



October 25, 2007

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Diversity

This week Children's Day School passed some landmarks on its journey to becoming a more diverse and inclusive community.

During Monday's professional development day, the CDS faculty got together with staff members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco for diversity training. Fifty of us made acquaintances and connections and began to get to know each other as we learned more about diversity's opportunities and threats.

On Tuesday afternoon the Committee on Inclusion and Diversity (now a board level committee with a mandate to oversee, inspire and generate progress in this dimension of the school) led a discussion among a rich mixture of teachers, parents and trustees—twenty in all. We shared our hopes and concerns and began to build the communal infrastructure necessary to support a community which is more diverse and at the same time more inclusive. We ended the meeting with the formation of three groups, which immediately began working on issues of curriculum and program, community and culture, and outreach to families of color.

Among other things, we reviewed the board commitment that ten years from now our student body will be so diverse that "no racial or ethnic group will be a majority of the student body and that no one child will represent a major racial/ethnic group," and noted that we are already on our way with the class of 2018. (The three-year old class is fifty-one percent students of color.)

Monday's diversity workshop led by Julius Lott, Vice President of Diversity, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, reminded us that we differ from one another in so many ways. Instead of reeling off the usual list of what differentiates us from others: race, gender, class, etc., we used a wheel diagram that emphasized four different layers of diversity, the center of which is personality. The next layer focuses on internal dimensions such as age, race, gender and sexual orientation. External dimensions go a step further with income, geographic location, religion, appearance, parental status, etc. The outside wheel includes organizational dimensions, or things such as seniority, work location, union affiliation and management status. Through this exercise we were reminded that our differences are complex and multi-layered and that we bring to the school our own rich, unique selves.

Though we are in many ways different from one another, we naturally seek out sameness in our relationships. This is okay but we also need to remind ourselves to go beyond what is familiar to us. One activity, for instance, had us respond to a list of 15 questions such as where are you from?, what is your

Hot Dates

Today

4:30 p.m.

Volleyball game v. SF Christian
Boys & Girls Club

Friday, October 26

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Third grade presenting

Friday, October 26

Sibling admission applications due

Saturday, October 27

12-2 p.m.

Alumni Reunion

Wednesday, October 31

2-2:45 p.m.

Halloween Parade
For K-8
CDS yard

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



Thank You!

- To Dee Dee Schroeder from the Tadpole teachers for stepping in and helping out in every way possible.
- To Michael Fine and Amy Hecht and Margo and John Hohulin for donating laptop bags to the IT department.
- To all the volunteers who helped with Admission related events this week: Ana Brubaker, Tina Corse, Ray Baxter, James Glanville, Andrew and Kristin Henry, Todd Hosfelt, Richard Hylton, Debbie Jasso, Tina Leung, Carlene Lim, Gill Noh, Paul Moreno, Andrea Ow, Laura Pliska, Janette Neves Rivera, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Darya Soto, Rich Torres, Ann Van Gelder, Carlos Vasquez and Tessa Wilcox. And a special thank you to Ana Brubaker for acting as an English/Spanish translator for the middle school tour.

favorite book?, and how many children do you have? I was surprised when I found that out of the group of fifty people, only eight of my interests and responses matched up with others. Ms. Ngoc had such a variety of unique responses that she only found two matches in the room! Rather than feel isolated, we need to see this as something to celebrate. Julius pointed out, "If Ngoc left the room, she'd take 13 unique characteristics away from our group, and we could no longer benefit from her knowledge/experience in those areas."

That statement reminded us all of a principle that is at the core of our work here at CDS—that what each classroom has is a rich diversity of unique individuals and that each of us brings a virtually infinite set of gifts, interests, passions, competencies and points of view. And, that a teacher's job is to unlock that richness for the benefit of all, and that if one person were to leave the group we are all poorer for it.

From the Classrooms

Food Bank Drive

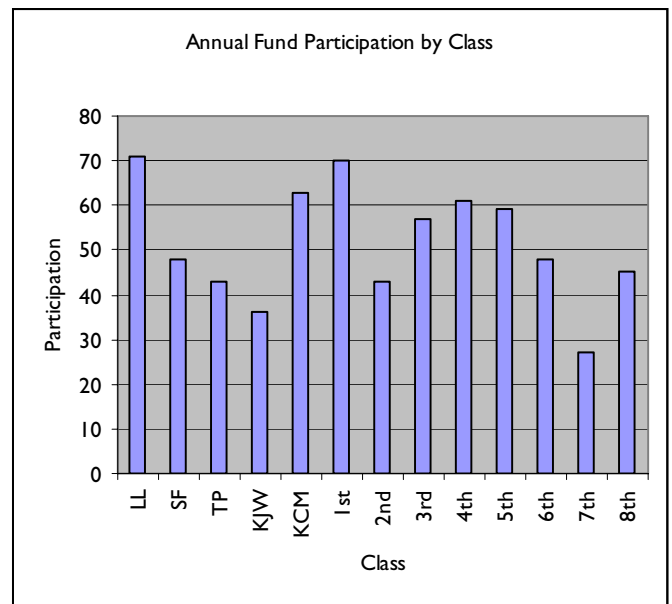
Did you know that the Dolphin kindergarten class will be running the food drive for most of the school year? This year they'll be tallying food donation totals at the end of each month. You have until Tuesday to make your October donation—stay tuned for final totals next week! Thanks for your generosity.

From the Office

Annual Fund Update

An enthusiastic thank you to all CDS parents on both ends of the telephone for making last week's phonathon both successful and fun. Parents have been terrifically generous, as always – 53% of families have made a pledge or gift to the Annual Fund so far, and over \$69,000 has been raised toward the parent goal of \$125,000. The Leaping Lizard class is leading CDS in parent participation at 71%, taking an early lead in the ever-competitive race for the coveted pizza lunch offered to the first class to reach 100% participation. The first grade class is right behind at 70%.

We invite all parents to participate in this campaign by contributing what you can. Giving to the annual fund allows CDS to lead the Bay Area in sliding scale tuition and inspires confidence in foundations and other outside donors. Gifts support your children's teachers and favorite programs including the farm and garden, art, music and sports. Please contact the Development Office if you have any questions or would like to make a donation. Thank you for your help reaching our goal.



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.

School Directory

The 2007-08 school directories will be ready on Friday and can be picked up during morning drop-off or at the reception desk. Thanks for your patience.

Admission Open House

Thanks to a fabulous team of 12 teachers and administrators and 16 parent volunteers, the Admission Office sponsored a successful Open House for the parents of 56 prospective students on Tuesday night. Most of the visitors (about 40) have prospective preschool students and the rest have prospective students in grades K-8. The topic was "The CDS Curriculum" and here are some quotes from the evening: "The teachers were very dynamic, enthusiastic and animated." "The parent tour leaders were great." "I love the atmosphere of this school! It feels like home – it's so warm and welcoming." "This is our dream school in SF – where we want all our children to grow and learn and become good citizens of the world." Please spread the word to your friends and colleagues who are interested in learning more about CDS – we will be hosting another Open House on November 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.; no RSVP is needed and the topic will be "Diversity at CDS."

Make Up Photo Day

Make up photo day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20. Proofs will arrive at the school within the next three weeks; orders can be placed online or turned in at school. Contact Ryan Gordon at ryang@cds-sf.org if you have any questions.

Kid Chow Update

Kid Chow is now offering a smaller lunch option at a "smaller price" in addition to its current lunch option. Now you can choose two or three sides to best suit your child's appetite. Please visit Kid Chow's website, www.kidchow.com, to check out Kid Chow's new menu for November-January. Their menu is also posted on the bulletin board to the right of the front desk.

Summer 2008

It's never too early to begin summer planning! We are currently planning for construction in St. Joseph's Hall next summer. Therefore, similar to last year, we won't be able to offer elementary or middle school summer camp. We are, however, planning to run the preschool camps again. In addition, next year's first day of school will be the same as this year (the second week of September) or earlier. We should know a definitive start date and official word regarding summer camp by January or February. We will keep you posted as decisions are made. Thanks for your patience.

Events

Alumni Reunion

All alumni (classes of '06 and '07) and parents of alumni, along with current eighth grade students and their parents, are invited to the second annual Children's Day School Alumni Reunion this Saturday, October 27 from 12-2 p.m. in the CDS yard. Alumni and families are invited to reconnect with old friends and teachers and have lunch in the yard. The High School roundtable portion of the event has been postponed until Thursday, November 8 from 5-7 p.m., so this Saturday will be 100% reunion. We hope you'll join us for lunch and a spirited game of CDS alumni bingo.

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

October 23, CDS vs. Live Oak

Game 1: CDS 25, LO 20

Game 2: CDS 25, LO 10

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Today, 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.

Halloween Parade

On Wednesday, October 31 students in K-8 are invited to participate in a Halloween parade in the yard from 2-2:45 p.m. Parents are invited to attend. Pick-up/student sign-out will take place both in the classrooms and at the double doors. Please check in with your child's classroom teacher regarding costume expectations. See you at the spooky parade!

Extended Program News

EP Supports the Bulldogs

Students in the after school program are invited to attend the next two Bulldog volleyball games held at the Boys & Girls Club. The first game is this afternoon at 4:30; students will head over at 4:15. Parents should still sign children out at CDS.

Next Thursday, November 1, after school students are invited to a barbeque before the game at the Boys & Girls Club at 4 p.m. The game is at 4:30 and students will be back at CDS by 5:30 p.m. Come cheer on the Bulldogs—they're in first place with a 4-1 record!

Football-Futbol Tailgate Party

Middle school students are invited to the Boys & Girls Club this afternoon from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for barbeque grilling, a video game tournament and eating together. Students should be signed out at CDS.

Day of the Dead Activities

Next week students will be creating Day of the Dead artwork and participating in Day of the Dead activities. Look for displays in the hallways. Next week's activities will culminate in a Day of the Dead celebration at Mission Plaza (16th and Mission Street BART). Look for final details in next week's *Weekly*.

Upcoming Dates

Sunday, November 4
Daylight Savings Ends

Tuesday, November 6
4:45-6 p.m.
PTTA Meeting

Saturday, November 17
SSAT administered for eighth graders

Wednesday, November 21
Grandparents and 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

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