



April 5, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

A Big Thank You

“The Happy School” burst forth in happiness last weekend at the Fiesta. We had a lot of fun and we raised a lot of money for our sliding scale tuition fund—a lot! It seemed to me there was more enthusiasm than ever, more friendships made and reinforced and an enormous amount of community built. More people than ever told me that being a part of a community where difference is appreciated was THE THING for them and it helped that the Fiesta committee made sliding scale tuition the theme. It was beautiful.

For me, and I think for others, the timing was excellent. We needed a good party right about now. Maybe it’s just me, but the work of our learning community has felt more intense than usual in the last two months. This intensity is certainly understandable and perhaps even salutary. But we have to match the rise of intensity with a concomitant rise in disciplined behavior in order for our learning community to be effective in helping us learn what we need to from problems. It’s funny to talk this way but having a Fiesta once in a while is a great discipline. It was cleansing and healing—a good reminder that we are all one—that we are each just part of a larger whole.

Let’s all thank the leaders who made Fiesta 2007 such a great event. Let’s thank the people who donated items, the people who solicited the donations and the people who spent thousands of dollars on quilts so that other families can afford to send their child to CDS. Let’s thank the people who poured the wine and served the food and made the music. Let’s thank the people in the development office, the finance department and the classrooms.

An enormous thank you to Fiesta co-chairs Robin McClarren and Leslie Edelman for leading and running such a fantastic event. Thank you to all of the Fiesta chairs: Kristen Peña (marketing), Ann Van Gelder (processing), Kristin Henry (online development), Tina Corse (quilts), Meredith Ashworth (production), Laurie van Löben Sels (food and beverages), Robin Wander (solicitations) and Jackie Haslam (finance).

Thank you also to Luis Peña (graphics), Matt Ashworth (catalog writing), Karen Georgiades (flowers), Jason Perkins (music, lights, sound), Cindy Wilson (bar), Lisa Eltinge (live auction) and Brooke Bianco and Patti Cazzato (instant wine cellar). Once again, thank you to the fabulous team of quilters: Kristen Wurz, Kathryn Selleck, Liz Terbolizard, Becca Nitzan, Robin Wander, Kim Cohen, Mary Beth Towery, Suzanne Jachinowski, Amy Hecht, Susan Chastain, Michael Fine, Laurie van Löben Sels, Louis Schump and Alycia Freeman.

Thank you to the Fiesta class captains: Cathy Manshel, Jessica Lanning, Leslie

Hot Dates

Friday, April 6
8:30 a.m.

Cesar Chavez celebration
Led by sixth grade class
during Friday assembly

Monday, April 9 – Friday, April 13

Spring vacation
No school

Extended program available

Tuesday, April 17
6-7:30 p.m.

Parent Education Night
“Talking to Your Child about
Race and Class”
Faculty lounge

Dates also posted on CDS website
www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html



Thank You!

- To Brooke and Bob Bianco, Olga Caid, Ann and Dirk Van Gelder, Kristin Henry, Sara O'Malley and Richard Hylton, Steve Miller, Louis Schump and Todd Hosfelt, and Kristen Wurz for being welcoming "buddies" for new CDS families at the Fiesta.

Edelman, Stephanie Scarpulla, Anshu Chatterjee, Robin McClarren, Anne Funsten, Susi Alexander, Hilary Steinberg, Robin Wander, Shanti Priya and Cindy Wilson.

Many, many more volunteers helped out with the Fiesta; thank you to everyone for making Fiesta 2007 such a great community celebration and successful fundraiser.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who came and celebrated this great community and in doing so, made it a better community. Thank you.

From the Director of Diversity

Film Screening Report Back

Last Wednesday evening, approximately 18 parents and teachers and two well-spoken middle school students watched the local film, "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible." The film was followed by a discussion that covered a wide range of perspectives and ideas sparked by peoples' experiences and the film itself. It was a great event; thanks to all who participated. CDS owns a copy of the film if anyone would like to check it out to watch at home. Please contact Charlie Stephens at charlies@cds-sf.org for more information.

Upcoming Film

The Diversity and Justice Committee will host a screening of "My People Are... Youth Pride in Mixed Heritage" on Tuesday, April 24 at 6 p.m. This is a fun and thoughtful documentary that focuses directly on the words and feelings of mixed race young people. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children, third grade and older. Childcare is available as well. Please RSVP for childcare with Ryan Gordon at ryang@cds-sf.org. Hope to see you there!

Parent Education Night

Parent Ed Night is coming up on Tuesday, April 17 from 6-7:30 p.m. The focus for the evening is "Talking with your Children about Race and Class." Come spend the evening learning about strategies to use in talking about race and class with your child, and building your own comfort level in addressing issues of difference. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Childcare is available as well. Please RSVP for childcare with Ryan Gordon at ryang@cds-sf.org.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Update

At a hearing on Wednesday, the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board unanimously approved all planned exterior work (with the exception of the solar curtain, which was not part of this hearing). The approved work consists of (1) construction of a raised porch with stadium seating, (2) photovoltaic glass porch canopy, (3) removal of the exterior fire escape and (4) replacement of aluminum windows and doors with wood. The next step for this part of the project is approval by the Planning Department and issuance of a building permit. Although none of the planned exterior work that was the subject of the hearing will be done this summer, it's a great step forward for the project as a whole.

From the Classrooms

Earth Friendly Friday

On March 16, CDS held its first ever school-wide Earth Friendly Friday. The third and seventh grades organized the project, educating and inspiring the rest of the school to participate. That Friday morning, third graders greeted arriving families with signs, fresh squeezed lemonade from the CDS garden, smiles and good cheer. It was a festive atmosphere as parents and students rode bikes and scooters up to the gates, walked in from the street and poured out of cars stuffed with carpooling students.

After collecting data from all classes, we found that an impressive 65% of teachers and students participated in Earth Friendly Friday! Of the 173 students and teachers who participated, 36% carpoled, 28% took BART or the bus, 22% walked and 6% biked or rode a scooter to school.

School Wish List

- The Extended Program is looking for temporary or long term donations of any type of skateboarding gear including elbow and knee pads, wrist guards, skateboards, trucks, wheels and helmets. If you have any of these items and would be willing to loan them to the Extended Program for the week of April 9-13, please contact Michael (michaelg@cds-sf.org) or Charlie (charlies@cds-sf.org), or drop any items by the school.

Our first Earth Friendly Friday was a great success, helping keep our environment healthy, building community among CDS families and reducing the stress of long car lines in front of the school.

We are excited to announce that we will be having our second Earth Friendly Friday at the end of the month, on Friday, April 27. Mark your calendars and plan ahead to help us reach our goal of 100% participation. If you have any thoughts, ideas or feedback from the first Earth Friendly Friday please contact Michael Gast at 861-5432 x329 or michaelg@cds-sf.org.

From the Office

Photography Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a cadre of volunteer photographers who would like to be part of an ongoing group that helps capture the many "moments of greatness, large and small" happening at CDS. If you are a photographer with a keen eye for composition and some basic photo-adjusting skills, we want you to join the volunteer paparazzi! Volunteers are needed to help photograph events such as the first day of school, Back to School Night, the Cesar Chavez celebration and more, as well as field trips and school projects. If you would like to volunteer to help capture the spirit of our wonderful CDS community, please contact Diane Larrabee, Assistant Director of Admission & Communication, at dianel@cds-sf.org or at 415-861-5432 x337.

Events

Fiesta 2007

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Fiesta such a great success! Early projections look outstanding; however, the Development Office needs your help in order to finish tallying and generate final numbers. If you won silent or live auction items and have not yet paid or picked up your treasures, please stop by the third floor as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Mary DeNardo at maryd@cds-sf.org. Thank you for your help.

Extended Program News

April Vacation Camp

April Vacation Camp packets were distributed several weeks ago. If you did not receive a packet, please pick one up at the front desk. The themes are Farm and Garden, and Skateboarding and Urban Art, depending on the age group. The camp will run from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., April 9-13, and the cost is \$50/day. There are a few spots left. Friday is the FINAL day to sign up.

PTTA Update

2007-08 Nominations

Kindergarten parent Laura Pliska has agreed to be the PTTA President next year. She is currently looking for nominations for next year's PTTA Officers and Liaisons. Most roles require one to two meetings a month and one or two special projects or committees (e.g., Diversity Coordinator is also on the Committee on Inclusion; Community Building Coordinator and the Events Coordinator organize the Welcome Picnic) plus e-mail/phone exchanges. She is looking for a diverse group of individuals who will help her work on her focus for next year: communication. Please send her an e-mail at laura@sfbabyworks.com if you would like to help out or recommend another member of the community.

PTTA Corner

Friday Morning Coffee

Come join other parents for coffee and doughnuts in the yard after Friday drop-off, 8-9 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.

PTTA Questions or Ideas?

- Ray Baxter, PTTA President, (415) 902-0765 or ray@warmroom.com
- Patrick Everett, VP, Coordinator of Classroom Liaisons, (415) 609-4055 or patrick@everettnilsson.com
- Laura Pliska, VP, Coordinator of Welcoming Initiatives, (415) 641-5116 or laura@sfbabyworks.com
- Michael Silver, VP, Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives, (415) 518-1803 or silvermas@aol.com
- Ann Van Gelder, VP, Parent Volunteer Coordinator, (415) 647-8561 or anndirkvg@hotmail.com
- Tanja Beck, VP, Coordinator of Events, (415) 377-8756 or tbeck@zephyrsf.com
- Edwina Paschal, VP, Middle School Coordinator, (510) 499-7739 or edwinapaschal@earthlink.net

Upcoming Dates

Friday, April 27

8:30 a.m.

Earth Day Celebration
Led by the eighth grade class
during Friday assembly

Sunday, April 29

Country Fair workday

Saturday, May 6

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Country Fair
CDS yard

Dates also posted on CDS website
www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html

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Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail