



October 18, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Middle School Changes

This week we have been doing a little administrative reorganization. As of Monday, October 22, Doug will be stepping down as Middle School Head so that he may fully devote his energies to his work as our 7th/8th Grade Math/Science Teacher. For the last four years, Doug Garfinkel has served as our part-time Middle School Head while also carrying a full teaching load. As the middle school has grown, so has Doug's job. We have been in conversation around this challenge for almost two years now, and had hoped to find a way to make these two positions work for him. This year, however, we realize that we simply cannot take enough off of Doug's plate to make this combination sustainable for him.

But the back story of this reorganization is really the big story.

Doug came here four years ago to be a teacher. The middle school at that time consisted of one class of fifth and sixth graders and the middle school faculty was comprised of just Doug and Andre Perry. It was immediately apparent that Doug had found his calling, even though when he left his consulting business two years before he never would have guessed that teaching middle schoolers would be it. The next year, 2004-05, the middle school grew to two classes (sixth and seventh grades) and four teachers, with the addition of Elizabeth McClellan and Emilie Rohrbach to the faculty. At that point it made sense for there to be a head of our new middle school, and since Doug clearly had a multitude of capabilities that would serve us well as leader of this team, and because he was excited about the responsibility, Doug became our founding Middle School Head.

The founders of the CDS elementary and middle schools envisioned the constructivist educational principles that had made the preschool so great carried all the way through the eighth grade. It was clear after working with Doug for two years—work that included his participation on the strategic planning task force—that he was the perfect person to make this happen.

And we were right. One year later, when our first eighth graders were accepted into great high schools because they were well educated, when they walked across the stage of our first graduation, it was an enormous triumph that this vision had become a reality. Our graduates had spent their middle school years wrestling with a rigorous academic program that included algebra, Shakespeare, physics and an intensive study of global and local issues of social justice, and loved it. They went on to high school, just as the founders envisioned, full of themselves and great at harmonizing their needs, values and interests with those of others. Two years later, the word back from our thirty alumni is that they all bear the CDS stamp: critical thinkers who ask great questions, possess a high

Hot Dates

Thursday, October 18 &
Friday, October 19
Picture Day

Friday, October 19
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Fourth grade presenting

Friday, October 19
9-10 a.m.
PTTA open planning meeting
Faculty lounge

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

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



Thank You!

- To all of the parent and trustee volunteers who helped make this year's Annual Fund phonathon a great success: Matt Schwartz, Nancy Ramamurthi, Ray Baxter, Susi Alexander, Kit Land, Tracy Kirkham, Luma Dahlbacka, Richard Hylton, Michael Laflamme, Constance Laflamme, Dave Klaus, Elizabeth McClellan, John Hohulin, David Jasso and Jim Reynolds. Thank you for making phone calls, talking to fellow parents and getting those pledges and gifts rolling in!
- To our wonderful volunteers for their help with all of our admission efforts during the last two weeks: Ray Baxter, James Glanville, Richard Hylton, Roger Nys, Milton Ow, Ann Van Gelder, Dirk Van Gelder, Brooke Bianco, Susan Chastain, Amy Hecht, Kristin Henry, Andrew Henry, Patrick Everett, Todd Hosfelt, Paige Lang, Chitra Nayak, Paul Moreno, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Beth Porter, Tina Leung, Louis Schump and Darya Soto. And a special thank you to grandparent Sally Hosfelt for pitching in as an impromptu tour guide.
- To Kara Schleunes for taking pictures of the Bay Area Grandparent Breakfast.
- To Rebecca Grey and Chris Luomanen for donating a boombox to the Dolphin kindergarten class.
- To the Starfish families for providing a delicious faculty breakfast last week!
- To all Photo Day parent volunteers: Danielle Conrad, Patricia Buse, Dee Dee Schroeder, Zahra Kelly, Wendy Bockhorst-Heng, Leslie Edelman, Kim Cohen and Molly Tyson.

level of social responsibility and still love learning.

Doug would be the first person to say that a unified faculty and a strong school culture produced these results, and that would be true. But it must be acknowledged that Doug's ability to draw a straight line, and then get others to hew to the line, kept our middle school from caving in to social pressures of conformity and fear-based pressures to compromise sound educational principles in the misguided hope of short term gains.

While we decide how best to handle the long term needs of the middle school, Rebecca Kroll and I are taking over Doug's administrative duties. Rebecca will be responsible for supervising all of the middle school teachers, and will also be in charge of the middle school curriculum and program. I will be supporting the middle school head teachers with non-curricular student issues or concerns. And nothing will change in the high school admissions arena – Doug will continue working with Rebecca and middle school teacher Christopher Gonzalez-Crane on the high school admissions process.

I truly appreciate all the work that Doug has done to build our incredible middle school, and am happy that we are able to relieve him of the burdens of administration so that he can focus all of his energies on his calling: to teach middle school students.

Please join me in thanking Doug (dougg@cds-sf.org).

From the Classrooms

Lights Out!

From the second grade class:

We've been learning about electricity: where it comes from and why we need to save it. **Lights Out SF** (<http://www.lightsoutsf.org>) is when you turn off the lights for at least one hour when you normally would have them on. **Lights Out SF** is on Saturday, October 20. Please join us by turning off your lights for an hour that night. We'll be surveying classes next week to see how much energy CDS families saved. Also, compact fluorescent light bulbs courtesy of Lights Out SF will be available for parents to pick up this afternoon and all day tomorrow at the front desk.

What can you do in the dark? A bunch of things: look at the stars, read or eat by candlelight, make a fire in a fireplace, write or draw in the dark and see how your pictures turn out, play hide-and-go-seek, and anything else you can think of. Thanks for your participation!

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.

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.

Congratulations Correction!

Please note: Eighth grader *Cash Askew* (not preschooler Cash Ashkinos) had a story published in the recent issue of *826 Quarterly*, a national literary magazine published through the neighborhood organization 826 Valencia. If you see Cash, congratulate him on his published story.

Middle School Forum

Reminder: the middle school forum that was previously scheduled for tonight has been cancelled.

Food Drive

The Dolphin kindergarten class (Candy and Jasmin's class) Food Bank Drive is still on! 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.

From the Office

Professional Development Day

This Monday, October 22, is the first of two CDS Faculty Professional Development Days that will occur this school year. Our training this Monday will focus on the topic of "Diversity in the Workplace." The six hour interactive and hands-on workshop will be a joint training for CDS teachers as well as staff from the six San Francisco Boys and Girls Club Clubhouses. The training will be held next door at the Columbia Park Clubhouse and run by a Boys & Girls Club national diversity trainer.

This workshop will be focused on helping participants recognize and address elements of diversity that affect the operation of our two organizations, interactions among board members and staff, and the community as a whole.

We're thrilled to be lifelong learners in the area of diversity, and to be strengthening our partnership with such an amazing organization!

Picture Days

Today and tomorrow Mugshots is 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

PTTA Update

Wraps & Greens

Every year the PTTA and CDS parents sell gift wrap, wreaths and greens to raise money for teacher and staff holiday bonuses. Order forms for this year's sale will go home in backpacks tomorrow. This year's sale runs from Monday, October 22 through Friday, November 2. (This deadline is strictly held as the whole school's order must be placed with the companies on November 4). Please share your order forms with family, friends and co-workers. Checks should be made out to Children's Day School and dropped off at the reception desk. Feel free to contact parent gift wrap and greens chair Tina Corse at (415) 722-7841 with any questions.

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

October 17, CDS vs. Katherine Delmar Burke School

Game 1: CDS 25, KDBS 20

Game 2: CDS 25, KDBS 22

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Tuesday, October 23, 3:45 p.m.

Live Oak, UCSF, 1675 Owens St.

Thursday, October 25, 4:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, November 1, 4:30 p.m.

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

Meeting Updates

Members of the Board of Trustees met with parents, faculty and staff at last week's PTTA meeting to discuss the school's financial framework. Kit Land discussed the importance of the CDS Annual Fund, including last year's results and goals for this year. Patricia Buse gave an update on the Capital Campaign and Phase I of the construction project which was completed on time and under budget. Susi Alexander provided a parent's perspective on the importance of donating to the Annual Fund and Rick England provided a very detailed look at the school's operating budget.

Coming up next, there is an open PTTA planning session on Friday, October 19 from 9–10 a.m. The meeting will be held in the faculty lounge. Items for discussion include an update on the annual fund phonathon and plans for summer 2008. All parents are welcome.

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 anndirkyg@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, October 26
Sibling admission applications due

Saturday, October 27
12-2 p.m.
Alumni Reunion

Thursday, November 1
4:30 p.m.
Volleyball game v. SF School
Boys & Girls Club

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

Children's Day School

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