



March 6, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Making Goals

Max, recently six, is standing in front of the north basketball hoop bouncing the ball on the blacktop. He looks. He shoots. He misses. He catches the ball on the way back down. He dribbles back into position. He dribbles again. He looks. He shoots. He misses. He catches. He dribbles again. And he does it all again, and again and again. I am mesmerized, watching his concentration as he unselfconsciously tries and tries again. His mouth is a simple curve on his freckled face.

How could this have anything to do with a capital campaign? It's all about persistence, character development and greatness. Read on.

Often the aim must be different from the goal. For Max the aim is brain development and character development, whatever the goal. I know Mr. Jim would like to think it is all about the development of his basketball team seven years from now, and I would be lying if I said I didn't care about that. But Jim and Max and I are all in this for the development of mental and spiritual capacity—Max's genius. The possibility of hitting a basket someday, the possibility of a winning basketball season when Max is in the seventh grade, all this will be the icing on the cake. The cake is the shooting. Max's internally motivated, uncritical, repetitive behavior is fundamentally in service of Max being great—not just great someday, not just great when he is playing college basketball, but great now. I can feel his greatness as I watch him trying over and over and over without getting discouraged, without even counting. He is playing out of his head.

Two weeks ago I wrote about enthusiastic struggle. I wrote about success resulting from number of trials, not innate talent or intelligence. At the movies recently, I saw Nicholas Cage tell his scared adopted son that the greatest baseball players fail to get on base about seven out of 10 times. At the NAIS conference in New York last week, Adam Gopnik spoke about the difference between achievement orientation and accomplishment orientation, the latter producing educated young people, and the former not.

One month ago we announced that the goal of the *Building Our Future* campaign is to raise at least \$2.25 million this spring toward the transformation of St. Joseph's Hall and the addition of new classrooms on the third floor. We celebrated progress toward this goal (over \$1.5 million contributed already, including an extraordinary half a million from foundations) and also made note of another signal accomplishment: the acquisition of a new building which gives us 6,000 square feet of additional space. Both of these accomplishments are the result of disciplined, patient, persistent, collective, collaborative effort over a period of about three years, an effort that included

Hot Dates

Friday, March 7
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Fourth grade presenting

Monday, March 10

Professional development day
No school
No extended program

Thursday, March 13

6-8 p.m.
Parent Education Night
"Socioeconomics and Class at CDS"

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



Thank You!

- To Amy Silverstein for donating two laptop bags to the IT department.

frustrations as well as many successes.

We are at it again. The capital campaign is a communal effort, and one of this school's great strengths is that we have fun together. To spread the word about the renovation and campaign, parents have organized 10 gatherings in various neighborhoods around the city to make it possible for everyone to come and talk about the project and where the school is going. The operative words are "everyone," "together" and "fun." This is an ambitious effort that will involve all of us. We want everyone to have an opportunity to give, and we want to have fun doing it. We are going to raise a lot of money; we want to get to know each other better and build a stronger school in the process.

So be sure you don't miss at least one of these opportunities. Just as Max needs to shoot hoops in order to fulfill his genius, we must work together in order to fulfill ours. For *Building our Future*, the goal is \$2.25 million this year; the aim is having a great time together.

Come to more than one gathering if you can. I will.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Come One, Come All

Everyone is invited, sometimes more than once, to attend a capital campaign gathering this month. Details are below – which parents are graciously hosting, when and with which groups of neighbors and families. We thought it would be fun to have an opportunity to mix and match in different combinations with families and kids in different classes, and ended up with a complicated Venn diagram, suitable for analysis by the third grade class, of overlapping zip codes, regions of San Francisco and beyond, and other groupings. The main point of this controlled all-school party planning chaos is to include everyone. Please go where you want and, if you'd like, be like Rick and consider attending more than once. All parents are welcome, and all are encouraged to share ideas and learn more, while eating and drinking and having fun, together.

To make all this work, there will be free childcare for

CDS students available at school on the evenings of March 15 and 29. Please sign up with the receptionist by Thursday, March 13 (for the 15th) and Thursday, March 27 (for the 29th).

Unless otherwise noted below, events will be held at the hosts' homes.

Groups	Host	When
Bernal/94110, 94134, 94124	Dave Klaus & Alycia Freeman	3/15 5-8pm
94114	Marianne Evans & Bill Veiga	3/15 6-8pm
LGBT Affinity Group	Bill Gravitt, Lisa Wally	3/15
Fifth Grade	Matt Schwartz & Karen Levesque	3/15 6-9pm @ CDS
94110/Dolores Park, North Bay, East Bay	Ben & Marion Quinones	3/16 3-5pm @ CDS
94116/94122	Kara Schleunes & Michael Sdao	3/16 3-5pm
94131, 94107, 94103	Patricia Buse	3/29 5-8pm
94112/94127, South of San Francisco	Debbie & David Jasso	3/29 6:30-8:30pm
94117	Gayle & Gary Strang	3/29
North of Market	Kristin & Andrew Henry	TBD

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.

From the Classrooms

Penny Drive

The Dolphin kindergarten class has raised \$233 for Heifer International (an organization whose mission is to end hunger), the equivalent of almost two sheep! They will continue the penny drive for the remainder for the year. Please support them by donating more pennies for them to count. They are also continuing the process of counting and sorting food for the SF Food Bank. Please leave your donations at the entrance to St. Joseph's Hall. Thank you for your continued support.

Community Event Night

Middle school students and parents are invited to a workshop hosted by the eighth graders and Project Homeless Connect on Thursday, March 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club. Eric Subido, former CDS teacher, will lead the workshop and participants will watch a documentary film on homelessness made by eighth graders. Food will be provided—see you there.

From the Office

Family Farmers Needed

Come spend a sunny morning (or two!) in April with Lucky and JoJo and all of the chickens! Family farmers are still needed for April 14, 15 and 16. If you're able to help out, please contact Misty Cummings at mistyc@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x321.

Professional Development Day

Monday, March 10 is our second of two full-day professional development days for the CDS faculty. From 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday, teachers will be "Exploring Constructivism, the Project Approach and Inquiry-Based Learning" through hands-on workshops, discussion and reflection. They look forward to sharing what they learn with you!

MS Meeting Recap

Thank you to the middle school parents and faculty who attended Tuesday night's "Middle School Mid-year Update." We discussed the current Middle School Head search as well as our approach to curriculum here at CDS.

Please note the remaining middle school events planned for this year:

- Thursday, April 24: Transitioning to Middle School for fourth grade parents and new middle school families
- Wednesday, May 28: The High School Admission Process – open to all middle school families, with all seventh grade families especially encouraged to attend.
- Tuesday, June 10: Middle School Project Fair (8:15–10 a.m.)
- Thursday, June 12: Eighth grade graduation

Events

Parent Education Night

Please join us on Thursday, March 13 from 6-8 p.m. for Parent Education Night. The focus of the discussion will be "Socioeconomics and Class at CDS." Childcare will be provided; please sign up with a receptionist by Tuesday, March 11.

Fiesta 2008

Donation Forms

It's March and Fiesta 2008 (Friday, April 4) is just around the corner! In order to give everyone plenty of time to browse items online and create wish lists, we need to have all donations in by Friday, March 14. You can easily fill out a donation form online at <http://www.galaxygoo.org/Members/Fiesta> or drop off your donation form in the FIESTA 2008 donation box by the front desk.

There are many easy ways to donate to the Fiesta. For example, we need wine for our ever popular "Instant Wine Cellar," as well as gift certificates to popular restaurants, museums, movies, plays and sporting events. Be as creative as you'd like—offer a group hike and picnic at Angel Island, an afternoon in the city with a favorite teacher, dinner with a local author, or high tea at your home!

If you have any questions about donations, please call Pat Rose at 415-282-9209.

Chloe's Closet and the Fiesta

This year there's another easy way to help raise money for Fiesta 2008: clean out your kids' closets and help us raise money for Fiesta at the same time. We are collecting donations of children's clothing (sizes newborn to 12 years), toys and books to sell at Chloe's Closet, a local resale shop owned by a CDS mom. Profits from sales of the donations will go directly to the Fiesta. You can drop off donations one of three ways:

- Bring your donations directly to Chloe's Closet at 451 Cortland Avenue.
- Leave your donations at the designated Fiesta drop-off area by the front desk.
- Bring your donations to CDS during morning drop-off any Friday until Fiesta. Someone will be there to collect them directly from your car from 8-8:30 a.m. (Friday, March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4).

If you have any questions, please contact Molly Tyson at 415-595-0047 or molly@chloescloset.com.

Thanks to all who have already donated—we're looking forward to a great celebration!

Extended Program News

Talent Show Postponed

Due to scheduling conflicts, the after school talent show planned for Friday, March 14 will be postponed until April. We are working to secure the most favorable date and will release that information as soon as it's confirmed.

Camp Success

We owe many thanks to the Boys & Girls Club and Swivel Arts staff for hosting workshops during the February vacation camp and the parent-teacher conferences camp on February 29. The students were treated to puzzle-making, screen printing, photography, puppeteering, dance, improvisation and much more. As the students returned to CDS with armloads of projects and satisfied smiles, we look forward to collaborating with the Club and Swivel Arts on future workshops.

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, March 20

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Community Event Night for middle school students and parents
Boys & Girls Club

Friday, April 4

6:30 p.m.-midnight

Fiesta 2008
Foreign Cinema Restaurant

Monday, April 14 – Friday, April 18

Spring vacation

No school

Extended program available

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

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