



December 4, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Loss

Wini von Ehrenburg, mother of seventh grade twins Sasha and Kate, died last week of cancer with her girls and her husband Don at her side. Dozens of friends and family gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday in support of Don and the children—and each other.

I began to get to know Wini at our first annual phonathon a little over six years ago. She was bright, businesslike and purposeful, but she laced everything with a little humor. We immediately struck up a friendship. With Don we formed a partnership for Kate and Sasha that stood us in good stead over the course of their progress from first grade to seventh grade. Over the next six years our friendship grew as Wini, Don and I worked together for Kate and Sasha and for the school.

It was obvious from the many people who spoke at the service that Wini's death left a large hole in our community. Everyone spoke about how she had touched them. The following email to Elsa from Wini is a mere hint of the many moments that were remembered:

Good morrow!

If thou wouldst, join to the list of after-care children, the names of my two daughters, Natasha and Katya, both of the family Zirulnik, of the fifth grade. I, their parent, will come to fetch them anon about the time that the warming afternoon sun begins its inevitable way toward early evening as the clock chimes five.

My thanks to you.

*Adieu,
Winifred of the von Ehrenburgs*

People spoke about Wini as we watched photographs of her flash on the screen before us, and slowly, word by word and image by image, the character of Winifred von Ehrenburg began to metabolize into our system so that we could begin to feel that our lives would continue to be affected by her life.

It is so unfair that death should take away someone so young; a mother and a wife, a person so important to the lives of so many. Mad is truer than sad at a time like this. Rage, perhaps. A ninety-year-old relative who lost her own mother at the age of 15 was quoted as saying it takes seventy-five years for the pain of such a loss to go away. In other words, it never does. You can't subtract emptiness. What does seem to happen, however, is that other life adds. So much adding has been going on in the last week, and so much was evident at

Hot Dates

Friday, December 5
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Kindergarten (Luisa) presenting

Tuesday, December 9

6:30-7:30 p.m.
Sliding scale tuition workshop

Thursday, December 11

6:15-8 p.m.
Parent Education Night

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



Thank You!

- To all parents who helped out with Grandparents and Special Friends Day, especially John Kraus for taking photographs, the preschool liaisons for helping coordinate volunteer efforts, the wonderful food donors and the event volunteers for lending an extra hand: Jocelyn Colopy, Jennifer Fox, Angie Jolie, Paige Lang, Michelle Lapuz, Cindy McScherry-Martinez, Shannon Robinson and Al Stoll.
- To Elizabeth and Jay Seirmarco for donating a Dell monitor to the IT department.
- To Lynda Marton for bringing coffee and bagels to Friday morning coffee.
- To another fabulous group of admission tour volunteers: Ana Brubaker, Jim Colopy, Manda Ederer, Viru Gupte, Amy Hecht, Kristin Henry, Todd Hosfelt, Justine Juson, Paige Lang, Michelle Lapuz, Jeanette Layden, Nerius Mercado, Roger Nys, Kristin Pena, Jason Perkins, Lauren Schwartz, Daama Sheepo and Ann Van Gelder.
- To our Gift Wrap and Greenery volunteers: Ann Van Gelder for placing gift wrap orders, Melanie Piech for placing greenery orders, Tina Corse and Leslie Edelman for distributing gift wrap and greenery and last but not least, Tina Corse and Robin McClarren for co-chairing the entire effort.

the service, that one can begin to see an acceptable trajectory moving forward. Grief, rage, loss—sometimes that's what love feels like.

From the Classrooms

Middle School News

- The faculty recently played the middle school volleyball team. It was a nail biter but in the end...both teams won!
- Fifth graders visited the Asian Art Museum to see *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul*.

- Students are currently being interviewed for the Student Leadership Team and task forces are in full swing.
- Sixth graders are reading *The Giver* and rewriting chapters from different perspectives. The book is a child's version of *A Brave New World* where kids are assigned to families, instead of being born into them—you can imagine the discussions they are having!

From the Office

Annual Report

Be on the lookout for the combined 2006-07 and 2007-08 Annual Report, which includes highlights from the last two years, and honors our generous giving community. All parents and grandparents will receive the report in the mail within the next week.

Book Group Meets Again

Mark your calendars for the next meeting of our Parent-Teacher Book Group on January 29, 2009 from 6–7:30 p.m. The group will continue to discuss *Raising Lifelong Learners* by Lucy Calkins. Stay tuned for more details in the new year.

eScrip and OneCause

As reported in a recent *Weekly*, you can donate money to CDS simply by shopping at your favorite stores via eScrip and also, OneCause (previously known as SchoolPop). Visit www.escrip.com to sign up and register your credit cards, and each time you shop at places like Safeway or Macy's, a portion of your total will be donated to CDS. Please note that if you registered several years ago you may need to log on and renew your membership so that the school continues to receive proceeds.

Another way to contribute is through OneCause at www.onecause.com. Simply go to "Join" and fill out the requested information and then go to "Choose a

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.

cause/school” and type in Children’s Day School. Once you’ve chosen CDS you can register your credit cards, invite friends and families to register and begin shopping. The site lists a variety of merchants you can shop with from Amazon to Target to eBay.

Events

Parent Education Night

Please join us next Thursday, December 11 from 6:15 – 8 p.m. for our fall Parent Education Night focused on “Discipline: Setting Limits, Saying No, and Accepting No.” Join CDS teachers, administrators and fellow preschool through eighth grade parents to engage in small group dialogue about this important aspect of parenting and teaching.

Throughout the evening we will be referring to chapter nine of the book *Practical Wisdom for Parents* by Nancy Schulman and Ellen Birnbaum. While this book is written specifically with preschool parents in mind, the messages are powerful and applicable for parents of any school-age child. If you’d like to pick up your own copy of the book, you can find the 2007 hardcover edition on www.amazon.com (used or new from \$3 - \$17.)

Childcare will be provided for CDS students and non-CDS students in grades K-8. Please sign up for childcare with the receptionist by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10. **Please note: in order to staff childcare appropriately, families must RSVP by Wednesday in order for their children to participate.**

SST Information Night

What is sliding scale tuition (SST)? Should we apply – and if so, how do we do that? Come learn more about our sliding scale tuition on Tuesday night, December 9, 2008 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Members of the Access and Affordability Committee – Donna Shibata and Aimee Giles – will be on hand to answer your questions and explain how this process works. No RSVP is necessary, but if you have questions feel free to contact Aimee Giles at 861-5432 x322 or aimeeg@cds-sf.org.

Extended Program News

We Care Celebration

All K-8 students in extended care are invited to attend this year’s “We Care” seasonal celebration at the Boys & Girls Club on Thursday, December 4. Sponsored by

Herman Miller architects, “We Care” turns the club gym into a winter wonderland featuring face-painting, arts and crafts such as making scarves and hats, crazy portraits and more. Permission slips went home in backpacks on Tuesday and are also available at the front desk. Participants will leave CDS at 4 p.m. and return at 5 p.m. For questions, please contact Dan Larson at danl@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x315.

Winter Arts Festival

The second annual after school Winter Arts Festival will be held on Friday, December 12. The festival showcases the year’s projects in pet club, building club and fun hall, features performances by the cello, violin and guitar enrichment classes, and hosts the premiere of another original production from Ms. Jasmin’s theatre club. Refreshments will be provided, and festivities start at 4:30 and will be hosted at Grace Fellowship Church, two doors down from CDS on I6th Street.

Holiday Camp

The Extended Program will be offering Holiday Camp on December 19, 22 and 23. Preschool camp will be open to 24 students and K-8 will host 30 participants. Registration forms will be available with next week’s *Weekly*. For questions, please contact Dan at 861-5432 x315 or danl@cds-sf.org.

PTTA Update

Wraps & Greens

Holiday greenery went home with children on Wednesday and gift wrap will be distributed shortly, via backpack as well. If you still want to buy holiday greenery, a parent volunteer will be selling extra greenery during drop-off on Thursday and Friday mornings. Thank you to all who purchased gift wrap and greenery and supported the faculty holiday gift fund.

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.

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@omalleyhilton.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

Friday, December 12

4:30 p.m.

Extended Program Winter Arts Festival
Grace Fellowship Church

Friday, December 19

11 a.m.

Winter Performance

Noon dismissal

Extended program available

Sliding scale tuition applications due

Monday, December 22 & Tuesday, December 23

Winter vacation

No school

Extended program available

Wednesday, December 24 – Friday, January 2

Winter vacation

No school

No extended program

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

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