



February 7, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Being Literate

The National Center on Education and the Economy has come out with "Skills for the 21st Century:"

- creativity and innovation
- facility with the use of ideas and abstractions
- self-discipline and organization to manage one's own work and drive it through to successful conclusion
- leadership
- ability to function well as a member of a team

In his latest book, *Five Kinds of Minds for the Future*, Howard Gardner, professor at Harvard and author of the useful concept of Multiple Intelligences, has his own list:

- disciplined mind (expertise in a field)
- synthesizing mind (scanning and weaving into coherence)
- creating mind (discovery and innovation)
- respectful mind (open mindedness and inclusiveness)
- ethical mind (moral courage)

The Educational Testing Service (they produce the SAT) has a new *Personal Potential Index*, a 1-5 scale for analyzing letters of recommendation to accompany a candidate's GRE scores to graduate school:

- knowledge and creativity
- communication skills
- team work
- resilience, planning and organization
- ethics and integrity

I could go on. The themes are pretty obvious, and the idea that an educated person reveals all of these skills and aptitudes is not new. Educators have known for generations that education consists of all this. Centuries, actually—when was it that Mark Twain said "I never let schooling interfere with my education"? What is perhaps new is that America seems to be waking up to the fact that schools need to do more than just grind kids toward limited "academic standards."

Hot Dates

Friday, February 8
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Seventh grade presenting

Full-pay re-enrollment, sibling and children of faculty/staff 2008-09 enrollment contracts mailed

Friday, February 8 – Monday, February 10

Middle school outdoor program trip to Pinnacles National Monument

Tuesday, February 12
5-6:30

Middle school art show
Art room

6:30-8:30 p.m.
Planned Parenthood presentation for middle school parents
David Minus Science Center

Wednesday, February 13
6 p.m.

Capital Campaign Training

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



Thank You!

- For braving the weather and helping so excellently with the visit day for prospective preschool families last Saturday: Brooke Bianco, Ana Cristina Brubaker, Patrick Everett, Richard Hylton, Manda and John Ederer, Tina Leung, Carlene Lim, Laura Pliska, Rich Torres and Ann Van Gelder.
- To Manda and John Ederer for donating laptop bags to the IT department.

The faculty met last week to review the “CDS Literacy Handbook” and share literacy activities from this year. All the teachers had plenty to share. Here is a sampling from the 61 items teachers generated in 10 minutes, before small group discussions in which dozens of other literacy activities came up.

At CDS students research topics of interest in books of interest, write in journals, share stories and create puppet shows, express themselves in artistic creations, write descriptions, write directions, describe art, collect data and compose hypotheses, design letter writing campaigns, read books to other students—older and younger—document each other’s experiences, label everything in the room, find the stories behind words revealing their journey through time, write personal stories into plays and perform their plays.

CDS students define questions, read from a variety of sources, create idea folders, write position papers, make presentations, debate and ask more questions. One class saw WORDS as scientific “specimens” to be observed, dissected and experimented with, using the dictionary as a natural habitat from which to gather/explore. In sixth grade, students had little interest in the dictionary until they named it “Huey.” These days, Huey is in constant use.

Being literate entails the integration of the whole thoughtful, feeling, imaginative, creative, empathetic person. At its core is the soul of the child and the search for meaning. For best results we keep our eye on the full engagement of the student, for only then can we trust that we are maximizing their academic potential.

Transforming St. Joseph’s Hall

Campaign Training Invitation

All are enthusiastically invited to join in the next stage of the *Building Our Future* capital campaign by attending a training workshop with expert development consultant Sandy Drew, who has been advising CDS throughout the campaign, on Wednesday, February 13. The training will begin at 6 p.m. and childcare will be provided. The turnout and enthusiasm on Monday night at the campaign celebration were delightful, and we will now be rolling out the big vision for St. Joseph’s Hall, plans for this summer’s construction and an invitation to contribute to the whole CDS community.

Right now, generous donors have committed over \$1.5 million to the campaign, including \$500,000 in foundation grants. Our goal is to be in touch with each CDS family and raise a total of at least \$2.25 million. To do this, we need as many parents as possible to volunteer to be part of the outreach effort. On February 13, in addition to hearing from Sandy, volunteers will be asked to start making phone calls to families to set up appointments. All volunteers will be invited to reconvene on the evening of Tuesday, February 26 to share feedback and make additional calls to CDS parents as part of a mini-phonathon here at school.

If you missed the party and walk-through of the new building on Monday, feel free to stop by the Development Office for a quick tour. And please contact Marion (marionq@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x323) with any questions about volunteering or the campaign in general. Childcare for the February 13 training can be reserved by contacting the CDS receptionist by Monday, February 11.

CDS Yahoo Group

Our CDS Community Yahoo group is a forum for the CDS community to share information about life outside of school. Join this Yahoo group, our in-house “craigslist,” by visiting: groups.yahoo.com/group/cdscommunity.

School Wish List

- The first and second grade classes request lemons from your trees! In an attempt to make and freeze lemonade for the Country Fair in May, they need additional lemons. If you have lemons to donate, you can drop them off at the front desk.

From the Classroom

Middle School Events

We're looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, February 12 for two exciting middle school events!

Middle School Art Show

From 5–6:30 p.m., you'll have the opportunity to tour the art room and east end of the school and view photography, puppetry, ceramics, fiber arts, drawings and mixed media projects made by middle school students. All families and students are invited.

Planned Parenthood Parent Presentation

From 6:30–8:30 p.m., in conjunction with Planned Parenthood sexuality education classes conducted over four days with the seventh and eighth graders, a representative from Planned Parenthood will meet with parents to provide tools and skills to talk to their children about sexuality, review the curriculum and ensure that parents get a chance to have their questions answered. The presentation will be held in the David Minus Science Center and all middle school parents are invited. Childcare will be provided.

From the Office

First Day of School

The first day of school of the 2008-09 school year will be Tuesday, September 2, 2008. Mark your calendars!

Annual Fund Update

Thank you, generous parents, for the recent surge in Annual Fund contributions. Parent participation is 88% overall, with \$116,500 in total gifts and pledges. The fifth grade has joined the Leaping Lizards and first grade at 100% participation, and the Starfish (96%), sixth grade (95%) and second grade (90%) are very close.

Pledges can be paid any time until the end of the school year; reminder letters will be sent home in March and May. The success of the Annual Fund is a product of the hard work and enthusiasm of a dedicated group of volunteer class captains, phonathon callers and parent and trustee advocates, as well as the philanthropic spirit of the whole parent community, and the money raised benefits CDS kids and teachers directly. Thank you all for your participation and support, and here's to a terrific Fiesta!

Events

Fiesta 2008

By now you should have received a "Save the Date" packet, sent home in backpacks last Thursday. If you still need one, extras can be found at the front desk. Stumped about what to donate? Inside you'll find lists of easy donation ideas!

Our favorite (and very popular) donation idea of the week: contribute a bottle of wine to our Instant Wine Cellar! Contact Brooke Bianco at brookebianco@mac.com to donate.

Coming soon: our online donation site! For Fiesta questions, please contact Pat Rose at patinsf@pacbell.net.

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball Calendar

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

Basketball Scores

Girls vs. CACS
CDS 37, CACS 8

Girls vs. KDBS
KDBS 19, CDS 8

Girls vs. KDBS
KDBS 22, CDS 12

Boys vs. CACS
CACS 35, CDS 8

Extended Program News

Camp News

The extended program is offering a number of camp options this spring and summer. Please see below for descriptions and dates. If you need a registration form for any of the camps or more detailed information, please check our website at http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/extendedday.html.

- February Vacation Camp: Tuesday, February 19 – Friday, February 22. The theme of the camp is “Cultural Exploration” and is open to students in preschool through eighth grade. Cost is \$60 a day; camp runs from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. The deadline to sign up is Friday, February 8.
- Art World Camp: Friday, February 29. In conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club and Swivel Arts, we’ll offer two workshops: performing arts or graphic arts. Camp is open to students in K-8 and cost is \$60 for the entire day or \$35 for a half day. Camp runs from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The deadline to sign up is Friday, February 8.
- Summer Camp: Summer 2008. Four sessions of summer camp will be available for students entering preschool or kindergarten in the fall. Cost is \$600 per session (\$540 for session I).

Upcoming Dates

Friday, February 15

Full-pay re-enrollment, sibling and children of faculty/staff 2008-09 enrollment contracts due

Monday, February 18

Presidents’ Day observed

No school

No extended program

Tuesday, February 19 – Friday, February 22

February vacation

No school

Extended program available

Friday, February 29

Parent-teacher conferences

No school

Extended program available for K-8 (8:30-5 p.m.)

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