



October 11, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Seventh Graders in Ashland, Oregon

This week's article is guest written by middle school teacher Hannah Ingram, who accompanied the seventh graders on their annual trip to Ashland Oregon's Shakespeare Festival.

"You enter Ashland Commons (the place we stayed) and walk four feet and turn left, then sit down. You are now sitting on a well-cushioned bed that looks like a couch, and that's what everyone thinks it is. Well, it's not, it's my bed." Everett Wurz

We entered Ashland Commons and became more than teachers and students; we became roommates. We took turns managing the cooking and cleaning tasks, negotiating time in the bathrooms and reminding each other that Everett's bed was not, in fact, a couch. Our first night began with a surprise birthday party for Rosy, organized by Avalon. One group carried her off to grocery shop for dinner, while the rest of us prepared. The common area was filled with balloons, streamers and funny notes—having gone quickly from an unfamiliar, fairly anonymous hostel to a warm, inclusive community space. That inclusiveness and sensitivity to each person in the group carried us through all of our activities in Oregon: hiking and mapping the Pacific Crest Trail, meal preparation (no small task for a party of 18), walking to and from the various performances and tours, and even shopping. It was particularly in the theater spaces that I noticed the impact this kind of intentional community can have.

Each time we entered the theater, but most remarkably at the evening performances we attended, the 18 of us would file in and take our seats. Each time, someone behind us would sigh heavily, or lean toward their seat partner and say something like, "Oh boy," or "Here we go," clearly not delighted at the idea of sharing the space with 15 school children. Each time, as the lights went up after the play, there were smiles and nods at the children as they exited, excitedly discussing what they had just seen, having just spent the last 2-3 hours (!) enrapt, silent, clapping and laughing at what they were witnessing, truly engaged with what was happening in front of them. The conversations were astounding to overhear—and yes, often overheard because they were generated by the seventh graders, not by their teachers—insightful, enthusiastic, critical and appreciative.

"It was extraordinarily choreographed too, the characters had to respond to unseen forces, play different people and take on new personalities...I will never forget that scene." Izzy Miller

"I am positive to say that I will never forget it...I felt all the emotion because the acting was outstanding...There is just no description with words that I can

Hot Dates

Thursday, October 11
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Community Event Night
Boys & Girls Club

Friday, October 12
8:30 a.m.
Friday assembly
Fifth grade presenting

8:30 a.m.
Bay Area Grandparent Breakfast

Tuesday, October 16 & Wednesday,
October 17
Annual Fund Phonathon

Thursday, October 18
7-8 p.m.
Middle School Forum: Transitioning
to Middle School
For fourth grade parents
David Minus Science Center

Thursday, October 18 &
Friday, October 19
Picture Day



Thank You!

- To Paige and Daniel Lang for donating a tape cassette recorder to the first grade class.
- To Ray Cendana, Susan Chastain, Tina Corse, Kate Fritz, Paige Lang, Jeanette Layden, Nerius Mercado, Paul Moreno, Roger Nys, Andrea Ow, Milton Ow, Janette Neves Rivera, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Louis Schump, Ann Van Gelder, Wini von Ehrenburg, Tessa Wilcox and Melanie Wise for attending an admission tour docent training.
- To James Glanville, Kristin Henry, Paige Lang, Tina Leung, Roger Nys and Tessa Wilcox for helping with the first preschool admission tour.
- To Susan Chastain, Patrick Everett, Amy Hecht, Sara O'Malley, Darya Soto and Ann Van Gelder for helping with the first kindergarten admission tour.
- To Kara Schleunes for taking pictures at the St. Joseph's Hall Open House.

use. It exceeded just about everything." Vita Newstetter

"*Gem of the Ocean* had scenes and ideas that will stay with me forever. It was more powerful and engaging than anything I have ever done. From the powerful plays, we went back to Ashland Commons, talked about what we saw and had time to hang out." Heather Weiss

"*Tartuffe* was the height of comedy and *Gem of the Ocean* the height of powerful meaning... The other two plays lacked the subtleties and involvement of the characters in *Tartuffe* and *Gem of the Ocean*. *Gem of the Ocean* had a commitment by the actors to their characters that made it hard to believe that they were only actors on stage." J. Bryce Hidysmith

As an educator, it was a pleasure to spend time in lively intellectual discussion with students about theater and literature. In a more expansive sense, as a member of the community, it was a pleasure to see the values and passions of the students remain intact in whatever environment they found themselves. In her reflection about this trip, Heather said, "We all learned what makes our classmates tick." I have complete confidence that this knowledge will be used to strengthen the already formidable interconnectedness, empathy and kindness that this group is modeling for the CDS community.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

What's Cooking in the Kitchen?

If you haven't yet had a chance to see what's happening in the new east end of St. Joseph's Hall, feel free to take a peek into the first floor kitchen sometime soon. The first cooks in the kitchen were preschool students who gathered tomatoes and basil from the garden and brought their bounty to the kitchen to wash, chop and mix the ingredients into a delicious heirloom tomato and basil salad. Donning new aprons, students proudly delivered their salads to hungry teachers and staff. Kindergarteners quickly followed suit, picking lemons from trees and making fresh lemonade in the new kitchen. Stop in and see what's cooking in the new kitchen!

From the Classrooms

Congratulations Cash!

Eighth grader Cash Ashkinos has a story published in the recent issue of *826 Quarterly*, a national literary magazine published through the neighborhood organization 826 Valencia. Volunteers from 826 Valencia conduct writing workshops in local schools, including CDS. If you see Cash, congratulate him on his published story.

Food Drive

The Dolphin kindergarten class (Candy and Jasmin's class) is hosting a Food Bank Drive! Barrels are located in the lobby of St. Joseph's Hall and at the preschool bungalows. Items that are needed most include canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, soups and stews, pastas and cereals, beans and 100% fruit juice. No glass please.

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.

Community Event Night

Tonight marks our first Community Event Night at the Boys and Girls Club. Middle school students and their parents are invited to watch segments of the film *Born Into Brothels* and view public service announcements created by CDS students. *Born Into Brothels* chronicles a documentary photography project undertaken by children in India who live with their mothers that work in brothels. Film excerpts will focus on the photography project and how it alters the lens through which the children see themselves and their lives. Please join us from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for viewing and discussion. Food will be provided.

Middle School Forum

Current fourth grade parents are invited to attend the next middle school forum on Thursday, October 18 about the transition to middle school. The forum will be held from 7-8 p.m. in the David Minus Science Center. Childcare will be provided; please sign up at the front desk by the end of the day on Monday, October 15.

From the Office

Operators are Standing By...

In preparation for the upcoming phonathon next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, all parents have received or will soon receive a letter in the mail from Dave Klaus and Alycia Freeman (Anyia, 1st grade, and Enzo, Tadpole) asking for a donation to the CDS Annual Fund. Accompanying this letter is a booklet written by the National Association of Independent Schools, *Gifts That Give Back*, which answers questions about different types of fundraising (annual fund, capital campaign, matching gifts and more) and volunteering at independent schools such as CDS. Please take a few minutes to read these materials and be prepared to support CDS, as well as our all-volunteer corps of parent and trustee callers, when your phone rings next week. The CDS Annual Fund supports this year's operating expenses and the many outstanding people and programs that make CDS special. Last year, 88% of CDS parents made gifts to the Annual Fund totaling \$124,000; this year's parent goal is \$125,000. Thank you very much for your generous and enthusiastic participation.

Picture Days

On Thursday, October 18 and Friday, October 19 Mugshots will be here to take individual pictures of students. Proofs will be sent to the school in a few weeks, along with information on how to order pictures and/or how to use the online process. Please direct all questions to Ryan Gordon at 415-861-5432 x379 or ryang@cds-sf.org. The schedule for pictures is as follows:

Thursday, October 18: Leaping Lizard, Starfish, Kindergarten (Ms. Candy), 1st grade, 5th grade, 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade

Friday, October 19: Tadpoles, Kindergarten (Ms. Jen), 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade

Events

Bay Area Grandparent Breakfast

Local grandparents will join us tomorrow for a casual breakfast from 8:30-10 a.m. We'll still hold our annual Grandparents & Special Friends Day on Wednesday, November 22 for all grandparents and special friends. We added tomorrow's event for local families so that Bay Area grandparents, many of whom travel over the Thanksgiving holiday, have an opportunity to visit the school, meet other grandparents and hear from Rick about CDS plans and programs. The visit will include Friday assembly, a short visit to classrooms and a walk-through of St. Joseph's Hall.

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

October 4, CDS vs. CACS

Game 1: CDS 25, CACS 13

Game 2: CDS 25, CACS 22

October 9, CDS vs. Lycee Francais

Game 1: LF 25, CDS 22

Game 2: LF 25, CDS 13

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Wednesday, October 17, 3:45 p.m.

KDBS, 7070 California Street

Extended Program News

Common Sense Media event at the Boys & Girls Club

On Thursday, October 11, Common Sense Media, a non-profit organization that provides parents with trustworthy information to help manage their kids' media lives, will be honoring actors from the Disney movie *High School Musical 2* at the Boys & Girls Club from 3:45-5 p.m. All middle school students are invited to attend, as well as K-4 students in Jasmin's after school acting club. Students will walk over from CDS and should be picked up at CDS, following normal sign-out procedures, at 5 p.m. Students in Jasmin's club will be given permission slips this week to take home and have signed. This will be a great opportunity for students to talk about media and musical productions.

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 anndirkgv@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

Monday, October 22
Professional development day
No school
No extended program

Tuesday, October 23
4 p.m.
Committee on Inclusion & Diversity meeting
All are welcome
Faculty lounge

Friday, October 26
Sibling admission applications due

Saturday, October 27
Alumni Reunion &
High School Roundtable

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

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