



January 18, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

The Soul of CDS

The eighth grade led us all in the Martin Luther King Jr. assembly last Friday. It was so cold that Nancy, the emcee, suggested that everybody stand up and pack together like penguins to keep warm. They did, and nobody got silly. A good thing too, because silliness would have detracted from one of our most powerful and poignant assemblies to date. Five eighth graders told their own family stories of racism, sexism and prejudice. Even I, who am used to their poise, self-possession and natural compassion, was impressed. We should have captured it on videotape. We should take it on the road. They didn't read from notes, they just told the stories. It was cold and all of us just stood there in rapt attention; tears were in my eyes.

Moments like these have been happening since the founding of the school, but they come and go and are held only in the hearts and minds of those who are there at the time. How do we share these memories? How do we capture these moments so that the whole school community can keep them and ponder them in its collective heart?

Last Tuesday, PTTA President Ray Baxter took a stab at that when he led what I hope will become an annual tradition: storytelling in Jim Robinson's old apartment, the faculty lounge. (Jim Robinson founded the school in 1983, owning and running it until 1996.)

During this meeting it became obvious that many people have been through so much together. Aimee Giles told stories about the establishment of the farm and garden from 1995 to 1998. Jen Weiss, who was a preschool teacher here from 1995 to 1998, told stories about designing a new K-8 program on the foundation of this fabulous preschool. Tracy Kirkham (Chair of the Board and mother of Gilli '07, and Sidney '12 and Greer '12) told stories about the struggles to buy the school from Jim Robinson, form a new non-profit, and get this new school opened in the summer of 1996. Tina Corse, mother of Teija '06 and James 'II, was on hand to add a few of her own stories about those times. Matt Schwartz had only five minutes to report on an 18-month strategic planning process (December 2003 to June 2005). We should have known that there was way too much to say about the founding of this school.

I could see wonder in the faces of those who heard the stories, and tears came to eyes more than once. The quality of these discussions and recollections went far beyond my "poor power to add and subtract." You truly had to be there. But some sound bites may serve in our search for the unique genius of Children's Day School.

"Since that first year when we lied about where Pigley and Nanny had gone, we

Hot Dates

Friday, January 19
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Seventh grade presenting

Thursday, January 18
4:30 p.m.

Boy's basketball game
Lycee Francais
Boys & Girls Club

Monday, January 22
5 p.m.

Girl's basketball game
KDDBS, 7070 California Street

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



Thank You!

- To the kindergarten class for providing faculty breakfast, our favorite Friday of the month!
- To Susan Chastain for donating a color laser printer and to Beth Mazie and Jerel Glassman for donating a monitor and set of speakers.
- To our parent volunteers for their tremendous help with the admission Open House: Ray Baxter, Yvelise Cabral, Kristin and Andrew Henry, Margo Hohulin, Springer Huseby, Richard Hylton, Debbie Jasso, Tina Leung, Paul Moreno, Edwina Paschal, Laura Pliska and Elizabeth Seirmarco. And thank you to Meredith Ashworth for stepping in at the last minute to help with Open House materials. We couldn't have done it without you all!
- To Karen Georgiades and Paul Moreno for helping with the final admission tour of the school year.
- To our CDS parents who braved the cold last Saturday and helped at the visit day for prospective preschool families: Ana Brubaker, Karen Georgiades, Richard Hylton, Paul Moreno and Ann Van Gelder.
- To Yvelise Cabral, Kara Schleunes, and Katherine Whitney for their help with the last middle school tour of the year. And a special thank you to Yvelise for being the Spanish translator on the tour.
- To everyone who stayed up late to help stuff Fiesta invitations: Kristen Pena, Robin McClarren, Leslie Edelman, Paige Lang and especially, Laurie and Chris van Löben Sels, who stuck it out until midnight, even in the face of a newborn's impending 5 a.m. wake up call!

have never lied to the children about the disappearance or death of a CDS animal," said Tracy Kirkham. "The farm is the soul of the school." (Aimee Giles)

Jen Weiss reported, "We preschool teachers knew that social and emotional development is as important as academics. Skills are best taught in a meaningful context; why wouldn't that be true in elementary school? In middle school? We decided, yes it could and should. Can an eighth grade class be as happy at school as a preschool class? We decided it could."

"...and our graduates continue to show that it's true," said Tina Corse, mother of graduate Teija. "Their enthusiasm for learning shows up as they continue to tackle

challenging high school work with joy." (Tracy Kirkham) Many people gave so much to bring this wonderful school into being.

After hearing these stories, Robin McClarren, who has already given so much as second-year co-chair of the Fiesta, asked, "It took so much work! Why did you do it? When the school nearly closed in 1996, why didn't you just give up and find another school?"

Tracy's answer was another story, to which again, I can't do justice, but it seems her devotion came from the school's unwavering devotion to Gilli. CDS made Gilli feel safe eleven years ago, at a time when she was particularly vulnerable. Tracy discovered that she could trust that at CDS Gilli would never have to be embarrassed about anything.

Eleven years later, we stood celebrating the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the new preschool play yard, all together watching five fourteen-year-olds, our next batch of graduates, stand up in front of almost three hundred people of all ages to tell their personal stories from the heart, without even a hint of embarrassment.

From the Director of Diversity

CDS Committee on Inclusion

One of the many exciting developments this year at CDS is the formation of the Committee on Inclusion, a group of parents, faculty and trustees who have come together to develop recommendations to the Board of Trustees for the adoption of a strategic plan to increase the diversity of students, faculty and administrators at CDS with a particular focus on increasing the recruitment and retention of under-represented racial and ethnic groups at CDS. The committee is also working on ways to make CDS a truly welcoming place for a diverse population through coordination of curriculum efforts and education/training for students, staff and parents.

The Committee on Inclusion was formed in August 2006 in response to input from parents and board members who feel that CDS can benefit from having a strategic plan with respect to increasing racial and ethnic diversity at CDS. The Committee is chaired by Matt Schwartz, who is Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. Other Trustees who volunteered to serve include former PTTA President Kate Moses and Bob Curley, former Chair of the Board. Administrative staff on the committee include Assistant Head Rebecca Kroll, Diversity Director Charlie Stephens and After

School Wish List

- Robin Woods, extended program teacher, is looking for donations of used and broken computers for her after school computer class. The class needs computers only—no monitors please. If you'd like to donate a computer, please contact Robin at 415-661-9911.

School/Service-Learning Coordinator Michael Gast. Faculty on the Committee include Gretchen Ott and Eric Subido. Parents include Jill Yee, Cathy Manshel, Richard Hylton, Sara O'Malley, Brooks Crichlow, Andrew Henry and PTTA Diversity Liaison Michael Silver.

The Committee has been meeting monthly but will soon meet twice each month. They have just completed the first phase of its work, which is understanding diversity efforts already underway at CDS. We have been briefed on the activities of the Diversity Director, staff and faculty training, admission department, and sliding scale tuition. We are in the process of learning about best practices in diversity planning at other Bay Area schools.

The Committee will begin formulating recommendations in consultation with CDS administrative staff in February/March and plans to deliver its recommendations to the Board of Trustees in May 2007.

Red Power Affinity Group

We are beginning our second semester of an affinity/discussion group just for middle school girls. The intention of this group is to create a space for middle school girls to talk with each other about issues affecting their lives. We support each other by coming together once a week to share food and conversation. We spent much of last semester working on art projects and exploring related topics. The direction of the group is essentially student-led, and we have some great ideas brewing for the spring. Our meeting time has changed to Friday afternoons, from 4:30–5:45 p.m., and we welcome any girls interested in joining to come try it out this week. If you are interested in joining us, or if you or your parents have further questions, please contact parent facilitator, Virginia Blue, at bluestearth@yahoo.com or 415-333-2321.

Movie Night

On Wednesday, February 28 at 5 p.m. the Diversity and Justice Committee will be hosting a screening of the film, "Tutu and Franklin: A Journey Towards Peace." This film documents the journey of a diverse group of young people as they confront conflicting perceptions and struggle to cross historic barriers. The wisdom of the elders and the vitality of the next generation combine in unexpected ways to create an inspiring new vision for racial justice. The event is open to all faculty, parents, friends and middle school students and will include a discussion following the film. Please RSVP with Charlie at charlies@cds-sf.org if you plan on attending.

From the Classrooms

MLK Day Report Back

CDS celebrated the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. in the classroom, at home and in the community this past week. In the classroom, activities ranged from the second grade learning about civil rights in El Salvador to the fifth grade listening to and reflecting on Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech from the March on Washington. At home, eighth graders interviewed family members about experiences of discrimination and oppression and then shared these stories at an all school assembly last Friday. On Monday a small group of CDS students, parents and teachers joined up with teachers, students and parents from Marshall Elementary to take the celebration out into the community. We set the record for most train, bus and Bart rides in one day as we traveled down to San Mateo and back, singing civil rights

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball Scores

Girls vs. Synergy
Synergy 20, CDS 12

Boys vs. Synergy
CDS 24, Synergy 14

Basketball Calendar

Girls: Monday, January 22, 5 p.m.
KDBS, 7070 California Street.

Boys: Today! 4:30 p.m.
Lycee Francais, Boys & Girls Club

Sports Hotline: 415-861-5432 x397

movement songs, drinking hot chocolate and ending up at the large city-wide MLK Day celebration in San Francisco's Civic Center. Hopefully the week of activities and projects has served as a catalyst for further discussion, research, reflection and action around the themes of civil rights, oppression and justice in the coming year.

Middle School Art Show

Middle school students will hold an art show beginning tomorrow, with an art opening during Friday morning coffee! Tables will be set up in yard if weather permits, otherwise look inside for student work. The work will be displayed in the stairwell display boxes and on the third floor (faculty art wall). Artwork from selectives such as sewing, puppets, photography, pop-up books and altered art will be displayed. The work will remain up throughout the month so please check it out when you have a chance.

From the Office

Lost and Found

All lost and found items will be on display at the front gate on Thursday, January 18 and Friday, January 19. Please claim your lost items; all leftover items will be donated to Community Thrift at the end of the day on Friday.

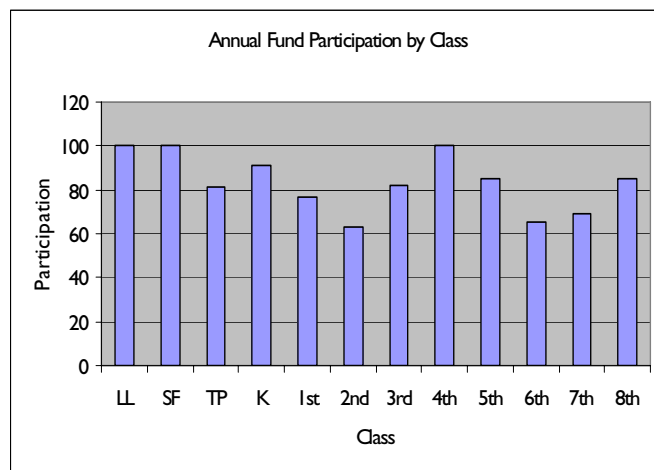
Welcome Grace

Please welcome our new Middle School Music Teacher, Grace Renaud! Many of you witnessed the outstanding performance she directed for our middle school at the Winter Performance. She will now begin teaching Middle School Selectives on January 22, kicking off our second semester with an instrumental ensemble class and a beginning vocal class. Grace is an experienced instrumental and vocal teacher, as well as an accompanist. You can contact her via email at gracer@cds-sf.org, or by CDS phone at 861-5432 x388.

Annual Fund Update

Congratulations, CDS parents, for passing this year's parent annual fund goal of \$120,000 in record time! Parents have contributed over \$124,000 in gifts and pledges, and participation has been strong throughout the school. The Leaping Lizard, Starfish and fourth grade classes are leading the school with 100% participation, and the whole preschool could reach 100% soon.

Thank you to all who have helped with this campaign by calling other parents and giving with good humor and great generosity. Participation is at 83% throughout the school and a final push will be made this month to exceed last year's total of 86%. If you have not contributed already, please help make this a record-setting year for participation *and* giving. Each parent gift, regardless of size, strengthens our pitch to foundations, corporations and other prospects. Thank you very much for your help.



Driveway Safety

Please remember that CDS parking spots are reserved for faculty and staff. Families choosing to walk their children into school must park on the street and enter the school via the sidewalk along the exit (north) driveway. In order to be safe and to be good neighbors, parking in the fire lanes, driveways or spaces designated Notre Dame Plaza (NDP) is strictly prohibited at all times, and vehicles are subject to being towed. Unauthorized parking in handicapped spaces is also prohibited. When walking your children into school, please hold hands with your child and proceed cautiously in the designated pedestrian walkway area only. Thanks for helping to keep drop-off safe and efficient.

Minimize Idling

"Would you drive a car that gets zero miles to the gallon? Of course not. Yet that is your mileage whenever your engine idles. Idling wastes money and fuel, contributes to air pollution, and generates carbon dioxide emissions that cause global warming..." Here at CDS you can minimize your impact on the environment and save money and fuel during pick-up by remembering to turn your engine off if you are waiting for more than 30 seconds. You can read more about idling online at <http://www.ucsusa.org/publications/greentips/>.

Events

Fiesta 2007

Invitations to this year's annual celebration and auction fundraiser, Fiesta 2007, are being mailed home this week. Please mark your calendars for this exciting community event that includes a silent auction, live auction, dinner, drinks and dancing, as well as free childcare. Donation forms are due by February 23; there is now a drop-off box next to the reception desk for your forms. See you there!

Extended Program News

February Vacation Camp

Registration forms for the February Vacation Camp were sent home with last week's *Weekly*. This year's camp theme is "The Civil Rights Movement." For this camp, students will be divided into the following age groups: preschool, K-I and 2-8. The camp will run from Tuesday, February 20 through Friday, February 23. Extra registration forms will be available at the reception area beginning Friday morning.

Winter Enrichment Classes

Winter enrichment classes began last week. There are still openings in the following classes: Chinese (Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m.) and Tai-Ji Sword (Wednesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.). If you are interested in signing up, please call Charlie at 861-5432 x315.

Summer Camp at CDS

Summer camp registration packets for children entering preschool (at least 3 years old) and those entering kindergarten were sent home last week. More registration packets are available at the front desk. Families have already started signing up and there are limited spots so keep that in mind with your quickly-approaching summer planning! For older students, a summer camp resource area will be set up in the library starting February 15. Another great summer camp resource is www.gocitykids.com.

Upcoming Dates

Friday, January 26

8:45-10:15 a.m.

Middle school academic open house

Friday, February 2

Professional development day

No school

No extended program

Tuesday, February 6

7 p.m.

State-of-the-School Night

Wednesday, February 7

Copies of 2006 taxes due from all CDS families applying for sliding scale tuition

Friday, February 9

Re-enrollment contracts for 2007-08 mailed

Monday, February 19

Presidents' Day observed

No school

No extended program

Tuesday, February 20 – Friday, February 23

February vacation

No school

Extended program available

Monday, February 26

Re-enrollment contracts due

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

Children's Day School

333 Dolores Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

415-861-5432 (ph)

415-861-5419 (fax)

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