



November 9, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

A Thing of Beauty

I received this e-mail from a parent of an alumna on Monday.

Dear Rick,

Last week we received our daughter's first quarter grades (all A's), lengthy comments from her teachers in a written narrative, and had the opportunity to meet with each of her teachers to discuss her grades and the assessments. These were all things that I appreciated about CDS and thought would disappear in high school (except grades). Not so.

In our meetings with each teacher, we heard over and over again, recognition of qualities in her that could be directly attributed to her CDS education:

She is "focused," "responsible," "on-task," "has solid work habits," and "comes to class prepared and ready to learn."

"...consistently demonstrates a personal and intellectual maturity well-beyond her years."

"...clearly has been exposed to many art media."

"She is an engaged learner."

(I thought it was you, whispering in my ear.)

"She is recognized for her leadership qualities without being pushy." When I explained that she came from a school where "everyone has a voice to be respected," the teacher said she wished every school taught that.

I do too.

Her English teacher wrote: "...she participates without hesitation in class discussions, bringing her classmates attention to a subtle distinction or carefully crafting a fine argument; she tackles complex topics with an assuredness rarely seen in freshmen."

Clearly, CDS did a stellar job of academically preparing its first graduating class for the high school experience; but they were also prepared to encounter students that may not have the same respect for and love of learning as they do. This was an intangible value that I hadn't considered. It is so much more than tolerance. Whatever it

Hot Dates

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

Friday, November 10
8:30 a.m.
Friday assembly
Kindergarten presenting

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

Thursday, November 16 &
Friday, November 17
Parent-teacher conferences
No school
No extended program

Friday, November 17
Sibling admission applications due

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



Thank You!

- To Marilyn Rogers for leading and organizing the Library Book Fair.
- To Amy and Thor Muller, and Bill Littmann for hosting Friday morning coffee in the yard.
- To Karen Axel, Jon Gilmour, Nerius Mercado, Paul Moreno, Amanda Newstetter, Sara O'Malley, Roger Nys, Kara Schleunes, Louis Schump and Ann Van Gelder for their excellent help with admission tours this week.
- To Cory Warren and Michael Silver for representing CDS at the LGBT Family School Fair last weekend.

is, it is a thing of beauty that will serve the students well beyond their academic years.

There are three things I want to say about this:

- Thank you. Thank you to our alumna and her parents. It was a team effort.
- The leader of the team was the student.
- The single most important ingredient in producing these results is that the adults made sure they never cared more about the results than the student.

Yesterday the parent of a three-year-old told me how he mastered what seemed to be a continuous battle of wills with his little one. He remembered that we had said that “‘Consequences’ is not a euphemism for ‘punishment.’”

When the boy was dawdling about getting into the car, he said, “Do you want to get into the car seat on your own, or do you want me to do it for you?”

When the dawdling continued, he said, “We need to leave in ten seconds. I will count out three seconds and if you are not in your seat, I will do it for you, and then you can show me you can do it next time.”

The first time, of course, he had to put him in his seat, but he didn't have to do it again. On tours, when parents ask what kind of child we are looking for, I say, “We are looking for families who want their children to take responsibility. That is the main reason our eighth graders did so well getting into high school, and that is why they are successful now.” There is an art to the science of holding kids accountable for directing their own lives. The

art involves a deep acceptance of the fact that holding kids accountable is the best way of showing that we believe in them.

To see it in action in preschool and to see it in our graduates is, indeed, a thing of beauty.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Architectural Plans

Approximately 60 parents and trustees attended the two gatherings 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 the 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, and we will share your ideas with the architects and project steering committee.

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 tomorrow, 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.

From the Office

Free Pizza Lunch

Hurrah for the Annual Fund! We're happy to report that two thirds of CDS families have made time in their busy lives to make a gift or pledge to the CDS Annual Fund. Thank you, fellow CDS parents.

Led by the fourth grade at 94% and the Leaping Lizards at 92%, several classes are closing in on 100% participation. Be the first class to reach 100% and we'll arrange a free pizza lunch for the kids and teachers. Take a day off from lunch packing, please give if you haven't and keep the annual fund spirit and energy strong!

School Wish List

- We need a rolling metal coat rack to help us organize the ever growing lost and found. If anyone has a metal coat rack they would be willing to donate please contact Michael Gast, After School Coordinator, at 861-5432 x329.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The first quarter of the school year has ended and parent-teacher conferences are coming up on Thursday, November 16 and Friday, November 17. These important days are set aside to give parents, teachers and students the opportunity to check in about current student performance, challenges and goals. Please schedule your conferences on these days.

Childcare will be provided from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for students who do not participate in conferences. Please remember to sign your student in to childcare when you arrive.

Parent Education Night

This year's Parent Education Night will address "Academic and Social Struggle" on Wednesday, December 6 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Please note this new date!) Come join us for light snacks and a discussion. We'll cover questions such as:

When should you allow your child to do things for him/herself and when should you step in and do it for him/her? What does your child mean when s/he says "I'm bored"? How comfortable is your child with struggle, problem solving and risk-taking? How many strategies can they pull out of their own pocket? How is this all connected to curriculum?

Childcare will be provided for CDS students and non-CDS students in grades K-8. Please sign up for childcare with the receptionist by Monday, December 4. We look forward to seeing you there.

Photos

Mugshots photo orders are due tomorrow, Friday November 10; please bring all orders to the front desk by the end of the day. After Friday, there is a \$10 late charge for orders; however, there is no deadline for online orders. A make-up date is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28. There is a \$10 fee for re-takes, due before the picture is taken.

Lost & Found

On Thursday, November 9 and Friday, November 10, we will make another effort to connect lost items with their owners. We'll display several large bins of unclaimed items on benches around the yard. Please survey the scene for familiar items. Our dedicated parent volunteers, Linda Glover and Ray Baxter, will cart, sort and clean everything left unclaimed and bring it all to Community Thrift. CDS earns proceeds from Community Thrift's sales of these items!

Also, please label all items, especially lunch boxes, with student names.

Wraps & Greens

Tomorrow is the deadline for turning in your holiday gift wrap and greenery orders. The deadline cannot be extended so please remember to turn your order forms in tomorrow! All proceeds go to faculty and staff holiday bonuses.

Extended Program News

Winter Vacation Camp

The theme of this year's winter vacation camp is "Community Action" and will run from Monday, December 18 through Friday, December 22 from 8-6 p.m. Registration forms are available at the front desk or on the CDS website. The registration due date is Monday, December 11.

Go Bulldogs!

Volleyball Scores

The Bulldogs played in the semi-finals game against Lycee Francais on Tuesday, November 7. They played incredibly well and pushed into a third game tie-breaker, but lost by 2 points at the very end. Congratulations on a great season to all players and coaches!

Basketball Season

The first practice of the season for girls basketball is tonight!

The first practice of the season for boys basketball is Tuesday, November 14.

Library Corner

Check it Out at the Library!

There is still time to shop and support our library! The Library Book Fair is open today until 6 p.m. and tomorrow morning from 8-10 a.m. Choose from dozens of books and leave your mark in our ever-expanding library collection.

PTTA Corner

Friday Morning Coffee

Come join other parents for coffee and doughnuts in the yard after Friday drop-off, 8-9 a.m. This is your chance to meet other families, have a few minutes of grown-up conversation and grab sustenance and caffeine before you start your day.

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 anndirkgv@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

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, November 18
SSAT administered at CDS
for eighth graders

Wednesday, November 22
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Grandparents and Special Friends Day
Noon dismissal
No extended program

Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24
Thanksgiving break
No school
No extended program

Wednesday, November 29
6 p.m.
CDS Book Club
(for parents and faculty)

Sunday, December 3
11 a.m.
Potluck brunch for LGBTQ families
Location tbd

Wednesday, December 6
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Parent Education Night
Topic: Academic and Social Struggle

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Children's Day School

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