



March 8, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

St. Joseph's Hall Renovations

Last Friday the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to begin the transformation of St. Joseph's Hall this summer! This first phase of renovations will take place at the east end of the building so that by this fall we will have bathrooms, storage and a new classroom on the third floor; new, accessible bathrooms on the first floor and an environmental education/kitchen classroom on the first floor that opens onto the yard. These are exciting changes that will spruce up our facilities and allow us to better use our space. These changes will also greatly improve safety and accessibility and provide new opportunities for classroom space well into the future.

Also, clean-up work will be done to the crawl space under the first floor, and we'll have a staircase that will take us directly from the third floor to first floor and out. This will make emergency exiting safer and easier and permit expanded use of the third floor for classrooms. Adding a classroom on the third floor will allow us to begin to alleviate the pressure on class size. Beginning in September, we will have two sections of kindergarten, with the idea that as we find administrative office space off-site we will be able to add more classrooms on the third floor.

In addition to remodeling the part of the building most in need of remodeling, beginning the project at the east end will allow teachers to access their classrooms during the summer and thus allow a less frenetic opening of school. Having said that, all construction projects, including this one, are disruptive. As you know, we need to extend our summer beyond Labor Day to make time for this project. Parent-teacher conferences will take place on September 5 and 6, preschool and kindergarten orientation on September 7, and the first day of classes will be Monday, September 10.

Although we will have access to most of the building all summer long, there will still be crews here working on the first floor renovations in September. The work won't be in classroom spaces, but the bathrooms on the first floor will still be under construction for approximately three weeks into the new school year. Until they're finished, we'll use the new bathrooms on the third floor and possibly temporary bathrooms set up outside.

We recently received new renderings of the planned solar screen from our architects, Jensen & Macy, and these can be viewed in the first floor entryway on the St. Joseph's Hall bulletin board. While not part of phase one renovations, the solar screen and porch canopy work mark the potential for environmentally sound changes to come.

There's a lot going on at CDS and a lot of excitement, too. It's time for a big

Hot Dates

Friday, March 9
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Second grade presenting

Wednesday, March 14
6-7:30 p.m.

Hear it From Us:
Perspectives of Youth
with LGBT Parents

Sponsored by COLAGE and CDS
Third floor art space

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



thank you to those who have pledged and given to make this renovation possible. Though still early in the leadership phase of the capital campaign, we have already been very successful—in fact, all of the Trustees have given or made a pledge, along with parents, grandparents and friends. We are now looking forward to kicking off the community phase of the campaign in Fall 2007.

As you can see and feel, we are well into a time of change. The good news is that we are moving forward on many fronts: curriculum, diversity, finances, building plans, etc. The great news is that we have many leaders and devoted people—administrators, teachers, parents and trustees—providing the people power to be successful in all of our endeavors. The bad news—well, it’s not “news”—is that change can cause stress and when people are under stress or strain, it’s harder to behave at one’s best, putting pressure on one of our most treasured assets—our community.

So let’s be sure we move forward with discipline, information and patience around the changes to come. If you will pardon the thinly disguised channeling of Winston Churchill, I predict with absolute certainty that we will experience conflict, loss and lots of hard work during this period of change. I also predict, on the basis of hundreds of experiences that I have had this year alone, that this community will experience joy, surprise and growth. I believe that throughout this growth and change, this community and its values will hold and indeed be strengthened by the shared experience of making sacrifices for this school that is committed to making the world a better place as we educate our children.

From the Director of Diversity

Movie Night

On Wednesday, March 28, the Diversity and Justice Committee is presenting the first in a series of films about racial justice in our communities. “Making Whiteness Visible” directed and produced by local film-maker Shakti Butler, will be showing at 6 p.m. in the library. Please contact Ryan Gordon directly for childcare at ryang@cds-sf.org; parents, faculty, staff and middle school students are welcome to attend. For more information about the film, please contact Charlie Stephens at charlies@cds-sf.org.

From the Classrooms

Service Learning Highlights

I am happy to report some of the inspiring service learning projects that have taken place this year in the preschool and elementary classes:

- Preschool students have made and delivered holiday cards and Valentine’s Day cards to seniors at Notre Dame Plaza.
- The kindergarten class organized the school-wide November Food Drive for the San Francisco Food Bank. The kindergarteners collected 194 pounds of food.
- During the fall, the kindergarten class created recycled art bins to put around the school to help CDS recycle more trash and collect supplies needed for art activities.
- The first grade class has adopted a section of Ocean Beach, in partnership with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. Beginning in January, students have been visiting Ocean Beach monthly to clean the beach and learn more about the ocean environment. So far the class has removed 85 pounds of garbage!
- Second graders made and distributed a non-toxic cleaner made of vinegar and water to classes throughout the school. In the process, they educated their peers about the importance of using non-toxic cleaning supplies.
- The third grade class has been planning, along with their seventh grade buddies, an Earth Friendly Friday, where the CDS community is invited to travel to school in an earth friendly way. Our first Earth Friendly Friday is coming up on March 16. (More info below!)
- Fourth graders made placemats for Meals on Wheels to give to seniors as they delivered Thanksgiving meals throughout the city. Fourth graders also raised over \$70 for the local SPCA by holding a bake sale with homemade treats.

For more information about service learning projects at CDS, contact Michael Gast, After School and Service Learning Coordinator, at michaelg@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x329.

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.

Earth Friendly Fridays

Since January, the third and seventh grade classes have been working together to educate themselves on the topics of air pollution and earth friendly transportation. This Thursday, teams of students in third and seventh grades are sharing a short skit on these subjects with every class at CDS. These skits will introduce the causes and effects of air pollution and help students brainstorm everyday solutions. The students will also be announcing the first school wide Earth Friendly Friday on March 16! On Earth Friendly Friday, the third and seventh grade classes are encouraging all CDS community members to carpool, take the bus, walk or bike to school. In an effort to provide resources to make this day a success, we will be sending home a list of families in your neighborhood to use as potential carpool (or bus/bike/walking) contacts now and in the future. Our hope is that Earth Friendly Friday becomes a CDS tradition, reducing air pollution and reducing the stress of long car lines in the morning and afternoon. For more information, contact Vanessa Lyons, 861-5432 x394, or Michael Gast, 861-5432 x329.

From the Office

Class Pictures

We are happy to announce that this year's class pictures will be taken by our very own CDS parent and visual historian, John Kraus. Pictures will be taken on Friday, March 23. We will take both a "serious" and a "goofy" pose. 8x10 photos will cost \$8 and can be ordered online through the CDS smugmug website (www.cds.smugmug.com) – other sizes will also be available. Stay tuned to learn when the pictures are online and available to order. Smugmug will mail your order directly to your home.

Drop-Off Traffic

Thank you for your patience at drop-off during the past several weeks—morning traffic along Dolores Street has been horrendous! The city is digging up I6th Street and Holy Family Day Home is renovating their main school building on I6th and Dolores Streets. We've put calls in to find out how long the construction will last and we hope to have more information for you next week. In the meantime, please consider parking and walking your child into school. Thanks again for your patience.

Events

Fiesta 2007

Online Catalog

The Fiesta catalog will go LIVE on Wednesday, March 14! A big thank you to all of the amazing volunteers busily entering data and writing catalog descriptions for your fantastic donations. We'll publish the Fiesta catalog web address in next week's edition as well as send out e-mail communication.

Donations

There is still time to turn in your donation certificates, but please hurry so we can include them in the catalog. Donation forms and the donation drop-off box are located at the front desk. If it's easier, you can e-mail your donation information directly to volunteer parent Ann Van Gelder at anndirkg@hotmail.com.

We are still looking for wine contributions to the instant wine cellar. We also need more local restaurant and spa gift certificates. Do you have any contacts you are willing to share?

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball Scores

Girls play-off game

March 7, CDS vs. Synergy

Synergy 31, CDS 8

Congratulations to both the boys and girls basketball teams for finishing an excellent basketball season!

Sports Hotline: 415-861-5432 x397

Featured Donation of the Week

A Night To Be Remembered Tapas Party!

This not-to-be-missed tapas party for 20 people will be hosted by legendary party planners Mary Beth and Mark Towery and Marianne Evans and Bill Veiga. The menu may include Marcona almonds, aged Manchego cheese with quince preserves, fried Mahon cheese with spicy tomato sauce, sauteed scallops with white wine and Seranno ham...and more. They will be serving Mark Towery's famous sangria which is rumored to "blow you away!" The adults-only dinner will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2007. The first 20 people to bid will win; price is \$50 per person.

Treats

In addition to the great band and caterer we have lined up, we'll also have hundreds of desserts from well-known chocolatiers and local bakeries such as Bi-Rite Creamery, Destination Baking and the new Canyon Market. For those of you who prefer libations, we'll have pomegranate martinis, champagne, beer and wine available at our bar; remember to bring cash for the bar.

Please RSVP

Did you send in your RSVP card? If not, please do! We look forward to seeing the entire community there. The ticket price is suggested, please pay what you can. Also, if you are able, we would love for you to sponsor a teacher's ticket as well.

Free Childcare

Childcare will be provided free of charge again this year for the Fiesta and will be held at CDS from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. If you are interested, please sign up with Ryan at the front desk by Friday, March 23. Bring pj's and sleeping bags for a fun night of movies, pizza and snacks.

Please note that childcare is available for any CDS student (grades pre-8) and any sibling in grade K-8. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate any non-CDS siblings that are preschool age or younger.

Still Interested in Volunteering?

It's not too late to volunteer; if you'd like to help out with the Fiesta, please contact Robin McClarren or Leslie Edelman, as we need people to help out the night of the event. Thank you again to all volunteers.

Extended Program News

Winter Enrichment Classes

Most of the winter enrichment classes have concluded. Thanks to everyone who participated. Here are the dates that each remaining class is scheduled to finish:

- Beads: March 12
- AcroSports: March 13
- Guitar (Tues): March 20
- Guitar (Thurs): March 13
- Violin/Cello: March 21
- Tai-ji: March 14

PTTA Corner

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 anndirkyg@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

Spring Enrichment Classes

We have some exciting new classes being offered this spring, in addition to the tried and true favorites. Registration packets are being sent home with today's *Weekly*. If you didn't receive a packet, please pick one up at the front desk on Friday morning. The due date for turning in registration packets is Friday, March 16; no exceptions. Classes begin the week of March 26. We will showcase select enrichment classes this Friday, March 9 for after school students and any interested parents:

- 3:30: Tai-ji Sword
- 3:45: Guitar and Guitar Building
- 4:00: American Sign Language and Mandarin Chinese
- 4:15: Hula Hoop Circus
- 4:45: Joy of Theater
- 5:00: Amazing Animation and Magnificent Movie-Making

April Vacation Camp

April vacation camp packets were sent home last week. If you did not receive a packet, please pick one up at the front desk. The camp will run from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., April 9-13 and the cost is \$50/day. The final day to sign up is Friday, March 30.

Upcoming Dates

Monday, March 19

Professional development day
No school
No extended program

Friday, March 23

Class photos by John Kraus

Monday, March 26

Spring enrichment classes begin

Wednesday, March 28

6 p.m.
Movie Night
Diversity and Justice Committee screening of
"Making Whiteness Visible"
Library

Saturday, March 31

6:30 p.m. – midnight
Fiesta 2007
St. Mary's Cathedral
1111 Gough Street

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

Children's Day School

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