



May 1, 2008

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### 2008-09 Head Teachers

We are happy to be able to announce the 2008-09 head teacher line-up much earlier than usual this year. Several weeks ago, in the March 27 *CDS Weekly*, we reminded the school community of our staff transition policy, which is to announce the upcoming year's changes in teacher roles as well as teacher hires and departures, in the last *CDS Weekly* of the school year. The purpose of that policy is twofold. Most importantly, we want all students to feel safe and secure in their classroom environments. In addition, we usually are not able to confirm all of the hires and departures before June.

This year, however, we are able to announce at this early date that every head teacher will be returning to CDS next year! We also have hired a fabulous teacher to fill the one head teacher position that was open because of the addition of new sections in the elementary grades. We know you are eager to find out who your child's teacher will be next year – so we are happy to be able to share the 2008-09 head teacher line-up early this year (the associate teachers and specialists are not yet finalized). To the extent your child or children may be affected by these changes, however, we ask that you be sensitive about how and when you communicate any changes to your child – we strongly suggest that you not mention anything until the end of the school year when teachers will share this information with their students.

In making the following staffing decisions, only one question was paramount: what is the best way to meet the needs of each and every student? First, a new position. Margaret Piskitel has been the Tadpole head teacher since 2004, coming to us with experience teaching in public and private schools in and around New York City. Over the years she has developed a tremendous expertise in the area of curriculum and instruction and is interested in broadening her reach by working directly with teachers as a coach and curriculum coordinator. We are so fortunate that Margaret's interests coincide directly with one of our needs. Enhancing curriculum development and classroom teaching were goals of our self-study and recommendations in our CAIS accreditation report two years ago; these also have been needs that teachers have identified as areas where they are eager for more support, feedback and expert ideas. To better address these needs, we have created a new, part-time Curriculum Coordinator position for grades preschool-4, and Margaret will be assuming this role in the fall.

Margaret's move to the CDS administration opened up a head teacher spot in preschool. Candy Mabry, for many years the CDS Teddy Bear preschool teacher, is excited to be returning to our preschool after three years as a head kindergarten teacher and one year as the Assistant Head of School. Candy

### Hot Dates

Friday, May 2  
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly  
First grade presenting

Saturday, May 3  
11-2 p.m.  
Country Fair

Dates also posted on CDS website  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)



## Thank You!

- A great big thank you to all of the parents, children and teachers who came out for the Country Fair Workday to help beautify and ready the yard for this weekend's Country Fair! A special thank you to Misty Cummings for organizing and facilitating the workday projects.
- To Kevin Corse, Sam Hunt, Paul Ouk, Wayne Dean, Bill Gravitt, Bill Littmann, Kevin Killen and Rick Ackerly for volunteering time, expertise and a myriad of skills to help prepare the new 16<sup>th</sup> Street building for this summer's move.
- To Kristen and Luis Pena for donating fabric to the art department.
- To Hilary Steinberg for donating a wooden play kitchen, puzzles and books to the Tadpole classroom.
- To the eighth graders for putting away all the tables and chairs following last week's Sustainability Expo.

brings to the classroom more than 20 years of preschool teaching experience.

Jen Weiss will continue teaching one section of Kindergarten, and Robyn Moss will shift from first grade to lead the other section of Kindergarten.

With the creation of a second section of first grade, Paula Symonds jumped at the opportunity to return to teaching at the lower elementary level – something she has wanted to do for several years. Paula will lead one section of first grade, and Barbara DeMoss will continue teaching first grade as the head teacher of the other section.

Sara Switzman and Madora Soutter will both remain head teachers in second grade; each will lead one of the two sections of second grade next year. Ginny St. Denis will continue leading the single section of third grade, and the middle school head teacher line-up remains unchanged.

The addition of sections in the lower school and the staff moves left us with one head teacher opening to fill. After an extensive search for an experienced and wonderful teacher to teach fourth grade, we are delighted to report that we found the perfect fit in Sebastian Robins. Sebastian is a bilingual teacher who taught fourth and fifth grade in the San Francisco public schools (SFUSD) for six years and spent an additional year as an SFUSD

Instructional Reform Facilitator, coaching and supporting K-5 teachers by modeling effective, researched-based practices and facilitating reflective forums for feedback and growth. For the past two years Sebastian has focused on training teachers. He has been supervising student teachers and instructing in San Francisco State University's College of Education and acting as a consultant and trainer for Visual Thinking Strategies, where he trains teachers nationwide in critical thinking, student-centered education, open-ended questioning, arts integration and reflective pedagogy. Sebastian brings with this extensive experience a thoughtful and dynamic teaching style that energizes and engages students.

We are still working on finalizing our Associate Teacher, Specialist and After School Teacher line-ups, and are hiring for several openings. Please stay tuned for the final faculty 2008-09 roster in the last *CDS Weekly* of the year. We appreciate your trust and patience as we work hard to make these final decisions.

## Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

### Building Our Future...Now

All parents should have received a letter in the mail this week asking for their support of the *Building Our Future* capital campaign, and three families have already dropped off pledge forms and checks. Thank you, speedy responders! This summer's building project, which is the second phase of a multi-year vision to transform St. Joseph's Hall, will include construction of classrooms on the third floor as well as installation of a new heating system and upgraded electrical service. The new classrooms will allow CDS to make better use of limited space and have smaller early elementary classes next year and put the middle school all together on the third floor. The campaign goal is \$2.25 million, and over \$1.5 million has been raised already, including \$500,000 in foundation grants.

The more we raise, the more we can do. This spring, the campaign needs your help to encourage as many new

## 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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cdscommunity).

donations as possible so that the school can get more done this summer. So please join the effort in May by making a gift or pledge or by offering to contact friends, family or foundations on the school's behalf.

## From the Office

### Welcome Kerry Parker

Please welcome Kerry Parker, our new Assistant to the Head of School. Kerry comes to us from the renowned retirement facility, The Redwoods in Mill Valley, where she was the Executive Assistant and Program and Volunteer Coordinator. Prior to that she was the Executive Assistant to the Head Pastor at Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. Kerry raised two children and has a B.A. in management from St. Mary's College. On the weekends you can find her at the Noe Valley Farmer's Market playing her fiddle. Music is one of her great passions—we can't wait to hear her play!

## Events

### Country Fair is this Saturday!

Lucky: Hey Jojo, you're looking kind of scruffy.

Jojo: Yeah, I definitely need a shave.

Lucky: I heard that Ms. Misty made an appointment for us to get a trim this Saturday.

Jojo: Oh, that's great. I look forward to it every year! It's sort of embarrassing to have all those people staring at me, though. I don't mind my kids watching, but...

Lucky: Not only that, the chickens are clucking that now there are cameras in the farm and we're going to be on TV!

Jojo: Wow, my fifteen minutes of fame, on the Ewe Tube!

Everyone's talking about this year's Country Fair! Come enjoy the day with your family and friends on our beautiful campus. Music, food, dancing, crafts, games, art...there's something for everyone.

### Arriving at the Fair

Walk, skip, bike, take MUNI or carpool to the Country Fair! Sorry, NO parking will be permitted at CDS. In addition, a simultaneous, large Cinco de Mayo event will be held at Dolores Park so neighborhood parking will be extra difficult. A perfect opportunity to go green!

## Volunteers Needed

Parent and faculty participation in this year's Country Fair is wonderful, but we still need a few more bodies. If you haven't signed up to help out, it's not too late. Contact Diana or Paige if you'd like to lend a hand with grilling, games, face painting...or jump in and help out if you see a need on Saturday. Please respect your fellow parents by showing up on time for your shift.

### Say Howdy to New CDS Families

We've invited new families who will be joining our community this fall to the Country Fair. If you see wide-eyed folks walking around wearing red name tags, please introduce yourselves and extend a warm welcome to our new families.

### Sweet Treats for the Bake Sale

Calling all bakers! We love our sweets...and we need yours. Please bring your favorite homemade treats to the bake sale booth, located on the preschool deck area. Cookies, cupcakes, rice-krispie treats, muffins, scones, vegan, gluten-free or sugar-free treats—all will be gladly accepted and sold in \$1 ticket increments. Be creative—in the past, colorful sheep-shaped cookies and cupcakes topped with farm animals have been the first to go.

Please deliver your baked goods when you arrive at the fair—we don't have a place to store them overnight. Remember to include a note if your item has special dietary information, and put your name on any serving dishes you'd like returned. Thank you.

### Special Call for Cupcakes

The annual Cupcake Walk is a fun and popular game for the kids and everyone wins! We need A LOT of cupcakes. Please help out and bring one or two dozen cupcakes to the bake sale booth on Saturday.

### And One More COOL Thing

We need coolers! If you have a cooler you can spare, please put your name on it and leave it at the front desk on Friday.

## Go Bulldogs!

The futsal season has officially ended. Thank you to all for your support and good cheer!

## Remember to Compost

Worms love tamale wrappers, watermelon rinds and organic food bits...but they'll love your BBQ plates, forks, spoons, knives and napkins, too. All eatware is compostable this year, so please put your food scraps, dishes and utensils in the GREEN COMPOST BINS. Thank you for keeping our campus clean and helping the environment.

If you'd like more information about the Country Fair, please contact Diana Hunt at [samanddi@pacbell.net](mailto:samanddi@pacbell.net) or Paige Lang at [paige\\_stover@yahoo.com](mailto:paige_stover@yahoo.com).

## Extended Program News

### Middle School Summer Camp

We'll be offering two sessions of a middle school arts camp this summer for students entering grades 5-9. Led by Terry Ashkinos, Christopher Gonzalez-Crane and Melanie Liu, sessions I and II will include a Photography Seminar and a Creative Writing Workshop. Session I runs from June 23 – July 3 (\$540) and session II runs from July 7 – July 18 (\$600). Sign-up forms, including course descriptions, are available at the front desk and on our website. If you have any questions please contact Dan Larson at [danl@cds-sf.org](mailto:danl@cds-sf.org).

### Spring Arts Festival

Building off the successful Winter Arts Festival, the extended program will host a Spring Arts Festival on Friday, May 30 from 4-6 p.m. The May festival will showcase performances from Broadway Club, Story Theatre Club, Guitar, Cello and Violin classes. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome.

## Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, May 13

6 p.m.

PTTA Meeting

“Communication and Planning for Next Year”

Monday, May 12 – Friday, May 16

ERB testing

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day observed

No school

No extended program

Friday, May 30

4-6 p.m.

Extended Program Spring Arts Festival

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

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