



October 19, 2006

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

All Together or Not at All

In the course of the last two evenings, twenty-six parents and trustees gathered in the lounge for the annual fund phonathon. Each night, at dinner well-sourced by the Development Office, we sat around the table and enjoyed each other's company as we got ready to call parents to ask them to give to the annual fund. It was a very successful two-night project. The callers called every family and almost half have already contributed just over \$60,000, putting us more than halfway to our parent goal of \$120,000!

But though the money and the participation are important—vital in fact to the delivery of great education—infinately more important is the fun we all had doing it. We ate together, cracked jokes, rattled noisemakers and got to know each other better. There were many people there who have been doing the phonathon for years—some all five years—and we had many people who were new. We had ringers and rookies, and we had a blast together.

It has been a busy week in a busy month. No sooner was Back-To-School Night behind us than the work of the Architects' Steering Committee, the Site Committee, the Capital Campaign Committee, the Finance Committee and the Board shifted into a higher gear, struggling to put together all the pieces of the rubik's cube of the school's facilities. In the last three weeks the faculty in three separate meetings considered the architects' plans, providing very useful feedback about everything from bathrooms and water fountains to classroom size, room usage and the beautiful-but-environmentally-irresponsible windows.

As we attempt to get all of our ducks in a row, one of the most important ducks is making sure that everyone—parents, students and teachers—has an opportunity to provide feedback. As you know, next week there will be two evening meetings—Tuesday and Thursday—for the architects to present their vision for the building and hear from parents.

Yesterday the Architects' Steering Committee, augmented by a number of trustees and members of the Campaign Steering Committee, met with David Plant and Aaron Holm of Plant Construction to get introduced to the scope, cost and time required to address all of our needs and wants for the main school building.

Here is what has become increasingly clear to me: we are all embarked on the next ten-year phase of our journey together. Of course, we can do it all; we just can't do it all in one year. "It all" includes so much more than just the St. Joseph's Hall project. It includes strengthening our relationships with the neighborhood: with the Boys and Girls Club, Dolores Park Church, Notre Dame Plaza, Mission High and Holy Family Day Home. (For example, see the

Hot Dates

Friday, October 20
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Second grade presenting

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
4-5:30 p.m.

Parent meeting with Jensen & Macy
CDS

Thursday, October 26
7-8:30 p.m.

Parent meeting with
Jensen & Macy
Home of Tracy Kirkham
& Joe Cooper
25 Burnett Avenue

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



Thank You!

- To all the excellent phonathon callers who helped make this year's phonathon such a great success: Kit Land, Marianne Evans, Suzanne Abbey, Ray Baxter, Susi Alexander, Luma Dahlbacka, Anne Funsten, Ed Haslam, David Jasso, Andy Northrop, Ann Van Gelder, Chris van Loben Sels, Nina Robin, Cristina Hernandez, Sara O'Malley, Tracy Kirkham, Matt Schwartz, Wini von Ehrenburg, Jackie Haslam, Dave Klaus, Jessica Lanning, John Hohulin, Yvelise Cabral and Kim Cohen.
- To our wonderful admission docents for their excellent help with the kindergarten and preschool tours this week: Yvelise Cabral, Jon Gilmour, Kristin Henry, Springer Huseby, Roger Nys, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Rachel Swain, Louis Schump, Beth Mazie, Nerius Mercado, Ann Van Gelder, Carlos Vasquez and Melanie Wise. You are awesome! A special thank you to Yvelise Cabral for being available for Spanish translation.
- To Wini von Ehrenburg for assembling many, many, many admission packets!
- To the fabulous parents who assisted on Photo Day: Kristen Wurz, Kimberly Lam, Mary Beth Towery, Gayle Strang, Bettina Hohnen, Jocelyn Colopy, Molly Tyson, Stephanie Scarpulla, Wini von Ehrenburg, Amy Hecht and Marla Zemanek. And a special thanks to Ann Van Gelder for coordinating the parent volunteers and assisting.
- To Nasrin Naraghi and Virginia Blue for their bicycle donations.
- To Katie Wietz (grandmother of Mo and Margot Mitchell) and Springer Huseby for donating rocking chairs to the kindergarten class.
- To Andrea Reynolds for donating a new tricycle to the preschool.
- To Richard Hylton, Paul Moreno and Ann and Dirk Van Gelder for braving the crowds and representing CDS at Preschool Preview Night.

report of student involvement in the neighborhood after school march in the Extended Program News!). It also includes developing more neighborhood relationships so that we can rent additional facilities if necessary. We have a group working with a real estate agent to help us find contiguous property—and more.

The MOST important committee is one that at the moment has a low profile: the Committee on Inclusion. This group was a merger of an ad hoc group of parents, teachers and trustees with the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board. This group of people is taking stock and making plans of the initiatives, which immediately and ultimately will make all the difference in the health of the school: our relationship to ourselves. Just how inclusive are we? Does everyone feel they have a voice? What are we doing to make sure that CDS is a safe place to be oneself regardless of race, class, gender, ability, etc?

When it comes to the quality of life in this building, it's the windows. But when it comes to the quality of the education, it's the quality of the community. The Committee on Inclusion is critical because if one person in this school feels they matter less than others, that they can't speak up because of race, or because they are giving less than someone else to the annual fund; if anyone feels that the big donors have all the power, or inside groups like the Architects Steering Committee make all the decisions, then we have lost our soul. Here at CDS, each child, parent and teacher needs to feel they matter—for indeed they do. This is the climate we set in the classroom, on the playground, in the garden, at assembly, and we need that same climate among the adults, or we will fail in our mission.

The school is stronger every year. We will succeed in all of our building projects—it is only a matter of money, and that is only a matter of time. We are a fabulously great school and that will bring the money. We cannot forget our genius, and that is our dual commitment: empowering each individual child and supporting each other. If we have as much fun in the makeover of this building as we have had in everything else we do, it will be glorious. If we pay more attention to the building and the money and in doing so lose focus on our genius, we will have failed, even if we raise enough money to do it all, including photovoltaic cells on the roof.

We need much more than having all our ducks in a row. We need them (all of us) to be quacking as merrily as we usually do. We need to have as much fun every day as we did at the phonathon these last two nights.

School Wish List

- The extended program office is looking for an easy chair or small loveseat. It doesn't have to be in great condition; if you're getting rid of one, call Charlie at 861-5432 x315.

From the Director of Diversity

Book Club

The first Book Club book of the year (for parents and faculty) is Howard Zinn and Anthony Arnove's new book, *Voices of a People's History of the United States*, which features the work of individuals such as Fannie Lou Hamer, Mother Jones, Malcolm X, Emma Goldman, Frederick Douglass and more, across five hundred years of U.S. history. Our first Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday, November 28 at 7 p.m. We'll meet to distribute copies of sections of the book and discuss our ideas. Please join us!

Prior to that, on Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Community Theater is the Bay Area premiere of Zinn's book with the authors and others—including Steve Earle, Danny Glover, Sandra Oh, Marisa Tomei, John Trudell and Alice Walker. Tickets benefit two organizations: MECA's humanitarian aid to children in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq, and Speak Out which inspires young people across the U.S. to work for social justice. It would be great to have a CDS contingent at this event. Tickets are \$25; however, CDS is willing to make up any difference between the official ticket price and what individuals can afford. Please direct any questions and RSVP to Josh Connor (joshc@cds-sf.org) by Wednesday, October 31.

Movie Night

Please join us for a movie and discussion night (open to parents, faculty and middle school students), complete with popcorn in the cozy CDS library on Thursday, December 7 at 7 p.m.

The first movie of the year will be "Tutu and Franklin: A Journey towards Peace." This film begins with the historic first encounter between Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu and renowned historical and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Dr. John Hope Franklin on Goree Island, the infamous former slave port off the coast of Senegal. Joined by an

international interracial group of 21 high school students, together they engage in a series of unusually candid conversations on race and reconciliation. Through witnessing these conversations we can explore the insights of these elders and youth as they examine questions about race, themselves and the world. Discussion will follow. Please RSVP to Charlie at charlies@cds-sf.org by Friday, December 1.

Affinity Groups

- We had our first Red Power Affinity Group for Middle School Girls on Monday afternoon. It was great fun! We spent our time coming up with guidelines for the group, eating raspberries and talking about our first group project which we'll begin next week. If you are a middle school girl and are interested in joining us, please come to the library from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Monday afternoons. Feel free to call the parent facilitator, Virginia Blue, with questions at (415) 244-7178. If the cost of the after school program is an issue, please call Charlie Stephens at 861-5432 x 315.

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: CAIS wins

October 12, CDS vs. SF School
Game 1: CDS 25, SFS 18
Game 2: CDS 25, SFS 23

October 17, CDS vs. Lycee Francais
CDS 27, LF 25
CDS 25, LF 20

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Today!
CDS vs. Creative Arts, 4 p.m.
1802 19th Street

- 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 affinity group: 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 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.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Parent – Architect Meetings

Please join us next week at a parent – architect meeting! This is a great opportunity to meet the architects, view their vision for St. Joseph's Hall and offer feedback. One meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24 from 4-5:30 p.m. at CDS; childcare is available if you sign up by 10 a.m. The second meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the home of parents Tracy Kirkham and Joe Cooper at 25 Burnett Avenue. Please call Amanda Richard at 861-5432 x330 to RSVP for either meeting and to receive directions to the Kirkham/Cooper home.

Extended Program News

Lights On After School

"I'm young. I'm positive. I'm the future. I'm gonna tell it like it is!" All around us students sang out, some smiling, some laughing and many holding up signs. The entrance to 16th Street Bart station was filled with parents, students, teachers and community leaders sharing poems, writing and songs about the change they want to see in our Mission neighborhood and the importance of after school for all students.

On Thursday, October 12, seven students, three teachers and one parent from CDS participated in the Lights On After School Celebration and Rally. This was the second year in a row that a group of CDS

students and teachers participated in this event. The rally and celebration was organized by St. John's Educational Threshold Center, the non-profit organization that runs the after school program at Marshall Elementary, located close by at Capp and 15th Streets. Students, teachers, community members and even Supervisor Tom Ammiano came together to celebrate the importance of after school programs for all students. CDS students held up their home-made signs and listened as students from Marshall explained how they want to see the neighborhood become more kid-friendly, safe and clean. We ended the afternoon by walking around the block, playing drums and creating a visible, positive kid presence in the neighborhood.

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 anndirkvg@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

Our relationship with the after school program at Marshall Elementary is one part of a growing set of projects that partner CDS with our public school neighbors. Other examples of CDS public school partnerships include the fifth grade helping to build a garden at McKinley Elementary and the High School Intern program, which over the last two years has placed over 40 students from Mission High School and June Jordan School for Equity in classes from preschool through fourth grade. We plan to continue to develop these partnerships, strengthening our student's learning and our shared commitment to an excellent education for all students.

For more information on the Lights On celebration and rally, you can read the recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle titled "Mission Kids Urge Grownups to Set a Good Example," at <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2006/10/13/BAG2VLOSU.L1.DTL>.

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 (or a little late!) and pick a book out 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

Friday, October 27

Professional development day

No school

No Extended Program

Sunday, October 29

Daylight savings time ends

Tuesday, October 31

Halloween

Extended program available

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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