



May 3, 2007

## THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

### Words from Rick

#### Self-fullness

Last week Doug Garfinkel reported on the high school admission process for this year's graduating class. He devoted the article more to how thoughtful the students were of each other at this very stressful time than to actual acceptances. The kindness and compassion these young people demonstrate every day, not just to each other but to the whole school community, is exactly the kind of leadership we would like our students to exhibit. Their performance at a time of trial was a kind of "final exam."

Generosity is contagious, and we experience it every day in this community.

Two weeks ago the sixth grade class and members of the Boys and Girls Club played soccer together during P.E. on teams that mixed members of the two organizations together. Bryce Hidysmith and another boy from the club ran into each other and the club kid hit the floor pretty hard. Bryce's empathy and sportsmanship showed immediately as he helped him up, apologized for the rough contact and made sure the other student was okay.

The kindergarteners each write their own kindness story when it is their turn to be "Kind Kid." The stories are located in a book in the classroom—check it out! First grader Carlyn Strang grew her hair for a year so that she could cut it off and donate 13 inches of hair to "Wigs for Kids." Inspired by Carlyn, Clara Miller waited to cut her hair until she found an organization that was able to make wigs from 6 inches of donated hair. Livie Towery surpassed her goal of collecting \$100 to adopt a Snow Leopard through the World Wildlife Fund. She collected bottles and cans, sold items at a yard sale (including several ceramic pieces that she made in Art) and placed fundraising cans in her father's and her dentist's offices. Ms. Robyn, first grade teacher, commented to me, "The first graders continue to impress and inspire me. I know I was not this selfless when I was 6 and 7 years old."

But I am not sure "selfless" is the right word. It looks to me more like self-full. When I see generosity, kindness, sportsmanship and thoughtfulness of others, which I see all the time around here, I see people who have so much to give. They feel full of themselves, so full that their self cannot be contained and brims over to others.

When the Director of the Boys and Girls Club visited CDS several years ago, she said that what we had to offer was that our teachers know how to teach so that "learning is not a chore but a way of life." Generosity is not so much a moral duty, but a way of life—a way for CDS students to show their self-fullness.

Generosity is also a discipline. Generosity can cause self-fullness. One day,

#### Hot Dates

Friday, May 4  
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly  
Starfish presenting

Saturday, May 5

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Country Fair  
CDS yard

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



## Thank You!

- To Dave Wise for taking “before” pictures of St. Joseph’s Hall prior to the start of this summer’s renovation.
- To everyone who helped clean up and beautify the CDS yard at last Sunday’s Country Fair Workday! A special thank you to Sam Hunt and Jake Fishman for leading the bench building project and to Jake Fishman for power washing the bungalows. The yard looks fresh and ready for the Country Fair this Saturday.

when kindergartener Iliana Pliska-Bloch was feeling bad, the teacher showed her someone else who was feeling bad. Iliana went over to her, consoled her, helped her and fifteen minutes later, both girls were happy again.

At assembly we all can see that CDS students can do two things at once: speak up, and create the conditions which help others speak up. Generosity is a sign that our students are strong. It is also one of the disciplines that makes them strong. It is one of the reasons why our eighth graders feel they have so much to give, and why they did so well getting into high school.

We see selfishness and self-fullness in action with each child every day. In preschool it is obvious that empathy is a substance occurring naturally in the human body. I love the farm because animals can sometimes get that empathy flowing in children, when the stresses and strains of interpersonal challenge might bottle it up. Holding new life in your hand in the form of a warm chicken egg triggers that feeling so critical for self-worth: caring for something outside yourself.

This Saturday at the Country Fair we use one of the school’s great resources, the farm, as a focal point for celebrating our caring community. It is one of the few times the whole school gets to dance together, eat together and connect with people we have never met before. Parent generosity is, again, at its peak in making this happen. Student generosity is present in the hats, scarves, bird feeders, bags and bath salts artfully designed for the Country Fair. And leading off the fair at 11:15 is the annual sheep shearing ritual—that moment when the Environmental Education Department turns over ten pounds of wool to the Art Department for the children to work with their hands and turn into beautiful things.

Come experience the contagiousness of self-fullness this Saturday at the Country Fair—see you there!

## From the Classrooms

### Earth Friendly Friday Report

Last Friday, in celebration of Earth Day, the third grade organized our second Earth Friendly Friday. All community members were encouraged to come to school in an earth-friendly way. Arriving at school, parents, students and staff were greeted by third graders holding signs, offering lemonade and keeping a tally of who participated and how. The third grade survey efforts showed remarkable school-wide involvement, with over 80% of students and teachers participating. Of the 297 participants, 38% walked, 33% carpoled, 14% took BART or the bus and 9% biked to school. It was a great success, and interest and enthusiasm continues to grow to make this a monthly event. If you have any thoughts, success stories or feedback from Earth Friendly Friday, please contact Michael Gast at 861-5432 x329 or [michaelg@cds-sf.org](mailto:michaelg@cds-sf.org).

### Citrus Freeze Food Drive

In commemoration of Cesar Chavez Day and in solidarity with farm workers affected by the citrus freeze, the CDS community donated an impressive 385 pounds of food, toiletries and clothes to farm workers and their families. The Cesar Chavez Foundation organized the drive and picked up the boxes and bags on Wednesday, to be driven to the central valley where they will be given to farm workers in need. Thank you to all those that participated.

## From the Office

### Love the Farm? We Need You

We need a volunteer to coordinate weekend and vacation care for the chickens and sheep, as Family Farmer Parent Coordinator. Responsibilities include attending family farmer trainings, having a key at home in case a weekend farmer forgets to pick up their key at school, reminding families one week before their farm duty and being available in case of emergency if Misty Cummings is unavailable. Benefits include spending more time with the famous CDS animals and knowing you are an integral part of their care. If you’re interested, please contact Misty at 861-5432 x321 or [mistyc@cds-sf.org](mailto:mistyc@cds-sf.org).

## School Wish List

- The kindergarten class is looking for donations of old working kitchen timers (the wind-up kind that go tick, tick...) and metal mint boxes (ala "Altoids"). Donations can be left in Ms. Candy's mailbox on the third floor.

## Class of 2007 Graduation

Graduation planning is underway. On Thursday, June 7 we'll hold the Class of 2007 graduation ceremony in the CDS yard. Graduation will run from 3:45 – 5 p.m. All parents are invited to attend and bring their children with them; please note that there will be no extended program available that afternoon. Stay tuned for more graduation information. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this year's graduating class and all of their achievements!

## Events

### Country Fair this Saturday

The sun will shine this Saturday at the CDS Country Fair! Come enjoy the day with your family and friends on our beautiful CDS campus. Arrive early to see Lucky and Jojo get a trim, then pull up your sleeves and help wash their wool. Sink your teeth into a creamy pie at our annual pie-eating contest. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a tamale and make some music with a hand-made maraca. Shake it up with some live folk music and group line dancing led by the fifth and sixth grade classes. And don't forget the joys of clean-up!

#### Arriving at the Fair

Walk, skip, bike, take MUNI or carpool to the Country Fair—all children who arrive in an earth-friendly way will receive a free raffle ticket. (Pick up your free raffle ticket at the Ticket Booth, just inside the front gate.) If you drive, free parking will be available at the Mission High parking lot, space permitting. Enter on Dolores Street. Sorry, NO parking will be permitted in the CDS parking lot.

## Remember to Compost

Worms love tamale wrappers, watermelon rinds and corn cobs...but they'll love your BBQ plates, forks, spoons, knives and napkins, too! All the eatware is compostable this year, so please put your food scraps, dishes and utensils in the GREEN COMPOST BINS. Plastic bottles should go in the BLUE BINS, and all other non-recyclable trash should be placed in a black trash bin. Thank you for keeping our campus clean and helping the environment.

## Say Howdy to the New CDS Families

We've invited new families who will be joining our community this fall to the Country Fair. If you see some wide-eyed folks walking around wearing gold name tags, please introduce yourselves and extend a warm welcome to our new families.

## CDG Pot of Love

Come visit the Cultural Diversity booth and try delicious ethnic food made by CDS families. If you'd like to participate, please bring in a dish reflective of your culture to the Country Fair. The community would love to experience your culture through your food. For more information contact Eric Subido at [erics@cds-sf.org](mailto:erics@cds-sf.org).

## Fabulous Volunteers

The parent and faculty participation in this year's Country Fair is outstanding! Volunteer sign-ups for class activities are almost full, but we can always use another hand. If you'd like to help out, please contact your class coordinator or one of the co-chairs. Also, don't hesitate to jump in and help out if you see a need on Saturday.

## Sweet Treats

Calling all bakers: we love our sweets and we need yours! Please bring your favorite treats to the Bake Sale booth, located on the preschool deck area. Cookies, cupcakes, rice-crispy treats, brownies, sweet breads, special gluten-free or sugar-free treats—all will be gladly accepted and sold in \$1 ticket increments. Be creative—in the past, colorful sheep-shaped cookies and cupcakes topped with farm animals have been the first to go.

Please deliver your baked goods when you arrive at the fair—we don't have a place to store them overnight. Remember to include a note if your item has special dietary information, and put your name on any serving dishes you'd like returned. Thank you.

## Special Call for Cupcakes

The annual Cupcake Walk is a fun and popular game for the kids and we need A LOT of cupcakes to make it happen! Please help out and bring one or two dozen cupcakes to the Bake Sale booth on the day of the fair.

## And One More COOL Thing

We need large coolers on Friday. If you have a large cooler that you can spare, please put your name on it and leave it at the front desk by Friday afternoon. We thank you, and so will the ice cream lovers!

If you'd like more information about the Country Fair, or to find out how you can volunteer, please contact:

- Tanja Beck: [tbeck@zephyrsf.com](mailto:tbeck@zephyrsf.com)
- Jon Gilmour: [jongilmour@zephyrsf.com](mailto:jongilmour@zephyrsf.com)
- Diana Hunt: [samanddi@pacbell.net](mailto:samanddi@pacbell.net)
- Amy Muller: [amymuller@gmail.com](mailto:amymuller@gmail.com)

## Library Corner

### Library Wrap-Up

Next week is the last week that students will be checking out books. We ask for your help in rounding up any misplaced, hidden or forgotten books. All library books are due by Friday, May 11. Final overdue notices will be sent home on Wednesday, May 16.

### Thank You Volunteers

Parent volunteers have played an active role in the library this year, sharing favorite books from their own collections as well as from the library in riveting performances. Volunteers have been incredibly helpful connecting budding readers and scholars to books that fuel their imagination and interest. Many thanks to this year's dedicated and talented library volunteers!

## Upcoming Dates

**Monday, May 14 – Friday, May 18**

ERB Testing

Grades 3-8

**Tuesday, May 15**

7-8:30 p.m.

Middle school meeting: Intro to Eighth Grade & the High School Admission Process

For parents of students entering eighth grade in the fall

David Minus Science Center

**Tuesday, May 22**

4:30-5:45 p.m.

PTTA meeting

**Thursday, May 24**

7-8:30 p.m.

Middle school meeting: Intro to Sixth Grade

For parents of students entering sixth grade in the fall

David Minus Science Center

**Monday, May 28**

Memorial Day

No school

No extended program

**Tuesday, May 29 – Friday, June 1**

Eighth grade class trip

**Thursday, June 7**

3:45-5 p.m.

Eighth grade graduation

No extended program

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

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