



November 2, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Crossroads

Inspired by two meetings with the architects, Bill Gravitt, father of Jamie (fifth grade) and Josh (first grade), wrote "Crossroads."

Plans are afoot for some significant changes at CDS. The school is poised to take its next step in the journey from a hidden little secret gem to a prominent institution of learning. We are at a crossroads that is both figurative and literal; figurative regarding the state of growth and emergence we are experiencing and literal in terms of the geographical, historical and cultural significance of our location. It is important that while looking forward to the future of CDS, we also look around us and appreciate the rich diversity of people and cultures we currently have in close proximity, and also look back into the past at the incredible history and importance of the ground on which the campus stands.

At this place, students stop over on their journey through life just as travelers came through here beginning over two centuries ago. The mission outposts were built a day's travel apart along a road dedicated to the King of Spain, El Camino Real. Mission San Francisco de Asis was established near the northern terminus of El Camino Real, now Dolores Street. One of the old Mission bells that lined historic El Camino Real from southern California to San Francisco still stands in the median between the CDS driveway and the old Mission. The CDS campus was the orchard and livestock grazing area maintained by the missionaries and therefore sits on part of the site where the first permanent settlement of the city of San Francisco was founded. There are anecdotal indications that earlier still, Ohlone people used this land.

Intersecting El Camino Real in the middle of the city was Center Street (now I6th Street) which was probably the most direct route to the bay, where voyagers and missionaries could embark on boats to points north and east. The confluence of geography and ideas continues to this day, although notions of education have changed.

Despite its secular beginnings, San Francisco has developed a culture rich in diversity and tolerance. This is largely because the city was and remains for many the last stop; as far as one can go to seek their future or to escape their past, or both. To move beyond here would be such a major leap that many choose to stay, creating a potpourri of heterogeneity. The olio can be seen around us. Consider our neighbors. The influence of Catholic Spanish is thriving across Dolores Street; there are Lutheran and gospel churches adjacent to our campus; diagonally across I6th Street is a synagogue and Hebrew school with a largely lesbian and gay congregation and directly across I6th Street is a new building for Holy Family Day Home. This gathering of institutions is an unwitting transition between the relative affluence of nearby areas and the

Hot Dates

Friday, November 3
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
First grade presenting

Saturday, November 4
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

POCIS event
Bay School of San Francisco

Tuesday, November 7
7 p.m.

Faculty/parents of color affinity
group
Faculty lounge

Tuesday, November 7
Bulldog play-off game!
Time and place tbd

Wednesday, November 8 – Friday,
November 10
Library Book Fair
CDS Library

Friday, November 10
9-10:30 a.m.
K-8 tour for CDS parents



Thank You!

- To Sue Barnett for donating three bicycles!
- To tour docents Karen Axel, Kristin Henry, Paul Moreno, Andrea Reynolds, Louis Schump and Melanie Wise for their excellent help with the admission tour this week.
- To Suzanne Jachinowski for producing the lovely posters and bookmarks promoting the Library Book Fair.

object neediness that can be seen just three blocks to the east.

We truly are at a crossroads from which we can reach out to divergent populations. Tracy Kirkham wrote a wonderful article that was published with the CDS Annual Report last year, affirming that it really is different at CDS and that we can look to exporting the vision. The community has shared its resources with us and we have gifts to share as well. A couple of the foremost resources we can offer are our educational approach and teaching style, and our farm/garden/environment programs. To enhance our resources, we need to enhance our campus.

The current renovation plans take an enormous step in that direction. St. Joseph's Hall will be more comfortable, better utilized and more efficient by the various modifications proposed including: resolving the age-old stairway discontinuity problem; leveling the entry path; elevator installation and various kitchen, bathroom, storage and entryway changes and the addition of classrooms on the 3rd floor. These modifications are well thought out, with some issues open to more input.

The crowning spark of brilliance, however, is the paradoxically exuberant-yet-possibly-subtle covering of the south side of the building with a translucent scrim-like veil of photovoltaic panels. They will be visible, yet will allow the eye to see beyond to the original appearance of St Joseph's Hall. The environmentally responsible aspect of the panels' energy savings is twofold: production of electricity and conservation or venting of heat as required. Glare reduction will also add to the comfort of those in the building.

Additionally, the architects have taken this opportunity to acknowledge the past. Formerly, the colonnade walkway on the south side of the building had a tiled roof over it which was removed years ago, probably for safety reasons. The PV panels will angle out from the building and be

supported by the colonnade recalling the lines of that roof structure and reminding us of the Spanish architecture and history of the site. The covered walkway itself harkened even farther back in architectural history to the cloisters of religious buildings erected centuries ago. The new PV panel roof will therefore not only make electricity and protect us from the elements, it will also be a modern—perhaps even a post-modern—bridge connecting the past with the future. The original windows will be retained, preserving an invaluable aesthetic benefit that must somehow be accounted for as cost-benefit analyses are developed. The photovoltaic system is a bold statement of CDS' commitment to environmental issues.

Change, however, does not come without challenge, and with every challenge comes opportunity. Putting classrooms in the third floor will compress or displace the offices and art space that are currently up there. The challenge will be to find and create additional indoor space which is as adequate or preferably, as wonderful as the outdoor areas we have. The steps being taken represent growth and development. Without improvement there is a tendency toward staleness or worse, deterioration. Homeostasis is fleeting at best and illusory at worst. The planned improvements also offer the challenge to look at the quantum leap beyond the renovation of St Joseph's Hall. With expanded horizons and new beginnings, we can grow and better serve our student body and extend our reach to offer our model back to the community. With our growing reputation and great leadership, CDS is in a place where it can step up to a position of prominence among the great institutions and community focal points around us.

Immediately adjacent to the campus are several glimmers of possibilities for places to expand into. How neighboring space is used will depend on what kind of space is acquired. Potential uses include offices, classrooms, art space, music room, Spanish language lab and auditorium. It is probable that the opportunity is right around the corner.

Let's put out a call to all our leaders and families to step up to the challenge of continuing to build the school. We know the visions are there, we need only to find a way to fulfill them.

Thanks to the following for ideas and information: Tracy Kirkham, Donna Shibata, Gayle Strang and Kirk Bell.

From the Director of Diversity

POCIS Event

The first annual POCIS (People of Color in Independent Schools) event for parents of students of color titled “People Like Us”: Social Class in America, will be held Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Bay School of San Francisco (35 Keyes Way). Childcare and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP with Moneeka Settles at msettles@bayschoolsf.org.

Affinity Groups

On Tuesday, November 7 at 7 p.m. in the staff lounge, CDS will be holding its first affinity group for faculty and parents of color. The primary focus for the first meeting is for interested parents and faculty of color to discuss ideas about the CDS community, issues relating to diversity and how to support children of color here at CDS. We'll plan on deciding if the group should proceed as a Faculty/Parents of Color group, or expand to include all ethnicities interested in creating a supportive, diverse, multi-cultural school. Refreshments will be provided. Please spread the word about this new group for community members. E-mail Eric Subido erics@cds-sf.org or Charlie Stephens charlies@cds-sf.org to find out more and RSVP.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Architectural Plans

Approximately 60 parents and trustees attended the two gatherings last week with architect Mark Jensen and members of the CDS Architects' Steering Committee. Thank you for your thoughtful contributions and suggestions regarding the proposed plans for St. Joseph's Hall. If you missed last week's meetings or would like to see the schematic drawings up close, Marion Quinones will bring them to Friday coffee tomorrow morning (weather permitting). If you have feedback you have not yet shared, please talk to or send an e-mail to Marion (marionq@cds-sf.org) or Donna Shibata (donnas@cds-sf.org) as soon as possible.

From the Classrooms

K-8 Tour (CDS parents only!)

Curious to see what's going on in our K-8 classrooms? After coffee and the assembly on Friday, November 10, join Rebecca Kroll and Aimee Giles on a CDS parents-only tour of our K-8 classes from 9-10:30 a.m. This is an excellent opportunity for you to see our K-8 classes in action and to ask questions (Rick will join us for Q&A). No RSVP is necessary – we hope you join us.

Food Drive

The kindergarten class is leading a food drive during the month of November for the San Francisco Food Bank! The food drive is a great opportunity for our CDS community to contribute to the important work of the Food Bank during the holiday season. We are helping the Food Bank meet their goals of providing 14,000 holiday meals to families in need, including 1,500 holiday turkeys and winter food for 500 agencies in San Francisco. There will be 2 bins inside the main glass doors where your family can drop off non-perishable food donations. Specific needs are canned vegetables, canned fruits, tuna, canned meats, soups and stews, peanut butter and cereal. The food donations will be counted, sorted, weighed and used in several CDS classrooms for math and social studies lessons throughout the month. For more information contact Candy Mabry, at 861-5432 x355 or candym@cds-sf.org. For more information on the San Francisco Food Bank, you can visit www.sffoodbank.org.

Go Bulldogs!

The Bulldog volleyball team will have a play-off game on Tuesday, November 7. If they win they'll also have a game on Wednesday, November 8. Please call the sports hotline at 861-5432 x397 for updates on time and place of the games.

Come out and support the awesome Bulldog volleyball team!!

From the Office

Wraps and Greens

Every year we sell holiday gift wrap and greens to raise money for teacher and staff holiday bonuses. Order forms for this year's sale went home in backpacks yesterday. The sale runs from Wednesday, November 1 through Friday, November 10. (This deadline is strictly held as the orders must be placed with the companies on November 11). Please share your order forms with family, friends and co-workers. Checks should be made out to CDS; feel free to contact Tina Corse at (415) 824-6290 with any questions.

Extended Program News

Winter Vacation Camp

This year's winter vacation camp is themed "Community Action" and will run from Monday, December 18 through Friday, December 22 from 8-6 p.m. Information and registration packets have been sent home with today's *Weekly*. If you didn't get one, extra copies can be picked up at the front desk.

Library Corner

Check it Out at the Library!

3rd Annual Library Fair November 8-10

Each year, CDS selects over 350 new books that will enrich the school curriculum and add to our library collection. At the annual Library Fair, you can become a part of the Children's Day School library by purchasing one of these specially selected books in the name of your child or family.

This year we're kicking off the Library Fair with a party on Wednesday night. So pick your child up a little early and buy a book for the library.

- Wednesday, November 8: wine & cheese reception, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 9: morning and afternoon sales, 8-10 a.m. and 2-6 p.m.
- Friday, November 10: Friday Coffee, 8-10 a.m.

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, November 16 & Friday, November 17

Parent-teacher conferences

No school

No extended program

Friday, November 17

Sibling admission applications due

Saturday, November 18

SSAT administered at CDS

for eighth graders

Wednesday, November 22

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

Noon dismissal

No extended program

Wednesday, November 29

6 p.m.

CDS Book Club

(for parents and faculty)

Dates now 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 email