



May 28, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

The Character of 2008-09

This school year started out with the incongruity of the fearful busting of the financial markets and the joyful, booming enthusiasm of our children as they launched themselves off to school. Everyone wanted to know what effect “the economy” would have on the school. It was the top question for most of the year among my colleagues in the independent school world. Well, the school year is almost over, and there are still things we don’t know. Also, hard to recall, but people were wondering if Sara Palin’s stardom would propel the Republicans into the White House again.

One lesson the year taught us is the persistence of uncertainty and change. If you ever thought you could count on things being the way they are for longer than a day, my guess is that this year popped that bubble. Preparation for life is preparation for living in change and uncertainty—just as Mark Twain said about the weather in New England: “If you don’t like it, just wait a minute.”

Ironically, (or accordingly), our global context seems to have proven to be an excellent one for education. With parents losing jobs or friends of parents losing jobs, children kept coming to school, being surprised and responding to the world around them. As they responded to challenges, they grew. And every Friday we gathered on the yard to celebrate that growth and be reminded: pain and joy, of course. Ups and downs, whatever.

When we came together for our Fiesta, we showed the power of our community not only by having fun, but by raising \$115,000. One month later, when the sun didn’t shine on our Country Fair, we showed that we could have even more fun in the rain. Some of us decided to go all the way and get soaked. But we kept on making lemonade.

Another surprise came at the beginning of April when we were told that we had to get to work on our new 16th Street building right away. However, we impressed the building department with the fact that we were ready. In a few weeks we met with them and started defining work that will be done this summer.

Conversations with our architects and the planning department continue as we define work that at the moment includes a sprinkler system, deck, wheelchair lift and handicap-accessible bathrooms, but the conversations are continuing. All indications are that the administration will experience some disruption this summer, and that the work will probably not be finished by the start of school in September. Flexibility is, again, going to be a prime mental discipline.

Another surprise was the success of our admission season. Although we still do not know what our exact enrollment number will be in September, it is highly

Hot Dates

Friday, May 29
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Starfish presenting

9-10 a.m.

Step-Up Day: students visit next year’s classroom

Sunday, May 31 – Sunday, June 7
Eighth grade trip

Monday, June 1 – Saturday, June 6
Sixth grade trip

Monday, June 1

Last day that, with written notice, you may withdraw your child from the 2009-10 school year without incurring the obligation for the total tuition

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



Thank You!

- To Donald Klingbeil, Wendy Fountain and Jeanette Neves Rivera for bringing coffee and pastries to Friday morning coffee.

probable that enrollment will top 300. This change affects planning both for next year and for the long-range growth trajectory for the school.

Meanwhile, have you noticed the dotted white line down the middle of the driveway? When you see it, let it remind you to form two lanes going through the gate (yes, you can fit). This will help get us ready for more cars coming onto the grounds. Of course, let it also remind you to go green: carpool, walk, bike or take public transportation. If you make changes in this department, your children will thank you, the earth will thank you and the Green Task Force will thank you.

Speaking of green, the administration has been working this year to simplify the summer mailing so that parents can access forms almost entirely online.

As of this week, there are still many plans and decisions to be made, and events to come. Stay tuned for my summer letter which will arrive in a thinner envelope, and spend the final weeks of 2008-09 delighting in the children.

From the Classrooms

Congratulations Anoli

Eighth grader Anoli Motawala was recently chosen to attend the 2010 People to People Leadership Summit founded by Dwight D. Eisenhower. The week-long summit will include a series of workshops about building leadership skills, learning to set goals, identifying and developing a leadership style and an inside look at the college admission process. Terry Ashkinos nominated Anoli for the award based on her academic skills; she's excited to participate in the 2010 summit. Congratulations Anoli!

From the Office

Family Farmer Dates

Experience farm fresh eggs during our San Francisco summer! Contact Misty Cummings at mistyc@cds-sf.org to sign up for the following dates:

- August 18, 20

Events

End-of-Year Events

Step-Up Day

On Friday, May 29, students will "step up" to the next grade level. Students will mark the occasion with a student-only experience in the classrooms from 9-10 a.m.

Passing the Torch Ceremony

Everyone is invited to the Passing the Torch Ceremony on the morning of Tuesday, June 9 from 8:30-10 a.m. At the 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 2008 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.

Extended Program News

Spring Arts Festival

Please join us on Friday, May 29, from 4-5 p.m. for the after school program's Spring Arts Festival. The festival will be held at Grace Fellowship Community Church (accessible around the corner on 16th Street) and will include violin, cello and guitar performances, Story Theater's "Candy Land," movie making and an art gallery. If you have questions, please contact Dan Larson at 861-5432 x315, or danl@cds-sf.org. See you there!

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

Tuesday, June 9

9-10 a.m.

Passing the Torch ceremony

3:45-5 p.m.

Eighth grade graduation

Last day of school

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

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