



May 15, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

This article is a collaboration between Rick, Vanessa Lyons, Community-Based Learning Coordinator, and several students.

Membership in the Council of All Beings

The controversy over the Department of Agriculture's intention to spray San Francisco to eradicate the light brown apple moth provided an opportunity for students in grades 2, 4 and 6 to apply their learning to a real-world situation. Several students were able to attend the community meeting at the Town School for Boys on April 24, and our sixth graders impressed the panel of experts with their articulate questions and the quality of their knowledge.

When Kate Zirulnik, for instance, asked them about the bio-magnification factor regarding the extra toxins and pesticides in the air, on plants and in water, there was a moment of stunned silence among the panel of scientists. "What school do you go to?" was the first response.

Talking about it afterward, sixth grader Miranda Phaal said, "If you are a parent you should be very concerned about the spraying of this chemical cocktail that we are scheduled to be sprayed with in August. It is children and pets that will be most affected by this spray. They have already sprayed in other areas with mild to serious health problems reported shortly after by many local residents." Sophia Hirsch reported that two of the scientists said the moths have been here in California for more than 50 years, and have been causing no harm to California's ecosystem.

After attending the community meeting, Paula Symonds, our fourth grade teacher, sent Kirk Bell, our 5th/6th grade math/science teacher, the following email: "Just wanted you to know how impressed I was with your sixth graders at last night's spraying meeting. It was so clear that the amazing questions they asked were based deeply on knowledge that you had given them. Every scientist at that table was drooling to get their hands on them later in life. Bravo!"

Paula's fourth grade students have responded to this local issue by writing letters to Governor Schwarzenegger. Here are some excerpts:

Laurel Quinones: If the spray is safe, why do we have to wash everything outside? Also, since everything is connected, the birds that eat the moth might get sick and animals who eat the birds might get sick and die.

Jeremy Sparagon: Why would you spray in a place where there is no agriculture and moths are causing so little damage? All the organic farmers have been told that their organic certification will be taken away if the spraying were to happen.

Hot Dates

Thursday, May 15
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Community Event Night:
At the Crossroads benefit hosted
by the eighth grade
Faculty lounge

Friday, May 16
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Dolphin kindergarten presenting

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



Thank You!

- To Susi Alexander, Kristin and Andrew Henry, Nerius and Mylene Mercado, Paul Moreno, Andrea Ow, Beth Porter, Andrea Reynolds, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Kate and Rich Torres and Ann Van Gelder for attending the new family preschool night and welcoming our incoming preschool families.

Mimi Garfinkel: Why are the farmers agreeing to this? I don't want a lot of animals and people to get sick. What's in these poisons? They get embedded into people's lungs and that is very bad.

Spencer Alexander: Why did all the sea birds die when they sprayed Monterey? What matters a lot is that other insects like the monarch butterfly will die, and bugs that were sprayed will be eaten by birds and they could die too! The food chain will be destroyed!

The second graders are already members of "The Council of All Beings," each having taken on the role of a creature affected by humans. When news of the proposed spraying came to them, they had a lot to say. Simon said, "I am a red tail hawk and my egg shells can be thinned by pesticides." Bow is a club-tailed dragonfly who is worried about how she will be affected by pesticides if she eats plants that have been sprayed. As a tuna, Aisha was also aware of the concept of bioaccumulation and said that children, pregnant women and nursing mothers should not eat tuna because humans are at the top of the food chain where the highest accumulation occurs.

Real-life issues are often the best ones to help children begin to understand the complex interdependencies that comprise the world they live in, to think critically about things and to launch themselves down avenues of discovery. CDS is trying to help students find their voice and develop their self-expression. Community-based learning is critical to draw our children out into the world so they can play their part in it.

In the interest of science, the sixth grade will be delving more deeply into this subject later this month. Why does the USDA feel the need for the spraying? What are the arguments? Should CDS, with its own organic garden and its commitment to healthy children, take a stand? If so, how?

I am so proud of our students.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

More May Campaign Progress

The *Building Our Future* campaign has received eight new pledges and gifts this week, and contributions during the first two weeks of May total over \$70,000! With this big boost, the campaign has raised enough in new gifts this year to qualify for a \$30,000 matching grant from the Mary A. Crocker Trust, which is good news for this summer's renovation project. As soon as school ends in June, work will begin to add permanent classrooms to the third floor, install a new heating system for the whole building and upgrade St. Joseph's Hall's limited electrical service. The more we raise now, the more we can get done this summer. The total contributed to the campaign is now close to \$1.7 million, and gifts of any size are appreciated and will help CDS fit as much renovation work as possible into this phase of the project.

From the Classrooms

At the Crossroads Benefit

Come out and support the eighth graders as they address issues of homelessness with a fashion show, dance performance and film screening. The event will be held tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the faculty lounge. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for items made by eighth graders and baked goods for sale for \$1. Admission is free! All money raised will benefit At the Crossroads, an organization that serves homeless and transitional youth.

Penny Drive

We are having our final collection for our penny drive. We started with just one penny and now we have \$344. Please try to bring us any pennies you have before May 23. We will then be using the money to buy sheep for people's food, wool or clothes. Thank you for bringing us your pennies so far! –Dolphin kindergarten class.

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.

As You Like It

The middle school selectives class, Shakespeare in the Spring, presents *As You Like It*, directed by Emilie Rohrbach. The performances will be held on Friday, May 23 (7 p.m.) and Saturday, May 24 (1 p.m.) at the Dolores Park Church (455 Dolores Street). Admission is on a sliding scale, beginning at \$3. See you there!

From the Office

High School Placement

As many of you know, this year's eighth grade class spent much of the early part of the year preparing their applications for high school admission. They worked incredibly hard and wowed many high school admission directors throughout the city as they visited schools. We are pleased to share with you the results of their efforts. Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2008 for their acceptances (number of students accepted in parentheses):

- The Bay School (3)
- Drew College Preparatory High School (6)
- International High School (2)
- University High School (1)
- The Urban School (1)
- Waldorf High School (1)
- Convent of the Sacred Heart High School (1)
- Stuart Hall High School (1)
- Lowell High School (2)
- The Culver Academy (1)
- Wallenberg High School (1)
- Washington High School (2)

2008-09 Tuition Payments

Just a reminder that, for families who selected the full tuition payment plan for the 2008-09 school year, tuition is **due Monday, June 2** (June 1 is the due date on the enrollment agreements but since this date falls on the weekend, payments received on Monday, June 2 will be considered on time this year). Families who selected the 10-month payment plan will have their first payment made through FACTS Tuition Management on June 5 or June 20. Monday, June 2 is also the last day that, with written notice, you may withdraw your child from the 2008-09 school year without incurring the obligation for the total tuition. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Donna Shibata, Director of Finance & Operations, at donnas@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x314.

Events

Class of 2008 Graduation

Graduation planning is underway. On Thursday, June 12 we'll hold the Class of 2008 graduation ceremony in the CDS yard. Graduation will run from 3:45–5 p.m. All parents are invited to attend and bring their children with them; please note that there will be no extended program available that afternoon. Stay tuned for more graduation information. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this year's graduating class and all of their achievements!

Extended Program News

Middle School Summer Camp

There are still spots available in this summer's middle school arts camp 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.

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 anndirkvg@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, May 23 & Saturday, May 24

7 p.m. (Friday), 1 p.m. (Saturday)

As You Like It

Performed by the middle school
"Shakespeare in the Spring" selective

Dolores Park Church

455 Dolores Street

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day observed

No school

No extended program

Friday, May 30

4-6 p.m.

Extended Program Spring Arts Festival

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

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