



March 5, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

(Please do not talk to your children about this right away. The teachers and I will tell them here at school on Thursday.)

Dear Parents, Faculty, Students, Alumni, Grandparents and Friends,

As some of you know, about two years ago my wife Victoria became Vice President in charge of Corporate Communications at ADM (Archer Daniels Midland Company). Since then, she has been commuting and telecommuting to corporate headquarters in Decatur, Illinois. As you can imagine, it is an increasingly unsatisfactory arrangement. It is hard to manage a department 2,000 miles away, and she hates to fly. Yet, she loves her job and feels she is only getting started. You can see where this is going. We have decided that when her daughter Lizzie graduates from high school in June of 2010 we will be moving to Decatur. This means that next year, the 2009-10 school year, will be my last year as Head of Children's Day School.

It has been a joy and an honor to be part of building this beautiful school, and my eight years here will go down as a great chapter in my life. I approach this new future with a mixture of sadness and excitement. I wish I could be part of the school's continued growth beyond June of 2010. The faculty and student body are growing so beautifully now - learning together and creating new programs - it would be fun to be a part of it; only two more graduations and 45 more assemblies to see - rats! At the same time I have learned that sometimes the unknown has wonderful things in store.

I feel very good about the present condition of the school: great teachers, a wonderful community, a strong Board of Trustees, students comfortable in their own skins and learning so well together - not to mention a strong and vastly improved balance sheet, which has us well positioned to continue our growth and development.

It also comforts me that there is still plenty of time for us to continue our work together - a lot can happen in a year and a half. Continuing the transformation of St. Joseph's Hall, redesigning the 16th Street property, increasing our partnerships with neighboring institutions, planning for replacing the bungalows - all of these goals only touch on the tangible and obvious manifestations of growth. I will continue to work with our wonderful faculty, parent, administration and Trustee teams to lead the school toward achieving our other intermediate term goals: increasing the diversity of the faculty, staff and student body, clarifying the academic prowess of the CDS way, increasing the opportunities for community based learning, leading in environmental responsibility, and planning for the long term growth of the school.

Hot Dates

Monday, March 9

Professional development day
No school; no extended program

Tuesday, March 10

Fiesta online auction begins
www.cdsfiesta2009.cmarket.com

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



Thank You!

- To Laura Pliska and Carlos Vasquez for supplying Friday morning coffee and breakfast treats.

It is interesting to me that even I, a student of change for my whole career, look forward to this one with mixed feelings. Then I remind myself that, actually, this is a great time for this learning community to model how to use change as a learning opportunity. I am thrilled that I will play a part in helping the school grow into its new future as it helps me grow into mine. As I dream about the school that our four-year-olds will enjoy ten years from now, I also look forward with pleasure to all that we can still accomplish together.

With gratitude, respect and profound appreciation I remain

Yours truly,

Rick Ackerly, Head of School

From the Classrooms

Environmental Restoration

Recently, third grade and sixth grade students went on a joint service learning trip to Redwood Creek in Muir Woods to help restore a watershed. A few weeks prior, representatives from STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) came to present the service project and discuss how it would benefit the environment. At Redwood Creek students planted over 1,000 California brome, blackberries and blue wild rye! Third grader Aisha reports, "It was really fun because we got really muddy and we got to work right next to a rushing stream. It sounded nice. It made me feel good to help out. It was also fun because we got to work with the sixth graders." Bravo, student environmentalists!

From the Office

No Parking, Really!

As you all know, visitor parking is not allowed in the CDS parking lot during school hours. Parking in some spaces causes more disruption than in others, however, and we'd like to make a special plea to NEVER park in front of the garbage cans adjacent to S. Joseph's Hall. The school's garbage pick up takes place, unannounced, at various times during the day most days of the week. Murphy's Law

dictates that whenever there is a car parked in front of the garbage cans, if only for a few minutes, the trash truck comes and can't get to our trash cans, causing frustration for all. We plan to start issuing annoying, brightly colored parking tickets to discourage parking where it shouldn't happen; in the meantime, please help by not parking and reminding others not to park in front of the garbage cans ever. Thank you.

Family Farmers Needed

Don't miss a great opportunity to help out in the farm and garden during one of the dates below:

- April 8-10
- August 17-21, 31
- September 7

To sign up, contact Kelsey at kelseys@cds-sf.org.

SPEAK Event

CDS is a charter member of SPEAK—a parent education coalition of 12 San Francisco Independent K-8 Schools. On Monday, March 23, at 7 p.m. at The Greek Orthodox Cathedral (245 Valencia Street), CDS and SPEAK will host Michael Gurian, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Nurture the Nature*.

Michael Gurian will talk about the latest brain research in child and adolescent development and the tools parents need to discover their child's core nature. Gurian argues that children are not blank slates to be shaped as we wish, but rather that each child has a unique temperament -- with specific needs, strengths, vulnerabilities and learning styles -- that cannot be adequately supported with a one-size-fits all approach. A researcher of brain science and gender differences, Gurian sees a disturbing trend in parents' increasing willingness to disregard their own instincts, and allowing media and society-driven fads to dictate the way they raise their children instead. Using the latest research in brain science in child and adolescent development, he provides parents with the tools they need to uncover and nurture their child's core nature -- who their child really is -- so each child can flourish and thrive.

We hope that you'll be able to join us for this important discussion. Please contact Kate Flynn Becker (parent of Clara '13 and Gus '10) with any questions about the event or interest in getting involved with SPEAK, at k8fln@aol.com or 415-305-6625.

School Wish List

- We still need lemons in order to make our famous Country Fair lemonade. Please bring any extras that you, your neighbors, or friends may have to school, and first and second graders will happily juice them in preparation for the big event.
- The after school program needs your shoeboxes and recycled goods such as tissue boxes, toilet paper rolls, yogurt containers or tea boxes. Items can be left at the front desk.

Lost & Found

Lost and found items will be on display on Thursday and Friday. Any items not picked up by Friday afternoon will be taken to Community Thrift. Please remember to label your child's clothing and come by and retrieve missing items.

Events

Fiesta 2009

Donations Due Now!

For the first time, this year's Fiesta celebration and auction fundraiser will include an online silent auction, which begins on Tuesday, March 10 and ends on Wednesday, March 25. The silent auction will take place online only, though a very limited number of items will be available for bidding at the March 28 event as part of a "Best Of" silent auction. Therefore, we need your donations as soon as possible so that when the auction goes live on Tuesday, we'll have plenty of items for our community to bid on and help raise money for sliding scale tuition. Our online auction site can be found at www.cdsfiesta2009.cmarket.com. You can register and donate an item online in less than five minutes! And as of Tuesday, March 10 you can log in and start bidding! Don't miss this great opportunity to donate, shop and help raise money for sliding scale tuition.

Instant Wine Cellar

One of our most popular items, the "Instant Wine Cellar," will once again be available as our raffle item this year. This item is always a steal; for the purchase of just one raffle ticket, you'll have the chance to win a wonderful array of wine that you can have at your disposal for years to come. In order to make this item

spectacular, we need wine! You can drop off one bottle or several, either at the front desk or with Marion Quinones on the second floor of 16th Street. Don't forget to label the bottle with your name. Thanks for helping to make this item a success.

Extended Program News

Summer Camp

This year we'll be holding summer camps for students in preschool through eighth grade. Registration forms for the following sessions can be found online at http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/summer.html.

- 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

PTTA Update

2009-10 President

After careful consideration by various constituencies of our school community, including the administration, current PTTA officers and members of our Board of Trustees, Robin McClarren has been nominated and has graciously agreed to serve as our next PTTA President. Robin, mother of fourth grader Ruby Noto, has worn many hats as a parent leader. She is currently the Faculty Appreciation Coordinator, Chair of the Committee on Communicating Academic Greatness and Co-Chair of this year's Country Fair. Previously, she has contributed numerous volunteer hours in a variety of settings including co-chairing the Fiesta two years in a row. Robin is a thoughtful, organized and committed member of our community and we are lucky to have someone

Go Bulldogs!

The spring season of Futsal (indoor soccer) has begun and CDS students will be participating in an intramural league. Students will practice every Tuesday from 3:45 – 5 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club and will play three to four exhibition games during the season. The season begins the first week of March and ends in May. Stay tuned for more details.

with her skill set to lead the PTTA next year. If you are interested in joining Robin in the leadership of the PTTA next year, please contact her at robinmcc@speakeasy.net. Congratulations, Robin!

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, 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@omalleyhylton.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

Monday, March 23

7 p.m.

SPEAK event: Michael Gurian,
author of *Nurture the Nature*
The Greek Orthodox Cathedral
245 Valencia Street

Saturday, March 28

6:30-11 p.m.

Fiesta 2009

Mighty (119 Utah Street)

Tuesday, March 31

7-8:30 p.m.

“The Right-Brained Future”

Pat Bassett, NAIS President

Mission High School

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

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

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