



February 8, 2007

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Freedom and Discipline

Yet again, the school performed beautifully during a fire drill last week. We were, as usual, out of the building in under a minute and a half. (The firemen are happy at anything under 2 minutes.) It's always a thrill for me to see all 257 beautiful children standing with their teachers in perfect order around the playground, silent and still.

I was happy not because my favorite venue has always been a military parade ground, or that I particularly like to see human beings in straight rows. My joy derives from our students' ability to behave appropriately to the situation. Their sense of freedom, which they express so often in a variety of situations, is tempered by an understanding that the effective exercise of freedom requires discipline.

In the last forty years discipline has acquired a tarnished reputation. My sister Molly calls it a "humpty-dumpty word." Its original meaning has fallen apart and "all the king's horses and all the king's men" can't return it to its former value. Take this simple test: which one of the following definitions is the CDS definition of discipline?

discipline n

1. the practice or methods of ensuring that people obey rules by teaching them to do so and punishing them if they do not
2. a controlled orderly state, especially in a class of schoolchildren
3. the ability to behave in a controlled and calm way even in a difficult or stressful situation
4. mental self-control used in directing or changing behavior, learning something, or training for something
5. a subject or field of activity, for example, an academic subject
6. punishment designed to teach somebody to obey rules
7. the system of rules and punishment used in a particular religious denomination

(Encarta World English Dictionary)

Right, the official CDS definition is close to number 4: "Those behaviors, habits or mental attitudes which help you accomplish your goals."

When one of the firemen, thrilled at our demonstration of discipline, asked me what he could tell a friend with a five-year-old about this school, I said, "...the freedom to be a child and develop your potential. It's a great place to discover

### Hot Dates

Today

4:30 p.m.

Co-ed basketball scrimmage

Boys & Girls Club

Friday, February 9

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Fifth grade presenting

Friday, February 9

Re-enrollment, sibling and children of faculty/staff contracts for

2007-08 mailed

Friday, February 9

7:30 p.m.

Middle School

Valentine's Day Dance

Miraloma Clubhouse

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



## Thank You!

- To Amanda Chapman, Marianne Evans and Jon Gilmour for helping with last week's visit day for prospective kindergarten families.
- To everyone who volunteered time, energy and sewing skills to make this year's collection of class quilts not only possible, but beautiful, too: Tina Corse, 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 Loben Sels, Louis Schump, Alycia Freeman, our fabulous art department and all the students whose work inspired the quilts!

your genius [another humpty-dumpty word.]”

The visiting fireman said, “I can see that.”

It may feel a little counter-intuitive that a demonstration of discipline should reveal a commitment to freedom and individuality, but that is just what happened. Discipline is essential to the constructive exercise of freedom. Disciplines are necessary to accomplish anything. Moving your eyes from left to right across a page of print is a discipline for reading. Your pencil grip is a discipline for writing. There are myriad disciplines for solving different kinds of problems, for cooking, dancing, driving—for everything we do.

Among other things, CDS students are learning disciplines for working in a large group, like raising your hand, not talking for too long and asking questions. For accomplishing something in a small group of two to four people, they learn to take turns leading and following. One of the most important discoveries I made during my first year at CDS four years ago was that the oldest students already possessed the disciplines to maintain a learning environment that made it possible for each person to feel they had a voice.

When it comes to disciplines of getting along with other people, our students are often teaching the adults. Last week a parent told me about how his son said, “Use your words, Dad,” when he was getting mad at his mother. I hear a dozen stories like this a year.

Last week the Committee on Inclusion asked me to report to them on what I had learned about diversity at my former schools and in my consulting. They are looking for best practices. My hand-outs were lists of disciplines for

building a community that is a safe place to speak up and engage in the ongoing process of discovering your identity as you learn from others.

There are still members of this community who bridle at the idea of discipline. I can understand that. We all have some unlearning to do. But for best results with children and in all the work we do with each other, we had better stick to our disciplines.

Also, I confess to a little perverse, personal agenda. I want to tell my brilliant little sister (who by the way is always right) that she is wrong about discipline. Well, of course, she's really right, but I want to show her that this school has been able to restore discipline to its full and upright position.

## From the Classrooms

### MLK Day Report Back

CDS students and teachers engaged in an impressive breadth of Martin Luther King Day activities this year. Here is a peek at some of what has gone on in the classroom during and since MLK Day:

- **Second graders** watched a video on civil rights in El Salvador. They talked about the slogan shown in the video, “Hombres y Mujeres del Maiz, Levantarse Por la Tierra.” The class discussed what the slogan meant, the reasons people would rise up for their land and what a slogan might be for people in the U.S.
- The **third grade** students discussed with their families the question, “What does civil rights mean to you?” They also wrote about this question and presented their findings to the class.
- **Fifth graders** read a biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. They followed up the reading with a classroom discussion on whether or not Martin Luther King's practice and belief in non-violent resistance is always appropriate.
- **Seventh graders** watched a video by the organization Teaching Tolerance called *The Children's March*. The video looked at the Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963 against the segregation laws of the time. The students discussed the video and the role of young people in standing up against oppression.

## School Wish List

- The music department needs instruments: **guitars, flutes and violins!** If you'd like to lend or donate an instrument, please contact Grace Renaud at 861-5432 x388.
- The after school program would love donations of bikes that would fit students in grades 1-3, or ages 6-9. Please contact Michael Gast, After School Coordinator at 861-5432 x329 if you'd like to make a donation.

- In **music** with Ms. Emilie, students learned how music is used as a force for change and inspiration within social movements. Emilie talked about the history of songs in the civil rights movement, the use of songs for conveying messages and the gospel and spiritual foundation of many civil rights movement songs. Students then learned "We Shall Overcome," "This Little Light of Mine" and "Down by the Riverside."

## From the Office

### SOTS Update

Thanks to everyone who attended State-of-the-School Night this week. It was a good meeting; a lot of important questions were raised about the budget and next year's tuition increase. It's clear that CDS parents care about the future of this school—we appreciate all of your input and feedback. The Finance Committee will address issues raised by parents at a meeting tomorrow and will provide all families with additional financial and budget information in the *Weekly* next week.

### Tuition Increase Pressure Relief

It's not too late! If you did not apply for our sliding scale tuition in December and our increased tuition is keeping you up at night worrying about whether you'll be able to afford to send your child(ren) to CDS next year, please come talk with us (Donna at x314, Rick at x313 or Aimee at x322). We are still accepting sliding scale tuition applications from currently enrolled families. We are committed to making sure that families do not have to leave the school for financial reasons.

## 2007-08 Calendar

With construction planned for St. Joseph's Hall this summer, this has been an especially difficult year for setting next year's academic calendar. We apologize for the delay in publishing these dates. A full calendar will be published soon.

- 9/5-9/6/07: Parent-teacher conferences
- 9/7/07: Preschool and kindergarten orientation
- 9/10/07: First day of school
- 10/8/07: Government Holiday; no school, no extended program (EP)
- 10/22/07: Professional Development Day; no school, no EP
- 11/15-11/16/07: Parent-Teacher Conferences; no school, no EP
- 11/22-11/23/07: Thanksgiving vacation; no school, no EP (half-day on Wednesday, 11/21)
- 12/20/07-1/1/08: Winter vacation; no school, no EP (half-day on Wednesday, 12/19)
- 1/21/08: MLK, Jr. Day ; no school, no EP
- 2/18-2/22/08: February vacation; no school, EP available Tue-Fri
- 3/10/08: Professional Development Day; no school, no EP
- 4/14-4/18/08: Spring vacation; no school, EP available all week
- 5/26/08: Memorial Day; no school, no EP
- 6/13/08: Last day of school

## Go Bulldogs!

### Basketball Update

The boys game scheduled for today against CAIS has been cancelled. The boys team finished the season with a 4-0 record and girls finished with a 2-3 record. Way to go Bulldogs!

**Sports Hotline: 415-861-5432 x397**

## Events

### Fiesta 2007

Fiesta plans are in full swing and we look forward to a fantastic community celebration! Solicitation efforts are underway; thank you to everyone who has submitted donations—we already have some really great items. This year we are looking for items that create experiences, bring the CDS community together and can be given in the form of a gift certificate. And as a reminder, all solicitations will directly benefit sliding scale tuition. If you haven't already heard from your Fiesta class captain, they will be calling soon to help you come up with creative donation ideas. Donation forms can be dropped off at the front desk and are due by Friday, February 23. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Wander at 415-286-3689 or [robinw@post.harvard.edu](mailto:robinw@post.harvard.edu), or speak with your class captain:

- Jessica Lanning – Leaping Lizard
- Leslie Edelman – Tadpole
- Cathy Manshel – Starfish
- Stephanie Scarpulla – Kindergarten, Second grade
- Anshu Chatterjee – First grade
- Anne Funsten – Third grade
- Susi Alexander – Fourth grade
- Hilary Steinberg – Fifth grade
- Tina Smith – Sixth grade
- Shanti Priya – Seventh grade
- Cindy Wilson – Eighth grade

Many thanks to the class captains and to everyone for donating time and energy to Fiesta 2007!

## Extended Program News

### February Vacation Camp

This year's camp theme is "The Civil Rights Movement." For this camp, students will be divided into the following age groups: Pre, K-I and 2-8. The camp will run from Tuesday, February 20 through Friday, February 23. Extra registration forms are available at the front desk. **Please note: registration for this camp closes on Friday, February 9.** Late sign-ups will not be permitted.

### Summer Camp at CDS

Summer camp registration packets for children entering preschool (at least 3 years old) and those entering kindergarten have been sent home. More registration packets are available at the front desk. Families have already started signing up and there are limited spots; keep that in mind as you approach summer planning. For older students, CDS is not planning to offer any summer camp this year because of planned construction. A summer camp resource area will be set up in the library starting Thursday, February 15. Another great online resource is [www.gocitykids.com](http://www.gocitykids.com).

## 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 anndirkgv@hotmail.com
- Tanja Beck, VP, Coordinator of Events, (415) 377-8756 or tbeck@zephyrsf.com
- Yvelise Cabral, VP, Middle School Coordinator, (415) 348-1154 or yvelisecabral@msn.com
- Edwina Paschal, VP, Middle School Coordinator, (510) 499-7739 or edwinapaschal@earthlink.net

## Upcoming Dates

**Monday, February 19**  
Presidents' Day observed  
No school  
No extended program

**Tuesday, February 20 – Friday, February 23**  
February vacation  
No school  
Vacation camp available

**Monday, February 26**  
Re-enrollment, sibling and children of faculty/staff  
2007-08 enrollment contracts due

**Wednesday, February 28**  
5 p.m.  
Tutu and Franklin: A Journey Towards Peace  
Film screening presented by the  
Diversity and Justice Committee

Dates also posted on CDS website  
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### Children's Day School

333 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-861-5432 (ph)  
415-861-5419 (fax)

**[www.cds-sf.org](http://www.cds-sf.org)**

Editor: Mary DeNardo, cdsweekly@cds-sf.org  
Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.  
Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail