



May 24, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

A Director Reflects

This week's article is guest written by music and drama teacher Emilie Robrbach. Emilie reflects on the educational journey that led up to this year's middle school Shakespearian play. Based on past performances, I feel it is safe to say that if you miss "A Midsummer Night's Dream," you will miss one of the great San Francisco theatrical performances of the year.

Every year as our production week gets underway, I always reflect on what I could have done better or differently as a director to improve the creative journey for both myself and the actors. I've learned that hindsight is only effective when it's written down for future experience.

What I'm struck by this year is how wonderful it would have been to have recorded a video documenting the process of bringing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to life on stage. There are precious moments that will be forever framed in my memory: Gus testing his gait in high heels, for example, or Fernando wearing the donkey costume for the first time. I want to preserve the moment of Nikki and Avalon as Hermia and Helena putting on boxing gloves to test out their anger in Act Three, Scene Two; Luke, as Oberon, learning how to walk and talk like a magical King; and the fairies, transforming from awkward gigglers to truly graceful dancers.

No video image, however, could accurately document the way I feel as a director having watched these students grow and mature before my very eyes. The lovers have learned to interact with each other with poise and authenticity beyond their years. Every time Kate, as Puck, finishes the play with her final soliloquy, I find myself mesmerized. The actors in the "play within the play" have become sillier, and Titania has become stronger. Each student started this semester-long class with a unique level of talent, confidence and experience, and it has been a gift to watch each evolve into their own bright star.

Each student also understands they are part of a team and that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Early on, the students nixed the idea of doing a traditional scene study and opted instead to do the whole play. A few edits and adjustments later, as well as extra hours of hard work, and we're ready. Had one person chosen not to hold up his or her end of the agreement, the goal might not have been realized.

So, while I regret not being able to show these incredible students a montage of their progress on film, I hope and trust that the experience has left indelible, positive marks in their hearts. As a teacher and director, I feel a creative journey is successful when every person involved feels moved and inspired, more connected to their own sense of self than they were before, and aware of how important and crucial their influence was on the final product. We are excited

Hot Dates

Thursday, May 24

7-8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Sixth Grade

For parents of students entering sixth grade in the fall, DMSC

Friday, May 25

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Sixth grade presenting

Friday, May 25

9:30 a.m.

Step Up Day

7 p.m.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Dolores Park Church (455 Dolores)

Saturday, May 26

9:30 a.m.

Family farmer training

2 p.m.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Dolores Park Church (455 Dolores)

Sunday, May 27 – Saturday, June 2

Eighth grade class trip

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day

No school; no extended program



to share this spectacular and wholly original piece of art with you.

New Board Members

I am pleased to introduce the six new and two somewhat new members of our Board of Trustees. Please join me in welcoming them to the Board and thanking them for their service to CDS.

Susi Alexander has 26 years of experience working in nonprofit organizations, primarily in the environmental field. Since 1992 she has served as the Vice President for Communications at Public Media Center, a public interest communication agency. At Public Media Center, Susi develops communication strategies for clients working on environmental and social issues. Prior to that she served as Vice President for Communications at Green Seal, Eco-Desk Manager for Esprit de Corp., Communications Director for Earth Day 1990 and Alaska Regional Director and other positions for the Wilderness Society. Susi attended Bryn Mawr College and the National Law Center of George Washington University. Susi is serving as co-chair of the *Building Our Future* capital campaign and has been an active member of the CDS Development Committee for the past six years. She is the parent of Cassi Alexander ('11).

Ray Baxter served on the Board of Trustees this year as PTTA President and will continue as a board member. He is the founder of 67 Central Software, a software company that develops database tools for community organizations. He was previously the Director of Promotions Engineering and Commerce Engineering at E-centives, Inc. and a Senior Software Engineer at Inktomi. Ray received a B.A. in biology from the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. in biological sciences from Stanford University. As a CDS parent volunteer, Ray has served as PTTA President, PTTA Secretary and classroom liaison. He enjoys triathlons, cycling, swimming, backpacking and folk music and dance. Ray is the parent of Martha ('17) and Roland Baxter ('13).

Patricia Buse has been a co-owner and member of the board of BUSE Gases GmbH & Co. and Gerolsteiner Mineral Water GmbH & Co. since 1989. Patricia previously worked at Lawrence Berkeley Labs and in accounting for IBM Germany. She has volunteered at CDS since 2002, serving on the Development Committee, as co-chair of the *Building Our Future* capital campaign and as a member of the Architects' Steering Committee. In 2004, Patricia led the successful campaign to fund the creation of the David Minus Science Center, the first

science lab classroom at CDS. She received an undergraduate degree in biology from Kenyon College and an M.B.A. from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. At the Monterey Institute, Patricia developed a business plan focused on a global marketing innovation purchased by Sony of America. She holds a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in molecular and cell biology and is the parent of Colin ('12) and Anya Ruppert ('14).

Richard Hylton is Deputy Publisher of the *Berkeley Daily Planet*, a local community newspaper, and co-owner of H&O Properties, a real estate development company. Previously, he was an advisor to New York Stock Exchange CEO Dick Grasso, Associate Editor of *Fortune Magazine*, staff writer at the *New York Times* and editor of *Black Enterprise Magazine*. Richard received a B.A. in English from Columbia University, studied at Boston University and spent a year at the Sorbonne in Paris. He is the parent of Nora Hylton ('17). Along with his wife Sara O'Malley, Richard serves on and was active in the formation of the CDS Committee on Inclusion.

Elizabeth McClellan has been teaching at CDS since 1991 and joined the Board in January 2007. She has been a guest artist at the Museum of Crafts and Folk Art at Fort Mason, as well as a guest artist in ceramics for the children's workshop at the Anderson Art Ranch. She received her B.F.A. from the University of California at Davis and is trained in the Responsive Classroom approach. She is the illustrator of *Stop This Birthday*, a children's book published by Chronicle Books in 2005. She is also an accomplished Etch-A-Sketch artist with artwork in several private collections, including the Ohio Art offices in New York.

Laura Pliska, President, Parent-Teacher-Trustee-Administrator Organization (PTTA), is the Manager of the Residency Training Program in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Services at UCSF. She previously served as the Manager of Instructional Planning for the Dean of the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley and as the Vice Chair of

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 86I-5432 x327 or elsat@cds-sf.org.

Chancellor Berdahl's Advisory Committee. In addition to her work at UCSF, Laura runs her own business, *babyworks*, consulting with women and their partners on issues of reproductive healthcare and education. She is the parent of Iliana Pliska-Bloch ('15) and served for two years as the PTTA Vice President for Community Building. Laura was instrumental in starting affinity groups and film and book discussion groups at CDS. She received her B.A. from Vassar College in philosophy and enjoys tennis, good food and Bay Areas excursions.

Michael Silver is a Principal and Senior Counsel at Barclays Global Investors, and he has served as an officer in the CDS PTTA for two years. Michael received his J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* and served as a co-chair of the Committee on Gay, Bisexual, and Lesbian Legal Issues. Michael received his B.A. in international relations from UC Davis, where he was a peer counselor and a post graduate researcher. He and his partner, Carlos Vasquez, have one son, Julian Vasquez-Silver ('15). As a CDS volunteer, Michael helped start the first LGBT affinity group for CDS parents, faculty and administration, and was active in the formation of the CDS Committee on Inclusion. In his free time, Michael enjoys entertaining, traveling, drawing, painting and listening to music with his family.

Carol Swainson, Head of the Middle School at Head-Royce School in Oakland, previously worked at the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC as well as in bilingual schools in Los Angeles as part of the Teach for America program. At Sidwell, Carol served for five years as the All-School Diversity Coordinator and ex-officio member of the board of trustees. She also taught classes in French, Spanish and American History. She participated in school committees on languages, mentoring, admission and diversity. Carol received an M.Ed. in social foundations in education and a B.A. in Spanish and French languages from the University of

Virginia. She has been a speaker and workshop leader at the Association of Independent Maryland Schools' fall conference, New York State Association of Independent Schools' diversity conference, National Association of Independent Schools' annual conference and the People of Color Conference. She has also consulted with numerous schools around the country.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Celebrate St. Joseph's Hall

Please join us in kicking off the transformation of St. Joseph's Hall on Friday, June 1, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the yard. Mingle over Friday morning coffee, enjoy the weekly assembly and then parade with students and teachers through *pre-construction* St. Joseph's Hall. The tour will highlight the east end of the building, where extensive renovations will take place this summer. Invitations were sent home last week to parents, local grandparents and neighbors. See you there!

From the Classrooms

Earth Friendly Friday

We are happy to announce our final Earth Friendly Friday of the school year, to be held on 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 on June 1. Lemonade and lots of appreciation and encouragement from the third grade will be available at the front gate that 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 86I-5432 x329.

From the Office

Class of 2007 Graduation

Invitations will be in the mail soon 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 will have the opportunity to attend graduation. All parents are invited to attend as well and are encouraged to bring their children with

Alumni Corner

Class of 2006

Sonja Carlson ('06) was recently awarded the Mr. Jowell Scholar Award at The Drew School.

"The Mr. Jowell Scholar Award is an honorary award given at the end of the ninth grade year to that freshman who demonstrates a respect for others and a positive attitude about Drew and about his or her classmates; actively demonstrates an ability to help others through participation in community service projects, the student council, sports teams, or other clubs; and is in good academic and disciplinary standing."

Congratulations to Sonja and her family!

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!

Country Fair Photos

Check out the beautiful Country Fair photos taken by CDS parent and photographer John Kraus! Photos can be accessed on the CDS SmugMug website: www.cds.smugmug.com.

Lost and Found

This Thursday and Friday, lost and found items will be available on the yard. Please collect your student's belongings; all leftover items on Friday afternoon will be donated to Community Thrift. Please remember to label all belongings.

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.

Upcoming 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

Thursday, June 7

3:45-5 p.m.

Eighth grade graduation

CDS yard

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

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