



September 27, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Notes from Farm & Garden Duty

This week's article is guest written by Dave Cohen, parent of Claire (second grade) and Zoe (kindergarten). Dave recently sent us some notes from his family's experience as family farmers.

We had quite a weekend in the farm and garden.

On Saturday morning the girls and I were just finishing up our farm and garden duties when I heard Zoe yell, "Moonlight has a rat!" Sure enough, I looked up from what I was doing to see Moonlight dash by with a very small mouse in her mouth followed by the flock of other chickens trying to get at the mouse. Over the next few minutes Moonlight deftly evaded her fowl compatriots while proceeding to kill and eat the mini-mouse. It was all very exciting and to us, unexpected that a chicken would catch, kill and eat a mouse. With further thought it does make sense given that six million generations ago Moonlight may very well have been a velociraptor dinosaur.

After we finished our farm duties the girls went off to look for mulberries. This time I heard an exclamation from both Zoe and Claire. They had discovered a large spider web covering the mulberry bush in the middle of the yard. The occupant of the web was quite large but looked even bigger due to the enormous egg sac on her back. The girls exclaimed because they observed the spider pouncing on two large flies that had gotten entangled in her web. I came over just in time to see the spider wrap the two flies up into a cocoon and inject them with her venom. Then the spider detached the cocoon from her main web and let it dangle from one of her legs while, with her other 7 legs, she repaired the hole that the flies had made in her web. Then she climbed up her web a bit and moved off into the hollow of a curled up leaf. Over the next 30 minutes the size of the cocoon shrunk by about half as the spider drank her liquefied fly lunch.

We arrived at CDS an hour late on Saturday evening (6:30 p.m.) and observed some peculiar sheep behavior. They were chasing each other at what seemed like top speed around the barn. After a few laps they would stop in front of the chicken coop, line up and then head-butt each other like rams. After a butt or two they repeated the pattern, first chasing and then butting. I got their food weighed out as quickly as possible and they calmed down immediately when I gave it to them. On Sunday morning the sheep acted normally and on Sunday evening we arrived at 5:30 and saw no unusual behavior.

Finally, we are happy to report that the chickens blessed us with six eggs: two on Saturday morning, three on Saturday evening and one on Sunday evening. I hope that the sheep are okay and that Moonlight's mousy snack agreed with her!

Hot Dates

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

Friday, September 28

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Seventh grade presenting

Tuesday, October 2 – Friday,
October 5

Seventh grade class trip

Shakespeare Festival in Ashland,
Oregon

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



Thank You!

- To Ann Van Gelder for representing CDS at a kindergarten information night this week.
- To Ray Baxter, Manda Ederer, Patrick Everett, James Glanville, Amy Hecht, Kristin Henry, Todd Hosfelt, Tina Leung, Sara O'Malley, Laura Pliska, Darya Soto and Carlos Vasquez for attending Tuesday's admission tour docent training.
- To Lisa Eltinge for donating delicious food to faculty and staff.
- To second grade families for providing an amazing faculty breakfast spread.
- To Melanie Piech and James Finberg for donating a rug to Kirk Bell's middle school classroom.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

St. Joseph's Hall Open House

All parents are invited to tour the St. Joseph's Hall renovation at an open house next Friday, October 5 after assembly. Come at 8:00 for coffee in the yard, stay for assembly at 8:30 and, after the sixth grade is done leading assembly, explore the new classrooms, kitchen, bathrooms and staircase for a few minutes. Construction of the first phase of the building renovation will be done next week, and the open house will be a good opportunity to see all the new and remodeled spaces. The new fifth and sixth grade classrooms will be unoccupied while the middle school students spend time with their buddy classes, so parents will be able to come inside the classrooms without disrupting students and teachers.

From the Office

Sibling Applications

Do you have a child who is a sibling of a current CDS student that you would like to enroll at CDS in the fall of 2008? If so, please let us know of your interest as soon as possible by contacting our Assistant Director of Admission & Communication, Diane Larrabee, at 861-5432 x337 or dianel@cds-sf.org. We would appreciate hearing from you by October 1 at the latest. Sibling applications are due on October 26 and will be available from the front desk shortly. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Aimee Giles, Director of Admission & Communication, at 861-5432 x322.

Events

Back-to-School Night

Join us for PreK-4 Back-to-School Night and the New Parent Reception tonight! All parents new to CDS are cordially invited to a pre-event wine and cheese reception in the faculty lounge at 5:30 p.m. with Rick, members of the Board of Trustees and PTTA officers.

Food and drinks will be available to all parents in the yard beginning at 6:15 p.m., and the program will begin at 6:30 with outdoor welcomes from Rick, Board Chair Tracy Kirkham, and others. All parents will then have the opportunity to visit their children's classrooms and hear from their teachers. Teachers and specialists will share the skills and content children will cover during the year as well as how the class is structured to challenge each child appropriately.

Back-to-School Nights is for adults only. There will be NO childcare during the events. Please remember to park on the street.

Extended Program News

Registration Correction

Please check your enrichment class registration form carefully before turning it in with payment. Some registration forms were sent home with incorrect times and dates. A revised class schedule is attached to today's Weekly and has the correct times and dates listed; please use this new version as your guide to planning your child's enrichment schedule. Extra copies of the revised version will also be available at the front desk. We apologize for the inconvenience. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Larson at danl@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x315.

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

September 25, CDS vs. CAIS

Game 1: CDS 31, CAIS 29

Game 2: CAIS 25, CDS 21

Game 3: CDS 15, CAIS 10

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

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

CACS, Boys & Girls Club, 450 Guerrero Street

Violin and Cello Class Addition

Please note that beginning violin and cello students in grades I-4 are welcome to enroll in fall classes. While the published descriptions listed beginning classes for kindergarteners only, any beginning student in grades I-4, in addition to those with previous experience, are welcome to sign up for the Advanced Beginner/Intermediate Monday 4:45 violin or Wednesday 4:45 cello class.

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 robynm@cds-sf.org if you have one to donate.

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) 203-0776 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

Friday, October 5

9 a.m.

St. Joseph's Hall Open House and Celebration

Monday, October 8

Government holiday

No school

No extended program

Tuesday, October 9

6-7:30 p.m.

PTTA meeting: Annual Fund and school finances

Tuesday, October 16 & Tuesday, October 17

Annual Fund Phonathon

Thursday, October 18

Middle school forum

Thursday, October 18 & Friday, October 19

Picture Day

Monday, October 22

Professional development day

No school

No extended program

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

Children's Day School

333 Dolores Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

415-861-5432 (ph)

415-861-5419 (fax)

www.cds-sf.org

Editor: Mary DeNardo, cdsweekly@cds-sf.org

Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail