



November 1, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

November 1

On a table at the bottom of the stairs that lead up to my office amid candles and flowers is a badly dog-eared copy of Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wind in the Door*. Also carefully arrayed on this table are five small, homemade "Bread of the Dead" in aluminum foil on top of the October 23 issue of *The San Francisco Chronicle*, a soccer ball, a plate of apples and cookies, an orange, a pitcher with a dishtowel on top, a rabbit's foot key ring, a square ceramic bead, several smaller white circular beads with a rose in the center, an empty two ounce bottle of vodka (Stolichnaya), a baseball glove, a grey and white sweater, a hammer and six ten-penny nails, a key, a See's milk chocolate candy bar, a copy of *The Smart Traveler's Passport*, a photograph of Japanese restaurant food, half a mint tin containing a marble, a bracelet, a pair of earrings, a locket with a pebble in it, a statuette of Johnny Cash, a CD of "Still I Rise" by 2PAC-OUTLAWZ, a 2PAC t-shirt, an abalone shell containing a miniature goldfish in a small plastic ball atop a beautiful hand painted pink stepping stool with the word "Vita" in large letters, a baggie of Q-tips, a can of Bumble Bee tuna, two dog biscuits, a clear pink plastic hamster's ball with a little blue wooden block on top, a lovingly cut white paper leaf on top of a bundle of dried sage and rosemary, a paper crown, the October 15, 2007, issue of *The New Yorker* and a prayer book in Sanskrit.

Each of these items represent a loss to a seventh or eighth grader; for today is November first, the Day of the Dead. Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos, is a traditional Mexican celebration of the deceased and the soul's passage to another life. Altars are created in homage to those who have passed and hold offerings such as candy, sweet bread, flowers and toys. Our students have brought in offerings for their loved ones and follow a tradition that has made its way from Mexico to San Francisco.

Yesterday afternoon all of our beautiful children (K-8) displayed themselves in a marvelous array of outfits portraying some alter-ego, or some fantasy or just something they thought would be fun to walk around in. I imagine they were all sporting these outfits in various San Francisco neighborhoods last night collecting candy. Yesterday afternoon our hallowed ground was re-hallowed by these wonderful representatives of a new world, as they marched around the grounds of the old Mission. As I sat on the edge of the woodchips, Jenna, a new kindergartner, spent a good deal of time actually *being* the butterfly she was portraying. She came over to me several times to explain various aspects of her butterfly self to me.

The culture of the world of independent schools tends Icarus-like toward the heavens. We have high aspirations for our children. Of course we do. Our children's very launching pad is located near the top of Mt. Olympus. Of

Hot Dates

Today

4:30 p.m.

Volleyball game v. SF School
Boys & Girls Club

Sunday, November 4

Daylight Savings Ends

Tuesday, November 6

4:45-6 p.m.

PTTA Meeting

Thursday, November 8

5-7 p.m.

High school roundtable discussion

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



Thank You!

- To Kim and Dave Cohen for donating two laptop bags to the IT department.
- To all the volunteers who helped with admission related events this week: Ray Cendana, Susan Chastain, Amy Hecht, Jeanette Layden, Carlos Vasquez and Melanie Wise. And a special thank you to grandparent Pat Kobrehel for attending Tuesday's tour!
- To Sherry Spitzer for photographing the alumni reunion.

course, our goal is the sky, and our aim is a star. And, I am deeply indebted to Ms. Luz's seventh and eighth grade Spanish students for reminding us, as Daedalus tried to remind Icarus, not to try to fly too high. We are only human. Death is a part of life. Our feet are of clay. Hubris and arrogance can bring us down. Loss is a part of our every day lives.

Behind the table on the bulletin board are pictures of loss: Jasmin Acuna, Louise, Lulu, Padma Atluri, Raul Lima, Daniel Eltinge (his uncle), Sayed Ali, Tamari, Ramon, Ramond, Chibi, Luna, Anoli's great grandmother, Luke's uncle, Rachel, Alberto and Emma. Scurry, Whiskers, Naturaleza, Peace, Neighborhood, Gardener Botstord, 2Pac, Bob Marley, Rick, Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, Johnny Cash and Laura. There is one piece of yellow construction paper with "Identidad" in sharp green letters—a reminder that it is age-appropriate for an eighth grader to lose his or her identity.

We all need reminders that for every gain there is a loss and that loss can be one of our best educators, and also, cause for celebration.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

Foundation Update

As plans take shape for the second phase of construction in St. Joseph's Hall this summer, we in the Development Office are making our best pitch to foundations to support the Children's Day School capital campaign, *Building Our Future*. The campaign has already received grant commitments totaling \$180,000 from four foundations: Willow Springs Charitable Trust, The Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation, the McKenzie

Foundation and Fleishhacker Foundation. We also have grant proposals pending with three San Francisco foundations with a strong tradition of supporting independent schools: the William G. Irwin Charity Foundation, the Herbst Foundation and the Mary A. Crocker Trust. Last week, two trustees from the Irwin Foundation visited CDS, toured the campus and St. Joseph's Hall and had the (unscheduled) opportunity to see how quickly and quietly CDS students and teachers evacuate the building during a regular fire drill. We expect to hear back from the Irwin Foundation in about a month, and also hope to be able to schedule site visits for trustees of the Herbst Foundation and Mary A. Crocker Trust this year.

For all of these efforts, personal connections can have a very positive impact on the school's ability to attract grant support, so if you know a trustee with one of these foundations or know people with other grant-making organizations who you would be willing to contact on behalf of CDS, please contact Marion Quinones at 861-5432 x323 and we will put your contacts to work.

From the Classrooms

Dia de los Muertos

Please come visit the Day of the Dead altars all around CDS. Starfish teacher Ms. Nancy and students created an altar that honors loved ones who have passed away. Starfish students brought in photographs and decorated candles for the altar. In addition, seventh and eighth grade students worked with Ms. Luz to create an altar on the first floor of St. Joseph's Hall honoring the people and things no longer in their lives. You'll see family photos alongside descriptions of lost identities and neighborliness. And on the second floor, Ms. Jasmin and Mr. Jorge worked with after school students to create an altar with many sweets, paper flowers and marigolds. The altars will be on display throughout the week.

CDSYahoo 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.

School Wish List

- The IT department is currently looking for used laptop bags; if you have one to donate, please contact Terry Hall at terryh@cds-sf.org.

From the Office

K-8 Tour (for CDS Parents)

Curious to see what's going on in our K-8 classrooms? After coffee and the assembly on Friday, November 16, join Rebecca Kroll and Aimee Giles on a CDS-parents-only tour of our K-8 classes from 9-10:30 a.m. This is an excellent opportunity for you to see our K-8 classes in action and to ask questions (Rick will join us for Q&A). No RSVP is necessary – we hope you join us.

High School Roundtable

Eighth grade students and their parents are invited to a high school roundtable discussion on Thursday, November 8 from 5-7 p.m. Representatives from the classes of 2006 and 2007 will answer questions about the high school application process. Pizza will be provided.

Events

Alumni Reunion

“High school is a crazy, crazy place. I never would have said it a year ago, but CDS could not have prepared me more.” Reese Adams-Romagnoli, Class of 2007

Fifteen alumni from the classes of 2006 and 2007, along with current eighth graders, spent last Saturday catching up with classmates and teachers, talking about their new experiences in high school and their memories of time spent at CDS. Alumni and current students ate lunch, played bingo and several of them expressed that having been gone for a year or two, CDS still felt like *their* school. It was great to see so many familiar faces—stay tuned for more news about our fabulous alumni!

Extended Program News

Cheer On the Bulldogs!

This afternoon at 4 p.m. students in the extended program will head over to the Boys & Girls Club to cheer on the Bulldog volleyball team in their final game of the regular season. They'll barbeque first and watch the game at 4:30. Students should be picked up and signed out at CDS at 5:30. Go Bulldogs!

Day of the Dead Festival

On Friday, November 2 from 3-5 p.m., extended program students will attend the Day of the Dead Festival at the BART station at I6th and Mission Streets. Students will take part in games and activities in honor of Dia de los Muertos.

QuartetFest 2007

On Sunday, November 4 at 6 p.m. CDS will host string musicians from Bay Area middle schools and high schools for QuartetFest 2007. Bring your children and inspire them with music by Mozart, Beethoven, Ravel and more. Admission is free and a light buffet supper will take place after the concert. See you there!

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

October 25, CDS vs. SF Christian

Game 1: SFC 25, CDS 20

Game 2: SFC 25, CDS 18

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Today, 4:30 p.m.

SF School, Boys & Girls Club, 450 Guerrero St.

This is the last game of the regular Bulldog season. Come over to the Boys & Girls Club to cheer the team to victory!

PTTA Update

Upcoming Meetings

You may have noticed in recent editions of the *Weekly* that there has been a lot happening at CDS this year regarding diversity and inclusion. If you are interested in these issues, have been participating in some of the work, are just curious about what's been happening, or have questions or feedback, please attend the next PTTA meeting on Tuesday, November 6 from 4:45–6 p.m. in the faculty lounge. Hope to see you there!

The next open planning session of the PTTA is scheduled for Friday, November 16 from 9-10 a.m. in the faculty lounge. Topics will be announced closer to the date. All parents are welcome to attend.

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?

- 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, November 16

9-10:30 a.m.

K-8 tour for CDS parents

Saturday, November 17

SSAT administered for eighth graders

Tuesday, November 20

Make Up Photo Day

Wednesday, November 21

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Noon dismissal

No extended program

Thursday, November 22 & Friday, November 23

Thanksgiving break

No school

No extended program

Thursday, November 29 & Friday, November 30

Parent-teacher conferences

No school

No extended program

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

Children's Day School

333 Dolores Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

415-861-5432 (ph)

415-861-5419 (fax)

www.cds-sf.org

Editor: Mary DeNardo, cdsweekly@cds-sf.org

Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the *Weekly* via e-mail