



April 23, 2009

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Connections

Although I didn't attend the People of Color Picnic last Saturday, I heard I missed a great event. Crowd estimators said there were about 70 people on the yard, including eight new families, all getting to know one another.

There are those who feel that a picnic only for people of color is exclusionary. There is a way that it is, of course. Only those who identify as "people of color" are invited. Then there is the fact that some people don't even like the term. One parent who is Canadian felt the term to be offensive, and was quite articulate about it: "I thought that term was outdated long ago - it is so offensive. On so many grounds it has problems. Colour is such a socially constructed notion; white is a colour too, rendering the term kind of odd. It is reminiscent of days of 'colour segregation.' Surely a better term can be used?"

These articulations started a dialogue. One parent responded with: "...for the white parent of a mixed-race four-year-old just beginning to explore what it means to have skin different from her mother, it is great to be able to hear about the experience of a multiracial family with older children. The purpose of the picnic is not to exclude anyone --- any more than the occasional brunch for LGBT families at CDS, or for that matter, the recent "Starfish Dads' Night Out," might. Anyone who would like to be at the picnic is welcome to come."

Why should there be a picnic for people of color? Aren't we all about making people feel included? Yes, we want everyone to feel a part of the larger school community. At the same time, we want to acknowledge that, generally speaking, it can feel as if every day is "white day." A people of color picnic is about intentionally creating space for families of color to make connections with each other, thereby strengthening their sense of community as a whole. One doesn't preclude the other.

It's a funny thing, diversity. Diversity is fraught with paradox if the conversation stays theoretical. In fact on the theoretical level, many positions are mutually contradictory. For example, the same people who are in favor of affirmative action might be the same people who believe we should "not discriminate on the grounds of race, creed or color." I believe in both.

So it is always important to keep our conversations where people really live, with a purpose of continuing to learn together. Sarah O'Malley had this report: "At the end of the event I was talking to Brooke and Akilah Bixler when their daughter Brickelle came up to show off a drawing she had done of herself - a beautiful dramatic self-portrait in purple with a cloud of curly hair. I asked her if she had had a good day. She stopped, considered for a moment, and replied very seriously "I ... [long pause]... had a super fun day."

### Hot Dates

Thursday, April 23

7-9 p.m.

Author Bob Bigelow hosted by  
The San Francisco Friends School  
750 Valencia Street

Friday, April 24

8:45-10:45 a.m.

Sustainability Expo

Saturday, April 25

10-2 p.m.

Country Fair Work Day  
CDS yard

8:30-4 p.m.

Education Revolution 2009  
AT&T Park

Dates also posted on CDS website  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)



## Thank You!

- To second grade families for providing great sustenance at last week's faculty breakfast.
- To Marion Quinones and Jason Perkins for providing Friday morning coffee and donuts.
- To everyone who brought in lemons for our Country Fair lemonade. We've juiced nearly 7 ½ gallons and are now making the sugar syrup base. We are on pace to make nearly 60 gallons of lemonade.

What was the People of Color Picnic all about? It was about connecting. It was about new parents connecting with current parents. It was about new kids feeling comfortable in their new environment, whether what made them feel comfortable was the yard or the sheep or the fact that they could see that there were other kids that looked like them. It *is* about believing that the connections made among those at the People of Color Picnic strengthen the entire CDS community.

As always, it was a chance just to have fun together, and a chance to make new relationships and develop old ones. After our parent education night last week (also about issues of diversity) one person said, "I was so happy to get to know three people I had been working closely with for four years." There cannot be true community-building if diversity is not our middle name.

## From the Classrooms

### Sustainability Expo

Please join us on Friday, April 24, from 8:45-10:45 a.m. in the preschool yard for the second annual CDS Sustainability Expo. All parents are invited to attend; however, students must visit the expo with their class during their scheduled time. If you'd like to visit with your child and their class, please adhere to the following time slots:

8:45-9:05	Teddy Bears, 8 <sup>th</sup>
9:05-9:25	Starfish, 7 <sup>th</sup>
9:25-9:45	Leaping Lizards, 6 <sup>th</sup>
9:45-10:05	1 <sup>st</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>
10:05-10:25	K (Jen), 2 <sup>nd</sup>
10:25-10:45	K (Luisa), 3 <sup>rd</sup>

Please note the following classroom and local organization presentations:

- K Firecrackers: Worm bin
- K Shooting Stars: Curbing cigarette littering
- First Puppies: Ocean temperatures around the world
- First Wonderers: Garbage stop game
- Second Explorers: Council of All Beings
- Second Letters: Rescued marine mammals
- Third: Learning about watersheds
- Fourth: Toxic Jeopardy; eco soap
- Fifth: Alternative sources of energy
- Sixth: How Native Americans have used desert plants sustainably
- Seventh: Art from objects; reusing waste.
- Eighth: Hats for refugees
- Green Task Force: Carpooling at CDS
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)
- Surfrider
- Sustainable Living Roadshow
- Garden for the Environment

## From the Office

### Head Search Update

Please note the attached memo that details the current state of the Head of School search process.

### Parent Education Events

#### *Just Let the Kids Play*

All parents are invited to a talk hosted by San Francisco Friends School with Bob Bigelow, author of *Just Let the Kids Play*, on Thursday, April 23 from 7-9 p.m. The

## 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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cdscommunity).

evening will include a lecture and discussion about competitive sports programs that put the interests of children first. San Francisco Friends School is located at 250 Valencia Street.

## Education Revolution 2009

Parents Education Network is holding a day-long event, Education Revolution 2009, on Saturday, April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at AT&T Park for students who learn differently, and the parents and educators that support them. The event will include conference sessions and an afternoon resource fair. Further event details can be found at [www.parentseducationnetwork.org](http://www.parentseducationnetwork.org).

## Events

### Country Fair Work Day

Join us this Saturday, April 25 from 10–2 p.m. for our annual Country Fair Work Day. Please bring your garden or work gloves and enjoy a few hours of mulching, pruning and planting. Childcare and lunch will be provided. Please contact Kelsey for more information at [kelseys@cds-sf.org](mailto:kelseys@cds-sf.org).

### Country Fair

All are invited to the CDS Country Fair on Saturday, May 2 from 11–2 p.m. Our campus will be the setting for the ever-popular fair activities such as sheep shearing, face painting, wool washing, a cupcake walk, our fabulous bake sale and farmer's market, and much more.

We also have many new things in store for you including a DUNK TANK! Warm up your pitching arm and come see which of your favorite teachers and administrators have volunteered to take a few dunks.

In addition, you won't want to miss our very own Kerry Parker, performing with her band, Failure to Disperse, as guests arrive. Master of Ceremonies and CDS parent, Dave Klaus, will announce the day's events, which kick off with Loco Bloco, a local youth organization combining African, Brazilian, Latin, hip hop and funk music and dance. Then, get ready for the bluegrass sounds of Montana-Slim-String-Band-Slim-Pickins.

### Arriving at the Fair

Please walk, skip, bike, take MUNI, or carpool to the Country Fair if you can. No parking will be available at CDS. All children who arrive in an earth-friendly way will receive a free raffle ticket to win one of the many hand-made items available at the fair.

## Incoming CDS Families

We've invited the new families who will be joining our community this fall to the Country Fair. If you see some wide-eyed folks walking around wearing yellow name tags, please introduce yourself and extend a warm welcome to our new families.

## Parent Volunteers Needed

Sign-ups are well underway for the class activities but we still need your help. If you haven't yet, please sign-up for a short time-slot to help out:

- Teddy Bears: Wool magic
- Starfish: Games
- Leaping Lizards: Face painting, tattoos, mural
- Kindergarten: Grill
- 1st Grade: Set-up and break-down
- 2nd Grade: Bake sale
- 3rd Grade: Games
- 4th Grade: Welcome and tickets
- 5th Grade: CDS pride
- 6th Grade: Handmade market
- 7th Grade: Games
- 8th Grade: Handmade market, crafts

We are also still looking for parent volunteers to handle a few special projects. If you are interested, Robin McClarren at [robinmcc@speakeasy.net](mailto:robinmcc@speakeasy.net) or Meredith Ashworth at [meredith@glugcollection.com](mailto:meredith@glugcollection.com) to get involved.

## Go Bulldogs!

The futsal (indoor soccer) season is underway. Come out and cheer on the Bulldogs!

### Futsal Calendar

Tuesday, April 21, 4 p.m.  
SF Christian, Boys & Girls Club

Tuesday, April 28, 4p.m.  
SF School, Boys & Girls Club

## Sweet Treats

We need your sweet treats for the highly anticipated bake sale! Please contact Danielle Gutherie at [danielle@vegaproject.com](mailto:danielle@vegaproject.com) or Jeanette Wilmerding at [jfiliatreau@yahoo.com](mailto:jfiliatreau@yahoo.com) if you'd like to contribute. Please plan to deliver your baked goods when you arrive at the fair as we do not have a place to store them overnight. Remember to include a note if your item has special dietary information (gluten and sugar free items are greatly appreciated) and put your name on any serving dishes you'd like returned.

The annual Cupcake Walk is a fun and popular game so we need a LOT of cupcakes! Please contact Danielle Gutherie or Jeanette Wilmerding if you'd like to contribute cupcakes.

## Homemade and Homespun

It's not too late to add your own homemade or hand-made contribution to our Farmer's Market or Craft Booth. We'd love to sell your family or community-made, non-perishable items at the Farmer's Market or your lovely hand-knit items at the Craft Booth. Please contact Meredith Ashworth (market) at [meredith@glugcollection.com](mailto:meredith@glugcollection.com) or Mary DeNardo (crafts) at [maryd@cds-sf.org](mailto:maryd@cds-sf.org) if you'd like to contribute.

## Keep Your Cool

We're looking for large coolers to keep our organic meats and produce fresh for the BBQ. If you can lend us a cooler, please bring it to the reception desk next week. Contact Meredith Ashworth at [meredith@glugcollection.com](mailto:meredith@glugcollection.com) if you can help!

## Shade

We are looking for four large umbrellas with stands to keep our hard working volunteers cool on Country Fair day. If you can loan us one, please contact Robin McClarren at [robinmcc@speakeasy.net](mailto:robinmcc@speakeasy.net) or Meredith Ashworth at [meredith@glugcollection.com](mailto:meredith@glugcollection.com).

## Bingo

Okay, we won't actually be playing bingo at the fair, but if you have a bingo spinner with numbers that we can borrow for the cupcake walk, we'd like to borrow it. Contact Kristin Henry at [kristinhenrypt@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinhenrypt@yahoo.com) to donate.

## Extended Program News

### AM Care

Please note that school opens at 8 a.m. everyday. If you need to drop your student off before 8 a.m., we provide AM Care charged to Extended Program Care Card accounts in Colette's classroom (immediately inside the double doors).

PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are NOT allowed to stand outside the yard gate and wait by themselves for school to open.

If you have a specific situation that you need to discuss with us, please give us a call so we can help problem-solve. Thank you for reminding your students of the school hours and rules.

### Summer Camp

CDS Summer Camp is filling up. While all sessions are still open, be sure to enroll and guarantee your spot as soon as possible. We're excited to announce new themes for the elementary summer choices camp to complement the daily farm and garden, sports and games, and arts and crafts options:

- Session I: Broadway
- Session II: Theatre
- Session III: Things that Fly, Float or Roll
- Session IV: Spanish Experience
- Session V: SF Scavenger Hunt

Session descriptions and registration materials are attached and can be found on the CDS website. The dates for the summer sessions are as follows:

- Session I: June 15-26
- Session II: June 29-July 10
- Session III: July 13-24
- Session IV: July 27-Aug 7
- Session V: August 10-14

Please contact Dan Larson at [danl@cds-sf.org](mailto:danl@cds-sf.org) if you have any questions.

## 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](mailto:wdbheng@gmail.com), or Angie Jolie at [ajolie@morillojolie.net](mailto:ajolie@morillojolie.net).

### PTTA Questions or Ideas?

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

## Upcoming Dates

**Saturday, May 2**

11-2 p.m.

Country Fair

**Monday, May 11 – Friday, May 15**

ERB testing week – grades 3-8

**Tuesday, May 19**

4-6 p.m.

Committee on Inclusion and Diversity meeting

**Monday, May 25**

Memorial Day observed

No school

No extended program

Dates also posted on CDS website  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)

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