



September 29, 2005

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

"Words from Rick" will return next week.

## The Dirt

### Picking Potatoes

I walked into work, a bit groggy as usual, and when I sat down to start my computer I noticed a big note written in purple marker. It read, "Misty: Hi, We, Sasha and Miranda, noticed that the potatoes are ripe. We must pick them before the bugs get them. When you get this note come and find us so we can pick them and make mashed potatoes (and besides, we know that no one really uses them)." What I love about this note is that Sasha and Miranda had faith that if they took the time to ask for the potatoes, they would get them. A lot of getting what you want or need in life has to do with directly asking for it. In general, people want to help each other be happy and fulfilled and if they are able, enjoy being able to give or help when they can. I want to invite everyone in the CDS community to ask for what you want because if it's possible and reasonable, you are likely to get it. By the way, Sasha and Miranda did get to pick the potatoes and fourth graders have been using them for cooking projects.

## Hola Familias

*Please note: This is the new location of our monthly Spanish column.*

Hola a todas las familias de CDS!

It's wonderful to work with the children again and feel the way the school has been buzzing with energy since they all arrived.

- The 1st graders are making puppets and learning how to say who they are and what they like to do. They are studying through the Muzzy program, making puppets of characters in Muzzy and will later put on a puppet show in Spanish.
- 2nd graders are learning how to say who they are, how old they are and where they live.
- 3rd graders are learning how to introduce another person and how to talk about someone else using comparisons and contrasting statements.
- The 5th graders are reading, writing and working towards completing a project about hurricane Katrina. They are studying how to travel, talk politely to others and answer and ask questions in Spanish. They are learning how to describe where things go inside a house and how to

## Hot Dates

Friday, September 30

10-10:15 a.m.

Friday assembly

Fifth grade presenting

Wednesday, October 5

4 p.m.

Bulldog volleyball game

vs. Creative Arts

1430 Scott St.

Wednesday, October 5

Enrichment class registration due

Thurs, October 6 & Fri, October 7

Lost and found pick-up

Entrance gate



## Thank You!

- To everyone who supported the 4th grade's bake sale and change drive for hurricane Katrina relief. Total proceeds are \$1015.33, all of which will be donated to The Red Cross.
- To Mylene Mercado and Dirk Van Gelder for helping out at Preschool Preview in Golden Gate Park on September 21 and answering hundreds of questions from prospective preschool families.
- To Kara Schleunes for attending the admission tour docent training on September 28.

describe images. Next, they will be studying families.

- The 6th grade class has been studying the present tense of verbs and adjectives and how to write and expand sentences by looking at stories, working on activities and talking about what they see.
- 7th graders are about to begin a project about the Nicaraguan revolution. They have been reading the novel *Pobre Ana* and are studying dictation, describing what they see in images and sentence expansion.
- 8th graders have been working on dictations, crossword puzzles, activities involving descriptions and are about to create a newspaper in Spanish about hurricane Katrina.

If you want to work with your child at home, here are two good resources: *Espanol Para Ninos y Grandes*, by Rita Wirkala, which can be ordered from [www.allbilingualpress.com](http://www.allbilingualpress.com) and is geared toward younger learners. The second resource is [www.studyspanish.com](http://www.studyspanish.com), geared toward older students.

Have a good week!

## From the Office

### Lost & Found

Come and claim your belongings! All items in the lost and found bin will be on display during drop-off and pick-up on Thursday and Friday, October 6 and 7. At the end of the day on Friday, October 7, all unclaimed items will be taken to Community Thrift, never to be seen again.

## Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Parents, please remember to stay in your cars and drive slowly during drop-off and pick-up times. Leaving your car parked in the drive-up line creates long lines and unhappy families. Drop-off helpers are more than happy to walk your child to their classroom if he/she needs assistance. Also, if you choose to park on the street and walk your child in, please enter through the north driveway on the sidewalk that runs along Notre Dame Plaza. Thanks for helping to keep drop-off and pick-up safe and efficient.

## Grandparent Breakfast

Local grandparents are invited to join us for breakfast in the library on Friday, October 7 from 8:45-10 a.m. Grandparents will have an opportunity to visit school, take a tour and enjoy a casual snack with Rick, members of the Board and other grandparents and find out about volunteer opportunities at CDS. Grandparents are also welcome at our Friday assembly, beginning at 10 a.m. in the yard. Please note: we will still hold our annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day on Wednesday, November 23 for grandparents near *and* far, a longer event featuring more classroom time with the kids, breakfast and mingling.

## Woodshop Donations

CDS is working on developing a new woodshop for students to build construction skills. If you have any of the following materials gathering dust in your basement, garage or closet, we would be happy to put them to good use:

- Used tools in good shape (screwdrivers, hammers, saws, electric drills)
- Old hardware (nuts, bolts, nails and screws)
- Wood scraps (three feet long or smaller)
- 5 gallon plastic buckets

Please deliver donations to the front desk. If you have any questions, ask Mr. John, second grade teacher, at 861-5432 x373. Thanks.

## Events

### Fiesta

Our annual spring fundraising event for all CDS adults will be held on April 1, 2006. We're planning a sit-down dinner, exciting raffle, live music, a silent and live auction and dancing until midnight—it's a great night of meeting and mingling with the entire CDS community. If you'd like to be a part of making this event happen, we need your help! Write, solicit, build, design, decorate, enter data—we need help with all of it. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Stephanie Scarpulla at (415) 206-1107 or [sascarpulla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sascarpulla@sbcglobal.net) or Robin McClarren at [robin.mcclarren@wellsfargo.com](mailto:robin.mcclarren@wellsfargo.com).

Also, if you have a donation that you'd like to include in the auction, please contact Tina Corse at [tjcorse@comcast.net](mailto:tjcorse@comcast.net). Some items donated by families in previous years have included vacation homes, airline miles, gift certificates to favorite restaurants, stores or spas, services from an attorney, graphic designer or contractor or beautiful hand-knit scarves and sweaters.

Our first Fiesta meeting will be held in November—check the *Weekly* for the date and time or contact Stephanie Scarpulla if you are interested in attending.

## Extended Program News

### Social Justice Camp

On Monday, October 10, school will be closed. We will be offering a full day (8 a.m.-6 p.m.) camp for students in preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration forms were sent home in backpacks earlier this week. If you didn't receive one, please pick up a copy at the front desk. The final day to sign up is Tuesday, October 4.

### Enrichment Classes

The due date for registration forms is October 5. If you haven't received a packet, please pick one up at the front desk. We don't send home confirmation notes; please assume that your child has gotten into the class of their choice. If you want to confirm registration, please feel free to call Charlie at extension 861-5432 x315.

### After School Program

Please let the receptionist know before 10 a.m. if you would like to make a change or addition to your child's after school schedule on any given day. If you call to sign up your child after 10 a.m., the rate for drop-in care will

be \$12.50 per hour, as stated in the Extended Program Agreement and the Parent Handbook. Also, when signing out, if you do not see your name on the alphabetical roster, it means that we don't have an Extended Program Agreement on file for your child. We need this for your child to stay in the after school program. Extra agreements are available at the front desk and can be turned in to Charlie via the Receptionist.

### Picking Up Preschoolers

It is very important that when parents come to pick up their preschoolers, they sign out and then head home (or to one of the neighborhood's nearby parks) for the day. We love the social environment that CDS offers, but in the afternoons teachers are working hard to keep the students safe and engaged. When parents arrive and then stay, it makes supervision, follow-through with rules and safety monitoring difficult. One example of this is parents giving their children permission to play in the classrooms, on the structure or in the garden, when it is not a time that the other preschoolers in the after school program are allowed to do this. State licensing laws also require preschoolers and older kids to be separated in the CDS yard for safety reasons. In addition, younger siblings of preschoolers need to stay with their parents and not be permitted to play in the yard with the older children. We realize that this may be new information and very much appreciate your understanding.

### Boys & Girls Club

CDS students in the after school program will attend the Boys & Girls Club on the following days:

- 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be going to the Boys & Girls Club on Wednesdays from 3:30-5 p.m.
- All other classes will be going on special pre-planned days each month. Please refer to your student's after school activity calendar (available from your child's after school teacher) to find out about these special events.

### Go Bulldogs!

#### Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Come out and support the Bulldogs at their first official game of the season:

Wednesday, October 5, 4 p.m.

CDS vs. Creative Arts

1430 Scott St.

(Kipp Academy School)

## PTTA Update

### CDS Stories

Do you have a story about CDS to tell? Have you heard parts of a story that you want an excuse to learn and share?

Here's your chance. This week we announce an occasional series dedicated to sharing the history, lore, trivia and personal stories of CDS.

Stories, memories or anecdotes can run the gamut of the history and experience of the CDS community. "What was Jim Robertson's original vision for CDS?" "How did CDS come to buy the school from Jim Robertson?" "Why is the CDS mascot the bulldog?" "What animals have given their names to preschool classrooms?" "Tell us about your first day at CDS?" "Who were the first students to study at our current site?" "In our current building?"

"CDS Stories" is open to the entire CDS community. Please send your ideas for stories and storytellers to [cgs-stories@warmroom.com](mailto:cds-stories@warmroom.com), or call Ray Baxter at (415) 902-0765.

### Upcoming PTTA Events

- General PTTA meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 4:30–5:45 p.m. in the faculty lounge. Topics include school finances and the annual fund. Everyone is invited.
- Community Building Committee meeting: Monday, Oct 24, 5–6 p.m. For information about the Community Building Committee please contact Laura Pliska at 415-641-5116 or [laura@sfbabyworks.com](mailto:laura@sfbabyworks.com).
- Wraps & Greens sale: Purchase high quality holiday wrappings and green through CDS. Almost half of every dollar spent goes to holiday bonuses for faculty and staff. Information will go home with students in late October.
- Faculty Holiday Party: around December 15, venue TBD. The PTTA throws the faculty and staff an annual holiday party. We are currently in need of a venue. If you have any leads, please contact a PTTA officer.

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 the PTTA updates or items you would like included on the PTTA calendar, contact Ray Baxter at (415) 902-0765, or [ray@warmroom.com](mailto:ray@warmroom.com).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:goevansgo@yahoo.com)
- Amanda Richard, VP, Classroom Liaison Coordinator, (415) 695-0657 or [amanda.richard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amanda.richard@sbcglobal.net)
- Laura Pliska, VP, Community Building Coordinator, (415) 641-5116 or [laura@sfbabyworks.com](mailto:laura@sfbabyworks.com)
- Ray Baxter, VP, Secretary, (415) 902-0765 or [ray@warmroom.com](mailto:ray@warmroom.com)
- Michael Silver, VP, Parent Volunteer Coordinator, (415) 597-2413 or [michael.silver@barclaysglobal.com](mailto:michael.silver@barclaysglobal.com)

## Upcoming Dates

Friday, October 7  
8:45-10 a.m.  
Grandparent breakfast  
Library

Monday, October 10  
No school  
Extended program available

Tuesday, October 11  
4:30-5:45 p.m.  
PTTA meeting  
Faculty lounge

Tuesday, October 11  
Fall enrichment classes begin

Tuesday, October 18 & Wednesday, October 19  
Picture Day

Tuesday, October 18 & Wednesday, October 19  
Annual Fund Phonathon

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