



January 15, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

A Moment of Silence

Last Tuesday the CDS Bulldogs were locked in a very close and intense basketball game with a chance at their first win of the season. They were doing a great job on defense following Coach Dan Larson's mantra, "Outwork the other team," which meant be aggressive about getting the ball back. Positioned at the front of the defense, Jacob Travelstead-Becker's role was to harass the opposing point guard with the ball to force a turnover. With the score tied up Jacob rushed in and stole the ball, inadvertently hip-checking his opponent in the process. He started down the court toward the basket, but paused, looking back to the referee for the whistle when he realized he had clearly fouled the other player, but there was no whistle. He stopped and looked at Coach Dan, then handed the ball back to the opponent. Silence suddenly gripped the Boys and Girls Club gym. People didn't quite understand what they were supposed to do. Coach Dan turned from Jacob to the CDS parents in the stands, and seeing everyone staring and shrugging their shoulders, turned back to Jacob and said, "Great job, Jacob. Great sportsmanship," and began clapping. The crowd joined in, cheering Jacob's decision. The opposing player took the ball and stared at Jacob for a few seconds until his coach told him to play on.

We are in that moment of silence, right now, wondering about our future: our family's future, our friends' future, our country's future. We are like the parents and teachers on the playground who have just watched one of our children fall and bump his head. We are waiting to see if he will cry. Joyful? Afraid? Optimistic? Pessimistic? We seem not to know what we should feel these days.

If we find the incongruities confusing, it might be partly because our subconscious is trying to tell us something. On the eve of a presidential inauguration full of hope, we know on one level that President Obama is not going to save us. The age-old truth still stands: the world is what we make of it. As always, it's full of daunting challenges and great resources—resources we find in ourselves and in our community. It is what we do in the moment that makes a difference—do we go it alone or join together?

An economy is an exchange between people. A healthy economy comes from acting as if we can be of mutual benefit to each other. A depression occurs when, for one reason or another, everyone decides to look out for themselves in the belief that they are better off going it alone. A successful economy requires the safety of a general hope that we will all play by the rules so that friendly competition results in mutual benefit.

All of us here at Children's Day School are fortunate, regardless of our fluctuating fortunes. Contrary to a zeitgeist which makes people say "I am glad

Hot Dates

Friday, January 16

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Teddy Bears presenting

Friday, January 16 & Saturday,
January 17

7 p.m.

"Daringly Durang": one act plays by
the middle school Kaleidoscope
Theater

Dolores Park Church
455 Dolores Street

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

No school

No extended program

Tuesday, January 20

Teacher workday

No school

No extended program

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



Thank You!

- Thank you to the team of admission volunteers who helped during our prospective preschool visit day on Saturday: Ana Brubaker, Lourdes Cordero, Fasil Fikreab, Amy Hecht, Andrew Henry, Peter Kilvans, Jim Kingsbury, Tina Leung, Laura Pliska and Lauren Schwartz.
- To Starfish families for providing the faculty with a delicious January faculty breakfast.

we can say goodbye to 2008,” 2008 was a great year for CDS. We have hitched our wagon to a powerful community with an exciting mission that continues to attract people committed to helping us reach our fullest potential. Our security and our hope lie in our collective self. The quality of our future is a function of the degree to which we can find faith, hope and love in our lives, the degree to which we are committed to grow so that we can work more effectively with others and the degree to which we worry less about ourselves and more about the difference we can make to others.

My hope rests in Jacob, Coach Dan and the people of this community. Together there is nothing but success for us—for our children, for ourselves and for the institution known as Children’ Day School.

Happy New Year.

Rick

P.S. The CDS Bulldogs beat Kittredge School 36 to 28.

From the Classrooms

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please note the attached information regarding the upcoming parent-teacher conferences on Friday, February 6.

From the Office

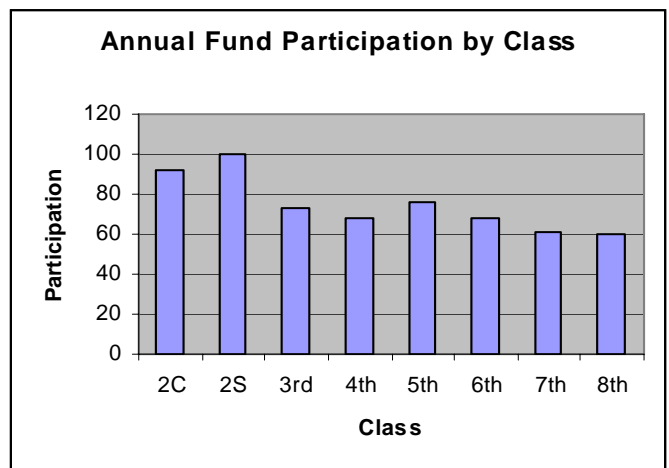
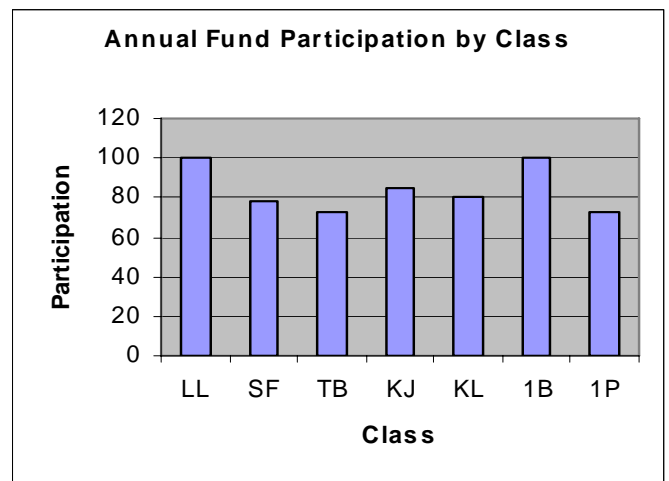
Annual Fund Update

Thank you to all who have helped with this campaign by calling other parents and giving with good humor and great generosity. Participation is at 79%, and the total of parent gifts and pledges is over \$116,000. We are closing in on the parent goal of \$130,000 as well as last year’s

record participation total of 90%. Every gift, regardless of its size, strengthens our pitch to foundations, corporations and other prospects.

A couple of facts and figures from this year’s campaign – Barbara’s first grade class, the Leaping Lizards and Sara’s second grade class have reached 100% participation; Colette’s second grade is at 92%; and the CDS operating budget includes over \$1.1 million in sliding scale tuition, which has been essential this year more than ever.

If you have not done so already, please go online today to www.cds-sf.org/giving and join in this campaign. Thank you!



Sliding Scale Tuition

While the official deadline for applying for sliding scale tuition for 2009-10 has passed, it’s never too late to apply! If you have concerns about being able to afford to return to CDS next year, PLEASE consider applying for sliding scale tuition. Although the school accepts requests for emergency sliding scale tuition year-

round, the Access and Affordability Committee will make 2009-10 sliding scale decisions for returning CDS families on a first priority basis during the month of February. At the end of February, the Committee will turn to making sliding scale tuition decisions for new applicants to the school and any late applying CDS families.

If you've already applied for sliding scale tuition for 2009-10, don't forget to submit your signed 2008 federal income tax return, including all W-2s, 1099s and schedules, to the business office by Wednesday, February 4, 2009. If you submit earlier tax returns or W-2 forms only, your application will be considered incomplete. Unfortunately the Access and Affordability Committee cannot consider incomplete applications.

Questions? Contact Donna Shibata, Director of Finance and Operations, at 415-861-5432 x314 or donnas@cds-sf.org.

Kid Chow Lunches

This is just a friendly reminder that Kid Chow's February-March menu is available for ordering and introduces some great new menu items such as homemade turkey chili, chicken apple sausage, Niman Ranch hot dogs and vegetarian tamales. They're also offering broccoli florets with dips, cucumber slices, and Newman's Ginger O's.

Kid Chow lunches are ordered via the web at www.kidchow.com. Kid Chow's ordering deadline is Monday, the week prior to the upcoming lunch week. Monday, January 26, is the deadline for the first week of February lunches.

Driveway Safety

Please remember to keep the CDS crosswalk free and clear during drop-off and pick-up so that families walking into school can do so safely. You may stop in front of or beyond it, but not on it. Thank you for your cooperation.

From the Farm

Ewetube

Curious about what goes on in the farm but not ready to become a Family Farmer? Ever wondered what the sheep and chickens do at night?

Now everyone has the opportunity to experience life in

the CDS farm! We have installed four webcams in the farm that provide a continuous, 24/7 view into the lives of the animals through the CDS website (<http://www.cds-sf.org/academics/ewetube.asp>). All of the cameras have night vision capability and are strategically placed both inside and outside the farm buildings to provide the best view of the animals' behavior. We can track events and gather myriad farm information such as when and which chickens are laying eggs, the particulars of sheep sleeping habits, and even when and which neighborhood animals are visiting.

The Ewetube concept was the brainchild of CDS parent Sam Hunt and was a mostly volunteer project. A huge thank you to Dave Cohen who spearheaded this project right through to the end, and who also designed and installed the system with help from Sam Hunt, Jon Gilmour, Bill Littmann, Dave and Melanie Wise, Bill Glenn, Dirk Van Gelder, Ray Baxter and several CDS faculty and staff.

Welcome Kelsey

Misty Cummings is planning to be on maternity leave as of Friday, February 6. We are excited to introduce her long-term substitute, Kelsey Siegel, who will be stepping into the Environmental Education Resource Teacher position for the duration of Misty's leave. Kelsey comes to us most recently from the Slow Food Victory Garden that was in front of City Hall this fall where he was a garden educator. Previously, Kelsey spent nine years at the Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley, where he served as an educator, then garden manager/educator for seven years. Kelsey has taught and substituted in various schools

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball Scores

January 7, CDS vs. SF School
SF School 35, CDS 16

January 13, CDS vs. CACS
CDS 40, CACS 12

Basketball Calendar

Thursday, January 15, 3:45 p.m.
CAIS, 150 Oak Street

Wednesday, January 21, 3:30 p.m.
Live Oak, UCSF, 1560 Owens Street

throughout his career, and is a board member with the local Mission District non-profit drumming and dance troupe "Loco Bloco." His interests include Brazilian music, dance, percussion, cooking, travel, children's literature, surfing, bicycle touring and river rafting

The elementary students met Kelsey last week, and he will be around CDS for further orientation and occasional visits until he begins full-time on Monday, February 2. We expect Misty to return to CDS around May 18. Please join us in welcoming Kelsey to the CDS team!

Family Farmers Needed

We need just a few more family farmers to cover the dates listed below. All you need to do is sign up with Misty Cummings at mistyc@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x321 and you'll be trained and ready to tend the farm and garden.

- April 6-10
- August 17-21, 24-28, 31
- September 1, 5-7

Events

"Daringly Durang"

The CDS middle school's Kaleidoscope Theater will present their production, "Daringly Durang," a collection of one-acts plays by Christopher Durang, on Friday, January 16 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, January 17 at 7 p.m. at Dolores Park Church (455 Dolores Street). Suggested donation is \$5 for the performance.

Extended Program News

Winter Club Schedule

Please note the new winter club schedule:

- Mondays/Wednesdays: Pet Club, Building Club, Outdoor Games, Wrestling and Meditation.
- Tuesdays/Thursdays: Nature Club (*new*), Tiny Worlds (*new*), Indoor Games, Outdoor Games and Origami.
- Fridays: Middle School Cooking (*new*), Book Club, Art Room and Library Club.

PTTA Update

Mid-Year Check-In

A group of 25 parents and staff attended this week's PTTA meeting to discuss CDS summer programs, the school calendar, the economy's effect on the school and class size issues.

The school will be offering summer camp programs this summer for all grade levels (not just preschool). The school does have plans for some facilities work over the summer months; however, none of the work will interfere with the camps. Camps will run from approximately mid-June through mid-August. Stay tuned for more details.

The first day of school for the 2009-10 school year will be Wednesday, September 2.

The administration and the board are very conscious of the impact the economy is having on families. As they finalize the budget for next year, they are looking closely at the appropriate level of funds for sliding scale. Applications for sliding scale may be turned in at any time (even after the official deadline has passed). If any family finds that their situation has changed, please contact Donna Shibata, Director of Finance, at 861-5432 x314 or donnas@cds-sf.org.

If you'd like additional information on the topics discussed at the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact any of the PTTA officers (their contact information is on the last page). Also, any parents that are interested in playing a leadership role in the PTTA next year should contact Laura Pliska, PTTA President, at laura@sfbabyworks.com.

The next PTTA meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 5:30 p.m. The topic will be "Planning for Next Year." Childcare will be available during the meeting.

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, January 23
MLK Jr. Day Celebration

Wednesday, February 4
2008 taxes due for sliding scale tuition applications

Friday, February 6
Parent-teacher conferences
No school
Extended program camp available
Re-enrollment contracts mailed for full-pay families

Friday, February 13
Re-enrollment contracts due for full-pay families

Monday, February 16
President's Day observed
No school; no extended program

Tuesday, February 17 – Friday, February 20
February vacation
No school; extended program available

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

Children's Day School

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