



April 2, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

The Class of 2009

For the fourth year in a row, our eighth graders have gotten into great high schools. This year all 15 students got into their first or second choice (first choice—93%). Attached is a list of the schools that accepted them. Having heard for years how the high schools love CDS students, I decided to go straight to the source and get a snap shot of what is so attractive.

The Admission Director at one school began:

“They are all nice, confident kids, unpretentious and easy to talk to.”

“That’s great, but what do you mean by ‘nice?’”

“I mean it is easy to get to know them. They know who they are, self-possessed, easy to have a conversation with. So many candidates seem concerned about saying the right thing, or not looking bad. Your kids are willing to share. Your kids are entertaining, engaged, positive and fun.

What is so exciting to all of us who have the pleasure of working with these young people is how special each one is as an individual.

Doug remembers walking Rosy, one of these graduates, over to PE and hearing her talk with great passion and in great detail about the results of research she had just completed on child labor issues. This was back at the end of sixth grade. Then there was Everett the performer, performing a monologue that he wrote himself, a monologue that was simultaneously hilarious, surreal and self-revelatory. Ethan is passionate, engaged and never angry or hurtful. He was fascinated with astrophysicists’ predictions about the eventual fate of the universe, and did a great oral report to his classmates about how entropy and expansion led inexorably to a dark and cold end. Aidan made a three dimensional travel brochure – a paper octahedron with his “cell marketing materials” on the panels to convey, metaphorically, his understanding of cell structure and processes.

Izzy’s poise in talking about how he was not good at math when he started in the third grade but how he worked hard and now loves math, is embedded in the minds of dozens of visiting parents. Zoe is competitive all right, but you would not know it from her centered bearing. Her calm inner fire infuses everything she does from projects to relationships. We can imagine she learned some of it from her gymnastics training. Vivien wrote a biographical paper on Galileo in German last summer, and brings the perspective of a first generation immigrant to her class—always making interesting observations and asking thoughtful questions. In Avalon’s beatific smile one can see the social grace that leads her classmates to look to her to buoy them up when they are down. They also know that an athletic tiger lies beneath the surface.

Hot Dates

Wednesday, April 1 – Friday, April 3

9-10 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.

Fiesta check-out and pick-up
2nd floor, 16th Street conference room

Friday, April 3

Cesar Chavez celebration

Monday, April 6 – Friday, April 10

Spring vacation

No school

Extended program available

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



Thank You!

- To all who've participated in the coffee mug raffle on Fridays—you've helped reduce waste in many ways!
- To Carlos Vasquez and Kristen and Luis Peña for supplying delicious Friday coffee and pastries.
- To all who recently donated books to our library: Den Tucker and Barbara Hirsch, Melanie Piech and Jim Finberg, Sasha Hunt, Sherry Spitzer, and Linda Glover and Ray Baxter.
- To Elizabeth and Jay Seirmarco for donating a flat screen computer monitor to the IT department.

Isabel led her team in creating a device that incorporates all six types of simple machines and that accurately models a way to lift 100,000 Newtons with a force of just 2,000 Newtons. Still water runs deep. Yvonne comes across as shy, sweet and quiet. But pump up the volume and she'll be the one ripping up the dance floor. Yvonne is kindness: the person you want to talk to, the person you want as a friend. Her generosity is boundless. Jamie designed an experiment on how salt affects freezing temperature. She was at her best when the class visited the Kaiser pathology lab last year. She was unfazed in close proximity to body parts from current cases in the lab, and typical CDS student that she is, asked the pathologist excellent questions.

Who is Leon? He blends into the crowd and yet stands out. He is mysterious, but not really. He broods, but his smile is infectious. He is shy, but can work an audience. He is adaptable but you always know his heart is in the right place. A natural leader, Heather has acquired a large enough toolbox of skills so that her classmates are grateful for her graceful leadership. Last year, she was the first seventh grader asked to be editor-in-chief of the yearbook, a role normally taken by an eighth grader. Anoli wrote an excellent short paper on the Mpemba effect, which can cause warm water to counter-intuitively freeze faster than colder water. She has been known to tell teachers when she thought she earned too high a grade. Like most CDS students she models the word "integrity." Mature, thoughtful and caring kids go to Vita for advice on how to manage conflict. She could easily pass for a junior in high school, not for putting on a false sense of the cool, but for her serenity, poise and self-confidence.

They are each so unique, and yet they are all the same.

One can talk about them as a group. They express themselves openly in the classroom while leaving room for others to speak up. They listen with an open mind, with a willingness to having their minds changed. In their self-fulness they are all very concerned with the "other" or the voiceless in society. It shows up in their writing, as well as their Socratic dialogues.

Talking to assembled parents and teachers last night, Pat Bassett, President of NAIS, described the kind of people that the future will need and the kind of education required to get them there: people with a high EQ (emotional intelligence) who are creative, flexible, resilient, self-confident and self-disciplined; in other words, young people who can use both sides of their brains. Well, I think it is safe to say that CDS is doing its part.

From the Classrooms

High School Admission

We're pleased to report that the members of the class of 2009 were accepted into the following high schools:

- The Bay School
- Convent of the Sacred Heart High School
- Drew School
- International High School
- Lick-Wilmerding High School
- Lowell High School
- School of the Arts (SOTA)
- St. Ignatius High School
- University High School
- The Urban School of San Francisco
- Waldorf High School

Be sure to congratulate the eighth graders the next time you see them!

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

- Lemons, lemons, lemons! If you have any extras on your tree, please bring them in. We have 16 quarts of lemon juice so far; last year we had 5.5 gallons total. Keep the lemons coming!

Eco Egg Coloring

Many CDS families celebrate spring holidays. If your family celebrates Easter and/or dyes eggs, here's an eco tip from the Green Task Force.

The tradition of dyeing eggs dates back to medieval times and is still popular today. Natural ingredients were used then and your kitchen is full of chemical-free food products that you can use to create fun color eggs!

For richer hues, hot dipping is the preferred method. This involves boiling the eggs in the strained colorant. To create the egg colors, the ingredients (below) should first be boiled in water then strained. Add a teaspoon of vinegar for more vibrant colors.

- Grape juice or canned blueberries: blue
- Onion skins or chili powder: orange
- Beets, cranberry juice or red cabbage: pink
- Hibiscus tea or red wine: violet
- Pomegranate juice, canned cherries or red onion skins: red
- Dill seeds: gold
- Coffee: brown
- Spinach leaves: green

Be patient with this system; eco-dyeing takes a bit longer than the old kits we're used to (for better results, use more ingredients and soak longer). Go ahead and experiment! You can always have egg-cellent egg salad sandwiches afterwards.

Does your family have other eco-friendly ways to celebrate the spring holidays? Let the Green Task Force know and they'll publish your tip in the Weekly! Have a great "green" spring vacation.

From the Office

2009-10 School Calendar

Please note the 2009-10 school year calendar attached to today's *Weekly*.

Lost & Found

Please come and claim your lost items this Thursday and Friday. Unclaimed items will be donated to Community Thrift at the end of the day on Friday.

Events

Fiesta Check-Out

Did you win online auction items or an item last Saturday night? Then come on over to the second floor conference room in the 16th Street building to claim your goods! Volunteers will be available to help you Thursday and Friday morning from 8:30-10 a.m. and during the afternoons from 3-5 p.m. It's quick and easy—grab your online items, pay for Saturday night purchases, all before spring vacation!

Fiesta Thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped make last Saturday's Fiesta a great success! The event would not have been possible without our co-chairs Pat Rose and Andrea Reynolds, and our Mighty hosts, Isabel and Sean Manchester. They made putting on a terrific party look far easier than it actually was.

In addition, thank you to the following people for leading the volunteer effort and devoting countless hours behind the scenes as well as in more public ways: Jim Reynolds, Rich Torres, David Morgenstein, Ann Van Gelder, Meredith Ashworth, Joann Prior, Shermalee Nicholson Guillen, Danielle Guthrie, Luis Pena, Brooke Bianco and Suzie Chastain.

And a very special shout out to all of our fabulous quilters and sewers: Rebecca Arons, Cindy McSherry-Martinez, Jocelyn Colopy, Stephanie Scarpulla, Danielle Guthrie, Jan Scott, Jeanette Wilmerding, Jen Millet, Becca Nitzan, Melanie Liu, Tina Corse, Melanie Piech, Paula Symonds, Laurie van Löben Sels, Wendy Bokhorst-Heng, Jeannette Layden, Barbara DeMoss, Kristen Hall, Doug Garfinkel, Susan Chastain, Ray Cendana, Cory Warren, Sara Switzman, Lydia Timken, Kimberly Cohen, Marianne Wood, Nasrin Naraghi, Molly Tyson, Heather O'Donnell, Ana Brubaker, Alycia

Freeman, Beverly Choe and Yamilee Bermingham.

And finally, a big thank you to the writers, quilt hangers, item movers, check-in and check-out volunteers and everyone else who helped with the multitude of bits and pieces that magically come together at the last minute: Vanessa Marlin, Durwood Zedd, Amanda Chapman, Leslie Edelman, Luma and Matthew Dahlbacka, Kristin Henry, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Debbie Jasso, Keri Lehmann, Alycia Freeman, Sherry Spitzer, Matt Ashworth, Kate Torres, Mickie Kerr, Constance Laflamme, John Kraus, Susi Alexander, Gigi Rosales, Akilah Bixler, Carlos Vasquez, Robin McClarren, Heather Kunz, Linda Glover, Roger Guillen, Ryan Lambert, Elizabeth McClellan, Karen Slovak, Amanda Richard, Dave Cohen, Sam Hunt and Tony Kitz.

This event is truly a community effort. Thank you to everyone who helped throw a great party and raise money for sliding scale tuition. Details on exactly how much money was raised will be available after vacation; for now, we know that it was very successful as well as lots of fun.

Extended Program News

April Vacation Camp

There is still space available in next week's vacation camp. Camp dates are April 6-10 and the cost is \$60 for a full day and \$35 for a half-day. Please contact Dan at 861-5432 or danl@cdfs-sf.org with any questions.

Spring Enrichment Classes

Enrollment has begun for spring enrichment classes. Class descriptions and registration forms can be found at the front desk and online at http://www.cdfs-sf.org/life_at_cds/extendedday.html.

Summer Camp

The Extended Program is very excited to offer a full camp once again for all CDS students in preschool through eighth grade. Summer camp enrollments are rolling in, but we still have space in all camp sessions in each age group. Some highlights this summer include our first ever Spanish Immersion Camp for elementary students during Session IV, July 27-Aug 7; Rock Band Camp with Mr. Terry and Mr. Ryan for middle school students during Session III, July 13-24; and Theatre Camp for elementary students with Ms. Emilie and Ms. Jasmin during Sessions I and II. Preschool camp will

also include these new exciting themes: Animalia, Cultural Explorer, Environment, Living with Music and Cooperation and Community. Enrollment forms are available at the front desk and online at http://www.cdfs-sf.org/life_at_cds/summer.html.

- Session I: June 15-26
- Session II: June 29-July 10
- Session III: July 13-24
- Session IV: July 27-Aug 7

After School Club Schedule

Please note the new after school club schedule which begins on Monday, April 13:

- Mondays: Nature Club, Middle School Wrestling, Pet Club, Group Games, Fun Hall and Meditation Club
- Tuesdays: Story Theater, Building Club, Group Games, Fun Hall and Craft Club
- Wednesdays: Nature Club, K-4 Wrestling, Pet Club, Group Games, Fun Hall and Meditation Club
- Thursdays: Story Theater, Building Club, Group Games, Fun Hall and Craft Club
- Fridays: Middle School Cooking, Origami Club, Art Room Fun Hall, Library Club

After School Talent Show

Don't miss the after school program's annual talent show on Friday, April 17 from 3:50-5:45 p.m. The entire CDS community is invited to witness this showcase of after school talent. The event will be held at Grace Fellowship Community Church at 3265 I6th Street (just around the corner). We hope to see you there.

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. (Earth friendly tip: bring your own mug!)

We're always looking for additional volunteers—if you're willing to sign up to bring morning sustenance, please contact Friday morning coffee coordinators Wendy Bokhorst-Heng at wdbheng@gmail.com, or Angie Jolie at ajolie@morillojolie.net.

PTTA Questions or Ideas?

- General e-mail, CDSPTTA@yahoo.com
- Laura Pliska, President, (415) 641-5116 or laura@sfbabyworks.com
- Robin McClarren, Faculty Appreciation Coordinator, (415) 235-0295 or robinmcc@speakeasy.net
- Sara O'Malley, Parent Involvement Coordinator, (415) 348-8841 or sara@omalleyhylton.com
- Karen Randig, Secretary, (415) 824-1784 or krandig@msn.com
- Andrea Reynolds, Preschool Representative, (415) 860-7556 or andrea-reynolds@sbcglobal.net
- Darya Soto, Diversity Coordinator, (415) 812-1715 or daryasoto@yahoo.com
- Carlos Vasquez, Classroom Liaison Coordinator, (415) 987-6501 or xcvasquez@aol.com

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, April 16

6-8 p.m.

Parent Education Night sponsored by the
Committee on Inclusion and Diversity

Friday, April 24

8:45-10:45 a.m.

Sustainability Fair

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

Children's Day School

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Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail



2009-2010 Holiday/Vacation Calendar

August	31	Mon	Family conferences (all grades; optional for returning students, mandatory for new students) and student orientation (grades K-6)
September	1	Tue	Family conferences and student orientation (prek-K)
	2	Wed	First day of School
	7	Mon	Labor Day observed (holiday, no school, no camp program)
October	12	Mon	Government holiday observed (holiday, no school, no camp program)
	26	Mon	Professional Development day (no school, no camp program)
November	19-20	Thu-Fri	Family conferences (no school, Extended Program Camp available)
	25	Wed	Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day, noon dismissal (no extended program)
	26-27	Thu-Fri	Thanksgiving vacation (no school, no camp program)
December	18	Fri	Winter Performance (I Iam), noon dismissal (extended program available)
	21-23	Mon-Wed	Winter vacation (no school, Extended Program Camp available)
	24-31	Thu-Thu	Winter vacation (no school, no camp program)
January	1	Fri	New Year's Day (holiday, no school, no camp program)
	4	Mon	School resumes
	18	Mon	Dr. Martin Luther King Day observed (holiday, no school, no camp program)
February	1	Mon	Teacher work day (no school, no camp program)
	15	Mon	President's Day observed (holiday, no school, no camp program)
	16-19	Tue-Fri	February vacation (no school, Extended Program Camp available)
March	4-5	Thu-Fri	Family conferences (no school, Extended Program Camp available)
	22	Mon	Professional Development day (no school, no camp program)
April	12-16	Mon-Fri	Spring Vacation (no school, Extended Program Camp available)
May	1	Sat	Country Fair 11:00am-2:00pm
	31	Mon	Memorial Day observed (holiday, no school, no camp program)
June	15	Tue	Last day of school; 8 th grade Graduation 3:45 pm (no extended program)

