



December 14, 2006

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### CDS Community

As you read this, I will be at my father's bedside back in Connecticut with four generations of Ackerly's together in one room, a rare occurrence for us. My family is rallying around my father who is, as he would say, "on his last legs." Even though I will be home, I will miss the Winter Performance and the celebration of the end of a year with this community I am so proud of.

The community has indeed been great this year. It is most palpable every Friday morning as more and more parents manage to make it to assembly and Friday coffee. The yard has felt like a country fair each week! Less obvious to everyone is the quality of conversation that has gone on at events such as Parent Education Night, Back-to-School Night, Grandparents & Special Friends Day, the Book Fair; and meetings of the faculty, trustees, PTTA, Fiesta Committee, Architects Steering Committee, Campaign Cabinet, Committee on Inclusion, Strategic Planning Committee, Development Committee, Affinity Groups, etc.

Present at these events, meetings and weekly rituals are happy people and supportive community members. The adults are doing an unusual thing; they are behaving as well as the children. These meetings and conversations have been safe places for people to be themselves. They are not just speaking up, but are allowing and encouraging others to speak up. Time and again I have experienced two things going on: the business of the meeting and compassion for one or more individuals. Why is this important? Because it's always about people. Even though the topic may be transforming a building, raising millions of dollars or planning an event, it's always about people. This school invests in people, not stuff.

The other day I walked into a class as they were cleaning up and saw a young student under a table, laughing. I said, "I am pretty sure that you are not supposed to be doing that right now."

He immediately came out from under the table and stood up next to me. As I started to move on, he started to blame another student, apparently feeling chagrined at being caught doing something "bad."

I said, "Don't talk about someone else. Were you doing what you should have been doing?"

When he continued to blame the other boy I decided I needed to have a talk with him, the gist of which was: Be proud of what you do; don't try to be perfect; don't try to stay out of trouble; and if you get into trouble, don't blame it on someone else. Just try to be proud of everything you do.

## Hot Dates

Friday, December 15  
11 a.m.

Winter Performance  
Noon dismissal  
No extended program

Friday, December 15  
Sliding scale application due

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

Dates now posted on CDS website!  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)



## Thank You!

- To Linda Glover and Ray Baxter for taking all unclaimed lost and found items to Community Thrift.
- To Edwina Paschal for helping spread the word about our middle school by attending the Clarendon Middle School Fair two weeks ago.
- To fourth grade families for providing a delicious faculty breakfast last Friday!
- To Katherine Whitney for helping lead the middle school admission tour this week.
- To Luma Dahlbacka for providing artwork for the faculty holiday party invitations.

This is the only time I have had to say this to anyone this year. Everywhere I look I see people taking responsibility for their actions, words and needs and using the Logan Principle (see the *CDS Weekly*, September 21, 2006) for getting what they want. I regularly witness students taking responsibility for their own learning and adults playing position in support of that. Recently Mr. Kirk told me that with few exceptions, his fifth graders led their own conferences. He simply put the progress reports on the table and they led the discussion on how they are doing, using the progress report as a framework. They self-evaluated with a high degree of accuracy. This behavior predicts success. This is what produced last year's outstanding high school placement results. And this behavior is supported by all the constructive conversations we have been having at the adult level. It's all part of the wonderful weave of the school fabric.

What makes me happy as I leave for Connecticut is that The Happy School is doing what it needs to do to stay The Happy School. I will miss the Winter Performance, but I am sure it will be great. Best wishes to you and your family during holiday break!

## The Dirt

### Yard Changes

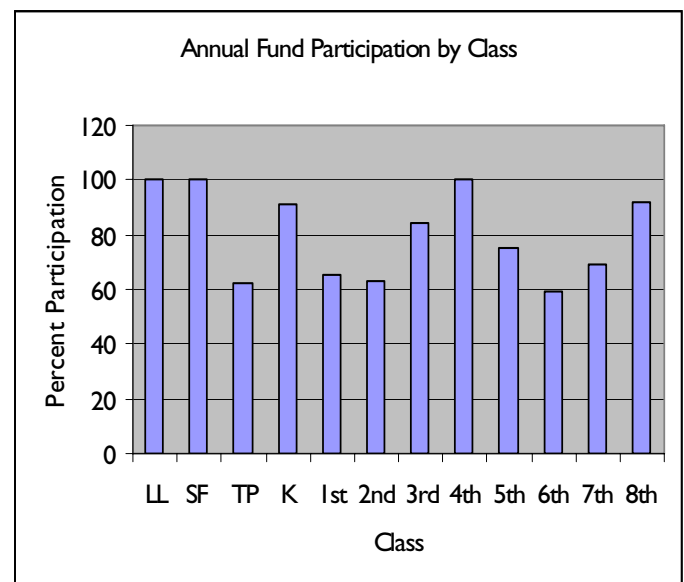
You might notice a few changes on the yard when you return from winter vacation. The Canary Island Date Palm by the structure won't be there anymore. We recently discovered that the tree is showing signs of decay; we have decided to remove the tree so we can insure the safety of children playing on the structure. If you develop attachments to plants and trees, like I do, you can say goodbye to the palm tree through December 22. There will also be some light pruning done to a number of the other trees on the yard, including the elm and the bay tree in the Papa Artie Bower, which are close to 100 years old. The pruning won't be dramatic, but will take weight off the main limbs so that they are less likely to break during the winter storms.

—Misty Cummings

## From the Office

### Annual Fund Update

Wow! Parents have been so generous this fall; 80% have made a gift or pledge to the Annual Fund. The total of all parent contributions is over \$118,000, just shy of our goal for the year of \$120,000. Joining the Leaping Lizards class at 100% participation are the Starfish and fourth grade classes. Way to go, one and all. Thanks to everyone for your continued support and generosity and have a great holiday season. We'll wrap up the parent campaign in January and hope to break all past records for giving and participation.



## School Wish List

- The MS 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](mailto:rebeccak@cds-sf.org) to make a donation.

## Sliding Scale Tuition

Please note that sliding scale tuition applications are due tomorrow, Friday, December 15. Application materials and more information about NAIS/SSS (School & Student Service for Financial Aid) are available online at: [www.nais.org/go/sssforms](http://www.nais.org/go/sssforms).

## Student Photos

Mugshots re-shoot and make-up proofs were handed out this week. Orders can be placed online only; passwords and instructions are located on the proof envelopes. All other picture inquiries can be made directly to Mugshots photography at [info@mugshotsphotography.com](mailto:info@mugshotsphotography.com) or 415-459-2178, press "0" to bypass the message.

## 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.**

### Fiesta 2007

Fiesta 2007 "Save the Date" packets are being sent home this week! Fiesta 2007 will be held on March 31, 2007. Packets include donation ideas, donation forms and important dates to remember. It's never too early to start planning for our annual community celebration and benefit auction!

## Extended Program News

### Summer Camp 2007

Winter vacation is the PERFECT time to start daydreaming about summer!

This coming summer, due to renovations, we'll only be running a preschool and kindergarten camp, held in the bungalows. The camp will run each day from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and this year, instead of four two-week sessions, we will hold five two-week sessions. The first camp will start on June 18 and the last camp will end on August 24. Camps will not be themed, but will incorporate the diverse areas of farm and garden, sports and games, music and movement and arts and crafts.

CDS families will be given priority registration starting January 15 through February 15. After February 15, the camps will be open to community families.

Like last year, we'll create a summer resource area in the library that has summer camp information for elementary and middle school students for camps throughout the Bay Area. Another excellent place to go for summer camp ideas is [www.gocitykids.com](http://www.gocitykids.com). Also, each year in San Francisco there are two comprehensive summer camp fairs. Both are held in the early part of the year. Details on dates and locations to follow.

In addition, I'll be creating a roster of CDS teachers who are interested in doing childcare for various dates throughout the summer. The roster will be posted with the other city-wide summer camp resources.

## Go Bulldogs!

### Basketball Scores

December 12, CDS vs. CAIS

Girls: CDS 18, CAIS 13

Boys: CDS 26, CAIS 15

### Basketball Calendar

Girls: Monday, January 8, 3:30 p.m.

Synergy, St. Mary's Park, 95 Justin Street

Boys: Monday, January 8, 4:30 p.m.

Synergy, St. Mary's Park, 95 Justin Street

Sports Hotline: 415-861-5432 x397

## Winter Vacation Camp

Registration for the camp is officially full. 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. Thanks to everyone who registered.

## Enrichment Classes

Winter Enrichment class registration packets for winter classes were sent home with last week's *Weekly*. If you didn't receive one, please pick one up at the front desk. Winter classes begin the week of Monday, January 8.

## Library Corner

### Farewell Sesheta

We are sad to say goodbye to our wonderful librarian, Sesheta Hanible. Sesheta's calling is truly as a classroom teacher, and she has been called back to San Francisco Unified to teach first grade at Bret Harte Elementary School in Bayview-Hunters Point. While today is officially her last day, she'll be around in January to transition the library to a new phase. Please stop by to say good-bye. We will miss her dearly!

## PTTA Update

### January Meeting

Please join us for a PTTA meeting on Tuesday, January 9 from 4:30-6p.m. titled "Making Magic Happen – Stories from the History of CDS." The PTTA will present a panel discussion on stories from the early days of CDS, covering the creation of our school, its mission, culture and values. Why do we have a farm? How did the school come to embrace project-based learning and responsive classroom techniques? How and why did art education become so important at CDS? How did we acquire St. Joseph's hall and this school site? How were the strategic plan and mission statements created? Tracy Kirkham, Matt Schwartz, Elizabeth McClellan, Aimee Giles and Jen Weiss will be on the panel. All are welcome to attend and childcare is free during the meeting if you sign up by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

## Upcoming Dates

Monday, January 8  
Winter enrichment classes begin

Tuesday, January 9  
4:30-6 p.m.  
PTTA meeting

Monday, January 15  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
No school  
No extended program

Dates now posted on CDS website!  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)

### Children's Day School

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