



December 6, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Practicing Wholeness

In her essay recited on the air in 1953 for "This I Believe," a radio program hosted by Edward R. Murrow, Martha Graham says she believes in practice. She likens the disciplines of becoming a great dancer to the disciplines of becoming great at any pursuit, including the pursuit of living. She says:

The instrument through which the dance speaks is also the instrument through which life is lived: the human body. It is the instrument by which all the primaries of experience are made manifest. It holds in its memory all matters of life and death and love.

With this she reminds us that the work of the mind, which we usually think of as the primary business of school, is inseparable from the work of the body. Just visit a school and watch the children for an hour if you need proof. Everything they are learning with their mind is also being learned in their bodies and the education of one serves the education of the other.

"Use your words" and "Keep your body safe," say the teachers. It is all one organism that is learning how to solve an interpersonal problem or a math problem. Last week, visitors observed two second graders use their minds, bodies and words to solve both kinds of problems. Jackson and Josh were on the floor trying to figure out the dimensions of the rug using unifix cubes as measures. Their plan was to measure one side of a colored square with the cubes, then multiply by six to get the whole length. They started out fine and then got into a conflict.

"You are doing it wrong," said Jackson as Josh began placing unifix cubes together along the side of the square.

"No, I'm not," responded Josh, squaring off against Jackson. "This is the way I said I would do it."

"No, it isn't. You said you would do it this way," and Jackson demonstrated his method which was to measure the length using one cube.

"I know what I said," said Josh, "and I am going to do it this way. Your way is the wrong way."

"No it isn't," replied Jackson, continuing with his method.

"Let's just see."

They decided to merge their methods. They connected the unifix cubes end to end until they had covered the length (Josh's method) and then measured the

Hot Dates

Tonight
6-7:30 p.m.

To Grow or Not to Grow: Planning
for the Future of Our School
All parents invited
Faculty lounge

Friday, December 7
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Dolphin (Candy) kindergarten
class presenting

Friday, December 7
7-10 p.m.

Middle School Dance for students in
grades 6-8
Boys & Girls Club

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



Thank You!

- To Susi Alexander for donating kids aprons to the new environmental kitchen.
- To all parents who helped out with Grandparents and Special Friends Day, especially John Kraus for taking photographs, the preschool liaisons for helping coordinate volunteer efforts, the wonderful food donors and event volunteers for lending an extra hand: Mary Dennis, Nancy Ramamurthi, Kristin Henry, Mickie Kerr, Louis Schump, Rachel Swain and Meredith Ashworth.
- To the Lambright family for donating freshly picked apples to the CDS community.
- To Elizabeth and Jay Seirmarco for donating a computer to the IT department.
- To all the many volunteers who helped with November's Open House, admission tours and follow-up calls, and other admission-related events over the past two weeks: Ray Baxter, Brooke Bianco, Ana Brubaker, Ray Cendana, Susan Chastain, Lourdes Cordero, Tina Corse, Manda Ederer, Patrick Everett, Kate Fritz, Zahra Ghayour-Kelly, James Glanville, Amy Hecht, Kristin and Andrew Henry, Richard Hylton, Debbie Jasso, Barbara Kirkwood, Paige Lang, Tina Leung, Paul Moreno, Chitra Nayak, Janette Neves Rivera, Roger Nys, Sara O'Malley, Andrea Ow, Andrea Reynolds, Louis Schump, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Michael Silver, Darya Soto, Ann Van Gelder, Carlos Vasquez and Tessa Wilcox. Thanks for your enthusiastic support!
- A special thank you to Ana Brubaker and Lourdes Cordero for serving as English/Spanish translators on recent tours.
- To sixth grader Sophia Hirsch and CDS parent Barbara Kirkwood for representing CDS at the Clarendon Middle School evening.
- To Amanda and Brian Richard for donating a karaoke machine to the Extended Program—the students are looking forward to many song-filled afternoons!

length by the Jackson method. The length was determined to be 20.3 unifix cubes.

The visitors were mightily impressed. I had predicted that they would see how well our students resolve conflict, and they did. They also said they were impressed by the intellectual activity that was accompanying the arithmetic learning.

Thousands of moments like this occur every day. Education is not contained in the curriculum (which in this case was to practice the concepts and skills of measurement). Education is merely triggered by curriculum. A parent of an alumna once observed that what is so special about CDS is how our teachers use each moment in the schedule, whether it is lunch or language arts, for education.

We define education as “leading each child’s unique genius out into the world to be effective and graceful within it.” The art of mathematics and the art of life are, as Martha Graham understood, inextricable.

Then there is the cultivation of the being. It is through this that the legends of the soul’s journey are retold with all their gaiety and their tragedy and the bitterness and sweetness of living. It is at this point that the sweep of life catches up to the mere personality of the performer and while the individual (the undivided one), becomes greater, the personal becomes less personal. And there is grace. I mean the grace resulting from faith: faith in life, in love, in people, and in the act of dancing. All this is necessary to any performance in life which is magnetic, powerful, rich in meaning.

It is through our bodies that we live everything and in our bodies that our genius manifests itself. Whatever we practice we become. Practicing the disciplines that make us both graceful and effective is the necessary activity of merging our personality with the rest of ourselves so that ultimately, we become the unique individuals we are supposed to become.

From the Classrooms

December Collections

On the back of the *Weekly* you’ll see all of the ways that students are collecting food, toiletries and toys for those in need. Check out the list and join the students in donating many much-needed items.

School Wish List

- The IT department is currently looking for used laptop bags as well as desktop and laptop computers (both PC's and Apple computers). PC's should have a processor running at 2GHz or higher (it doesn't matter whether it is AMD or Intel), and Apples should have at least a PowerPC processor running at 2GHz or higher. PC's should be running a legitimate licensed version of Windows XP Pro, and Macs should be running a legitimate licensed version of OS-X, and should be provided with (wherever possible) their installation disks. If you have any of the above to donate, please contact Terry Hall at terryh@cds-sf.org. Thank you!

Family Farmers Needed

Itching to collect fresh eggs for Sunday morning breakfast? Then sign up to be a family farmer on one or more of the following dates:

- December 25-27
- February 18-24
- April 14-20

To sign up, e-mail Misty at mistyc@cds-sf.org to set up an individual training time (if you haven't been trained before). Thank you in advance for your help.

Community Event Night

Middle school students, parents and community members are invited to attend the next community event night on Thursday, December 13 at the Boys & Girls Club from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The event will feature veterans speaking about their experiences in Iraq. There will be a potluck dinner as well. See you there!

Welcome Michelle Cascio

While Seahorse kindergarten teacher Jen Weiss is on maternity leave, Dominique Kohl will be filling in as full-time Head Teacher. Dominique has been part of the Seahorse teaching team since August. To assist Dominique, Michelle Cascio will be joining the team as part-time Associate Teacher through the duration of Jen's maternity leave.

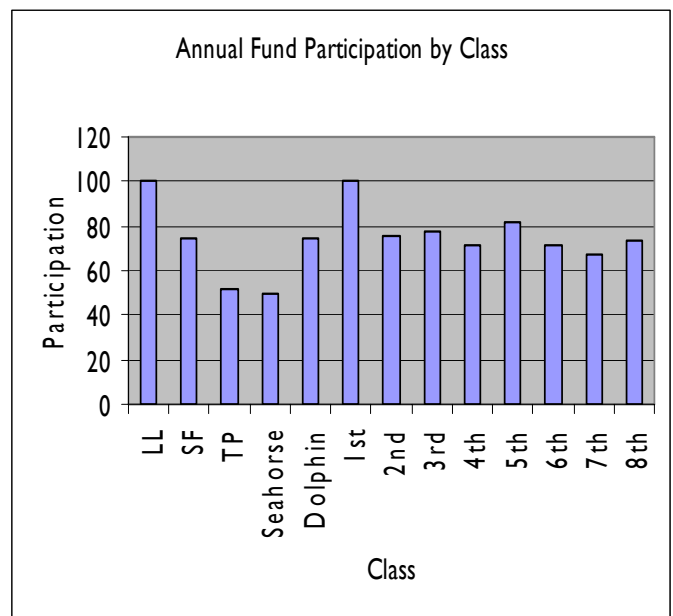
Michelle has been involved in education throughout her career. During the past five years, Michelle worked her

way up to the position of Director of Education at the Sylvan Learning Center in Piedmont. Prior to Sylvan, she served as a Graduate Reader in anthropology at Cal State Hayward, and as a year-long literacy tutor for Americorps in Oakland. In addition, she will begin work toward her teaching credential in the fall of 2008. Please stop by and welcome Michelle to CDS!

From the Office

Year End Giving

CDS has recently received grants from two foundations in support of the CDS Annual Fund and sliding scale tuition – from The McKenzie Foundation for \$15,000 and May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust for \$20,000. And once again this fall, parents have been very generous in bringing total parent contributions to over \$92,000 already, with 76% parent participation. Joining the Leaping Lizard class at 100% participation is the first grade class, the largest class in the school, led by class captain David Klaus. Our goal for parent gifts this year is \$125,000, and we hope that *all* CDS parents will participate in this campaign by making a gift or pledge by January. Many parents like to take advantage of the tax deduction prior to the end of the calendar year, so please consider making a donation before winter vacation if you have not done so already. Thanks to everyone for your continued support and generosity. Your donations support all of the people and programs (and sheep) that make CDS special.



Growth Discussion

All parents are invited to join the Board of Trustees' Strategic Planning Committee **tonight** for a discussion about growth and planning for the future of CDS. Committee members have been examining ways of meeting the school's need for space consistent with the school's vision and financial resources and will present some of their preliminary findings. In addition, they would like to hear thoughts and questions from the parent community.

The discussion will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. in the faculty lounge. Childcare will be provided—sign up with Ryan Gordon at 861-5432 x310.

Minimize Idling

Did you know that you can minimize your impact on the environment and save money and fuel during pick-up by remembering to turn your engine off if you are waiting for more than 30 seconds? Idling wastes money and fuel, contributes to air pollution, and generates carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming. Remember to help protect the environment during pick-up by turning off your engine while waiting. Thank you!

eScrip

Now is the perfect time to register your credit and grocery cards with eScrip. When you use one of your registered cards at participating merchants, up to 8% of your purchases will be donated to CDS. All you have to do is register, shop and CDS gets a donation. Go to www.escrip.com or see the attached flyer for quick and easy instructions.

Donate a Christmas Tree

Misty Cummings, Environmental Education Resource Teacher, is starting a mushroom garden and needs fir (any variety except Chines fir) and spruce logs in order to inoculate the wood with mushroom spawn. If you get a tree for the holidays or want to buy one on super sale after the holidays, she will put it to good use. Please be sure you bought a fir or a spruce before donating your dead tree to the school!

She also need logs from maple and oak trees if you happen to have any. They just need to have been cut within the last 6 months. If you have any questions call Misty at 861-5432 x321.

Events

Fiesta 2008 Date Change

Please note that the date for this year's Fiesta, our annual community celebration and auction fundraiser, has changed from Saturday, April 5 to **Friday, April 4**. Mark your calendars now!

Extended Program News

Winter Arts Festival

The Extended Program will be holding its first Winter Arts Festival on Friday, December 14 from 4:30–6:30 p.m. in the west wing of St. Joseph's Hall. Visual art will be displayed, music classes will feature cello, violin and guitar performances, movie and cartoon projects will be showcased and be sure to see the unveiling of the Acting Club's original performance. Refreshments will be provided, and all members of the CDS community are encouraged to attend and support the tremendous efforts of our staff and students in the Extended Program. The performance schedule is as follows:

- 4:30: Cello/Violin
- 5:00: Acting Club play
- 5:30: Guitar

We Care Event

This afternoon, students in the after school program have an exciting opportunity to create arts and crafts at our neighboring Boys & Girls Club. Each year, Herman Miller brings more than 250 architects and designers together at the Columbia Park Clubhouse to make arts and crafts with kids—an event known as WE CARE. In a gym that resembles a winter wonderland, nearly 300 youth will create more than 6,300 arts and crafts projects while Paula LeDuc Catering serves festive fare to both kids and volunteers. CDS students will leave at 3:45 and return at 4:45, to be signed out at CDS.

Folkstyle Wrestling Club Begins!

The Extended Program is excited to announce that Anne Campbell is now leading a Folkstyle Wrestling Club every Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Anne is an Associate Teacher in the Extended Program and during the day is a sports science student at San Francisco State University. Anne has eight years of wrestling experience and has won numerous wrestling accolades, including two regional wrestling championships and the 2004

State Championships.

Wrestling will be a great contribution to the CDS experience because of its required discipline, challenging nature and opportunity for creativity. Wrestling, an individual activity, allows children to explore the sport at their own level and participate however they feel comfortable. Many students who may feel unqualified for other athletics often find wrestling to be a natural, fun and interactive forum to improve their fitness while gaining confidence and discipline. All participants must complete a safety orientation that includes rules of the sport and of the wrestling room, as well as turn in a signed permission form, which is available at the front desk.

For more information, please contact Anne at annec@cds-sf.org or Dan at danl@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x315. The wrestling class schedule is as follows:

- Grades K-3: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.
- Grades 4-8: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Winter Camp

Winter Vacation Camp will be available December 19-21. Camp begins at noon after dismissal on Wednesday, December 19 and runs until 6 p.m. Camp hours for December 20 and 21 are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Cost is a \$40 flat fee for December 19, and \$60/day for December 20 and 21. For more information, please contact Extended Program Director, Dan Larson at 861-5432 x315 or danl@cds-sf.org.

Upcoming Dates

Friday, December 14
SST applications due

Wednesday, December 19
11 a.m.
Winter Performance
Noon dismissal
Extended program available

Thursday, December 20 – Friday, December 21
Winter vacation
No school
Extended program available

Monday, December 24 – Tuesday, January 1
Winter vacation
No school
No extended program

Monday, January 21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed
No school
No extended program

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

Children's Day School

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