



March 20, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Building Our Future

March is a busy month.

There is futsal in the gym, sex ed in the classrooms and Fiesta planning all around. It was wonderful seeing so many of you at the *Building Our Future* gatherings over the weekend. Parents told me that they shared CDS stories with neighbors and parents from different classes and I too had many interesting conversations. I loved hearing that children are loving school and that parents “get it.” The whole school community seems to be coalescing around the idea that the CDS constructivist approach (the mind is a meaning-making machine) produces great academic performance and that the CDS community provides the necessary context for creative thinking. Local high schools know this about us. CDS students were recently accepted at University, Urban, Lick-Wilmerding, Lowell, Drew and Convent, among many others. And during last week’s Professional Development Day, the entire faculty spent the day working together to reflect on and strengthen our teaching practices.

CDS is still building: building curriculum, building pedagogy, building the faculty and building enrollment. With enrollment numbers appearing to be increasing another 10% by September, we need to build classrooms, and to do that we need to have raised a lot of money by June... \$2.25 million to be exact.

This spring you’ll be given many opportunities to get involved; we intend to give everyone a chance to give. We want the process of asking and giving to be community building. So far 12 people have asked 68 people for contributions, and this activity has produced \$1.55 million. A third of this total, over \$500,000, comes from foundations: Mary A. Crocker Trust, Fleishhacker Foundation, Herbst Foundation, William G. Irwin Charity Foundation, Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation and Willow Springs Charitable Trust. These successes gave us the confidence to officially “launch” the campaign last month, and since then 12 more parents have stepped forward to host parties and to ask others for donations.

Asking for money has the initial feel for many of something no one in their right mind would want to do. However, once you work up the courage to do it, it is a positive and meaningful experience. You get the chance to listen as much as talk, and hear what someone else feels is special about Children’s Day School and the experience kids have here. It may not be easy, but it is a friendly thing to do, especially if everyone has to do it. And we do. We *must* raise another \$700,000, \$132,000 of it in cash by May 31, in order for us to build the four classrooms we need, improve seismic safety and fix our heating system. This will make St. Joseph’s hall warmer, safer, and more accommodating to our

Hot Dates

Tonight

6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

Friday, March 21

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Fifth grade presenting

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



Thank You!

- To all of the amazing quilters for donating time, expertise and creativity to this year's class quilts: Queenie Dennis, Elyse Sibaga, Zahra Ghayour-Kelly, Amy Hecht and Michael Fine, Alycia Freeman, Lydia Timken, Beverly Choe, Jocelyn Colopy, Rebecca Arons, Louis Schump, Wendy Bokhurst-Henry, Melek Nasr-Totah, Laurie van Löben Sels, Vivian Chu, Kim Cohen, Susan Chastain, Molly Tyson, Dee Dee Schroeder, Robin Wander, Kathryn Selleck, Rebecca Nitzan, Paula Symonds, Liz Terbolizard, Tina Corse, Kristen Hall and Lisa Morello.
- To the anonymous lemon donors for helping the first and second grade classes make lemonade for the Country Fair.
- To fourth grade parents for providing another stellar faculty breakfast last week!
- To Pat Rose for donating *The Crafting of Narnia* and *The Official Movie Companion to Prince Caspian* to the library.

teachers and students.

So come to the next round of parties on March 29, call Amanda Richard and volunteer to be an asker, and give generously. Swell the ranks of those who have already given until it feels good. You will be in very good company with these campaign donors and others who wish to remain anonymous: Suzanne and Jim Abbey, Rick Ackerly and Victoria Podesta, Susan Alexander, Colleen Bailey and Greg Ketchum, Brooke and Bob Bianco, Jo Biel and Steve Clark, Patricia Buse, Patti Cazzato and Daniel Kalish, Anshu and Atri Chatterjee, Teija Corse, Kris Desby and MR Rangaswami, Joanna and Nick Earl, Lisa Eltinge and Jonathan Burton, Marianne Evans and Bill Veiga, Alycia Freeman and Dave Klaus, Linda Glover and Ray Baxter, Greta Hanley, Bill Gravitt, Kristin and Andrew Henry, Margo and John Hohulin, Sue and Jerry Hunt, Suzanne and Joe Jachinowski, Trish Keady and Todd Gardiner, Karen Kennard and Peter Phaal, Cathy Koger and Maria Pease, Tracy Kirkham and Josef Cooper, Hilary Lamar and Rick England, Kit Land and Roy Poczik, Nancy Lapp, Karen Levesque and Matt Schwartz, Paula and William Merwin, Jack Munson, Sara O'Malley and Richard Hylton, Marion and Ben Quinones, Andrea and Jim Reynolds, Amanda and Brian Richard, Eileen Ridley and Lisa Wally, Maureen and Mark Sanders,

Janice Schleunes, Michael Silver and Carlos Vasquez, Joan Silverstein, Gayle Tsern Strang and Gary Strang, Laurie and Chris van Löben Sels, Cory Warren and Ray Cendana, Rachel and Kevin Yeaman, and Adobe Systems, Barclays Global Investors, the Mary A. Crocker Trust, Fleishhacker Foundation, GAP Foundation, Herbst Foundation, William G. Irwin Charity Foundation, Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation, Levi Strauss Foundation and Willow Springs Charitable Trust.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Party On . . . Again

With grateful thanks to Marianne Evans and Bill Veiga and the 5th grade class for starting things off on a festive note last weekend, the *Building Our Future* capital campaign party-a-thon is taking a short break for the holiday weekend and will resume with four events on Saturday, March 29. If you missed the first round of gatherings, or if you'd like to stay on the party circuit and meet more CDS parents, please come to one of these informal events on the evening of Saturday, March 29:

- Patricia Buse hosting at her home in Glen Park/Noe Valley;
- Bill Gravitt hosting LGBT families at his home on Duboce Park;
- Debbie and David Jasso hosting at their home in Excelsior/Balboa Park; and
- Gayle and Gary Strang hosting at their home in Haight Ashbury.

The goal of each of these 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 if you'd like to take advantage of free childcare at CDS on the 29th.

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

R.I.P. Fluffy

This past weekend, one of our beloved chickens passed away. Fluffy, the oldest of the flock, was seven years old and died of old age. As many of you may remember, Fluffy was funny and kind. Watching her dig for worms was simply hilarious. She would jump, peck, and flap her wings. When she anticipated being fed treats or given running water, she would run very fast, flapping her wings and squawking. Fluffy was trusting and gentle and always let the children pet her. She hardly ever pecked people. We will miss her terribly and remember her always. *Written by the third grade class.*

The third grade class will also be hosting a memorial service for Fluffy on Monday, March 24 at 1 p.m. in the garden. All are invited to attend.

Events

Fiesta 2008

Check out the chock-full Fiesta 2008 flyer attached to today's *Weekly*. It includes all the Fiesta details you need!

Country Fair

Coming Sooner Than You Think!

Fiesta excitement is in the air...but the smell of straw and freshly shorn wool is just around the corner. Mark your calendars now for our other fabulous event, the Country Fair, held on Saturday, May 3.

The Country Fair is our family-oriented, all-school event, run entirely by the CDS community—students, faculty and parents. This year we're introducing some exciting changes, including a BBQ with only organic vegetables and grilled meats and sausages from local, sustainable farms! You will also be surprised by the entertainment we're lining up, including unexpected talent from members of our own community!

It's easy and fun to participate—just show up with your family and friends. But it will be even more memorable if you get involved, either by helping with planning, volunteering half an hour to help run an activity, or contributing items to sell. There are many ways to help make this year's fair a success—check out our wish list!

Hay

We need help storing bales of straw after the fair. Do you have any covered, dry storage area—in your garage, storage locker, workplace—where we could store the bales until they are needed in the farm throughout the year?

We will take care of delivery and pick-up; we just need your space. Please contact Misty at mistyc@cds-sf.org or Diana Hunt at samanddi@pacbell.net if you can help out.

Lemons

Please drop off your juicy lemons at the reception area so that students can make fresh lemonade for the fair.

Farmers Market Treats

Do you make homemade jam? Brine your own olives? Bottle homemade vinegar or sauces? We'd love to sell your family-made, non-perishable items at the Farmer's Market. Please contact Paige Lang at paige_stover@yahoo.com if you have treats you'd like to contribute.

Craft Booth Creations

Are you a knitter, or a knit-picker? Handmade knit hats, scarves, and other soft, cozy items are always the first items to sell-out at the Country Fair craft booth. If you want to help out or donate a knitted item, please contact Mary DeNardo at maryd@cds-sf.org.

Class Coordinators

To make life even more interesting, we're mixing things up a bit this year and have changed some of the class activity assignments. If you'd like to help out and make your kid proud, consider volunteering to coordinate your class event. Also, parents are welcome to volunteer outside of your class activity. Rather grill burgers than sell cookies? Prefer helping with set-up instead of volunteering during the fair? Let us know where your talents lie.

Go Bulldogs!

Futsal Scores

March 19, CDS vs. CAIS
CAIS 9, CDS 1

Futsal Calendar

Wednesday, March 26, 4:30 p.m.
Presidio Hill, Boys & Girls Club, 450 Guerrero St.

If you haven't volunteered already and would like to, contact Diana Hunt at samanddi@pacbell.net or Paige Lang at paige_stover@yahoo.com.

- Tadpoles: Table art
- Starfish: Bake sale
- Leaping Lizards: Games (with 7th and 8th grades)
- Kindergarten: BBQ
- 1st grade: Set up and break down
- 2nd grade: Fiber arts and logo items
- 3rd grade: Set up and break down
- 4th grade: Welcome and tickets
- 5th grade: Craft booth
- 6th grade: Farmers market
- 7th grade: Games
- 8th grade: Games

Extended Program News

Mandarin Update

We're very excited to confirm that, thanks to demonstrated interest from many CDS families, Mandarin classes will be offered by instructors from The Chinese-American International School. We'll be offering a 7-week session that meets on Thursdays beginning April 24 and runs through June 5. Preschool classes will be held at 4 p.m. and K-8 classes will begin at 4:45 p.m. Our goal is to have a successful spring session and demonstrate that we have the demand and commitment to expand the Mandarin program next fall, including the possibility of twice-a-week classes for accelerated learning. Please contact Dan at danl@cds-sf.org if you have any questions or comments about the program.

Talent Show

The annual after school talent show has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 10. We're pleased to announce that this year's show will be hosted at Mission High School in their auditorium. The show will run from 4-5:30 p.m., and all CDS students are invited to attend and/or perform. We look forward to seeing you there!

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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