



March 13, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Fiesta 2008

The quilts are hanging in the first floor hallway of St. Joseph's Hall again. If you walk in the double doors you are struck—you are literally smitten—with stunning beauty. If you can get past the first one (and maybe you have to because you are on your way to teach a class or go to a conference) you are stopped again and again by one quilt after another. You'll never make it to that conference. Even if you come in the other way past Elsa ... hopeless! You will have to talk with her—someone—about it! This week people are forgiven for being late.

Strung all the way down the hall are thirteen quilts; each includes works of art created by students and stitched lovingly into a pattern by hard-working parents. Each child is represented by a work of art, and each class is represented by a work of art. The whole school can be seen in the quilts: everything we stand for, everything that we are.

The Fiesta is coming, thanks to this year's dedicated co-chairs, Leslie Edelman and Pat Rose! The Fiesta, too, is everything we stand for, everything that we are. It is one of the times we all come together, each of us dressed as we feel. After you have been to your first Fiesta, you don't say "What am I supposed to wear?" because you are obviously supposed to wear whatever you want. The diversity of the school shows up in everything from formal-wear to jeans to drag...*(Rick's article continues on page 2).*

Events



We Need Your Donations for Fiesta 2008!

Our biggest fundraising party of the year is April 4, from 6:30 p.m. - midnight at Foreign Cinema Restaurant. We need your donations **this week** to make this year's Fiesta a success!

Enter your donation on our easy-to-use **Fiesta online catalog**:

<http://www.galaxygoo.org/Members/Fiesta> (CDS keyword is poppy)

Hot Dates

Friday, March 14
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Third grade presenting

Tuesday, March 18
4:30-6 p.m.

Committee on Inclusion &
Diversity meeting
Faculty lounge

6-8 p.m.

Parent Education Night
"Class and Socioeconomics at CDS"

Wednesday, March 19
4 p.m.

CDS futsal vs. CAIS
150 Oak Street

Thursday, March 20
6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

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



Thank You!

- To Liam Branch (second grade) and Miranda Phaal (sixth grade) for donating lemons so the first and second grade classes can make lemonade for the Country Fair.

Or, you can fill out a donation form at our Fiesta 2008 station next to the front desk at school.

Past donations have included trips, event tickets, a dinner at your home, a picnic at the beach, group hikes, babysitting offers, cooking classes, a spa day, and the ever-popular faculty fun events. Anything goes! Writers are standing by for your donation!

Help us raise money for sliding scale tuition at CDS by donating now! All donations must be entered by March 14. Questions? E-mail Pat Rose at patinsf@pacbell.net or call 415-282-9209.

Fiesta Ticket Confirmation

Thank you for sending in RSVP cards with payment, confirming your attendance at Fiesta 2008. We will not be issuing paper tickets; similar to last year, when you arrive at the event and check in, you'll receive your bidder number(s) for the silent and live auction. If you have any questions regarding tickets or confirmation, please contact Mary DeNardo at maryd@cds-sf.org.

Words from Rick (Cont'd)

...and the proceeds all support the sliding scale fund. The CDS genius shows at the Fiesta just as it does every week at assembly.

I was doing a little math. There must be about a 100 CDS quilts hanging all over the city by now—perhaps all over the world. There is one in my office that says “Miss Marina” in the upper left hand corner and “Kindergarten 1999” at the bottom. The students represented here are now freshmen in high school. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a reunion of quilts? I can only imagine how Tina Corse feels, having organized parents, teachers and children to create these priceless beauties for twelve years. And this year Kristen Hall and Susan Chastain led the extraordinary parent team of quilters to create a new set of masterpieces.

Some people are uncomfortable with auctions. The point of an auction is to support our economic diversity by paying ridiculous amounts of money for things—like

\$2,000 to spend a weekend with owls and deer and mice and ticks out in the woods with me. There is no doubt in my mind that \$2,000 is a lot to pay to spend for two days without a bathroom, but that is not how someone else saw it. One quilt sold for \$11,000 at the live auction last year. Ridiculous? Not to the person who won, knowing the money goes to such a good cause—sliding scale tuition. The money spent on a priceless quilt (and all of the fabulous auction items) allows children to learn from and with all different kinds of people.

A great school is not about comfort. A school committed to diversity uses diversity for education. This means that people with different points of view must talk with each other, not so much for the purpose of defending or changing something, but for the purpose of increasing understanding. At CDS we teach the students to say “I don't like it when you use that word,” and we teach them how to respond when confronted. This year I heard one person say, “That hurts my feelings when you say it is ridiculous to spend that much money on a quilt. I am one of those people, and I was doing it for a good cause.” Whose position is correct? Oops, I forgot. It is not about who was right; it is about talking so we keep working toward mutual understanding.

This time of year, many parents (who also have day jobs) are knocking themselves out to create another great work of art on Friday, April 4. You can help them out by turning in donation forms either at school or online at www.galaxygoo.org/Members/Fiesta. As they work away I am especially grateful for this wonderful community's ability to come together to celebrate CDS and all of our efforts toward understanding—truly a thing of beauty. See you there!

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Party Reminder

Several capital campaign events have been combined into one this Saturday night and one on Sunday afternoon. Marianne Evans and Bill Veiga will be hosting an informal reception at their home from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and all families are also invited to the CDS yard (or, in case of rain, the Quiones home at 583 Dolores Street) on Sunday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. The goal of both events is the same – to have fun with fellow CDS families and share information about this summer's project and the *Building Our Future* campaign to fund it. Please sign up with the CDS

receptionist today if you'd like to take advantage of free childcare on Saturday night, and stay tuned for more information on the second weekend of campaign party-a-thon madness March 29-30.

From the Classrooms

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.

From the Office

Parent Ed Night Date Change!

The Parent Education Night originally scheduled for tonight has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 18, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tonight's scheduled event conflicts with the CalWest Educator Placement Northern California Diversity Symposium. CalWest offers this annual connection event to increase traditionally underrepresented educators at California independent and private schools. It is a top priority for us to increase the diversity of our staff, and therefore it is essential that both Rick and Rebecca attend this important event.

Thank you in advance for your flexibility and we look forward to talking with you further about the diversity issue of "Class and Socioeconomics at CDS" next Tuesday at the rescheduled Parent Education Night.

Childcare will be provided; please sign up with the receptionist by Friday afternoon.

COID Meeting

Please join us at the next Committee on Inclusion & Diversity meeting on Tuesday, March 18 from 4:30-6 p.m. Next week's meeting will include an Admission Department update from Aimee Giles and a short film.

Upcoming Dates

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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