



June 4, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Fall Teacher Line-Up

As we prepare for graduation and the final days of the school year, we also look ahead to next year. The 2009-10 school year line-up of teachers and staff includes many familiar faces and several new faces. As always, there may be a few more changes over the summer but we wanted to bring you up to speed as you prepare for summer vacation, and in a few months, the new school year. We've appreciated your patience this spring, waiting to hear news of transitions, changes and new beginnings.

Preschool

We're happy to report that the Leaping Lizard and Starfish teams will stay the same. Alicia Perdue, Gladys Miyahira and Ngoc Tran will all be returning next year in Leaping Lizards, and Gretchen Ott, Gloria Argueta and James Bannister will remain in Starfish. The Teddy Bear team will be led by Candy Mabry, who will be joined by Carmen Gerughty. We are in the process of hiring an additional associate teacher for the Teddy Bear classroom. Derrek Gerughty will continue on as the Preschool Outside Teacher.

Elementary School

Jen Weiss will return to lead a kindergarten class, along with Matt Martin. The second kindergarten class will again be led by Luisa Pinto, along with Anna Forward who assisted in the Teddy Bear classroom this year. Christian Strauli, a Bay Area Teacher Training Institute (BATTI) intern, will move to fourth grade, as part of the BATTI program's mission to offer multi-grade teaching experiences as interns work toward their teaching credentials.

Barbara DeMoss is returning as one first grade head teacher. Barbara will be assisted by Nick Martin, also a BATTI intern. Nick worked in fourth grade this year. Paula Symonds is also returning as a first grade head teacher, assisted by Molly Meng.

Colette Zee will return as one second grade head teacher. Sara Switzman will be leaving for the school year to have a baby (due in October); we very much hope to have her back on board the following year. We've hired Lindsey Hershenhorn as our new second grade head teacher. Lindsey comes to us from the Orinda Union School District where she was a literacy specialist and prior to that, a first grade teacher at the William Penn School in Brooklyn, NY. She has a B.S. in psychology, an M.S. in urban policy and an M.A. in early childhood education. Jasmin Hoo will continue to provide lunch and transition support to both second grade classrooms.

Ginny St. Denis will return as one third grade head teacher, and we've hired

Hot Dates

Friday, June 5
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Teddy Bears presenting

Tuesday, June 9
8:30-9:30 a.m.

Passing the Torch ceremony

3:45-5 p.m.
Eighth grade graduation

Last day of school
No extended program

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



Thank You!

- To Heather O'Donnell and Claire Horton for bringing coffee and bagels to last week's Friday morning coffee.
- To Verna Kuo and Josh Levenberg for donating jewelry to the art department's jewelry class.
- To Tina Corse for donating many inspiring materials throughout the year: books, bags, beads and project ideas.
- To Brian Richard for stepping in on short notice and helping us produce our graduation materials.

Carli Lowe as head teacher of our additional section of third grade. Carli has a B.A. in philosophy and a multi-subject California teaching credential. She most recently taught at the International Community School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and prior to that worked as a third grade teacher at Live Oak School. Vi Le, our current third grade associate teacher, will be leaving the city for San Jose, where her fiancée will begin a new job as principal of The Downtown College Prep Charter School.

Our head teacher of this year's fourth grade class, Sebastian Robins, is leaving CDS to take a break from full-time teaching and hopes to pursue part-time consultant and professional development work. We're currently in the process of hiring a fourth grade head teacher to fill his shoes.

Middle School and Specialists

The middle school line-up remains the same (Melanie Liu, 5th grade; Kirk Bell, 6th grade; Doug Garfinkel, 7th grade; Terry Ashkinos, 8th grade), as does our specialist team.

After School

Anthony Nguyen is leaving CDS to become a BATTI intern and work at the Head Royce School in Oakland. Christopher Gonzalez-Crane is also leaving to pursue a graduate degree in research in London. Noah Weatherford is returning as after school teacher and is taking on the additional role of middle school associate teacher. Jasmin Hoo, Amanda Stahl and Danielle Lyon are all returning to the after school program next year. Dan Larson is in the process of hiring two new teachers.

Administration

Both Josée Mayette (Middle School Head) and Margaret

Piskitel (Curriculum Coordinator) will return from maternity leave with slightly reduced hours. Josée will be working 30 hours per week and Margaret will work 20 hours per week. We will be saying goodbye to Mimi Maio, our learning specialist, so that she can concentrate on her private practice. We've recently hired two new learning specialists, Trudy Hamm and Jeremy Davidson. Trudy recently worked as a reading specialist and resource teacher at the Creative Arts Charter School in San Francisco and also worked as a private tutor for many years. She has an M.S. in early childhood special education and a multi-subject and special education California teaching credential. Jeremy recently taught fourth grade at St. Paul's Episcopal School and at the Manzanita Elementary School in Oakland. He received a B.A. in music, a multi-subject teaching credential and is currently pursuing a master's degree in educational therapy. Combined, they will provide 50 hours of support per week, an increase from what we've been able to provide thus far.

Also, please join me in welcoming Rico Tan, our new IT Director. Rico comes to us from the Heller Ehrman, law firm where he worked in IT for seven years. Terry Hall, our current IT Director, who will be leaving at the end of this year, will be working closely with Rico until June 30 to help with the transition.

It's always difficult to say goodbye, but we wish those who are leaving well in their new adventures. When you see them around campus, please join us in thanking them for their commitment and dedication to CDS.

Have a great summer! I look forward to welcoming both new and familiar faces this fall.

From the Classrooms

Congratulations Ethan

Congratulations to eighth grader Ethan Haslam for being selected as a grand prize winner of the "Looking for Your Lincoln Hero" national essay contest. As a grand prize winner and author of an essay about Martin Luther King, Jr., Ethan will join three other winners this summer for a tour of Chicago and the Lincoln historic sites of Springfield, Illinois. You can find a listing of all the finalists, and links to their essays and artwork, at <http://myhero.com/lincolnfinalists>. Be sure to congratulate Ethan if you see him!

Congratulations Vikram & Denis

We are pleased to announce that seventh graders Vikram Nigam and Denis Ivanov are both prize winners in the "Schools at the Festival" student essay contest sponsored by the San Francisco Film Society. Seventh graders recently attended the film *New Muslim Cool* as part of the San Francisco International Film Festival and submitted essays in response to the film. Both Vikram and Denis are runner-ups in the middle school category and will receive \$50 cash prizes. Congratulations Vikram and Denis!

From the Office

Thank You

We extend our deepest thanks to all who have donated to the 2008-09 Children's Day School Annual Fund. Now more than ever, the school community's strong commitment to the Annual Fund sends a powerful message that we support the CDS mission and the school's exceptional programs – inquiry-based learning, environmental education, creative and unique Shakespearean drama productions, outdoor education, music from rock bands to imaginary instruments and more. The Annual Fund also helps our people – keeping CDS families together with sliding scale tuition, supporting teachers with salary increases and professional development opportunities and providing camps and extended care for working families. CDS parents have been essential contributors to the Annual Fund – 86% of our families have given over \$121,000. All together, including proceeds from Fiesta 2009 and generous gifts from trustees, grandparents, foundations, teachers and staff, the Annual Fund has raised over \$330,000 this year. If you have not yet made a gift and would like to be counted among the Annual Fund heroes this year, there's still time before the CDS fiscal year ends on June 30. Many thanks for your support.

Trustee News

As we prepare for the end of the school year, we'd like to thank our very dedicated and hard-working volunteer trustees for their tireless commitment to CDS.

First, thank you to Matt Schwartz for serving as Board Chair. Thanks also to the entire 2008-09 Board of Trustees for their service: Suzanne Abbey, Ila Afsharipour, Susi Alexander, Ray Baxter, Patricia Buse, Bob Curley, Rick England, Marianne Evans, John

Hendrickson, Andrew Henry, Richard Hylton, Elizabeth McClellan, Jack Munson, Laura Pliska, Matt Schwartz, Michael Silver, Darya Soto, Carol Swainson, Gayle Tsern Strang and Chris van Löben Sels. Their leadership and enthusiasm is vital to the success of our school.

We're happy to report that all of our current board members are staying on next year. In addition, the Board welcomes one new member, 2009-2010 PTTA President Robin McClarren. Robin, who is the mother of Ruby Noto (CDS '13), has been a dedicated PTTA volunteer – serving as the PTTA Faculty Appreciation Coordinator this year and co-chairing the auction in 2007 and 2006 – for several years. When she is not busy at CDS, Robin is a Marketing Project Management Director for Wells Fargo Bank.

The 2009-10 Board Officers are as follows:

- Matt Schwartz (Board Chair)
- Richard Hylton (Vice Chair)
- Gayle Tsern Strang (Vice Chair)
- Rick England (Treasurer)
- Marianne Evans (Secretary)

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to CDS.

IT Volunteers Needed

Spend some time this summer helping our new IT Director, Rico Tan, get set up for the 2009-10 school year! Rico is looking for a few tech-savvy volunteers to help him with a variety of projects, including:

- Data entry
- Inventory of hardware and software
- Reinstalling hardware and software on PCs
- Installing and setting up a Windows server

Skills required for these jobs range from entry level (experience with MS Office and the internet on PCs and/or Macs) to intermediate (experience installing/deinstalling hardware and software on PCs) to expert (experience with Windows 2008/2003 server and MS Exchange Server; Linux and Mac server/client experience a plus).

Interested? Contact Rico Tan at ricot@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x317.

Events

End-of-Year Events

Passing the Torch Ceremony

Everyone is invited to the Passing the Torch Ceremony on the morning of Tuesday, June 9 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. At this annual ceremony in the yard students from each grade will share words of wisdom and give advice to the incoming classes. Please join us!

Class of 2009 Graduation

On Tuesday, June 9, we'll hold the Class of 2009 graduation ceremony in the CDS yard. Graduation will run from 3:45–5 p.m. All middle school students are strongly encouraged to attend. Middle schoolers will sit with their classes and teachers and can be picked up after the ceremony at 5 p.m. Students in elementary and preschool are invited to attend with their families. All CDS parents are invited as well. Please note that there will be no extended program available that afternoon and that all pick up will be walk-in only. In addition, there will be no parking available in the CDS parking lot. Please plan ahead and take public transportation, walk, bike or carpool. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this year's graduating class and all of their achievements!

Pride Parade

On Sunday, June 28, CDS families are invited to represent our school by marching in this year's San Francisco Pride Parade. Consider rounding up your family and friends and joining the group of CDS families to show the city what an amazing, diverse and supportive community we are.

The parade begins at Market and Beale Streets at 10:30 a.m. (our group will gather about an hour earlier, more details to come about exact time) and finishes at Market and Eighth Streets at approximately 2:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining the fun, please contact our CDS Pride Parade Chairs, Cory Warren and Ray Cendana at gcwarren@mac.com.

Upcoming Dates

Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 26
Summer Camp session I

Monday, June 29 – Friday, July 10
Summer Camp session II

Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 24
Summer Camp session III

Monday, July 27 – Friday, August 7
Summer Camp session IV

Monday, August 10 – Friday, August 14
Summer Camp session V

Monday, August 31 & Tuesday, September 1
Parent-teacher conferences

Wednesday, September 2
First day of school

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

Children's Day School

333 Dolores Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-861-5432 (ph)
415-861-5419 (fax)

www.cds-sf.org

Editor: Mary DeNardo, cdsweekly@cds-sf.org
Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.
Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail