



April 30, 2009

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Thinking about Thinking

In most conversations with educators the educational objective “teaching kids how to think” would not be controversial. What rarely gets clarified, however, is what kind of thinking we want to teach. Here’s an example of the kind of thinking CDS teachers have in mind, in an excerpt from sixth grader Emma Rose’s response to the math “problem of the week.”

I pretty much know that my answer to this problem is most likely not right, because there’s just something that tells me right away that there has to be more balls that fit into the room. Believe me, I tried to think of a better way to do it, but I really couldn’t do any better than that.

I thought of this problem as pretty challenging, though I can imagine if you were better at geometry and had done more problems like this, you could have thought it was pretty easy. It seems like on the m-pows that whether I do better or worse, all depends on two things: time management and what kind of problem it is. If I manage my time well, I have more time to write a thorough essay, and depending on what type of math it is, because I’m better at some types, and worse at some. I think that I did O.K. on time management; I think I needed to work on planning ahead more when trying to solve the problem.

Often the thinking teachers require is one dimensional and essentially: guess-what-answer-is-in-my-head? Or, “What would be the diameter of a ball that you could fit a thousand of in a room which was 10 feet wide, 10 feet long and 10 feet high? Anybody? Anybody?”

Here is the question that Kirk Bell asked his sixth graders this week: “The principal orders 15,000 pencils and mistakably puts the wrong item number on the order form. The company doesn’t send 15,000 pencils, but 15,000 globes. The company says they will be happy to come and retrieve the unwanted globes but can’t do it for two weeks. Luckily there is one empty classroom that measures 12 meters by 9 meters by 3 meters. How many globes can they get into this room?”

For extra credit: There is space between these globes, of course. What is the diameter of the largest ball that you could also fit into the room between the globes and what is the total number of those balls that would fit in there with the globes?”

The “Math Problem of the Week” is assigned as homework every Monday morning and due every Friday morning. It is an essay that includes re-stating

## Hot Dates

Wednesday, April 29

6-7:30 p.m.

Health & Human Sexuality discussion for parents, led by

Ivy Chen, MPH

Third floor humanities classroom

Friday, May 1

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

First grade (Paula) presenting

Saturday, May 2

11-2 p.m.

Country Fair

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



## Thank You!

- To all of the families, and faculty and staff, who helped clean up and beautify the yard at last Saturday's Country Fair Work Day. Everyone worked hard and it shows!
- To Suzanne and Joe Jachinowski and Alycia Freeman for providing excellent Friday morning coffee and baked goods.

the problem and identifying math skills that will be necessary to solve the problem, designing and carrying out strategies to solve the problem, stating the solution to the problem, and reflecting on the process and time management.

Getting kids to think about how they think is one of the highest pay-off activities we can give them. As you can imagine, it is multi-dimensional. They are not only going back over the problem and thinking about how they solved it (usually this results in a new thought about a better answer or a better method), but they are also increasing their own consciousness about how their brain works. Over time this gives them greater control over a more flexible brain. If we really want to increase their mental capacity, we need to give their pre-frontal cortex a work-out.

At CDS we keep trying to get kids to reflect on how they learn—to think about how they think. Each of us is wired in a unique way and that wiring gives us natural proclivities. Some have a natural tendency to guess and check, others like to know the proper procedure before they can get started, others just take one step after another, figuring it out as they go. Some problems, some classrooms, some tests and some teachers reward some inclinations more than others. Often, adults try to get the student's brain to work differently and that is often when problems set in. Teachers, parents and students get frustrated with themselves and with each other.

Getting students to reflect on their method can unlock these frustrations. If a student thinks about how he or she is thinking, they can see their own new pathway. A steady diet of this kind of thinking can really empower students to develop more flexible brains so that they can be better prepared for a complex and changing future.

## Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

### May...We...Pledge

No small task awaits the dedicated corps of CDS capital campaign volunteers next month. Our goal is to reach out (literally, reach out) to all CDS parents in May and ask for your help securing over \$400,000 in new pledges to the *Building Our Future* campaign to fund the renovation of St. Joseph's Hall. All month long, volunteers will be personally delivering a small packet of campaign materials as well as a handy, not-available-in-any-store CDS fridge magnet to fellow parents. We hope you'll read the appeal, post the magnet as a friendly reminder and consider contributing with generosity to help us reach our goal of \$2.25 million in total campaign pledges by June 1.

The detail about *pledging*—i.e. promising to give in the future—is important. As part of the school's construction loan package, the bank has set a deadline of June 1 for CDS to raise \$1.4 million in paid gifts and \$2.25 million in all—paid gifts plus pledges to pay in future years. Thanks to the generosity of parents, trustees, friends and foundations, we've already exceeded the bank's \$1.4 million paid gift requirement. What we're asking for in May is that each one of us do everything we can to commit to the campaign this year as well as for the next couple of years. If you can give \$100 now, please consider pledging \$100 a year for three years. If you've completed a pledge to the campaign, would you consider extending your giving for another year or two? And if you can't give now, would you be able to commit to a gift next fall or next year?

Working together, we can get this done, and we're asking everyone to help. Even if your gift must be small, please contribute, since strong participation is important now more than ever as we seek to maintain the school's access to credit. Solid banking relationships, good credit and a successful capital campaign in a tough economic climate will keep CDS strong and healthy as we improve our campus facilities and make this a better school for the future.

## From the Classrooms

### Earth Friendly Fridays

Given the success of our recent efforts to reduce the CDS carbon footprint, members of the Green Task Force will be handing out "I go green" stickers each

## School Wish List

- Do you have a tripod that can be used during the Country Fair? If so, please contact Amanda Richard at [amandar@cds-sf.org](mailto:amandar@cds-sf.org).

Friday morning to those who come to school in an earth-friendly way until the end of the school year. Please join in and help us reach our distribution goal of 200 "I go green" stickers decorating students and staff this Friday!

These last weeks of school are a perfect time to set up a **trial period of carpooling** with your neighbors. CDS parent Dave Cohen produced a map that pinpoints almost every dwelling of those in the CDS community. Dave's fascinating map will be on display by the front gate for the next few weeks so that you can discover how many CDS students or staff members live near you.

Carpooling can benefit parents in the following ways:

- You will drive to/from CDS half as much.
- Drop-off and pick-up will go quicker due to fewer cars.
- You will use less fuel.
- You may learn lots from students' conversations.

## Green Commuters on Earth Day

We're thrilled to report that 188 students and staff came to school in an earth-friendly way last Friday!

- 51 carpoled (one carpool maxed out with 7 passengers who work at or attend CDS!)
- 39 walked
- 23 biked
- 21 took MUNI/BART
- 3 rode scooters
- I skated

Thanks to all who helped lead the way in our earth-friendly efforts.

## Order Your Yearbook Today

Please note the attached information and order form for the 2008-09 Yearbook. Be the first to place your order for this year's fantastic yearbook.

## From the Office

### Swine Flu Update

As you are all aware, on Monday American health officials declared a public health emergency because of the increasing number of cases of swine flu in the United States. Ninety-one cases of the disease have been confirmed in the United States, and more are expected. Thus far, most cases in the United States have been relatively mild.

Although it is unknown at this time how much the virus has spread, the Center for Disease Control expects the number of cases to grow. Because we are residents of California, where cases of swine flu have been confirmed, it is important for all of us to take precautionary measures to prevent spreading the virus to others. We urge all students and parents to take the following precautions to ensure staying healthy:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners (like Purell) are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- And most critically for CDS students, families, faculty and staff: if you get sick, stay home from school or work and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

If you develop flu-like symptoms of fever, aches and pains, sore throat, coughing, trouble breathing, runny nose, or nausea, diarrhea and vomiting, you should contact your health care provider. Your health care provider will determine whether influenza testing and treatment is needed.

## Go Bulldogs!

### Futsal Scores

CDS vs. SF Christian  
SFC 8, CDS 1

Stay tuned for more scheduling information.

We will keep CDS students and families advised as more information becomes available about the swine flu outbreak. For further information on swine flu, please check the CDC website at [http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu\\_you.html](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.html).

## COID Meeting

Please Join the Committee on Inclusion and Diversity (COID) for our next meeting on Tuesday, May 19 from 4-6 p.m. Help us plan for next year. All are welcome and childcare is provided if you sign your child up at the front desk.

## Health & Human Sexuality

Please join us tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. for a parent workshop on “Talking About Health, Sexuality Development and Puberty with Your Child.” Ivy Chen, a sexuality health educator who comes to us highly recommended, will be facilitating. This is a great opportunity to increase your comfort level in talking with your kids about puberty and sexuality development.

Childcare is available for all CDS students and non-CDS students in grades K-8. Please RSVP with the reception desk for childcare.

## Events

### Country Fair this Saturday

Craving BBQ? Thirsty for freshly squeezed lemonade? Join us this Saturday, May 2, from 11-2 p.m. for the CDS Country Fair! And in case it looks like rain, throw on your rain boots and come on over. In the event of rain, the tents will go up and the fair will go on!

Arrive early to see Lucky and Jojo get a trim, then pull up your sleeves and help wash their wool. Ponder your future with our tarot card reader, decorate your body with a henna tattoo, dunk one of your favorite teachers in the dunk tank, enjoy homemade tamales and a great line-up of music, games and treats. You won't want to miss our entertainment—Master of Ceremonies and CDS parent, Dave Klaus, our very own Kerry Parker and Failure to Disperse, the high energy, *Loco Bloco*, and Montana-Slim-String-Band-Slim-Pickins.

### Arriving at the Fair

Parking will be a big challenge in the Mission District this Saturday due to the Cinco de Mayo celebration in

Dolores Park. We encourage you to walk, skip, bike, take MUNI, or carpool to the Country Fair. Those who arrive in an earth-friendly way will receive a **free raffle ticket** to win a beautiful basket of goodies. NO parking will be permitted on the CDS Campus.

## Welcome New CDS Families

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

## Calling All Volunteers

We still need volunteers to help run class sponsored activities. If you haven't signed up for a shift yet, please do. The success of this event depends on the involvement of our entire community. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered time and energy to make this event a successful community celebration.

Also, please respect your fellow parents by showing up on time for your shift. MC Dave Klaus will be announcing shift changes throughout the event.

## Last Call for Sweet Treats

Calling all bakers—it's not too late to bake some sweet treats for the bake sale! Please contact Danielle Guthrie 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 on Saturday. 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.

## Last Call for Cupcakes

We still need cupcakes for the fun and lively cupcake walk. Please contact Danielle Guthrie at [Danielle@vegaproject.com](mailto:Danielle@vegaproject.com) or Jeanette Wilmerding at [jfiliatreau@yahoo.com](mailto:jfiliatreau@yahoo.com) if you'd like to bake, frost and deliver a dozen or so.

## Hay Storage

Please let us know if you have space to store a few hay bales after the Country Fair, until Lucky and Jojo can put them to use. Contact Amanda Richard if you can help at [amandar@cds-sf.org](mailto:amandar@cds-sf.org).

## Remember to Compost

The worms will love your tamale wrappers, watermelon rinds, compostable plates, forks, spoons, knives and napkins, too! All the eat-ware is compostable again this year, so please put your food scraps, dishes and utensils in the GREEN COMPOST BINS, Plastic bottles should go in the BLUE BINS, and all other non-recyclable trash should be placed in a black trash bin. Thank you for keeping our campus clean and helping the environment.

## Extended Program News

### 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.

## Upcoming Dates

**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

**Friday, May 29**  
Step-Up Day

**Tuesday, June 9**  
3:45-5 p.m.  
Eighth grade graduation

Last day of school

Dates also posted on CDS website  
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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

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