



November 13, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Realignment

These days the community gathers in large numbers every Friday morning. The children play on the yard. Volunteers bring coffee. The adults talk with one another and drink the coffee. Then at 8:30 a class of children welcomes us; they celebrate our birthdays; they ask us if there is anything we would like to share with the whole community and then they give us a tiny window into what they have been learning and how they have been growing both individually and collectively. Finally, they tell us to have a great weekend.

It's a regular Norman Rockwell painting. Last Friday one parent told me she comes here every week to be aligned. I agreed. Raising children can be hard regardless of ones circumstances, and once a week is not too often to be reminded that love and joy and hope are always available in every moment.

"May you live in interesting times" goes the proverbial Chinese curse. I think we would have to agree that the curse has been visited upon us. Just as we are coming out of what may go down in American history as "The Age of Cynicism," and are feeling powerfully the dawning of a new age of hope, we are painfully aware that the Age of Cynicism was also the age of living high on the hog. Maybe, it should go down as "The Age of Affluent Cynicism." It's hard not to feel that the seven fat years may be turning into the seven lean years. I feel angry that we as a people squandered so many opportunities, but then I have to remind myself that I benefited from this period of affluence. We at Children's Day School are among the luckiest in the world. We are all caught up in it—the kids can remind us about our global and local interdependence.

There are and there will continue to be things to be angry about. That a majority of voters in California, for instance, would vote for a constitutional amendment that withholds marriage from couples because of their sexual orientation is shocking if you live in our little bubble of the world, and enraging regardless of where you live. I dare say the unfairness of it is not lost on most of our students, who have already made it a topic of passionate discussion. Closer to home, it's more than just a proposition. It impacts the lives of our families here at CDS. There are many ways to support our families, one of which is to come together this Saturday to march in opposition of the proposition (see details on page 3).

We need to stand together. Our graduates tell us that the world out there is harder, that in high school bigger is more challenging; there is racism; there is homophobia; there are cliques; there is cheating and stealing. They also tell us that here, at CDS, they learned how to handle themselves in a world that is still far from perfect. They learned how to be resilient, how to be strong without

Hot Dates

Friday, November 14
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
First grade (Paula) presenting

Saturday, November 15
10:15 a.m.

No on Proposition 8 gathering
City Hall

Wednesday, November 19
9-10:30 a.m.

SPEAK talk: "Successful Kids:
Redefining Goals"
Greek Orthodox Annunciation
Cathedral
245 Valencia Street at 15th Street

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



Thank You!

- To the following Admission volunteers for assembling packets of admission materials: Amanda Chapman, Mary Dennis, Kristen Hall, Paige Lang, Jeanette Layden, Louis Schump, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Ann Van Gelder and Brian Vaughan.
- To Zhara Ghayour-Kelly, Amy Hecht, Todd Hosfelt, Justine Juson, Andrea Reynolds and Lydia Yaffe for leading admission tours.
- To Barbara's first grade parents for bringing coffee and snacks to Friday morning coffee: Leslie Edelman, Suzanne Jachinowski, Scott Kalmbach and Melanie Piech.

contributing to the problem. Normal Rockwell's utopias are not grand; they were humble. They show humans going about their humble, imperfect human business, sometimes even with smiles on their faces.

When one is angry it is human to take out that anger on the nearest person, or the nearest thing in our heads. It is normal for us to be so engrossed in our own feelings that we miss opportunities to connect with others. But we have each other. Our smartest move is to keep showing up at 8 a.m. on the CDS playground to support one another and get our weekly realignment.

From the Classrooms

Middle School Murals

The first quarter Collaborative Art selective made three murals. One is a mud mural inspired by the decorated houses in Lesotho, South Africa and is located in the garden. *Dig Your Hands in the Dirt* by Kiko Denzer provided recipes and inspiration for the mud mural.

Two additional murals, located on the third floor of St. Joseph's Hall, were painted on wood panels. Also on display in the first floor display case is work by the Independent Art and Focus on Sculpture selectives. Check out our student artwork!

November/December Collections

In celebration of the giving nature of both the parents and students at CDS, November and December is a time when the community collects things for those in need. Several classes are hosting drives for different organizations they are collaborating with. Collection bin sites are listed

below, and can be found on the Community Learning Board near the reception desk. All drives will run from now until December 18.

San Francisco Food Bank

Nearly 150,000 people in San Francisco live with the threat of hunger. The San Francisco Food Bank exists to provide hope and depends on volunteers, food donors and financial supporters.

- Host: 5th grade and Teddy Bears
- Collection Site: Community Learning Board and the preschool porch
- What: Canned, boxed and bagged non-perishable food items

Project Night, Night

Project Night, Night donates individual tote bags filled with a security blanket, an age-appropriate book, and a stuffed animal to children (ages 0-10) in homeless shelters.

- Host: Starfish class
- Collection site: Community Learning Board and the Starfish classroom
- What: Gently used and new blankets, books and stuffed animals

San Francisco Firefighter's Toy Program

The San Francisco Firefighter's Toy Program is the city's largest and the nation's oldest program of its kind. The toy program serves individual families as well as community organizations, including shelters for abused women and children, inner-city schools, neighborhood groups, children's cancer wards, and pediatric AIDS units.

- Host: Leaping Lizard class
- Collection Site: Community Learning Board
- What: New or gently used toys

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

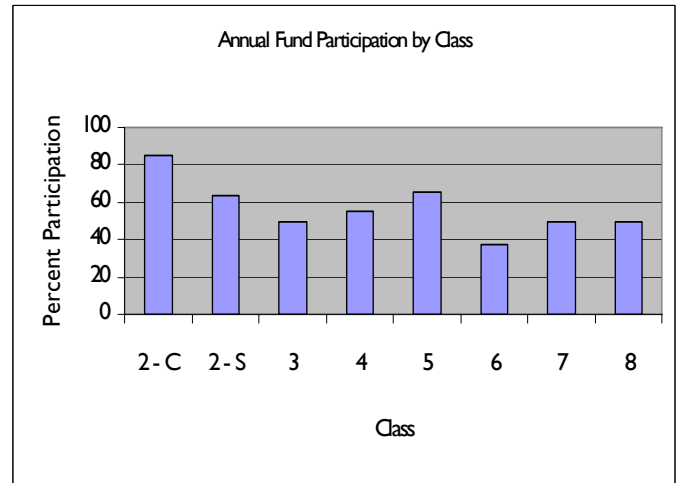
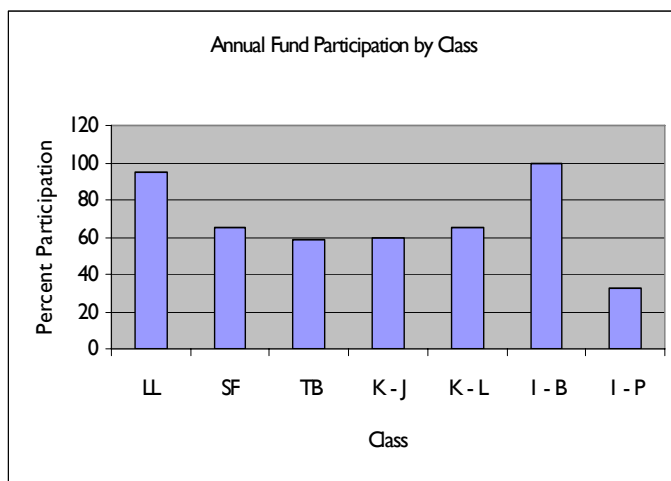
- The after school Building Club needs nails, popsicle sticks, pvc piping of any length, feathers, yarn, packing supplies, paper towel/toilet rolls and small pieces of wood. If you have any of the above items to donate, please drop them off at school. Thank you.

From the Office

Pizza and the Annual Fund

Three cheers for CDS families, who are not letting global economic drama interfere with their generous and gracious support of the Annual Fund! We're happy to report that over 60% of our families have made time in their busy lives to make a gift or pledge to the CDS Annual Fund by mail, in person or through the CDS website. Thank you, fellow CDS parents.

We're also happy to announce that Barbara's first grade class will receive the traditional free pizza lunch awarded to the first class to reach 100% participation. Congratulations to first grade families for being early Annual Fund leaders, and to Lisa Wally for a job well done as class captain. Two other classes are closing in on 100% participation: the Leaping Lizards (95%), who narrowly missed becoming 3-year pizza-eating participation champions, and Colette's second grade class (85%). Strong participation from all classes makes a big difference when the school approaches outside donors such as foundations and corporations. Please make a pledge or gift if you haven't already and keep the annual fund spirit and energy strong.



Support "No on 8"

On Saturday, November 15, cities around the country will host gatherings in support of the No on Proposition 8 campaign. All CDS families are invited to attend the San Francisco event at City Hall, which begins at 10:30 a.m. If you'd like to attend with other CDS families please gather beside the steps of City Hall near the Victory Garden at 10:15 a.m. For the past several years, members of the CDS community have marched in the San Francisco LGBTQ Pride Parade. We now have the opportunity to show that same support to our many LGBTQ families and staff, along with others across the country. Please join us.

Digging Deeper – CDS Tour

Curious to learn more about what's going on in our K-8 classrooms? After coffee and the assembly on Friday, November 21, from 9-11 a.m., join Rebecca Krill, Margaret Piskitel, Josee Mayette, Aimee Giles and a few current elementary and middle school students for a tour

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

November 5, CDS vs. Live Oak

Game 1: CDS 18, LO 25

Game 2: CDS 25, LO 19

Game 3: CDS 18, LO 16

Congratulations to the Bulldogs for completing an excellent volleyball season! Stay tuned for news from basketball season which kicks off on Tuesday, December 16 with a home game at the Boys & Girls Club.

and discussion of the CDS academic program. We will start with an overview of our K-8 programs and end with a school tour. This is an excellent opportunity for current CDS parents to see our K-8 classes in action and to ask questions. No RSVP is necessary – we hope you join us.

Make-Up Photo Day

Please note that make-up photos will be taken on Thursday, November 20.

Family Farmers Needed

Want to learn more about our beloved chickens and sheep and take home farm fresh eggs for Sunday breakfast? Simply sign up to be a family farmer 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 in no time. The following dates are available for future family farmers:

- December 27-29
- January 24-25
- February 6, 14-15, 20-22
- March 9
- April 4-12
- June 11-12, 15-17

PTTA Update

Meeting Cancellation

Please note that the PTTA meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 18 about inclusivity at CDS has been cancelled. The Committee on Inclusion and Diversity will host a rescheduled discussion at a later date; stay tuned for further details.

SPEAK Event

Don't forget to attend the SPEAK event, "Successful Kids: Redefining Goals," on Wednesday, November 19 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Greek Anunciacion Cathedral on 15th and Valencia Streets. The talk will include a panel of speakers and is free for all parents. Please see the flyer attached to the November 6 *Weekly* for complete details.

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, November 22

SSAT administered at CDS for eighth graders

Wednesday, November 26

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Noon dismissal

No extended program

Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28

Thanksgiving vacation

No school

No extended program

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

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