



May 31, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Hello and Goodbye

As we prepare for graduation and the final days of the school year, we also look ahead to next year. The 2007-08 school year line-up of teachers and staff includes many familiar faces and several new faces. As always, there may be a few more changes over the summer but we wanted to bring you up to speed as you prepare for summer vacation, and in a few months, the new school year. We've appreciated your patience this spring, waiting to hear news of transitions, changes and new beginnings.

Middle School

The entire middle school faculty is returning next year, with the addition of Hannah Ingram, who is making the shift from first grade after school teacher. Hannah will be an associate teacher in grades 5-8 while also serving as an advisor and helping out with Thursday projects. This will free up Doug Garfinkel to devote more time to his role as Middle School Head and prepare students for high school placement. Christopher Gonzalez-Crane will continue to work with middle schoolers in the after school program, teach selectives and expand his involvement by participating in the Thursday projects. Vanessa Lyons will shift her responsibilities slightly to include students in preschool through eighth grade as our Coordinator of Service Learning.

Preschool

The preschool team remains the same with one change. Robin DiJoseph will be moving back to New York City to be close to family and friends, finish her master's degree at Bank Street College, and teach preschool in Brooklyn. We are in the process of hiring a new teacher for the Tadpole classroom.

Elementary

In the elementary grades, Brittany Hinman will be moving to Rome, Italy with her husband, Geoff, to teach preschool at the American International School. Jennifer Weiss (currently first grade) will be returning to kindergarten to run one of the two kindergarten classes.

We also are saying goodbye to Rebekah Cantor (K/I Spanish) Christian Kaup (first and fourth grade after school), and Ellie Graham (third grade). Rebekah will be pursuing her passions through creative endeavors in photography and music while remaining on the CDS sub list; Christian is moving to Portland, Oregon where he recently became a proud, first-time homeowner; and Ellie will be making an impact as a head third grade teacher at St. James Elementary School, a few blocks away in the Mission District.

We also welcome several teachers new to the CDS Elementary School. Jasmin Hoo will continue to work in the after school program, but will become a full-

Hot Dates

Friday, June 1

8:30-9:30 a.m.

Building Celebration

First 2007-08 tuition payment due.
Last day to withdraw your child from the 2007-08 year without incurring the obligation for total tuition.

Tuesday, June 5

7-8:30

Middle school meeting:

Intro to Seventh Grade

For parents of students entering seventh grade in the fall
DMSC

4 p.m.

M.S. vs. faculty basketball game
Boys and Girls Club

Thursday, June 7

10 a.m.

Passing the Torch ceremony
CDS yard

3:45-5 p.m.

Eighth grade graduation
CDS yard



time employee by adding part-time Kindergarten Associate Teacher to her daily responsibilities.

Barbara DeMoss will partner with Robyn Moss to team teach in first grade. Barbara brings 30 years of elementary teaching experience with her, including 10 years at St. Paul's in Oakland. Most recently, Barbara is returning from seven years abroad where she and her husband have been teaching international students at schools in Romania, Japan and Singapore.

Vi Le will assist in first grade, and is the first teacher who comes to us through the Bay Area Teacher Training Institute. BATTI is a two-year credential program under the sponsorship of San Francisco State University. All BATTI students work as paid intern teachers at one of a coalition of more than 20 independent (private or parochial) elementary schools around the Bay Area.

Charlie Stephens is thrilled to gain elementary classroom experience as the Associate Teacher in fourth grade. Charlie will be leaving a five-year post as the Extended Program Director in order to learn more about curriculum development and spend days with kids in the classroom.

Specialists

All preschool through eighth grade specialists are returning with the exception of Josh Connor (P.E.). Josh will be going back to school full-time to get his pre-med classes in order, with his sights on becoming a doctor. Our new K-3 P.E. Teacher (who will also work in the after school program) is Celia Richard. Celia is currently a lead physical education and swimming teacher at St. Paul's in Oakland. Celia is a lifelong athlete and will receive her California Single Subject Teaching Credential in Physical Education in June.

In addition, there will be two brand new specialist positions next year. Mimi Maio will be our part-time preschool through eighth grade Learning Skills Specialist. Mimi is an Educational Therapist who sees private clients for both cognitive testing and long term remediation. She has been trained in several Lindamood Bell learning processes and will add Dr. Mel Levine's Schools Attuned model to her repertoire in August. Additionally, Mimi has taught kindergarten at Convent Elementary School in San Francisco for the past five years.

We are still searching for a new K-3 Spanish teacher to partner with Luz Andino (grades 4-8) in building a seamless Spanish program.

After school program

In addition to Charlie's transition to the classroom, Michael Gast, who held many CDS jobs over four years (most recently the Director of the After School Program) will be spending the summer in Seattle. When he returns to the Bay Area in the fall, he plans to find fundraising or donor-organizing work with local community based organizations.

Rosalie Roberts (second grade) and Eric Subido (third grade) will also be leaving CDS to pursue other opportunities. Rosalie is destined for a job in research and program evaluation; Eric will be going back to school to explore art therapy, but intends to spend a good deal of time visiting and volunteering at CDS when he can.

We will be recombining Charlie and Michael's 2006-07 jobs into the one, full-time job that Charlie held for four years here. We have hired Dan Larson to take on that role as the Director of all of the Extended Programs. For five years Dan has been working at a youth and community center in South Central LA, beginning as a youth worker before becoming the center's Program Director. He brings to CDS a powerful background in youth development, staff management and program implementation. There are exciting structural changes in the works for the After School Program as well, and we look forward to Dan's leadership as we make improvements to this thriving program.

I am very grateful for the hard work and dedication of all of the wonderful people who have graced our school this year. Brittany, Robin, Rebekah, Chris, Ellie, Josh, Rosalie, Eric and Michael; you have helped make CDS what it is today, and you will all be missed. I know I speak for the entire school community when I say, thank you.

Everyone, please join me in wishing the best of luck to those beginning new adventures and in welcoming all of the new faces to CDS.

CDS Yahoo Group

Our CDS Community Yahoo group is a forum for the CDS community to share information about life outside of school. Join this Yahoo group, our in-house "craigslist," by visiting:
groups.yahoo.com/group/cdscommunity.

School Wish List

- With construction comes dust, and the books in the library will need protection this summer. We'll be draping sheets over the stacks to protect them. If you have large sheets to spare, please contact Elsa at 861-5432 x327 or elsat@cds-sf.org.

2007-08 Faculty Line-Up

- Tadpoles: Head Teacher Margaret Piskitel, Spanish Teacher Carmen Gerughty, (Associate Teacher in hiring process)
- Starfish: Head Teacher Gretchen Ott, Spanish Teacher Gloria Argueta, Associate Teacher Rose Haas
- Leaping Lizards: Head Teacher Alicia Perdue, Spanish Teacher Gladys Miyahira, Associate Teacher Ngoc Tran
- Outside preschool teacher: Derrek Gerrughty
- Kindergarten I: Head Teacher Candy Mabry, Associate Teacher Jasmin Hoo
- Kindergarten 2: Head Teacher Jen Weiss (Associate Teacher in hiring process)
- First grade: Head Teachers Robyn Moss and Barbara De Moss, BATTI Intern, Vi Le
- Second grade: Head Teachers Sara Switzman and Madora Soutter
- Third grade: Head Teacher Ginny St. Denis (Associate Teacher in hiring process)
- Fourth grade: Head Teacher Paula Symonds, Associate Teacher Charlie Stephens
- Fifth grade homeroom: Melanie Liu
- Sixth grade homeroom: Kirk Bell
- Seventh grade homeroom: Doug Garfinkel
- Eighth grade homeroom: Terry Ashkinos
- Middle School Associate Teacher: Hannah Ingram
- Spanish: Luz Andino (4-8), (K-3 teacher in hiring process)

- PE: Jim Flanigan (preK, 5-8), Celia Richard (K-4)
- Environmental Education: Misty Cummings
- Art: Elizabeth McClellan, Karen Slovak
- Music/Drama: Emilie Rohrbach, Grace Renaud
- Learning Specialist: Mimi Maio
- Extended Program Director & After School Program Coordinator: Dan Larson
- Returning Afterschool Program staff: Jasmin Hoo, Christopher Gonzalez-Crane

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Grant News

With grateful appreciation to Diane Larrabee for making a key introduction on behalf of the school, we're happy to announce that Children's Day School's *Building Our Future* campaign has been awarded a grant of \$100,000 by the Willow Springs Charitable Trust. Willow Springs is an Illinois family foundation that supports education, social justice and environmental causes throughout the United States. The campaign has also received a one-year grant of \$10,000 from the Fleishhacker Foundation, which has previously supported the construction of the David Minus Science Center and installation of the preschool bungalows. These grants provide a wonderful boost to the campaign and serve as a vote of confidence in the school's renovation plans and vision.

The Willow Springs grant in particular is also a nice reminder that personal connections can make all the difference in foundation giving. CDS currently has grant proposals pending with the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation of Oakland and the Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation of San Francisco. We will submit proposals this spring and summer to The Herbst Foundation, the Mary A. Crocker Trust and William G. Irwin Charity Foundation, all in San Francisco. If anyone knows trustees or other decision-makers at any of these foundations and would be willing to help open doors for the school, please let Marion Quinones (861-5432 x323) know and we will try to put your contacts to good work.

Celebrate St. Joseph's Hall

Don't forget to join us tomorrow morning to celebrate this summer's work in the main classroom building, St. Joseph's Hall. Enjoy the last Friday assembly of the year, fill up with coffee and treats and parade through the building with fellow parents, teachers and students. See you there!

From the Classrooms

Earth Friendly Friday

Our final Earth Friendly Friday of the school year is tomorrow, Friday, June 1. Earth Friendly Friday has been a huge success, with over 80% participation last month. The third and seventh grades are again asking all families to carpool, take the bus, walk or bike to school tomorrow. Lemonade, along with appreciation and encouragement from the third grade, will be available at the front gate in the morning. Help us achieve even greater participation from students and faculty this month! If you'd like a list of families in your neighborhood to help in carpooling, or if you have any other questions, please contact Michael Gast at michaelg@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x329.

From the Office

Donor Plaque

After hanging for many months in the first floor hallway of St. Joseph's Hall in a woefully unfinished state, the plaque recognizing CDS founders, leaders and donors will be updated this afternoon and ready for viewing during the building celebration tomorrow morning. Current, past and founding trustees are listed as well as all CDS Board Chairs and Heads of School. Parents who have served as PTTA presidents and spring event chairs are also recognized as well as lifetime donors to CDS and major donors to the *Building Our Future* capital campaign.

Recognizing our donors and leaders feels especially appropriate at this time. CDS has recently completed its tenth year as an independent school and has marked several important milestones in its development, from graduating accomplished and imaginative eighth graders to accreditation by CAIS to the start of much-needed renovations to St. Joseph's Hall. As a school, it feels that we have grown up, and that the time is right to thank publicly those people whose exceptional gifts of time and resources have played a very large role in these

achievements. It is not an overstatement to say that Children's Day School has been built on the backs of the leaders and donors listed on this plaque, and we are truly grateful for their many contributions.

Progress Reports

The end of the year is upon us, and teachers are busily preparing progress reports and report cards for each CDS student. These narrative reports will be mailed home at the end of June. Remember, although there are no "officially scheduled" conferences in June, you are always encouraged to contact your child's teacher to set up a time to talk about your child.

Performance Photos

Did you miss *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last weekend? It was an amazing performance! Browse photos taken by John Kraus available on the CDS smugmug website (<http://www.cds.smugmug.com/>) under "middle school" and "selectives." Check them out!

Events

Class of 2007 Graduation

Invitations were mailed this week for the Class of 2007 graduation ceremony, to be held on Thursday, June 7 in the CDS yard. Graduation will run from 3:45-5 p.m.; please note that there will be **no extended program** available that afternoon. The ceremony will start later this year, and the extended program will not be available, so that all CDS teachers have the opportunity to attend graduation. All parents are invited to attend as well and are encouraged to bring their children with them. CDS students will not be seated with their classmates and teachers, so parents should plan on supervising their own children during the ceremony. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this year's graduating class and all of their achievements!

Passing the Torch Ceremony

The Passing the Torch ceremony will take place Thursday, June 7 from 10-11 a.m. in the outside assembly area. During the ceremony older students will pass the torch to students in the grade below them, honoring the completed school year and the passage to the new grade. Families are invited to attend.

Library Corner

Overdue Books

Please return all overdue books to the library as soon as possible! Once all books are returned, we'll be able to arrange shelves alphabetically or by subject so that they're ready for labels. Thank you.

Library Changes

As we continue to grow, we've been working diligently all year to find ways to fit all of our subjects into classrooms on the CDS campus and in the Boys and Girls Club. In order to provide a home for middle school Spanish, the CDS library will continue to serve as a multi-purpose room, and Luz Andino's Spanish "home base" will be located there next year. The large book island will be placed in storage to make room for one more table so that an entire class of students can sit at tables for writing activities. Luz will have a small desk area by the windows, and Spanish materials will find a home on a few shelves.

We will continue to schedule class visits to the library around Spanish classes, and Elsa Townsend will continue to manage the library systems and volunteer eight hours each week.

Our long-term vision is to have separate spaces for the library and Spanish classes; we appreciate your flexibility and patience as we work toward this goal. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca at 861-5432 x311.

Upcoming Dates

Friday, June 8

Last day of school

No assembly

Extended program available

Monday, June 18 – Friday, June 29

Summer Camp Session I

Monday, July 2 – Friday, July 13

Summer Camp Session II

Wednesday, July 4

Holiday observed

No summer camp

Monday, July 16 – Friday, July 27

Summer Camp Session III

Monday, July 30 – Friday, August 10

Summer Camp Session IV

Monday, August 13 – Friday, August 24

Summer Camp Session V

Wednesday, September 5 & Thursday, September 6

Parent-teacher conferences

Friday, September 7

Preschool and kindergarten orientation

Monday, September 10

First day of school

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

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