



January 31, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Champagne & Noise-Makers

We don't celebrate our successes enough. True, every Friday is a celebration as our beautiful children perform at assembly and the adults chat over coffee. Many classes have gotten into good habits and make sure they get together for fun from time to time. We have our fabulous annual Fiesta in April and our Country Fair in May. Then, of course, there is graduation, but we really need something in the middle of winter—something which celebrates the fact that the days are getting longer and the plum trees have already started to bloom.

It's all my fault, of course. I am a problem-solver, so we kick off the year and then get right down to work. If I am not careful, the year could end up being one problem after another. It's not that we are not having fun. It's just that we are having fun solving problems.

Right now we have a great opportunity to take a break from problem solving and celebrate some big successes. Right now. This Monday evening, in fact.

In the last two years, thanks to the work of a rather large number of people, we have achieved a breakthrough in the space/enrollment challenge that has been frustrating us ever since our K-8 enrollment grew. The capital campaign has raised over a million and a half dollars of seed money for our building. We began the transformation and retrofit of St. Joseph's Hall last summer. Tomorrow we close on almost 6,000 square feet of additional space, which will allow us to devote two rooms to our youngest elementary classes...and we even got a short break in the rain this week.

On February 1, 2008, the school will become the proud owner of another piece of property, the three-story red and brown Edwardian apartment building on the right as you exit the driveway to Dolores Street (right before the big green church). Recently remodeled into three lovely flats, the building is unoccupied and in great condition for administrative and teacher offices, conference rooms and faculty work space—just what we need to allow us to dedicate two classrooms to kindergarten, first and second grade. On Monday, we will celebrate all of the work that has gone into these achievements. We will end our party with a tour of the new building, which is conveniently accessible directly from the CDS driveway.

It seemed to happen all very suddenly, but was actually the result of a lot of work on the part of many people for over two years. Building on the work of the Board's Site Committee, a task force was created to identify space needs, establish a multi-prong strategy, work with our real estate agent and literally pound the pavement. In addition, a small group of investors stepped forward to make the building purchase possible, and a larger group of donors has

Hot Dates

Friday, February 1
Teacher workday
No school
No extended program

Monday, February 4
6:30-8 p.m.
Campaign Kick-Off Celebration

Wednesday, February 6
SST materials deadline:
2007 tax return, W-2s, 1099s and
schedules

Friday, February 8
Full-pay re-enrollment, sibling and
children of faculty/staff 2008-09
enrollment contracts mailed

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



Thank You!

- Thank you for your excellent admissions help with prospective student visits this past week: Ana Cristina Brubaker, Danielle Conrad, Kate Fritz, Jon Gilmour, Andrew Henry, Richard Hylton, Jeanette Layden, Jill Linwood, Nerijs Mercado, Sara O'Malley, Andrea Ow, Paige Lang, Carlene Lim, Ann Van Gelder and Carlos Vasquez.
- To Neena Lama for weeding in the garden once a week.
- To Sherry Spitzer for taking pictures during last week's middle school performance, "Words, Words, Words." And to John Kraus for taking pictures of the actors before the performance and for printing pictures to display at the performance.
- To Karen Levesque for carefully analyzing the data we collected from three surveys we conducted last summer (i.e. parents of our 8th grade graduates, parents of students who left CDS, and alums after their first year of high school).

supported the *Building Our Future* campaign from the start. Of all the various real estate options we have been pursuing, one of our best-case scenarios has come to pass, and the progress of the St. Joseph's Hall renovation allows us to take full advantage of both spaces. Champagne and noise-makers all around!

The acquisition, along with the *Building Our Future* campaign, will allow us to finish transforming the third floor into classrooms this summer and give us the space we need to run on an even keel at an enrollment of about 280 students for the foreseeable future.

Please join us in the new classrooms on the third floor on Monday, February 4 from 6:30-8 p.m. to celebrate our marvelous community and to help launch us into the future. One of the reasons our children and teachers are learning together so well is that they can feel they are part of a learning community. We keep moving forward, because we keep moving forward together.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Campaign Kick-Off Celebration

Let your TV take a break between the Super Bowl and election coverage, and come join the party this Monday, February 4 to celebrate the *Building Our Future* campaign, the renovation of St. Joseph's Hall, the school's new real estate acquisition and the many people who have made these achievements possible. All teachers, staff, parents, trustees and grandparents are invited to attend from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. No RSVP is needed, but please sign up for childcare with the CDS receptionist by Friday. As long as the closing goes as planned tomorrow, we'll end the party with a walk-through of the I6th Street property. Cheers!

From the Classrooms

January Food Drive

We are nearing our pick-up date for the January collection of the 2008 food drive. In 2007, 122 schools raised 78,754 lbs of food, the equivalent of 60,000 meals. CDS alone contributed 478 lbs. Please help the 2008 Schools Food Drive be just as successful! Food can be dropped off in the food collection bin located inside the door at St. Joseph's Hall. Thank you for your donations thus far.

Penny Drive

CDS has raised \$43.50 so far this year, helping the Dolphin kindergarten class get closer to the purchase price of a goat through the Heifer Foundation. Please remember to have your unused pennies sent to your child's classroom or bring them to the front desk. Thank you!

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 after school program needs supplies for various art projects. If you have any clean socks/stockings or cotton/polyester pillows to donate, please contact Jasmin at jasminh@cds-sf.org or simply drop supplies off in the Dolphin kindergarten classroom.
- The IT department is currently looking for used laptop bags as well as used 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!

Community Movie Night

Middle school students, parents and community members are invited to watch *Sicko*, Michael Moore's film on the American healthcare experience and House Resolution 626 for Universal Healthcare. Admission is free and food will be provided at the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club on Thursday February 14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

From the Office

Our Heating System

While I am sitting in my office on the third floor shivering, I thought I should report on what is happening with our school's heating system. As you know, we have a 1925 building and a heating system to match. The boiler is in good shape and will last for many years to come. The pipes and radiators, however, have degraded and the preliminary assessment by our heating systems consultant is that even if we were to repair the underlying delivery pipes, it's likely that the riser pipes leading up to the classrooms and radiators have degraded and further repairs would be needed with uncertainty about whether the repairs will be effective. Given this assessment, we are determining the feasibility of

installing an efficient, new heating system next summer – a radiant system that would use water rather than the current steam and use our existing boiler. This would be a big undertaking requiring new pipes throughout the building. We may fit it into this summer's construction project; in the meantime, we don't want to waste money on costly repairs that may not fix the current system. The oil heaters in the classrooms and hallways are a temporary means to get through the cold weather, and parents are encouraged to pack an extra layer of clothing for all students. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Family Farmers Needed

It's the perfect season for baking! Volunteer to be a family farmer and take home fresh eggs for breakfast and baked goods! Family farmers are needed on the following dates: February 24, April 14-16, April 19 and April 20. Contact Misty Cummings at mistyc@cds-sf.org if you are able to help out.

Events

Save the Date: Fiesta 2008!

Fiesta 2008 is kicking off this week with "Save the Date" packets distributed in student backpacks today! "Save the Date" has all the information you need to participate in this important annual CDS fundraiser. There is a letter from Rick to help solicit donations from merchants, a list of suggested ideas of community events you can create and donate and contact information for questions. If you need an extra packet, you can pick one up at the front desk. Please call Pat Rose at (415) 282-9209 with any questions or ideas.

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball Calendar

Boys - Tuesday, February 5, 4:30 p.m.
CACs, Boys & Girls Club

Girls - Today, 4:30 p.m.
Creative Arts, Boys & Girls Club
Monday, February 4, 4:30 p.m.
KDBS, 7007 California Street

Basketball Scores

Boys vs. SF School
SFS 37, CDS 13

Boys vs. Synergy
Synergy 41, CDS 20

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?

- General e-mail, CDSPTTA@yahoo.com
- 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 anndirkgv@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, February 8 – Monday, February 10

Middle school outdoor program trip to Pinnacles National Monument

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

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