



June 10, 2010

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words about Rick



## The Gifts That Keep On Giving

*A Tribute by Tracy Kirkham*

Rick has taught me many things these past eight years. One is the power of a story to communicate an observation about human nature. So, I'm going to tell you a story. It is a story in which Rick is not a participant, but it is very much about him.

It takes place early morning on the day, a few weeks ago, that my oldest daughter, Gilli, had her final paper due in English. Her English quarter grade had been an A-, accompanied by a comment that she needs to learn to adequately proofread her work. I suspected that a well-edited final paper just might get rid of that minus and add coveted tenths of a point to her critical junior-year GPA. For those of you whose oldest child is still at CDS, junior year grades are seen as the major determinant of college acceptance, and generally considered to make or break one's whole life. So, although I had not done so for any of her other papers, I offered and then insisted that I be allowed to proofread this one. Gilli steadfastly (without explanation) refused to let me see a draft. Finally, the night before the paper was due, I gave up in frustration and with a parting shot about her being sorry when all her friends were going to Ivy League universities, went to bed.

The next morning, I told her that I found her stubbornness immature and inexplicable. I'd been writing for a living for 25 years, I said, and I wouldn't think of filing a brief without having someone else read it to catch an overlooked typo or alert me to an awkward or confusing passage. In response, she said, "Mom, this isn't filing a brief with a court, this is *school*. Ms. Selvin wants *me* to learn to proofread; she doesn't really care if you can proofread. All year I've given her my work without any help from you and my writing is the best it's ever been. Why take that away from me?"

Why indeed. I was speechless as the truth of her words unmasked my flawed behavior and suffused my consciousness. Gilli smiled a ruefully supportive

## Hot Dates

Friday, June 11

8:30 a.m.

Special assembly for Mr. Rick with the Del Sol String Quartet

Sunday, June 13

11-2 p.m.

Picnic in the yard in honor of Mr. Rick

Monday, June 14

8:30 a.m.

Passing the Torch Ceremony

Tuesday, June 15

3:45 p.m.

Eighth grade graduation  
No extended program

Dates also posted on CDS website  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)



## Thank You!

- To Dave and Sascha Wise for taking photographs at the Country Fair.
- To Janine Wilburn for creative advice and project management for a video for CDS, and a huge and special thank you to Roger Guillen for many, many, many hours of creative work to make the video a reality. Look for the video soon on the CDS website!
- To Hank and May Lim for hosting coffee in the yard on May 28 and Glenn and Mary Dennis for hosting coffee in the yard on June 4.
- To Leaping Lizard families for a spectacular faculty breakfast in May.

smile as she watched my revelations dawn. Then she said, "Okay. We're all good here. I've really got to leave for school or I'm going to be late." With a wave, she was gone out the door.

Ivy League or not, Gilli already possesses the tools for a successful life. For this, I shall be eternally grateful to Rick Ackerly. Gilli is the product of an environment shaped by Rick's unique philosophy of education. As a result of his tireless work, her highest loyalty is to her own genius, and the awareness that a person's genius is really the learning curve of their authentic self. Validation doesn't come from a good grade or praise or an acceptance letter from Harvard. She knows these truths. What's more, she acts on that knowledge and seeks validation in the feeling that accompanies struggle, learning and growth, knowing that only when grades and praise align with that feeling do they have merit. Thanks to Rick and his eight year campaign to banish fear from the halls of CDS, Gilli's approach to school is not driven by fear of not measuring up, or fear of a bad grade, or the fear of not getting into a prestigious university. And, as Rick has taught me, only from such fearlessness comes the freedom to engage in the risky business of growth.

From Rick, I've learned that whenever things start skidding sideways, check first who's in the driver's seat because it is almost always fear. Face the fear and the correct course can be recognized and followed. Rick's influence on my life, on Gilli's life, on the lives of her sisters and those of all our children shapes how we live today, and how our children and the children that they may one day have will live tomorrow. We, and those who

come after us as the students, parents, trustees, faculty and administrators of Children's Day School, carry Rick's legacy into the future. His ideas are in our institutional DNA. Our school will change, and it will grow and the people guiding it will make mistakes, and all will learn, and Rick wouldn't have it any other way. Yet, at the same time, CDS will always be Rick Ackerly's school – the place where his ideas put down the strongest roots and grew the stoutest shoots. Thank you, Mr. Rick. We'll be seeing you in the future.

## The Genius in Children

You can keep reading Rick's stories at [www.rickackerly.com](http://www.rickackerly.com). This week he highlights his new book and acknowledges the CDS community: "I am deeply grateful for the students, parents, teachers and other educators of Children's Day School who *unknowingly* helped me write this book."

## Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

### Building Our Future Update

We're very pleased to report that over \$30,000 has been committed to the capital campaign in the past couple of weeks, allowing CDS to put much of the \$50,000 matching grant to good use while still leaving room for additional gifts and pledges before June 15. As a friendly reminder, all new donations confirmed by this Tuesday up to \$50,000 total will be matched dollar for dollar, thanks to the generous and motivational commitment of a CDS family. We still have about \$20,000 left to go to make use of all of this dollar for dollar match. And starting Wednesday, the day after school is out, work on the St. Joseph's Hall foundation and electrical systems will begin, and we will have a stronger, safer, well-powered building ready to welcome students and teachers back next fall. Thank you to all our donors; your gifts have made a huge difference to our building and school.

## From the Classrooms

### Fall Teacher Line-Up

As we prepare for graduation and the final days of the school year, we also look ahead to next year. The 2010-11 school year line-up of teachers and staff includes many familiar faces and several new faces. As always, there may be a few more changes over the summer but we wanted to bring you up to speed as you prepare for summer vacation, and in a few months, the new school

## School Wish List

- The PTTA needs recycled glass jars of all sizes (clear, blue or green) for the end of year faculty lunch. Jars can be dropped off at the front desk in the “faculty luncheon” box. Thank you.

year. We’ve appreciated your patience this spring, waiting to hear news of transitions, changes and new beginnings.

### Preschool

We’re happy to report that there are no changes to the preschool line-up for next year. You’ll find Candy Mabry, Carmen Gerughty and Lianna Lopez in the Teddy Bear room; Alicia Perdue, Gladys Miyahira and Ngoc Tran in Leaping Lizards; and Gretchen Ott, Gloria Argueta and James Bannister in Starfish. Derrek Gerughty will return as the outside teacher. We’re pleased to announce that Lianna, in addition to her Teddy Bear role, will become the Head Teacher for the Butterflies preschool after school program, responsible for leading staff and activities after dismissal.

### Elementary School

Jen Weiss and Luisa Pinto are returning as Head Teachers of our two kindergarten sections. They will be assisted by two new faces, Moriah Grey and Kathleen Drake, both of whom are beginning their teaching credential programs through the Bay Area Teacher Training Institute (BATTI).

We are wishing Anna Forward a fond goodbye as she heads to the East Bay to begin a full-time Masters in Education program at Mills College.

Matt Martin will move up to be Co-Head Teacher of a first grade section with Lindsay Hershenhorn, who is moving from second grade to first grade.

Paula Symonds will be the Head Teacher in the other first grade section, and she will be assisted by a new BATTI intern, Daniela Gibson.

Additionally, a warm and gratitude-filled farewell to Molly Meng as she moves on from full-time work at CDS to pursue her art more fully.

We also must say goodbye to Nick Martin, who has finished his BATTI coursework and teaching credential. He has taken a Head Teacher position at Presidio Hill School, and we wish him the best as he takes charge of

his own classroom!

Barbara DeMoss is returning as one of our second grade Head Teachers next year. Barbara will be assisted by Laura Hunkler, currently an extended program teacher.

Colette Zee will continue as Head Teacher for the other second grade section. Colette will be assisted by Sophie Johnson, also currently an extended program teacher. Both Laura and Sophie will work full-time “hybrid” positions next year, where their work will span both daytime associate teaching and after school responsibilities as well.

Ginny St. Denis and Carli Lowe are both returning as Co-Head Teachers of our one section of third grade next year.

Becky Sawada and Christian Strauli are both returning to fourth grade next year, Becky as Head Teacher, and now that he has completed his BATTI coursework and teaching credential, Christian steps up into the role of Teacher.

### Middle School

The middle school line-up remains the same for the sixth year in a row! (Melanie Liu, fifth grade; Kirk Bell, sixth grade; Doug Garfinkel, seventh grade; Terry Ashkinos, eighth grade). Noah Weatherford will continue on as Middle School Associate Teacher.

### Specialists

There will be two new specialist faces on campus next year. After 10 years at CDS, Karen Slovak has decided to leave the classroom to focus on her textile design work. We are currently interviewing art teacher candidates for this position, and will introduce you to a new art teacher in the fall.

We will also introduce you to a new fourth–eighth grade Spanish teacher this fall. Stay tuned for more details.

### After School

The Extended Program is excited that all after school staff will be returning next year, with new roles for Laura Hunkler and Sophie Johnson as hybrid second grade/after school teachers. Laura will also be moving from fourth grade study hall teacher to become a second middle school study hall teacher alongside Noah Weatherford, who returns in the same role with middle school study hall. Danielle Lyon returns to lead Kindergarten Club, among others, and lead the final hour of the Butterflies programs in the preschool. Jasmin Hoo

will again be the Extended Program Coordinator and an after school teacher. Zachary Lundgren returns in the same role as after school teacher.

We're also very excited to announce that Margaret Stewart, a frequent substitute at CDS this year, will be joining the after school team as the fourth grade study hall teacher.

### Administration

As you know, this summer brings the arrival of our new Head of School, Molly Huffman. And, after working at CDS for many years, and with all three former Heads of Children's Day School, Aimee Giles is leaving to pursue other professional opportunities. We're excited to announce that Diane Larrabee will be our Interim Director of Admission next year. Rebecca Kroll will be finishing her maternity leave just as the next school year begins, so stay tuned for her re-entry hours in the fall.

It's always difficult to say goodbye, but we wish those who are leaving well in their new adventures. When you see them around campus, please join us in thanking them for their commitment and dedication to CDS.

Have a great summer!

## From the Office

### Save the Date(s) for Mr. Rick

Don't miss these two upcoming events to celebrate Mr. Rick.

- **Friday, June 11, 8:30 a.m.** - The year's last Friday assembly will include a special performance by the Del Sol String Quartet.
- **Sunday, June 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** - All-school, kids, families, alumni invited to a picnic in the yard. Bring your lunch and a blanket; we'll provide the cake and watermelon!

### Thank You

We extend our deepest thanks to the record number of parents who have donated to the 2009-10 Children's Day School Annual Fund. Now more than ever, the school community's strong commitment to the Annual Fund sends a powerful message that we support the CDS mission and the school's exceptional programs – inquiry-based education, championship basketball teams, ambitious and impressive Shakespearean drama

productions, environmental education, music and more. CDS parents have set a new school record for participation this year – 91% of our families have given over \$112,000! All together, including proceeds from Fiesta 2010 and generous gifts from trustees, grandparents, foundations, teachers and staff, the Annual Fund has raised over \$335,000 this year. If you have not yet made a gift and would like to be counted among the Annual Fund heroes this year, there's still time before the CDS fiscal year ends on June 30. Everything helps -- click here ([www.cds-sf.org/giving](http://www.cds-sf.org/giving)) to make a credit card gift or drop off a check in the development office. Many thanks for your support.

### Farm & Garden Volunteers

Want to help tend the farm and garden? Collect fresh eggs for Sunday morning breakfast? Simply e-mail Misty Cummings at [mistyc@cds-sf.org](mailto:mistyc@cds-sf.org) to sign up for any of the following dates:

- Aug 14-15, afternoon only 23-25
- Sept 4-6, 25-26
- Oct 9-11, 23-25, 30-31

### Best Ways to Communicate

This is a friendly reminder that all forms of communication directed toward CDS should identify the appropriate recipient (in the electronic mail header or on the paper envelope). Here's a handy list of what goes where:

- Irene Phillips, Business Office – tuition
- Dan Larson/Jasmin Hoo, Extended Program - all camp forms, extended program tuition
- Kerry Parker - health forms, report cards, conferences, address changes

Thanks for helping us streamline the communication process for all.

## Events

### Passing the Torch Ceremony

Everyone is invited to the Passing the Torch Ceremony on the morning of Monday, June 14 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. At this annual 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 2010 Graduation

On Tuesday, June 15, we'll hold the Class of 2010 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 preschool pick-up will be walk-in only. Elementary pick-up will be drive through and walk-in as usual. 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!

Please note that photos will be taken during our graduation ceremony by Schoolhouse Candids Photography ([www.schoolhousecandids.com/Childrens-Day-School](http://www.schoolhousecandids.com/Childrens-Day-School)). After the ceremony, you can log on to the link above and use the password mission83 to access and purchase photos.

## We Love A Parade!

Why strain your neck to watch the Pride Parade from the sidelines when you can be part of it and be seen by thousands of your adoring fans on KRON 4's broadcast of the Parade? March with CDS this year in the 40th Annual San Francisco Pride Parade on Sunday, June 27!

CDS will be marching with other independent schools, just like last year. All families are welcome – because celebrating Pride is fun for everyone! Kick-off for the event is 10:30 a.m., and we'll have details soon about exactly when and where to meet up. If you're interested in participating, please contact Carlos Vasquez at [xvasquez@aol.com](mailto:xvasquez@aol.com) to RSVP.

## Extended Program News

### Fond Farewell

The Extended Program wants to thank Poppea Dorsam for her years of service at CDS. We owe Poppea tremendous gratitude for launching the strings enrichment class program and bringing high-quality cello and violin lessons to CDS. For several years, Poppea taught both cello and violin classes after school, as well as arranging several concerts and recitals to showcase

student talent. This spring semester was Poppea's last semester teaching at CDS, as she is turning the program over to Beth Snelling and Dan Kristianson, who will be teaching cello and violin in the fall, respectively. We will miss Poppea greatly, and hope to continue to expand the strings program on campus in her vision.

## Board Corner

### Trustee Thanks

As we prepare for the end of the school year, we'd like to thank our very dedicated and hard-working volunteer trustees for their tireless commitment to CDS.

First, thank you to Matt Schwartz for serving as Board Chair. Thanks also to the entire 2009-10 Board of Trustees for their service: Suzanne Abbey, Rick Ackerly, Ila Afsharipour, Susi Alexander, Ray Baxter, Patricia Buse, Bob Curley, Rick England, Marianne Evans, John Hendrickson, Andrew Henry, Richard Hylton, Tracy Kirkham, Robin McClarren, Elizabeth McClellan, Jack Munson, Laura Pliska, Michael Silver, Darya Soto, Gayle Tsern Strang and Chris van Löben Sels. Their leadership and enthusiasm is vital to the success of our school.

We extend special gratitude to two dedicated trustees who are retiring from the Board after completing a combined 15 years of service this spring: Rick England and Gayle Tsern Strang. Rick, who joined the board in 2003, has chaired the Finance Committee and served as the Board Treasurer, generously lending his expertise and wisdom and markedly improving the fiscal strength of Children's Day School. Throughout her eight years on the Board chairing various facilities projects, task forces and committees, Gayle has played an essential role in the architecture of CDS, making this campus a better place for learning and, simply put, a better place.

The Board will miss Rick and Gayle's leadership and commitment, and is also happy to welcome five new trustees with a remarkable array of talents, skills and perspectives. We're also happy to report that Robin McClarren will serve another term as PTTA President and will remain on the Board.

The 2010-11 Board Officers are as follows:

- Matt Schwartz (Chair)
- Patricia Buse (Vice Chair)
- Richard Hylton (Vice Chair)
- Chris van Löben Sels (Treasurer)
- Ray Baxter (Secretary)

## New Trustees

**Laura DelaFuente** is a senior consultant with Pacific BioFacilities, a company that specializes in planning, design, construction and management of bio-science facilities. Laura earned her B.S. in architecture from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico and her M.S. in interior design and facilities planning from Cornell University. She has served on the CDS Board of Trustees' Facilities Development Committee since 2008. She is the parent of Cosette ('17) and Mishan ('18) Gagnon.

**Eric Fastiff** is a partner in the law firm of Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP, and specializes in representing plaintiffs in antitrust, intellectual property and other complex litigation. Eric received his B.A. in political science and history from Tufts University, his M.Sc. in Soviet politics from the London School of Economics and his J.D. from Cornell University. Eric served this past year on the CDS Board of Trustees' Bond Task Force, and he serves as Secretary of the board of the Jewish Home of San Francisco. Eric and his wife Rebecca Arons have a son, Eli ('18), and a daughter, Tessa ('20).

**Susan Munn** has served as the Director of Finance and Operations for The Urban School of San Francisco since 1991. Prior to working at Urban, she held positions in several arts organizations. She has served three terms as president of Martin Luther Tower, an affordable housing facility for independent seniors. She also has been on the board of the Independent Schools Business Officers Association and has been a member of Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation committees. She has a B.A. in music from Chatham College and an M.A. in business from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives in San Francisco with her husband Tom and they have two grown daughters. Susan enjoys hiking in the Sierras whenever possible.

**Jim Reynolds**, father of Taylor ('15) and Ava ('18), has served as an annual fund class captain at CDS for several years. Jim is a Senior Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Client Services at CoreLogic/LoanPerformance, a technology company that assists financial institutions with risk analysis. Previously, Jim was managing director of the European office of BancWare, vice president of business development at HSBC Global Markets and senior bank analyst at MetLife Investments. He holds a B.S. in economics and political science from Union College.

**Carol Swainson** rejoins the CDS Board after having served as a trustee from 2007-2009. She is the Head of Middle School at Head-Royce School in Oakland, and previously worked at the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C., as well as in bilingual schools in Los Angeles as part of the Teach for America program. At Sidwell, Carol served for five years as the All-School Diversity Coordinator and as an ex-officio member of the board of trustees, and taught classes in French, Spanish and American History. Carol received her M.Ed. in social foundations in education and her B.A. in Spanish and French languages from the University of Virginia. She has been a speaker, workshop leader and consultant on diversity for numerous schools and organizations.

## PTTA News

### PTTA Thanks

It's our great pleasure to thank this year's PTTA officers for their year of service and dedication to the CDS school community. From Friday morning coffee planning, to volunteer coordination, to parent education, to event planning, and much, much more, this fantastic group of officers helped make the year run as smoothly as possible. If you see them around campus, be sure to thank them for their ongoing commitment to CDS!

- Robin McClarren, President
- Rebecca Grey, Secretary
- Carlos Vasquez, Classroom Liaison Coordinator
- Meredith Ashworth, Faculty Appreciation Coordinator
- Sara O'Malley, Parent Education Coordinator
- Ann Van Gelder, Admission Volunteer Coordinator
- Kristen Peña, Parent Involvement Coordinator
- Kate Flynn, Middle School Representative
- Lauren Schwartz, Preschool Representative
- Andrea Reynolds, Fiesta Chair
- Danielle Guthrie, Country Fair Chair

## Upcoming Dates

Monday, June 21 – Friday, July 2  
Summer Camp session I

Tuesday, July 6 – Friday, July 16  
Summer Camp session II

Monday, July 19 – Friday, July 30  
Summer Camp session III

Monday, August 2 – Friday, August 13  
Summer Camp session IV

Monday, August 16 – Friday, August 20  
Summer Camp session V

Monday, August 30 & Tuesday, August 31  
Parent-teacher conferences

Wednesday, September 1  
First day of school

Dates also posted on CDS website  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)

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