



October 5, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

The Fifth Grade Garden

On Friday, September 29, the fifth grade class presented at the all-school assembly. Here is what they said:

Celeste: The fifth grade is designing and planting a garden for McKinley School on 14th and Castro Streets.

Denis: We don't just draw the garden and plant it. It takes lots and lots of people working together to make this happen!

Mina: When lots of people work together to get something done, it's called interdependence.

Margaux: Last year, Miss Brittany from CDS first worked with McKinley School to get money for the garden.

Alie: The money came from KQED, the TV station.

Jory: KQED was able to give money to McKinley School because many people in San Francisco donate money to KQED.

Vikram: Once people at McKinley School had the money from KQED, they asked for help to design and plant the garden.

Sasha: They spoke with Miss Vanessa and Mr. Kirk at CDS to find a class – the fifth grade – to do the work.

Kate: People at McKinley School told us what they want in the garden.

Sally: Lots of vegetables, flowers, and outdoor art.

Kaitlin: A place where plants can grow without lots and lots of water.

Miranda: A peaceful place where students can sit.

Leyla: Before designing the garden for McKinley School, we got garden ideas from other people in the neighborhood.

Patrice: The neighbors on Noe Street have worked together for several years to make their street beautiful with flowers and other plants.

Gus: We were able to speak with the man on Noe Street who first came up with the idea for a neighborhood garden.

Lindsey: This week each of us has come up with our own ideas for the garden.

Asher: Next week we will work together to find one common design that we all like and can agree on.

Hot Dates

Friday, October 6
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Fourth grade presenting

Monday, October 9

Government Holiday
No school
Extended program available

Tuesday, October 10

4:30-5:45 p.m.
PTTA meeting
Faculty lounge

Tuesday, October 10

4 p.m.
CDS Bulldogs vs. CAIS
150 Oak Street

Thursday, October 12

4:30 p.m.
CDS Bulldogs vs. SF School
Boys & Girls Club

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



Thank You!

- To Judy Allen for helping chaperone the after school field trip to Bombay Ice Cream and to Patricia Buse for helping chaperone the after school trip to the Mission Pool.
- To Marianne Evans, Sara O'Malley and Ann Van Gelder for their help with the first preschool admission tour of the school year on Tuesday.
- To Richard Hylton, Louis Schump, Elizabeth Seirmarco and Melanie Wise for their excellent help with the first kindergarten admission group tour on Wednesday.
- A special thank you to our awesome admission docents for attending the admission tour training: Karen Axel, Marianne Evans, Jon Gilmour, Kristin Henry, Todd Hosfelt, Richard Hylton, Beth Mazie, Nerius Mercado, Amanda Newstetter, Roger Nys, Sara O'Malley, Andrea Reynolds, Amanda Richard, Louis Schump, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Rachel Swain, Ann Van Gelder, Carlos Vasquez and Melanie Wise.
- To first grade families for providing an amazing kick-off faculty appreciation breakfast!
- To all the parents who have provided coffee and/or donuts for Friday morning coffee in the yard: Michael Silver, Patrick Everett, Marion & Ben Quinones, Suzanne Jachinowski, Ray Baxter and Christine Gilmour.

Noah: We are also going to make sure that the garden will work for the people at McKinley School.

Ava: In the next two months we will help the students and teachers at McKinley School plant the flowers and vegetables and create art for the garden.

Jamie: You can see that designing and planting a garden takes lots of people working together!

ALL: It's called INTERDEPENDENCE!

From the Director of Diversity

POCIS News

CDS has been a member of the local organization, People of Color in Independent Schools, for the last two years. This organization's mission is to support teachers, administrators, students and parents who believe that diversity and multiculturalism are critical in providing quality education for all. Specifically, they believe that the cultures, languages, knowledge and insights of people of color contribute to creating inclusive and affirming institutions and seek to create opportunities for engaged dialogue across cultural and racial lines. Recently two CDS teachers, Eric Subido and Jasmin Hoo, attended a POCIS event for people of color and Jasmin had this to share:

Last Friday, Eric and I attended a social for teachers of color in the Bay Area held at The San Francisco School. The event was put on by People of Color in Independent Schools (POCIS). I entered the party, not knowing what to expect, but hoping to find some comfort and connection with teachers like me. As we walked into a room lit by Christmas lights, I heard the DJ spinning Tribe Called Quest, I saw people of color mixing and dancing, and most importantly, I noticed a buffet with dim sum, egg rolls, Vietnamese sandwiches and drinks! A POCIS board member named Carmen welcomed Eric and me immediately, gave us name tags and directed us toward the food. We sat down with our dinner and three women from Marin Academy soon joined us. We shared where we were from and talked about our experiences at our predominately white schools. It was great to meet these women and have an opportunity to discuss these issues with people like me. It was also nice to connect with Eric and talk about racial dynamics at CDS. I felt very safe discussing race at this event because POCIS insisted on making this event exclusively for teachers of color. One of the teachers from Marin Academy mentioned how she wished POCIS would do more events focused around whiteness. I agreed that it is important to have our white allies present to dialogue and learn with. However, I appreciated the safe space that this POCIS social created. As one board member introduced herself to everyone, one of her co-workers from her school hollered out to her as she spoke. The board member said, "That's one of our new teachers and she is very rowdy. But I don't care how loud she is, I am just so glad to have another person of color at my school!" I think for many of us, we are grateful for these moments

School Wish List

- CDS is looking for a few children's bicycles in good condition. If you have a bicycle you are willing to donate, please call Charlie (x315) or Michael (x329) to discuss the potential donation before bringing it to school.

when we are not the minority. It was great and I encourage others to look into participating in some of the upcoming events! —Jasmin Hoo, kindergarten teacher

This year we'd like to increase our active participation in POCIS. There are many opportunities for students, parents and teachers of all races and ethnicities to participate in POCIS events, conferences, forums and social events. Please check out their website at www.ba-pocis.org or contact Charlie (charlies@cds-sf.org) for more information.

Diversity Stories

For the last couple of weeks the fourth graders have been engaged in learning about the women of Gee's Bend who made beautiful quilts out of scraps from old clothing. They learned a lot about slavery through first-hand accounts documented in interviews with these quilting grand-daughters and great grand-daughters of slaves, who told vivid stories of struggle and resistance. This week the class went to see an exhibit of these quilts and their complex cultural histories at the DeYoung Museum. Here are some responses from students who reflected on the experiences in class and in the community:

The quilting exhibit is really cool. The women who made them are mostly from Gee's Bend. Back then, since they were black they could not do most things white people could do. They were taken away from their homes and made into slaves. Since they were so poor they had to use their old clothing to make quilts to stay warm. They used different shapes, sizes and colors. No quilt was exactly alike. Each was unique. If you haven't gone to the exhibit yet you should definitely go!
—Emma

In my opinion, "The Quilts of Gee's Bend" exhibit was very enjoyable. I found it amazing that the women of Gee's Bend made their now-famous quilts using old clothing and feed-sacks and sewed many of them by hand or on a table-top machine. —Kwesi

I think slavery is stupid. I mean, to have people work for nothing just because their skin is a different color. The slaves had to work their hands off to get no pay and little food. If you didn't work fast enough you would get whipped and the slaves would have to learn how to run fast. To teach them to run fast the slave owners would put the slaves in a pen with a mean dog. If you didn't want to get torn to shreds you would have to run fast and jump the walls of the pen. If you didn't eat your meal in ten minutes you would not get to eat for the rest of the day. Slavery is stupid. I hate slavery. —Kirby

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Save the Date(s)

Architects from Jensen & Macy and members of the Architects' Steering Committee presented preliminary plans for the St. Joseph's Hall renovation to the CDS faculty and staff yesterday. Two parent gatherings with the architects and Committee members are in the works as well, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 24 from 7-8:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 29 from 4-5:30 p.m. Locations will be announced soon. More details about these gatherings will be in the *Weekly* next week; also, look for a letter home to all parents in the mail from Rick providing an update on the whole project. We hope you'll be able to join one of these gatherings and share your thoughts before architectural drawings need to be finalized and submitted to the City for permitting.

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

September 18, CDS vs. Live Oak: CDS wins!

September 20, CDS vs. KDDBS: CDS wins!

September 28, CDS vs. SF Christian

Game 1: CDS 25, SFC 18

Game 2: CDS 25, SFC 12

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Tuesday, October 10, 4 p.m.

CAIS, 150 Oak Street

Thursday, October 12, 4:30 p.m.

SF School, Boys & Girls Club

Please note that tomorrow's game has been changed to Thursday, October 19!

Architect Steering Committee

We apologize for omitting one person last week in our “Who’s Who?” of the architect steering committee: the fabulous Kirk Bell. Kirk is our fifth and sixth grade science teacher and has years of experience in architecture and “green” design. He collaboratively built a 4,000 square foot urethane home, received undergraduate training in architecture, landscape architecture and urban design, has a BA in environmental planning and landscape design and has six years of experience in urban/rural planning in Denver, Colorado, Corvallis, Oregon and the San Juan Islands. We apologize for our oversight last week.

From the Classrooms

New Service Learning Projects

Middle school students attend service learning fieldtrips/workshops two Thursdays a month. This fall, these exciting service projects include:

- Fifth grade: students are collaborating with students at McKinley Elementary School to construct a garden.
- Fifth and sixth grades: students are revitalizing Mission Playground which includes weeding, planting and doing general clean-up bi-weekly through November. Students will then alternate park maintenance once a month.
- Sixth grade: students have proposed a wetlands clean-up project in the spring at Heron’s Head Park with Literacy for Environmental Justice. (The location may change, but they will do a water space restoration effort: creek, stream, wetland, etc.)
- Seventh and eighth grades: students are working with Literacy for Environmental Justice biweekly for the first half of the year.
- Seventh grade: students are developing a plan to improve automobile fuel efficiency and energy use. Their action will begin in the spring semester. They will also begin an exchange with students in La Manzanilla, Mexico for a possible collaboration next year.
- Eighth grade: students are doing a neighborhood clean up and tree planting beginning this semester and continuing throughout the year.

From the Office

Annual Fund Phonathon

The fifth annual CDS parent phonathon will be held this year from 6-9 p.m. on the evenings of Tuesday, October 17 and Wednesday, October 18. Parent and trustee volunteers will be calling all parents to ask them to give to the CDS Annual Fund, which supports this year’s operating expenses – everything from teacher salaries to sliding scale tuition to hay for the sheep. The generosity of parents, trustees, grandparents and other friends has allowed us to plan for the future with confidence and optimism, and gifts of any size are appreciated. All parents will soon receive a letter in the mail from Starfish parents Sara O’Malley and Richard Hylton, as well as a booklet written by the National Association of Independent Schools regarding volunteering and fundraising at independent schools. Please take a minute to read these materials and be prepared to support CDS. Thank you!

Campus Security

We are saddened by the recent school violence across the nation, and want to reassure you that we are serious about our security measures here at CDS.

Our fantastic Receptionists are our first check point for people entering our campus. It is their job to identify everyone who comes through the main school gate. Please be patient with them as they learn all of our faces. When you ring the doorbell they will ask you to identify yourself if they don’t recognize you via the video camera. Sometimes a hat or umbrella or new haircut can throw them off, so please don’t take offense when they ask for your name.

Additionally, please be aware of the people around you when you enter campus. If you don’t recognize someone who is entering with you, please introduce yourself and ask their name and the reason they’re here. Or you can simply say, “I’m sorry, but each person who enters the school must be buzzed in by our Receptionist. I will close the gate behind me and you can ring the doorbell to speak with the Receptionist directly.”

New this fall – we are going to ask all parents to sign in as visitors when on campus between 8:30 and class dismissal. When you sign in as a parent, you’ll receive a “CDS parent” name tag to wear so that you can be easily identified by everyone at CDS. Please remember to return your badge and sign out when you leave. You will

be exempt from this requirement during Friday coffee and assembly.

All other visitors will need to sign in and wear a nametag at all times. If an adult arrives in a classroom without one, our teachers will ask the visitor to return to the front desk to sign in.

Thank you for your support in keeping our campus safe!

Family Pets at CDS

Please note our family pet policy, as stated in the *Family Handbook*:

“We ask that no family pets be brought onto Children Day’s School premises unless the classroom teacher has approved it in advance. At that time, the pet must be leashed or in a pet carrying case.”

Please tie dogs outside the playground gate if they’ve walked to school with you to pick up your child.

Photo Day

Individual photo day will be held on Tuesday, October 17 and Wednesday, October 18 by Mugshots Photography. Ordering information will be available soon.

Extended Program News

Summer Camp 2007

Due to the expected construction and renovation of St. Joseph’s Hall during the summer of 2007, we anticipate that CDS summer camp will not be available for students entering grades I-8. There will most likely be summer camp available for students entering grades pre-K, but that is subject to change. We suggest all CDS families develop a back-up plan for next summer for all students in case construction impacts the entire CDS campus. We’ll let you know the final decision about these camps as soon as we know definitively, no later than December.

Enrichment Classes

Fall classes began this week. Thanks to everyone who signed up for the latest round of after school offerings. If you need a reminder about the times and days for any classes, please call Charlie at 861-5432 x315 or check the Extended Program bulletin board to the left of the receptionist desk.

Music Lessons

We are excited to provide more music offerings and parent Poppea Dorsam has stepped forward to begin creating a more comprehensive program, hopefully leading up to a CDS ensemble. We are starting with violin and cello lessons held on Wednesday afternoons as part of the enrichment class program from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Classes are open to anyone in kindergarten through eighth grade. Robin Woods also teaches a popular guitar class that still has space open as well, and parent Joe Becker has an upcoming rock drumming class for middle school students during winter term. Please contact Charlie at charlies@cds-sf.org to sign up or learn more about any of these great musical opportunities.

Social Justice Camp

School will be closed on Monday, October 9, but camp is open! This camp will explore themes of sharing, ancestry and concepts/myths of “discovery” through stories, a field trip, theater and art projects. There will be two camps: one is open to preschool and kindergarten students and the other is open to students in 1st-8th grades. Camp hours are from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and the cost is \$50 for the day. Non-CDS students are welcome to attend as well. There are still spots available if you want to sign up. The final registration date is noon on Friday, no exceptions.

Library Corner

Book Fair

Please note the new dates for our in-house Book Fair: Wednesday, November 8 through Friday, November 10. Mark you calendars!

PTTA Update

PTTA Meeting: Annual Fund

Everyone is invited to the next PTTA meeting on Tuesday, October 10 from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the faculty lounge. CDS Trustees Kit Land (Chair of the Development Committee), Rick England (Board Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee) and John Hendrickson (Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign) will discuss the Annual Fund, the budget and fundraising this year and take questions regarding the finances of the school, tuition, sliding scale and the capital campaign.

This October meeting of the PTTA has become a tradition at CDS and these presentations are very helpful in understanding the finances of independent schools in general and CDS in particular. As we gear up for the October 17-18 Phonathon, we are very happy to be joined for this meeting by these Board leaders.

All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Childcare is free if you sign up at the front desk by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

Coffee with a CDS Trustee

On Friday, October 13 from 8-9 a.m. the CDS Trustees will host Friday Coffee. Join Trustees Kate Moses, Kit Land, Atri Chatterjee, John Hendrickson and Tracy Kirkham to compare stories from the classrooms, take part in the all-school assembly and talk about the future of the school.

Hats off to the Hosts

Fall is the season for back to school parties at CDS. The PTTA wants to thank all of the classroom liaisons and other parents who have and will host parties for their classrooms. In recent years, parties have included sailing on the bay, wine tasting, free childcare, and much more. These events are not hosted by CDS but are a gift from the hosts to the classrooms and serve an important role in the creation of the CDS community. Thank you to the hosts from the whole CDS community.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, October 17 & Wednesday, October 18

6-9 p.m.

Annual Fund Phonathon

Friday, October 20

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lunch at CDS
for Bay Area grandparents

Saturday, October 21

12-2 p.m.

Alumni & Parent Reunion

Tuesday, October 24

7-8:30 p.m.

Parent meeting with
Jensen & Macy

Friday, October 27

Professional development day

No school

No extended program

Sunday, October 29

4-5:30 p.m.

Parent meeting with
Jensen & Macy

Wednesday, November 8 – Friday, November 10

Library Book Fair

CDS library

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

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