



October 12, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Teamwork

We have assembled a great team of architects, parent and trustee volunteers, teachers, administrators and contractors to make the most of this lovely building. In June, we hired the architectural firm Jensen & Macy, whose work includes California College of the Arts buildings near Potrero Hill. In August, our architects' steering committee selected Plant Construction, known for their work transforming the Ferry Building and several Bay Area schools including The Urban School and Hamlin School, to be our general contractor. Throughout this process, we have been guided by a dedicated and productive steering committee, whose members are Kirk Bell, Patricia Buse, Tracy Kirkham, Jack Munson, Donna Shibata, Gayle Strang and me.

Mark Jensen, Kirk Bell and Gayle Strang gave a terrific presentation to CDS faculty and staff last week. Yesterday, Kirk and I discussed the proposed plans with the middle school faculty. Both meetings and other informal discussions that have occurred in the course of the last couple of weeks have given the architects and the steering committee a lot to think about, and this afternoon the site committee of the board will consider the plans and all other ideas that have come up in our meetings so far.

The next step is to invite all parents to learn more about the planned renovation, meet the architects and offer input before a decision is made about what pieces of the work will be done this summer. If you can, please try to attend one of the two meetings – to be held on Tuesday, October 24 and Thursday, October 26. Presenters and content will be the same at both.

When we first met with Mark Jensen and other Jensen & Macy architects, we asked them to put this community's visions for St. Joseph's Hall on paper, and they have now done that. The building they have designed has enhanced fire and seismic safety features and more classroom space, and is both more welcoming and more environmentally responsible. It is accessible on all floors and will offer better quality of life in the classrooms for students and teachers, but will still retain its charm and beauty, featuring bright, open classrooms. The architects' vision for new classrooms on the third floor highlights all the wonderful architectural features of this space.

Once we have settled on the elements of this vision, we need to decide what comes first. We know that all of the work we want to do cannot be done in one summer. This week and next, we'll learn more from Plant Construction about preliminary cost estimates and the contractor's assessment of which pieces of the project can be completed this summer in the most efficient manner. At the same time, our architects will meet with city officials so that they have a better sense of which planned building and fire code upgrades will

Hot Dates

Today!

4:30 p.m.

CDS Bulldogs vs.

SF School

Boys & Girls Club

Friday, October 13

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Third grade presenting

Tuesday, October 17 &

Wednesday, October 18

6-9 p.m.

Annual Fund Phonathon

Tuesday, October 17 &

Wednesday, October 18

Individual photo days

Friday, October 20

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

Lunch at CDS

for Bay Area grandparents

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



Thank You!

- To Ray Baxter and Linda Glover for taking the unclaimed lost and found items to Community Thrift.
- To Kerri Anthony, Olga Caid and Springer Huseby for attending an admission tour training.
- To Wini von Ehrenburg for her tremendous help in assembling admission packets.
- To Lisa Eltinge for her excellent help with the middle school tour. And thanks to the many preschool parents for their wonderful help with the Wednesday preschool tour: Kerri Anthony, Paul Moreno, Roger Nys, Louis Schump, Rachel Swain and Rich Torres. We couldn't have done it without you!

need to be prioritized. By Friday, November 3, we need to decide what work will be done this summer, to allow enough time for permitting and pre-construction work to take place. (In case you missed the note in last week's *Weekly*, there will probably be a very reduced summer program this summer—just what we can do in the three bungalows.)

We hope you'll be able to come to one of these two gatherings to meet the architects, see the plans and socialize around this wonderful opportunity for the school. Your input is very important and we want parents to help us make the best decision for students, teachers and this community as a whole. The meeting on Thursday, October 26 from 7-8:30 p.m. will be held at the home of Tracy Kirkham at Joe Cooper (25 Burnett Avenue). The time and place of the meeting on Tuesday, October 24 are still up in the air. Please RSVP with Amanda Richard (amandar@cds-sf.org) and she'll provide directions and updates as needed.

The decision of what work will be done and what work will come first will ultimately be made by the Board of Trustees, with a recommendation from the architects' steering committee, but I have learned that just as it takes a whole village to raise a child, it takes a whole village to build a building. We want our new old building to be a place we are all proud of—a place in which we all love to work and play.

From the Director of Diversity

Affinity Groups

A description of what an affinity group is was sent home with a *Weekly* last spring. As CDS is currently in the process of developing and creating affinity groups, here is a more thorough explanation along with some FAQ's borrowed from the People of Color in Independent Schools (POCIS) website:

An affinity group is a group of people that shares a common experience. Examples might include parents with adopted children, families of color, fathers, a Jewish group or parents whose first language is Spanish. Affinity group members come together to share stories, support one another around similar challenges and connect with other members of the CDS community. The format, topics and frequency of the meetings vary depending on the interest and needs of the group. The purpose of creating affinity groups is to strengthen our community by increasing the ways that community members can find connection, support and voice at CDS, starting with smaller groups of people who want to connect on specific areas of experience or identity.

Frequently Asked Questions about Affinity Groups:

Q. Aren't affinity groups just another type of exclusion? Isn't this divisive when we should all be working together?

Affinity groups and spaces are generally created to meet the needs of "minorities" and their allies in our schools. This is a place where (as an example) people of color meet together and their white allies also meet together to develop a better understanding of how their racial identity shapes their own experiences and also the experiences of people of color in their schools. The intent is to create spaces where students and adults can be frank and honest without feeling inhibited by the presence of people who do not share the same identity and experiences or without getting sidetracked by taking a lot of time to educate people who do not come from the same knowledge-base about a particular experience or issue.

Q. How will those in the "majority" learn about the experiences of those in the "minority" if affinity spaces are meant to be exclusive?

Using the people of color/white ally example, it is generally understood that it is not the job of people of

color to be the sole source of education about issues of equity and justice for white allies or institutions. While people of color can certainly forward this work in sharing their experiences and directing individuals and institutions to resources, it is necessary for individuals and institutions to do their own work around issues of true inclusion and equity. In addition to supporting affinity groups and spaces, schools should certainly strive to create opportunities where people of color and their allies can have frank, open conversations together.

Affinity Group Meetings

- LGBTQ affinity group: On Tuesday, October 24 the first LGBTQ affinity group meeting of the year will be held in the staff lounge at 7 p.m. Light snacks will be provided. This affinity group is co-facilitated by kindergarten parent Michael Silver michael.silver@barclaysglobal.com and Diversity Director Charlie Stephens charlies@cds-sf.org. Please contact either of us for more information.
- Faculty/Parents of Color: On Tuesday, November 7 at 7 p.m. the first affinity group for faculty and parents of color will meet in the staff lounge. Refreshments will be provided. Please spread the word about this exciting 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 to RSVP.

From the Office

Operators are Standing By...

In preparation for the upcoming phonathon next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, all parents will soon receive a letter from Starfish parents Sara O'Malley and Richard Hylton asking for a donation to the CDS Annual Fund. Accompanying this letter is a booklet written by the National Association of Independent Schools, "Gifts That Give Back," which answers questions about different types of fundraising (annual funds, capital campaigns, matching gifts and more) and volunteering at independent schools such as CDS. Please take a few minutes to read these materials and be prepared to support CDS, as well as our all-volunteer corps of parent and trustee callers, when your phone rings next week. The CDS Annual Fund supports this year's operating expenses and the many outstanding people and programs that make CDS special. Thank you very much for your generous and enthusiastic participation.

School Directories

The 2006-07 school directories are ready! There is a box located at the reception desk for easy pick up and they'll be available during morning drop off at both gates.

Photo Day

Individual photos will be taken on Tuesday, October 17 and Wednesday, October 18 with Mugshots Photography. The schedule for classes is as follows:

- Tuesday, October 17: Leaping Lizards, Starfish, first grade, third grade and fourth grade.
- Wednesday, October 18: Tadpoles, kindergarten, second grade and middle school (grades 5-8).

Reminder flyers will be sent home this week and, in a few weeks, proofs will be sent to the school. You can either submit payment by the deadline assigned or order directly through the Mugshots online service at www.mugshotsphotography.com.

Events

Grandparent Lunch

On Friday, October 20 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. we'll host a lunch for Bay Area grandparents. We'll still hold our November grandparent day on Wednesday,

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

September 18, CDS vs. Live Oak: CDS wins!
September 20, CDS vs. KDBS: CDS wins!
September 28, CDS vs. SF Christian: CDS wins!

October 10, CDS vs. CAIS
Game 1: CAIS 25, CDS 23
Game 2: CAIS 25-CDS 18

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Today! 4:30 p.m.
SF School, Boys & Girls Club

Tuesday, October 17, 4 p.m.
Lycee Francais, 755 Ashbury Street

November 22 for all grandparents and special friends; this additional day helps accommodate local grandparents who are gone during the Thanksgiving holiday. The visit will include time with the middle school students conducting an interview project, a tour of the school with Aimee Giles, lunch and an update on plans for St. Joseph's hall.

Extended Program News

Social Justice Camp

Our 2nd annual Social Justice Camp was a great success. Preschool and kindergarten campers focused their attention on what "respect" means and also what it means to help and share. They spent part of the morning raking up leaves that had fallen in the yard from the old bay tree and had a great time. Older students read from a book called *Digger* which describes the land and the people who lived on the land before the arrival of Columbus. They looked at maps and posters showing pristine landscapes, clean water and abundant and diverse animal life of what is now California. Campers then spent the morning creating a huge three-dimensional replica of the land, complete with forests, lakes and rivers, fields of corn, birds and animals, grandfathers and children, small homes and people "happy to live in such a beautiful place." They also made a large batch of cornbread to share with everyone. After lunch Paula and Eric came upon this great land they had re-created, walked across and over the students' replica and declared themselves "the discoverers." This did not go over well for the students/dwellers who loved their homeland! Students discussed what came up as they related their feelings to how the Native Americans felt when Columbus arrived. A couple of the comments were:

Simon: They must have been really sad when this happened.

Natasha: It didn't feel good to have what we worked on changed around.

After a bit more discussion, the rest of the afternoon was spent on art projects, group games, time in the yard, second helpings of cornbread and enjoying the rest of a great day.

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, October 21

12-2 p.m.

Alumni & Parent Reunion

Tuesday, October 24

Parent meeting with

Jensen & Macy

Thursday, October 26

7-8:30 p.m.

Parent meeting with

Jensen & Macy

Home of Tracy Kirkham & Joe Cooper

25 Burnett Avenue

Friday, October 27

Professional development day

No school

No extended program

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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