



September 13, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Well Launched

The first day of school was such a full experience. One parent reported that her daughter was up at 6:30 in the morning. "I'm going to school today!" she said, with eyes as big as saucers. Another parent reported, "Michael was so happy this morning he couldn't stand it and smiled and talked all the way to school; then, as we were halfway down the driveway he said in a very small voice, 'I am feeling a little shy this morning.'" I can relate. We all feel a little shy. Each of us has a different way of showing it. Some charge in the gate, others sit quietly on the bench. Our emotions are fully engaged. On Tuesday and Wednesday, parents came up to me to tell me what an awe inspiring experience they were having. One said, "I cried harder when I saw her high five you and walk into the big building than I did on her first day of preschool."

I spent most of the summer writing a book about parenting school age children entitled "Genius Goes to School," and now it feels wonderful to be back in the middle of it all again, back with this community in the real work of bringing out the unique genius in each of our students.

We embark on another school year with 52 new students, new bathrooms, new fifth and sixth grade classrooms on the third floor of our main building, a new art room on the second floor and soon (October 1), a new staircase at the east end of the building, a new environmental education kitchen on the first floor and more new bathrooms.

We have new teachers, too. My back-to-school experience began on a Friday morning in late August in the third grade classroom, surrounded by 17 new teachers and staff members who were learning the ropes as well as the Children's Day School approach to learning. We are very fortunate to have two new preschool teachers, Matt Martin in the Tadpole class and Nancy Ramirez in the Starfish class, a new member of the kindergarten team, Dominique Kohl, two new first grade teachers, Barbara DeMoss and Vi Le, a new Learning Specialist, Mimi Maio, a new PE teacher, Celia Richard, and several returning teachers who have new jobs this fall. Led by our new Extended Program Director Dan Larson, there are four new teachers in the extended program: Jorge Sanchez, Christopher Mulvey, Anne Campbell and Anthony Nguyen. I got to know them even better on the faculty retreat, and they are a fine group of people.

Getting this year started was an impressive team effort, and I am particularly grateful for the hard work, professionalism and generosity of builders, architects, project managers, donors, teachers and the CDS facilities crew, all of whom stretched to make the much-needed renovation of St. Joseph's Hall possible. The project is on time and on budget and the new classrooms are

Hot Dates

Friday, September 14
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Saturday, September 15
11-2 p.m.

All-school Welcome Picnic
Douglass Park
Douglass and 26th Street

Tuesday, September 18
4:45-6 p.m.

PTTA Meeting: How
to get involved at CDS
Faculty lounge

Thursday, September 20
6 p.m.

Middle School Forum:
High School Application Process
David Minus Science Center

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



Thank You!

- To Dave Wise for photographing the construction work in progress in St. Joseph's Hall throughout the summer.
- To Stephanie Scarpulla for bringing pears to share with faculty and staff.
- To Amy Muller for continuing to provide excellent and speedy assistance setting up and maintaining the CDS smugmug online photo sharing website (www.cds.smugmug.com).
- To Kara Schleunes for spending many hours this summer thoughtfully updating photos on the CDS website.
- To all the parents who volunteered time and energy on Parent-Teacher Workday last week to help clean, beautify and prepare the school for the first day of classes.

already making a positive difference for students and teachers.

To kick off the new year we welcome new and returning families and celebrate our community in several ways. First, I hope you will be able to attend our welcome assembly tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. in the yard. Coffee and donuts will be provided! Next, join me this Saturday from 11-2 p.m. at Douglass Park in Noe Valley for the annual All-School Welcome Picnic. Classroom liaisons have been in touch with parents about pot luck arrangements; bring a blanket and your family for some low-key fun. And, at both Back to School Nights (Middle School on September 26 and Preschool/Elementary on September 27), teachers will provide information on curriculum and classroom expectations for the year, as well as show parents projects that kids have been working on in the first few weeks of school.

Welcome back to all and best wishes for this new school year!

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Earth Friendly Facilities

The school's main classroom building, St. Joseph's Hall, has been a very busy place this summer. The first phase of the planned top-to-bottom renovation of the building started last June and is nearing completion, right on

schedule and on budget. The city of San Francisco issued permits for the whole multi-phase project in July, and construction proceeded smoothly over the summer. From its inception through the finish work going on right now on the first floor of the building, this is an earth friendly project, and safety and environmental sustainability have been priorities throughout. The architects and builders implemented an interior air quality management plan to maintain a healthy building environment during and after construction. All building materials, including paints, sealants and coatings, are non-toxic, safe and free of formaldehyde and other harmful pollutants. Construction crews salvaged or recycled demolition and construction waste whenever possible. (The project target is 75%; final numbers are still being tallied.)

In addition, architects and project managers selected finish materials that both look recycled and are recycled. Kids (and grown ups) can see where these materials came from and what they're made of. Look for (1) springy tan flooring in the third floor hallway that is 100% recycled, post-consumer tire rubber, (2) flooring and wall tiling in new bathrooms that is 70% recycled marble and granite terrazzo; (3) bathroom partitions that are composed entirely of recycled post-consumer plastic detergent bottles; and (4) kitchen countertops made of 85% locally recycled bottle glass.

Please feel free to take a look around the finished third floor classrooms and bathrooms on the east end of the building. New first floor bathrooms and a kitchen opening directly onto the yard, as well as the extended staircase serving all three floors of the building, are on track to be completed as planned by October 1.

From the Classrooms

Middle School Forum

The first middle school forum of the year will be held Thursday, September 20 at 7 p.m. in the David Minus Science Center and will describe the high school admission process. All middle school parents and eighth grade students are invited to attend. Childcare is available for any CDS student (grades pre-8) and any sibling in grade K-8. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate any non-CDS siblings that are preschool age or younger. If you need childcare, contact Ryan Gordon at ryang@cds-sf.org by the end of the day Monday to sign up.

School Wish List

- The first grade class is looking for a tape recorder (or two) so students can record onto cassette tapes. Contact Robyn Moss at robym@cds-sf.org if you have one to donate.

From the Farm

One of our beloved chickens, Pio, died this summer. We recently found out that Pio died because she had non-contagious tumors in her liver associated with old age; thankfully, none of the other hens are at an elevated risk of disease.

From the Office

Admission Volunteers Needed

If you're a CDS parent/guardian who'd like to share your enthusiasm and excitement for the school with prospective families, the Admission Office needs you! We are looking for volunteers and there are lots of opportunities to be involved, including helping with tours and open houses, calling prospective families, organizing admission materials, and more! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Diane Larrabee, Assistant Director of Admission & Communication, at dianel@cds-sf.org or at 415-861-5432 x337.

Photography Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a cadre of volunteer photographers who would like to be part of an ongoing group that helps capture the many "moments of greatness, large and small" happening at CDS. If you are a photographer with a keen eye for composition and some basic photo-adjusting skills, we want you to join the volunteer paparazzi! Volunteers are needed to help photograph events such as the first day of school, Back-to-School Night, the Cesar Chavez celebration and more, as well as field trips and school projects. If you would like to volunteer to help capture the spirit of our wonderful CDS community, please contact Diane Larrabee, Assistant Director of Admission & Communication, at dianel@cds-sf.org or at 415-861-5432 x337.

CDS Yahoo Group

Join the CDS Community Yahoo Group! The purpose of this group is to provide a forum for the members of the CDS community to share information about life outside of school. This is not a list about school-related matters, but a way to share resources within our community. In other words, it's our in-house "craigslist." Visit groups.yahoo.com/group/cdscommunity to join, and for more information and posting guidelines.

Families of the Week

Please see the attached letter regarding the Families of the Week program. We hope all families will participate!

Events

Welcome Picnic

Join the CDS community in celebration of the new school year at this year's All-school Welcome Picnic on Saturday, September 15 from 11-2 p.m. at Douglass Park (26th and Douglass Streets). This is a great opportunity to meet new families (and kids!) and take part in a CDS tradition. See you there.

PTTA Update

How to Get Involved

The first PTTA meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, September 18 from 4:45-6 p.m. in the faculty lounge. The topic of this meeting will be how parents can become involved at CDS. There are many ways for parents to contribute to the CDS community depending on their interests, including helping with events throughout the year, supporting various school administrative departments, or becoming a Classroom Liaison, PTTA Officer, or even CDS Trustee. Several parents will be on-hand to share stories of their specific experiences. We've also attached information about the many ways you can get involved at CDS, as well as a volunteer form for your convenience.

Go Bulldogs!

The Bulldog volleyball team is gearing up for its fall season. Stay tuned for the co-ed volleyball schedule and come out and support the CDS Bulldogs!

At this first meeting, an overview of this year's PTTA will also be provided, including an introduction to the PTTA leadership and details on upcoming PTTA meetings throughout the school year. Please come with your questions and ideas.

Free childcare will be provided during the meeting if you sign up with the receptionist by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

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?

- Laura Pliska, President, (415) 641-5116 or laura@sfbabyworks.com
- Patrick Everett, Classroom Liaison Coordinator, (415) 609-4055 or patrick@everettnilsson.com
- Ann Van Gelder, Community Outreach Coordinator, (415) 647-8561 or anndirkvg@hotmail.com
- Michael Silver, Diversity Coordinator, (415) 518-1803 or silvermas@aol.com
- Sara O'Malley, Parent Involvement Coordinator, (415) 348-8841 or sara@omalleyhylton.com
- Karen Randig, Secretary, (415) 824-1784 or krandig@msn.com
- Tanja Beck, Middle School Representative, (415) 377-8756 or tbeck@zephyrsf.com
- Robyn Moss, Teacher Representative, (415)-861-5432 x389 or robynm@cds-sf.org

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, September 26

6:30-8 p.m.

Middle School Back-to-School Night

Thursday, September 27

5:30 p.m.

New parent reception

Faculty lounge

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Preschool and Elementary

Back-to-School Night

Monday, October 1 – Thursday, October 4

Seventh grade class trip

Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon

Monday, October 8

Government holiday

No school

No extended program

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

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

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