



September 18, 2008

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Fall Celebrations

Last week we read about the middle school goat, the wonderful new mascot for our 2008-09 middle school classes. The goat's presence on the third floor is a nice marker of all that has changed over the summer. As you know (and many have now seen), the summer's construction has allowed the middle school to be together on the third floor of St. Joseph's Hall for the first time. The very first week, several teachers, parents and students bubbled over to me about how this change in space has radically shifted the tone and feel of the middle school classes. Indeed, there is a new level of professionalism and maturity.

Our environment has a powerful effect on how we feel and how we behave. Seeing the new, modern radiators in classrooms and strategically placed around the school gives us a sense of comfort even before we turn them on. The new seismic upgrades make us feel safer just knowing about them. These physical changes are visible manifestations of years of work by many people: dedicated parents, friends, grandparents, neighbors, board members, faculty and staff and even enthusiastic alumni. The physical changes are also symbolic evidence of *all* the changes occurring within the CDS community, from new PTTA involvement and leadership, to new faculty curriculum work, to renewed focus on communication and diversity.

What's the right thing to do under these circumstances? Celebrate! We've scheduled a few different ways for everyone to see the results of the renovation over the next month. First, take a sneak peek at the third floor classrooms during Back to School Nights on Wednesday, September 24 (grades 5-8) and Thursday, September 25 (pre-4).

In addition, please join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres on the third floor of St. Joseph's Hall on Thursday, October 2 from 6:30-8 p.m. We'll have a slide show of construction photos and a more leisurely opportunity to check out each of the five classrooms, thank all of the many people who are "Building our Future" and learn more about the big vision for St. Joseph's Hall.

Over the course of the summer we also successfully completed the permitting process for the I6<sup>th</sup> Street building, which among other things, allows students to use the new space for classroom purposes. A handful of investors made the real estate acquisition possible, and many parents, trustees, faculty, staff and friends of the school assisted with the permitting process. To recognize and honor all of our supporters, we will celebrate with an official ribbon-cutting this fall. Stay tuned for more information.

There is still plenty of work to be done, so don't feel like you have missed out on the fun. There will be many opportunities over the year to participate in the

## Hot Dates

Friday, September 19

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Seventh grade presenting

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

Ecolab

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](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)



## Thank You!

- An enormous thank you to Carlos Vasquez, Ann Van Gelder, Dee Dee Schroeder, Jocelyn Colopy, Tina Leung, Tanya Schevitz, Rebecca Grey and Laura Delafuente for helping plan and execute the All-school Kick-off Picnic last weekend. Additional thanks to all CDS families who attended, prepared and brought food and helped with set-up and clean-up – the picnic was truly a school-wide effort.
- To middle school families for kicking the year off with an excellent faculty breakfast last week!

renovation of our school building as we continue to raise capital funds to fulfill our vision of creating an environmentally responsible building that educates.

It's a great pleasure to be able to celebrate these two landmarks and all that they represent. Let's celebrate as a whole community. We hope you will all join us in recognizing these historic accomplishments!

## From the Office

### Admission Volunteers Needed

If you're a CDS parent or guardian who'd like to share your enthusiasm and excitement for the school with prospective families, the Admission Office needs you! We are looking for volunteers, and there are lots of opportunities to be involved, including helping with tours and open houses, calling prospective families, organizing admission materials, and more. If you would like to help on tours, you need to attend one of two scheduled orientation dates - September 23 at 8:30 a.m. and September 30 at 4:30 p.m. To volunteer for tours or any of our other opportunities, please contact Ann Van Gelder, Admissions Parent Volunteer Coordinator, at [cds.tourvolunteering@gmail.com](mailto:cds.tourvolunteering@gmail.com) or (415) 647-8561.

### Congratulations Misty!

Misty Cummings, Environmental Education Resource Teacher, will be on leave in the spring for the birth of her first baby, due in early February. We will be hiring a long-term substitute in her absence and will let you know details closer to her absence.

## Events

### Back-to-School Night

CDS holds two Back-to-School Nights, one for parents in grades 5-8 (Wednesday, September 24) and a second for parents in grades pre-4 (Thursday, September 25). Both nights give teachers the opportunity to share with parents what skills and content their children will be covering during the year as well as a chance to demonstrate how the class is structured to challenge each child appropriately.

We know that this is a short amount of time to share a lot of information. We appreciate your thoughtful questions and efficient transitions between all aspects of the evening! In order to respect the importance of the parent/teacher communications planned for this evening, we will be a "dry" campus this year (i.e. no wine will be served).

Back to School Night is one of the few parent events at CDS where we do not provide childcare. Please remember to secure childcare for the evening. Also, please remember to arrive early to find street parking as there is NO parking in the CDS lot. We encourage you to take public transportation if at all possible.

### Middle School BTSN

We hope you can join us on Wednesday, September 24 from 6:30-8:05 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of St. Joseph's Hall for Middle School Back-to-School Night. This is a key event where teachers will discuss what they teach, how they teach and how students are assessed. It's also a great opportunity for you to visit our renovated space if you haven't yet had the chance. Please contact Josée Mayette, Middle School Head, at [joseem@cds-sf.org](mailto:joseem@cds-sf.org) if you have any questions.

All parents are invited for refreshments on the third floor landing immediately prior to classroom presentations (6:10-6:30 p.m.).

### 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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cdscommunity).

## School Wish List

- The after school program needs yoga mats for after school activities and enrichment classes. If you have a mat to donate, please contact Dan Larson at [danl@cds-sf.org](mailto:danl@cds-sf.org).

## Extended Program News

### Enrichment Classes

Fall enrichment classes have begun. However, you can still sign up for classes through Friday, September 19. If you'd like to register, please turn in your registration form or contact Dan Larson at [danl@cds-sf.org](mailto:danl@cds-sf.org).

## Board Corner

### Get to Know the Board

Each September the Board of Trustees meets to set our goals and work plan for the year. One of our goals for the 2008-09 year is to make both the members of the Board and the functions and roles of the Board familiar to the CDS community. To that end, we are going to use this space in the *Weekly* to provide background information about who we are and what we do, as well as report on decisions we make that may be of interest to the CDS community.

*What does the CDS Board of Trustees do (and what don't we do)?*

We are responsible for setting broad policies, setting the annual budget and making sure that we have enough money to operate the school, setting long term and short term strategic goals, and for hiring and evaluating the Head of School. We do not get involved in the day-to-day running of the school, which is the Head's job in coordination with the administrative team and the faculty.

*Who are we and how were we selected?*

The Board of Trustees is similar to the boards of many nonprofit organizations in that we are all volunteers chosen by our peers. We are chosen based on a combination of the professional skills we bring, our backgrounds and our commitment to the school and its mission and values. We strive to have a balance of non-parent board members and parents to ensure that we have the benefit of outside perspectives on our decisions. We all sign a contract committing ourselves to help raise

	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 <sup>th</sup> grade
6:30-6:50	Spanish Luz's room	Spanish Luz's room
6:55-7:15	Specialists Doug's room	Specialists Doug's room
7:20-7:40	Humanities Melanie's room	Math/Science Ecolab
7:45-8:05	Math/Science Ecolab	Humanities Melanie's room

	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	8 <sup>th</sup> grade
6:30-6:50	Specialists Doug's room	Specialists Doug's room
6:55-7:15	Spanish Luz's room	Spanish Luz's room
7:20-7:40	Math/Science Doug's room	Humanities Terry's room
7:45-8:05	Humanities Terry's room	Math/Science Doug's room

### Preschool & Elementary BTSN

- 6:15–6:30: Parents gather in the yard for refreshments
- 6:30–7: Program starts, words from Head of School, Assistant Head and Board Chair
- 7–7:05: Transition time to classrooms
- 7:05–7:45: Classroom presentations (younger sibling or student last names L-Z)
- 7:45 – 7:50: Transition time to classrooms
- 7:50–8:30: Classroom presentations (older sibling or student last names A-K)

Please note that parents with only one student are encouraged to meet with specialists on the third floor and visit the new middle school classrooms when they are not in a presentation.

## Go Bulldogs!

The co-ed volleyball team has begun practicing for its upcoming fall season! Stay tuned for a schedule of games and scores as the season gets underway.

funds and use our energies to further the school's mission and values.

#### *How does the Board work?*

We have regular monthly board meetings during the school year where we make decisions such as approving the budget, reviewing and setting policies and determining strategic goals. Most of our work, however, is done between board meetings through standing committees (e.g. Finance or Development) or short-term task forces (e.g. St. Joseph's Hall building project). We evaluate ourselves and the Head of School at the end of each school year.

## **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](mailto:CDSPTTA@yahoo.com)
- Laura Pliska, President, (415) 641-5116 or [laura@sfbabyworks.com](mailto:laura@sfbabyworks.com)
- Robin McClarren, Faculty Appreciation Coordinator, (415) 235-0295 or [robinmcc@speakeasy.net](mailto:robinmcc@speakeasy.net)
- Sara O'Malley, Parent Involvement Coordinator, (415) 348-8841 or [sara@omalleyhylton.com](mailto:sara@omalleyhylton.com)
- Karen Randig, Secretary, (415) 824-1784 or [krandig@msn.com](mailto:krandig@msn.com)
- Andrea Reynolds, Preschool Representative, (415) 860-7556 or [andrea-reynolds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andrea-reynolds@sbcglobal.net)
- Darya Soto, Diversity Coordinator, (415) 812-1715 or [daryasoto@yahoo.com](mailto:daryasoto@yahoo.com)
- Carlos Vasquez, Classroom Liaison Coordinator, (415) 987-6501 or [xcvasquez@aol.com](mailto:xcvasquez@aol.com)

## **Upcoming Dates**

**Tuesday, September 23**

8:30 a.m.

Admission Office Volunteer Orientation

**Tuesday, September 30**

4:30 p.m.

Admission Office Volunteer Orientation

**Thursday, October 2**

6:30-8 p.m.

St. Joseph's Hall Party

**Tuesday, October 7**

5:30-7 p.m.

PTTA meeting: CDS Finances & Annual Fund

**Monday, October 13**

Government holiday observed

No school

No extended program

**Tuesday, October 21 & Wednesday, October 22**

Annual Fund Phonathon

**Saturday, October 25**

Alumni Reunion

**Monday, October 27**

Professional development day

No school

No extended program

Dates also posted on CDS website  
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