



September 4, 2008

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Growing

The wave of new growth flooding in the gate on the first day of school would have brought tears to my eyes were it not for the all the smiling I was doing. It really is impressive to see how much the children have grown. Standing tall, they look me in the eyes and smile broader than ever, and seem to say, "You thought I was amazing last year, just wait and see what I make of myself this year."

Of course they don't all do that. Some show their anxiety by being quiet. To the outside observer it looks as if some kids are anxious and some are not, but the truth is we are all a mixture of anxiety and anticipation; we just show it differently. I get all kinds of high-fives when they move past me into the school.

The children aren't the only ones growing. The summer's construction in St. Joseph's Hall allowed the building's capacity to grow. Having the middle school nicely ensconced on the third floor in new classrooms is not only a big change in and of itself, but also representative of the beginning of a new phase in the growth of the school. On his visit to the school last week, Trustee Bob Curley, who was also part of the dedicated parent group that turned the school into a non-profit 12 years ago, couldn't stop smiling with pride at the school that had grown to such maturity in such a short period of time.

We start off this next phase of our growth with 285 wonderful students, a great faculty that is well organized and working together beautifully and a strong parent/teacher community. The students sense that they are in a place where they can be exactly who they want to be. The teachers are proud to be members of a culture of inquiry where they are able to collaborate with intellectual peers toward a vision of educational excellence.

At the heart of the school, however, is a paradox. I've named it imperfection. Education is an exercise in imperfection. Just as none of our students is without his or her quirks, insecurities and anxieties, so our learning community is not without problems. What gives me the confidence to make my sweeping, glowing assertions about the school is not that there are no mistakes, but that we are good at learning from them; not that there is no conflict, but that we work at making conflict a creative learning experience; not that there is no struggle, but that we see struggle as something that is good, and jump in, helping each other through whatever has to be gone through.

That is the secret of our success so far, and it will stand us in good stead as we move forward into our next twelve years. Welcome to a growing school and a great new school year. Plunge in; the water's great.

Hot Dates

Friday, September 5

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Tuesday, September 9

5:30-7 p.m.

PTTA meeting:

Connecting with our community

Second floor, 16th Street

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



Thank You!

- To Amy Muller for setting up our online photo album again this year – watch for new photos to appear soon at: <http://cds.smugmug.com/>.

From the Office

Where Can I Find...?

As you return to school this week, you'll notice many changes! Due to last spring's move to the 16th Street Building and this summer's construction in St. Joseph's Hall, most classrooms and administrators have changed locations. To help you identify where to find everyone, you'll find a map of the classrooms and offices in St. Joseph's Hall as well as the 16th Street Building attached to today's *Weekly*. Please stop by and say hello and familiarize yourself with all of the new changes.

Call for Volunteer Photographers!

We are looking for a cadre of volunteer photographers who would like to be part of an ongoing group that helps capture the many "moments of greatness, large and small" happening at CDS. If you are a photographer with a keen eye for composition and some basic photo-adjusting skills, we want you to join the volunteer paparazzi! Volunteers are needed to help photograph events such as the first day of school, Back-to-School Night, the Cesar Chavez celebration and more, as well as field trips and school projects. If you would like to volunteer to help capture the spirit of our wonderful CDS community, please contact Amanda Richard, Admission Assistant, at amandar@cds-sf.org, or 861-5432 x337.

Family Farmer Training

Have you heard the rumors about taking home fresh eggs on the weekend? Are you ready to feed the sheep after a nice long Slow Food weekend? Then sign up to attend the year's first Family Farmer Training on Sunday, October 19 from 9-10 a.m. where you'll learn all you need to know to tend to the sheep and chickens during the school year! If you're interested, please RSVP with Misty Cummings, Environmental Education and Resource Teacher, at mistyc@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x321.

Community Yahoo Group

Join the CDS Community Yahoo Group! The purpose of this group is to provide a forum for the members of the CDS community to share information about life outside of school. This is not a list about school-related matters, but a way to share resources within our community. In other words, it's our in-house "craigslist."

Visit groups.yahoo.com/group/cdscommunity to join, and for more information and posting guidelines.

PTTA Update

First Meeting of the Year

All parents are invited to the first PTTA meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 9 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of the 16th Street Building. The focus of the meeting will be "Connecting with Our Community" and will include a guest presentation by Vanessa Lyons, Community Based Learning Coordinator, about the different ways that CDS students connect with our neighborhood and larger community. Childcare will be provided; please sign up with the receptionist by Monday, September 8. 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.

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

Saturday, September 13

11-2 p.m.

All-school Kick-off Picnic
Douglass Park

Wednesday, September 24

6:30-8 p.m.

Middle School (grades 5-8)
Back-to-School Night

Thursday, September 25

5:30 p.m.

New Parent Reception

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Preschool and Elementary
Back-to-School Night

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

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