



December 7, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Tadpoles, Chickens and Snails! Oh My!

Misty took a group of Tadpoles into the garden to feed snails and slugs to Fluffy and Super Fluffy. The hens were in the garden inside the mobile fence and Misty explained, of course, how by eating weeds and grubs they were also fertilizing and tilling the soil. Nice little lesson in interdependence, right?

Misty was looking around for a snail that they could feed to the hens, when she heard a racket and looked up in time to see a Tadpole shaking the fence. He was lifting the fence up and bringing it back down again hard, making a terrible noise. He lifted the fence high enough for Super Fluffy to escape, terrified, into the garden.

Misty responded automatically, "Why did you do that?" (Meaning, "Boy am I mad at you; now you have ruined everything.")

In response she got, "I don't know." (Meaning, "I have no idea why I did that; it seemed like fun. Please don't be mad at me. I didn't mean any harm. I sure hope everything will be okay. I can't face the idea that I have ruined the lesson and made you mad.")

Misty said, "Please go back to the classroom because I need some time to calm down since I am so upset. I will talk to you later." Then she realized that she needed to send everyone back for a while, because she was still upset and now had to catch Super Fluffy—something she hated, because she had worked so hard with the students to make her unafraid and approachable, and now all that was ruined. When Misty finally was able to pick her up, Super Fluffy was so afraid that she dropped a bunch of feathers. (Super Fluffy hates to be picked up. In fact, she is so resistant that Misty can usually only pick her up when she is in a confined space).

After Misty had calmed down from upsetting Super Fluffy, she went in to the Tadpole room to talk to the student. She said, "When you shook the cage and let Super Fluffy out I got really upset because she is hard to catch in open spaces. Super Fluffy hates to be chased and caught. It also made me worry that you were hurting a chicken. I need you to figure out how to make me feel better and how to make Super Fluffy feel better because you upset both of us when you lifted up the cage."

The student said, "I can say sorry to both of you."

Misty said, "I will accept that, but Super Fluffy won't understand; so you'll have to think of something different for her."

After trying out several ideas on Misty, our little Tadpole finally settled on feeding Super Fluffy.

Hot Dates

Tonight!

6:30 p.m.

Movie Night

"Tutu and Franklin:

A Journey towards Peace"

Library

Friday, December 8

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Leaping Lizards presenting

Tuesday, December 12

3:45 p.m.

Bulldogs basketball game

CDS vs. CAIS

Friday, December 15

11 a.m.

Winter Performance

Noon dismissal

No extended program

Friday, December 15

Sliding scale application due

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



Thank You!

- To Wini von Ehrenburg for helping assemble much-needed admission materials.
- To our incomparable guides for their excellent help with this week's admission tours: Marianne Evans, Jon Gilmour, Amanda Newstetter, Roger Nys, Karen Randig, Louis Schump, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Ann Van Gelder and Carlos Vasquez.

When they went to give her the food, however, she was so afraid of both humans that she wouldn't eat the food. Misty said, "Well, it looks like even that isn't going to fix it." They decided to walk away so that Super Fluffy could enjoy her treat.

Chickens can be very useful educators. It is an education in itself to learn that you can break a relationship and that sometimes it will take some work and some time to fix it. "If you break it, you fix it," is a rule around here and the main purpose of the rule is to hold people accountable for their actions and their relationships so they can learn from them. Misty, of course, is taking responsibility for making sure this teachable moment is used to its maximum benefit, and I have heard from the teachers that our Tadpole is indeed working (as we all are) on our awareness of interdependence within our community.

Misty's lesson changed radically in less than a minute, because the teachable moment was far more valuable than the lesson planned. Often we learn more from mistakes than from successes. Also note that Misty was simply being herself. This was a theme running through last night's Parent Education topic, "The Point of Failure." It was a lovely evening where parents and teachers discussed how to make failure, mistakes, conflict and struggle, valuable learning experiences for our children. I was very impressed with the quality of the conversations I witnessed.

Sometimes a big mistake can cause big learning. On the other hand, sometimes the consequences of a mistake are too big for a person to take responsibility for them; the incident in the farm with the chicken might have been one of those times. Who knows? In this messy business called education we often don't know. It doesn't really matter though. Our focus should be on believing our children are powerful, resilient organisms with the potential to work on relationships that require more than a quick fix.

Some relationships need to be given time. Luckily, a professional knows how to forgive, Tadpoles are easily forgiven, and hopefully chickens have a short memory.

From the Director of Diversity

Movie Night

Parents, teachers and middle schoolers—please join us for a movie and discussion tonight at 6:30 p.m., complete with popcorn, in the cozy CDS library!

The first movie night of the year will be a showing of "Tutu and Franklin: A Journey towards Peace." This film begins with the historic first encounter between Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu and renowned historical and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Dr. John Hope Franklin on Goree Island, the infamous former slave port off the coast of Senegal. Joined by an international interracial group of 21 high school students, together they engage in a series of unusually candid conversations on race and reconciliation. Through witnessing these conversations we can explore the insights of these elders and youth as they examine questions about race, themselves and the world. A discussion will follow the screening.

From the Office

BASIC Fund Scholarships

The BASIC Fund is a privately funded scholarship program created to expand educational opportunities for families in the San Francisco Bay Area. The program is available to students entering grades K-8 who will be attending a private school in Alameda, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. CDS is a member of the BASIC Fund. This program provides partial scholarships to help families send their children to the private or parochial school of their choice. The BASIC Fund scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need. Scholarships are for a maximum of \$1,500 annually per child. Please visit their website for more detailed information on who qualifies and how to apply: www.basicfund.org. Application forms for the 2007-08 school year will be available on their website or at the CDS front desk in February 2007; applications are due in mid-April 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Shibata at donnas@cds-sf.org or Aimee Giles at aimeeg@cds-sf.org.

School Wish List

- The Spanish and Humanities programs at the Boys and Girls Club request a gently used 24"-27" color TV. Contact Rebecca Kroll at rebeccak@cds-sf.org to make a donation.

Events

Winter Performance

The Winter Performance will be held on Friday, December 15 at 11 a.m. at the First Covenant Church (Dolores Park Church) at 455 Dolores Street. Please come see each grade level perform a song or skit on the theme, "Together All Over the World." Dismissal will take place at noon at CDS. **Parents coming from the 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

Winter Vacation Camp

The theme of this year's winter vacation camp is "Community Action" and will run from Monday, December 18 through Friday, December 22 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration forms are available at the front desk or on the CDS website (http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/vacation.html). The registration due date is Monday, December 11.

Enrichment Classes

Fall enrichment classes are now winding down or have officially completed. If you have questions about the last day for your child's particular class, please check the Extended Program bulletin board to the left of the reception area or call Charlie at 861-5432 x315.

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball season is underway! The first game of the season for both boys & girls teams will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 3:45 p.m. The Bulldogs will play Chinese American School at CAIS, 150 Oak Street.

Come out and support the Bulldogs!

Sports Hotline: 415-861-5432 x397

Upcoming Dates

Monday, December 18 – Friday, December 22

Winter vacation

No school

Extended program available

Monday, December 25 – Monday, January 1

Winter vacation

No school

No extended program

Monday, January 8

Winter enrichment classes begin

Tuesday, January 9

4:30-5:45 p.m.

PTTA meeting

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

No school

No extended program

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

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