.
- To the PTTA officers and 1st and 3rd grade liaisons for planning the staff holiday party and to Jane Seabrook for offering the use of the Lone Palm for the party. Also, to the 1st and 3rd grade classes for providing food for the party.
- To Kim Gallagher for stepping in and helping out with preschool drop-off when she saw a need.
- To Ray Baxter and Martha Glover for bringing unclaimed lost and found items to Community Thrift.
- To Barton Sparagon for leading a relaxation workshop for CDS teachers. Ahhhh.
- To Barton Sparagon, Wini von Ehrenburg and Vicki Woollard for driving middle school students to Borders to perform yesterday in the instrumental ensemble.

The world has been moving in this direction for a long time. I read somewhere that in the history of humankind there are only three important scientific discoveries that have been made by individuals working alone. Everything else has been the result of collaboration. As we all know, many occurred because someone had the imagination to see a solution in a mistake. *The World is Flat* makes it clear that the primacy of open-mindedness, collaboration and

imagination has accelerated dramatically in the last fifteen years. Only Margaux has seen the man who turns on the moon and that was an important experience for both her brain and mine.

Yes, there were half-a-dozen grammatical errors in the first draft, but she corrected them. That is also one of the purposes of school—to learn the conventions of language so that people can understand what we intend to communicate. In fact, one of our most important jobs is to help people find exactly the right words to express themselves so that, as Mark Twain said, “they may not be misunderstood.”

This doesn’t happen right away. We know that learning the languages of our culture (mathematics, English, Spanish, etc.) requires a lot of practice so that the conventions become second nature. There are many pathways that need to wear themselves into the neurological labyrinth of our brains: the difference between “there,” “their” and “they’re,” between “our” and “are,” when to use “lay” and when to use “lie,” “i before e except after c,” etc. It’s also true that the list is finite. Though it is a long list, it’s short enough so that if it could be learned without practice it could all be learned in one or two school years—everything from “start a sentence with a capital” to graphing $y=x^2 + 6x - 1$.

What is often forgotten, however, is that expansion of the mind is at least as important as its training. As these cultural pathways are worn deeper and deeper into the brain, millions of neurons are dying for want of use. That is certainly O.K.; in fact it can’t be stopped. But we need to make sure that as children grow they have many opportunities to keep random, functionless pathways open, otherwise they won’t be very good at problem-solving of any sort from the art room to the playground. They won’t be able to think creatively about their latest social problem; they won’t have any new ideas, they won’t be able to create and they won’t be able to write. Furthermore, they won’t be able to understand the more puzzling phenomena of our world, like where did *homo sapiens* come from? Understanding the phenomenon of natural selection requires a certain amount of imagination. Imagination is critical for almost every area of endeavor from solving a math problem, to writing a poem, to keeping a relationship healthy. As Einstein said, “A problem cannot be solved by the same thinking that created it.” As Friedman says over and over, we desperately need our imaginations.

There is a piece of writing at the top of the stairs by 7th

grader Henry Cordes: "A young black mouse, this week, decided to test the limits of modern cosmetic surgery. 'I just wanted to see how far I could go,' commented the mouse, one Mars Dumps. 'I was very satisfied with the result.' The mouse searched online for the best cosmetic surgeons around, and decided on Marx and Engels, a highly recommended German duo, who have an almost perfect customer satisfaction rating. 'He came wanting to be a wolf,' said Marx. 'He came out being a wolf.'" It goes on hilariously.

There is a work of art in a corner of the lounge by Noah Winshell when he was in 2nd grade titled, "A Rat Singing Opera with a Helmet On." Walk around the school and you'll see examples of creative imagination everywhere.

Education must be just the right mix of creativity and practice, and the right focus for all this is collaborative creativity. Friedman finished his book this way, "While your lives have been powerfully shaped by 9/11, the world needs you to be forever the generation of 11/9—the generation of strategic optimists, the generation with more dreams than memories, the generation that wakes up each morning and not only imagines that things can be better but also acts on that imagination every day."

Enjoy the holidays with your children.

Hola Familias

Hola a todas las familias de CDS

The Spanish classes have been very busy working on an array of fascinating projects. Here is just a sample of what students are studying as part of the Spanish curriculum:

- 1st graders have been studying sea creatures and where they live. To practice, ask them questions like, *Donde vive el cangrejo?* (Where does the crab live?) The answer is *debajo del mar*, under the sea.
- 3rd graders have been learning how to describe people, using *Como es* (What's ...like?) Responses have included *es fuerte*, or *es alto* (she/he is tall or strong.)
- 4th graders have been working on present tense verbs and how to use them when talking about themselves.
- 7th graders created a skit based on the novel *Pobre Ana* and turned dialogues into comic strips. They are now beginning a study of the Nicaraguan revolution.

From the Office

Last Weekly of the Year

Please note that this is the last *Weekly* of 2005. The *Weekly* will resume on Thursday, January 5, 2006.

First Day of School 2006-07

Please note that the first day of the 2006-07 school year has been set. It will be Thursday, August 31.

Nuevo Calendario Mensual

Por favor observe el calendario adjunto de Enero, ¡en Inglés y en Español. ¡Note cuanto hay en el horario para Enero y tenga un gran mes!

Monthly Calendar

Please note the attached calendar for January, in English and Spanish. Check out all that is on the agenda for January and have a great month!

Lost & Found

Come get your lost and found items next Wednesday and Thursday, December 14 and 15. Lost and found clothing will be on display on the front gates during drop-off and pick-up; all unclaimed items will be taken to Community Thrift at the end of the day on Thursday, December 15.

Events

Winter Performance

The Winter Performance will be held on Friday, December 16 at 11 a.m. at the First Covenant Church (Dolores Park Church) at 455 Dolores Street. Dismissal will take place at noon at CDS. Parents coming from the

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball Scores

December, CDS (boys) vs. Live Oak
CDS 34, LIVE OAK, 16

Basketball Calendar

Girls: Thursday, December 8 (tonight!), 4 p.m.
Live Oak at UCSF, 1675 Owens St.

Boys: Monday, December 12, 4 p.m.
Girls: Tuesday, December 13, 4 p.m.
Kipp School, 1430 Scott St.

performance need to walk back to CDS and sign their child out from the classroom. Regular drive-through pick-up will also take place at noon; however, preschool parents must walk in to pick up preschool students.

Extended Program News

December 16 Extended Care

Extended program care is available on Friday, December 16 from 12-6 p.m. following the Winter Performance. To sign up, call Charlie at 861-5432 x315 by Monday, December 12. Due to staffing needs, we cannot accommodate late sign-ups.

Preschool Holiday Party

On Wednesday, December 14 the preschool after school program will be hosting a Winter Holiday Party. Families are welcome to join the festivities which will include decorating cookies, making marshmallow snow people, drinking hot cocoa and singing along to karaoke Hannakuh and Christmas songs. The celebration will take place at 3 p.m. in the Tadpole room.

Winter Vacation Camp

Winter vacation camp will be held December 19-22. Cost for the camp is \$50/day and the sign up due date is December 14. Sign up sheets are available at the front desk.

Enrichment Classes

Thanks to all who participated in fall enrichment classes! Winter enrichment classes begin the week of January 9, 2006. Registration packets will be sent home on Wednesday, December 14 for perusal over winter vacation.

Library Corner

Book Fair Success

An enormous thank you to all of the hard-working volunteers, planners and shoppers who raised over \$6,000 for the library. The Holiday Book Fair at Books Inc. raised \$1,300 for the library fund and the in-house Library Fair added \$4,821 worth of books to the library's diverse collection.

Last week's fun and festive Holiday Book Fair couldn't have happened without the hard work of the chairs: Wini von Ehrenburg, Kathleen Cologne and Debra Levin. Many more people helped out including: Susi

Alexander, Sue Barnett, Patricia Buse-Ruppert, CDS art specialist and illustrator Elizabeth McClellan, Tina Corse, Lisa Eltinge, Marianne Evans, Suzanne Jachinowski, Jeff Levin, Mylene and Nerius Mercado, Karen Randig, Amanda Richard, Jane Seabrook, Kate Torres, Ann Van Gelder, Cindy Wilson and Don, Kate and Sasha Zirulnik. Thanks also to Bi-Rite Market and the Market Street Starbucks for their generous food donations.

Thank you for all of your support!

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

PTTA Update

Wraps & Greens

Wraps and greens are here! All wraps and greens have been delivered to your child's classroom for you to pick up as soon as possible. Please check your wrapping paper order for accuracy as all changes must be phoned in to Tina Corse (824-6290) by Friday or you'll be charged additional shipping fees. If you did not order greens or wrap, but would like to contribute to the teachers' holiday bonuses, you may drop off a check at the reception desk. Please make donations payable to Children's Day School and indicate on the envelope, "Teacher/Staff Holiday Bonus" Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Events

- Community Building Committee: There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be in January. For information about the Community Building Committee please contact Laura Pliska (415-641-5116, laura@sfbabyworks.com).
- PTTA Meeting: January 10, 2006, time and location tbd. There will be no PTTA meeting in December.

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

If you have any comments, questions about PTTA Updates, or items you'd like included on the PTTA calendar, contact Ray Baxter at 415-902-0765 or ray@warmroom.com.

Upcoming Dates

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

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

Monday, January 9
Winter enrichment classes begin

Monday, January 16
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No school
No extended program

Monday, January 16
Time tbd
Martin Luther King, Jr. march
Meet at CDS

Children's Day School

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via email



