



March 26, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Stop Every Year and Have a Fiesta

Once I had the pleasure of building a cabin with a professional builder. As we worked, he channeled his father with whom he had apprenticed as a boy: "Put the tool you are using back before picking up another one," he said as he put his hammer back in his tool belt. "Measure twice; cut once," he incanted as he got out his tape measure. Some workmen whistle. This one talked and went on like this all day long, reminding himself of (and educating me about) the disciplines of building.

The discipline most memorable and instructive to me was, "Stop every 50 minutes and admire your work." I have tried to remember this one ever since, and discovered it applies to all work, including the building of a school.

This Saturday night is a very important event. It is time for us to stop, come together as a community and admire the wonderful work we have been doing. The Fiesta keeps getting better and better every year. It not only raises an increasing amount of money so that we can keep strengthening the school's economic diversity, but it also keeps becoming more and more fun.

Part of the Fiesta is the auction, of course, and this year that should be interesting (as in that ancient saying "Don't hold an auction during interesting times"). Other schools are reporting that their auction proceeds have not been as strong this year. In addition to people feeling poorer, there is the added zeitgeist that spending money at a time like this is bad, and spending money publicly is probably worse. The socially acceptable thing to do is to be frugal and don't buy things you don't need. This attitude seems to be hurting the bottom line of auctions.

I would like to suggest that this does not have to be true for CDS. The Fiesta is not about buying things; it is about celebrating and in celebrating, continuing to express values that are at the core of our school culture: gratitude, generosity and a commitment to bridging differences that so often distance people from one another—like economic differences. Who is well-off and who is not may have changed in the last year. Ironically, some schools with large endowments are harder hit than schools without. This may be true for people, too. The economic context in which we live and work is changing. What it is changing to is still very unclear.

Living through a lot of change in my 35 years of running schools has taught me that the context of our work is always changing. The greater the change the more we are called to remember the eternal disciplines: put things back where they belong, speak the truth in love, always be respectful no matter what, express gratitude, be centered, take responsibility for our actions and take care

Hot Dates

Wednesday, March 25 (8 p.m.)
Fiesta online silent auction closes
www.cdsfiesta2009.cmarket.com

Friday, March 27
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Second grade (Sara) presenting

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



Thank You!

- To Suzanne and Joe Jachinowski, Jon Gilmour and Nasrin Naraghi for providing Friday morning coffee, bagels and pastries.

of one other.

As we come together to admire our work as a community, celebrate the community that is making such a difference in the lives of our children and support sliding scale tuition at CDS, let's go all out to express our gratitude. As my favorite uncle used to say, "Let 'er rip!"

And speaking of gratitude, let's start right now by thanking the hard working team that is making this Saturday's celebration possible: our co-chairs Andrea Reynolds and Pat Rose, Isabel and Sean Manchester for hosting us at Mighty, and all of the dedicated quilters, writers, designers, solicitors, donors and shoppers.

On behalf of us all: THANK YOU.

From the Classrooms

Sustainability Fair

Please join us on Friday, April 24 from 8:45-10:45 a.m. for our second annual Sustainability Fair as part of our Earth Day celebration. Activities will include interactive displays from the K-8 classrooms, displays of school-wide efforts towards sustainability, and participation by local organizations connected to efforts in the CDS classroom. A schedule of exhibits will be posted in the *Weekly* closer to the fair date. Family and friends are welcome for a morning of education and fun for the whole CDS community!

Calling All Family Farmers

We need a family farmer for just two remaining dates during April vacation: April 9 and 10. Please contact Kelsey Siegel at kelseys@cds-sf.org to sign up. Thank you in advance for helping out.

From the Office

NAIS President Pat Bassett

On Tuesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. at Mission High School, CDS and Mission High School will host NAIS President, Pat Bassett, for a talk on "The Right-Brained Future: Creating Mindsets for the 21st Century." Pat Bassett is the author of numerous articles including "Why Good Schools are Countercultural" and "Testing, Accountability, and Independence." This event is open to all CDS parents, faculty and staff, as well as local Bay Area parents and educators. Childcare will be available for CDS families from 6:30-9 p.m.; to sign up, contact Elsa or Ryan at the reception desk. If you have questions about this event, please contact Kerry Parker at kerry@cds-sf.org.

2009-10 School Calendar

Please note the following important dates for the 2009-10 school year. A full calendar will be published with next week's *Weekly*.

- First day of school: Wednesday, September 2
- Winter vacation (no school, extended program available): Monday – Wednesday, December 21-23
- Winter vacation (no school, no extended program): Thursday, December 24 – Friday, January 1
- February vacation: Tuesday, February 16 – Friday, February 19
- April vacation: Monday, April 12 – Friday, April 16
- Last day of school/graduation: Tuesday, June 15

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.

School Wish List

- Lemon, lemons, lemons! Keep bringing them in. We can't have too many for our Country Fair lemonade and our Country Fair marmalade. You can drop them off outside the environmental education kitchen or at the front desk.
- The school needs a TV/VCR/DVD player to be used in St. Joseph's Hall (TV width should be less than 27"). If you have one in good condition you'd like to donate, please contact Rebecca Kroll at rebeccak@cds-sf.org.

Events

Fiesta 2009

The Fiesta is here! Don't miss our community party and auction fundraiser this Saturday, March 28, from 6:30-11 p.m. at Mighty, 119 Utah Street. You can bid on online auction items until 8 p.m. tonight at www.cdsfiesta2009.cmarket.com and help us raise money for sliding scale tuition. You can still turn in your RSVP cards or check in the night of the event. Don't miss the attached flyer with all of the event details.

Extended Program News

April Vacation Camp

April vacation camp enrollment has begun and registration forms are available at the front desk. The theme for preschool camp is Spring Bloom, and Ms. Ngoc, Ms. Gladys and Ms. Gloria will be leading campers in learning about flowers, plants, hibernation and much more. Camp will feature many art and cooking projects as well as a jumper castle. For K-8 camp, Ms. Jasmin, Ms. Vanessa, Ms. Amanda and Mr. Noah will lead an exploration of what community means to us. Camp will feature visits to local parks, visiting and helping out our partners and creating a community chalk mural. Camp dates are April 6-10 and the cost is \$60 for a full day and \$35 for a half-day. Please contact Dan at 861-5432 or danl@cds-sf.org with any questions.

Spring Enrichment Classes

Please note the attached enrichment class descriptions and registration forms. Class descriptions and registration forms can also be found at the front desk and online at http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/extendedday.html.

Summer Camp

The Extended Program is very excited to offer a full camp once again for all CDS students in preschool through eighth grade. Summer camp enrollments are rolling in, but we still have space in all camp sessions in each age group. Some highlights this summer include our first ever Spanish Immersion Camp for elementary students during Session IV, July 27-Aug 7; Rock Band Camp with Mr. Terry and Mr. Ryan for middle school students during Session III, July 13-24; and Theatre Camp for elementary students with Ms. Emilie and Ms. Jasmin during Sessions I and II. Preschool camp will also include these new exciting themes: Animalia, Cultural Explorer, Environment, Living with Music and Cooperation and Community. Enrollment forms are available at the front desk and 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

Rainbow Grocery Grant

Last week the after school staff received a grant from Rainbow Grocery for Ms. Amanda to teach a vegan/raw cooking class as part of the Nature Club. Ms. Amanda and the extended program staff received a \$2,000 gift certificate to purchase various ingredients at Rainbow Grocery. The next time you pop in to get some delicious food, give them a thank you for helping us out!

Go Bulldogs!

Faculty vs. Student Basketball Game

Faculty 38, Students 33

Both teams played a great game but the faculty narrowly beat the students at the Boys and Girls Club last night.

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@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, April 3

Cesar Chavez celebration

Monday, April 6 – Friday, April 10

Spring vacation

No school

Extended program available

Thursday, April 16

6-8 p.m.

Parent Education Night sponsored by the Committee on Inclusion and Diversity

Friday, April 24

8:45-10:45 a.m.

Sustainability Fair

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

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