



March 18, 2010

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

This letter is guest written by CDS Board Chair, Matt Schwartz.

Dear CDS Community,

You may recall that in preparation for the January 12th State of the School meeting, I sent a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees letting you know about our long-term plans to grow to two sections (classrooms) in grades K-8. I am pleased to announce that the Board unanimously voted this week to take the first step in the process of growing the school by admitting two full classes of kindergartners for the 2010-11 school year.

There have been a number of developments, opportunities and accomplishments since State of the School night that make us confident that this is the right decision at the right time. I would like to share some of these new developments:

- A major bank gave CDS a written commitment last week that provides us with the assurance that we will be able to proceed with a long-awaited tax-exempt bond refinancing, significantly lowering the cost of borrowing to the school. This will provide secure financial footing as we proceed with our plans to obtain the space we will need to accommodate our students and programs over the long term.
- We received positive feedback from City Planning staff last week regarding our initial concepts for replacing the bungalows.
- Over the last two months, we learned of a number of potential expansion sites that make us confident we can meet the short- and long-term space needs of a larger school.
- At the PTTA and faculty meetings last week, parents and faculty responded positively to possible plans to expand the facilities on our existing site, offering many constructive ideas.

In addition to the developments described above, the Board's decision is driven by continued strong demand for a CDS education coupled with the recognition that especially in these tough economic times, it is prudent when we have the ability to do so to accept qualified students whose families are eager to contribute their resources to our community. Operating with full classes is both economically and educationally efficient and will improve our ability to support our teachers and offer an excellent academic program while managing tuition growth and supporting our sliding scale tuition program.

We are fortunate to have flexibility in developing and exploring our options for long-term growth. We intend to continue along a path that allows us to

Hot Dates

Friday, March 19
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Fourth grade presenting

Monday, March 22

Professional Development day
No school
No extended program

Tuesday, March 23

7 p.m.
SPEAK event: Smart Parenting in a
Digital World
Gresham Hall, Grace Cathedral
1100 California Street

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



Thank You!

- An enormous thank you to all of the quilters, sewers, hangers and helpers who made this year's Fiesta 2010 quilts an authentic and beautiful representation of our school community: Kristen Aitken, Rebecca Arons, Kirk Bell, Wendy Bokhorst-Heng, Rosie Buckley, Katie Buono, Ray Cendana, Suzie Chastain, Beverly Choe, Jocelyn Colopy, Tina Corse, Carol Damm, Laura Delafuente, Eric de Santo, Ana de los Santos, Coco Espinosa, Colleen Fordyce, Alycia Freeman, Greta Hanley, Sam Hunt, Emily Kwan, May Lim, Lynda Marton, Mike McNabb, Melanie Piech, Andrea Reynolds, Tanya Schevitz, Kathryn Selleck, Alpa Sheth, Carmen Tejada, Dolmaya Thogra, Lydia Timken, Molly Tyson, Laurie van Löben Sels, Robin Wander, Jen Weiss and Jeanette Wilmerding.
- To Rosie Buckley for hosting Friday coffee last week, bringing many Irish pastries in honor of St. Patrick's Day and making everyone's rainy day brighter!

respond responsibly to all the forces that affect schools like CDS including enrollment demand, the economic climate, fundraising capabilities and the availability of expansion space. There is still much hard work to be done and we acknowledge that there may be some growing pains on our path to a two section per grade school, but we are excited to be taking these initial steps toward fulfilling the mission and vision of Children's Day School.

We look forward to keeping you posted on our progress and hearing your feedback as the school moves into this next exciting phase. If you have any questions, I hope you will feel free to contact Rick Ackerly (rackerly@cds-sf.org; 415-861-5432 x313) or Rebecca Kroll (rebeccak@cds-sf.org; 415-861-5432 x311).

Sincerely,

Matt Schwartz

From the Classrooms

Professional Development Day

Each year we devote two school days to all-faculty professional development. These important days give us the opportunity to gather as a full faculty and deepen our understanding of essential components of great teaching.

On Monday, March 22, the CDS Faculty will spend the day reflecting on the "Elements of Effective Assessment." Preschool teachers will split up to visit four of our peer preschools with an eye on the types of data and methods of data collection these schools use to assess student strengths and challenges. K-8 teachers will work together to design and develop student-friendly rubrics that will ensure transparency in project expectations for students and parents.

We'd love to share more if you're interested. Please contact Rebecca, Josée or Margaret with any questions.

From the Office

Family Farmers – We Need You!

Please help us cover a few remaining dates during the April 12-16 vacation! Please contact Misty Cummings at 861-5432 x321 or mistyc@cds-sf.org if you can help.

Lost & Found

After this Friday, March 19, dedicated parent volunteers, Linda Glover and Ray Baxter will cart, sort and clean all unclaimed Lost and Found items and bring them to Community Thrift. (Thank you, Linda and Ray!) If items are labeled, Linda will return them to their owners. It is a big job for them to process the clothing, so please claim (and label!) what's yours. Thank you.

Spring Cleaning

If you're contemplating cleaning out closets and cupboards, please consider donating to Community Thrift at 623 Valencia (near I7th Street). Be sure you mention CDS when you drop off your donations. Over the years, generous donations from the CDS community to Community Thrift have resulted in thousands of dollars disbursed back to CDS! Check your storerooms and shelves for unwanted items such as clean clothing, jewelry and accessories, shoes, books, stationery, magazines, house wares, furniture, CDs, videos, DVDs,

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

- Country Fair lemonade-makers need your lemons! Harvest that winter tree and drop lemons off at the environmental education kitchen. Thank you.

lamps, electronics, luggage and baskets. Please note that they do not accept children's clothing and toys.

For information regarding drop-off procedures and hours, please visit Community Thrift's website at <http://www.communitythrifsf.org/donate/>.

Events

Fiesta 2010

Pool Party in Sonoma-SOLD! International Lunch at CDS-SOLD! Monster Movie Night with Ms. Vanessa-SOLD! Fiesta bidding is on fire! Have you logged on to snatch up some amazing items? You won't want to miss out on Indian cooking lessons and dinner, Bi-Rite gift certificates, dinner at Delfina with babysitting, Presidents' Day in Lake Tahoe or a dog walk with Mr. Nick. Log on now before your favorite item is going, going, GONE! Go to www.biddingforgood.com/cdsfiesta2010; bidding ends at 10 p.m. on Thursday, March 25.

SPEAK

Please join us next Tuesday, March 23, for a panel discussion, "Smart Parenting in an Online World," hosted by SPEAK. Panelists Anne Zehren, President of CommonSense Media, BJ Fogg, author of "The Psychology of Facebook," and Matt Levinson of the Nueva School will discuss the unique challenges faced by parents trying to manage and understand the revolution in communication and information technology that is part of their children's lives. The event starts at 7 p.m., and is in Gresham Hall at 1100 California Street, in the basement of Grace Cathedral. Admission is free to the CDS community. For more information, visit www.speaksf.org

Country Fair

There are just seven weeks until the CDS Country Fair, and organizers have begun planning! Please help us make the Country Fair another spectacular CDS community event.

Country Fair Market

Do you knit or crochet? Like to sew? Do you make jam or canned items? We need you! We are looking for knitters, crafters and preservers to make creations for our country fair market.

Want to help but not sure what to make? How about seasoned nuts? Have an abundance of herbs or fruits you can harvest from your garden? Dried herbs? Infused olive oil? Recycled bags, tote bags or placemats?

Our market gals have lots of ideas. Contact Wendy Fountain at wendyf@attglobal.net or Mary Dennis at medennis71@yahoo.com if you can volunteer, or would like more information.

Bake Sale

We need baked goods! Contact Jeanette Wilmerding at jfiliatreau@yahoo.com if you can bake something for our fabulous bake sale.

Item Drop-Off

Have items to drop off? Look for our Country Fair drop box by the front desk. Non-perishable items only please. If your item needs to be refrigerated, please hold onto it until just before the fair.

Volunteers

We are still looking for the following volunteers:

- Craft table leader
- Videographer

Contact the Country Fair co-chairs if you can volunteer, or if you'd like more information:

Dave Klaus: klausthepd@hotmail.com

Danielle Gutherie: danielle@vegaproject.com.

Go Bulldogs!

CDS Staff vs. Bulldogs Basketball Game
CDS Staff 38, Bulldogs 34

It was a close game, but someone had to win!

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?

- Robin McClarren, President, (415) 235-0295 or robinmcc@speakeasy.net
- Rebecca Grey, Secretary, (415) 269-0996 or rgrey@pillsburylevinson.com
- Carlos Vasquez, Classroom Liaison Coordinator, (415) 564-9734 or xvasquez@aol.com
- Meredith Ashworth, Faculty Appreciation Coordinator, (415) 254-0229 or meredith@glugcollection.com
- Sara O'Malley, Parent Education Coordinator, (415) 348-8841 or sara@omalleyhylton.com
- Ann Van Gelder, Admission Volunteer Coordinator, (415) 647-8561 or cds.tourvolunteering@gmail.com
- Kristen Peña, Parent Involvement Coordinator, (415) 244-1411 or kristen@glugcollection.com
- Kate Flynn, Middle School Representative, (415) 305-6625 or k8fln@aol.com
- Lauren Schwartz, Preschool Representative, (415) 495-5757 or schwartzbaum@mac.com
- Andrea Reynolds, Fiesta Chair, (415) 860-7556 or andrea-reynolds@sbcglobal.net
- Danielle Guthrie, Country Fair Chair, (415) 515-7994 or danielle@vegaproject.com

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, March 25

10 p.m.

Fiesta online auction closes

Saturday, March 27

6:30-11 p.m.

Fiesta 2010

Mighty

119 Utah Street

Friday, April 2

Cesar Chavez Celebration

Monday, April 12 – Friday, April 16

Spring vacation

No school; extended program available

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

Children's Day School

333 Dolores Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

415-861-5432 (ph)

415-861-5419 (fax)

www.cds-sf.org

Editor: Mary DeNardo, cdsweekly@cds-sf.org

Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail



Saturday, March 27, 2010
6:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Mighty, 119 Utah Street

Online Auction Closes March 25 – Don't Miss Out!

The online auction is live—don't miss your chance to bid on a wide array of fabulous items! The online auction will close on Thursday, March 25 at 10 p.m. All of the proceeds benefit sliding scale tuition. Go to www.biddingforgood.com/cdsfiesta2010 to bid on weekend getaways, Giants tickets, kid-friendly activities, community building dinners and more!

Thank you to all for your generous donations. At this time we are no longer accepting auction items. If you missed your chance and would still like to donate, we are still accepting donations of wine to the Instant Wine Cellar (see below).

Night-Of Silent Auction

While the online auction will close on March 25, many items will be available for bidding at the March 27 event, as part of the "Night-Of" silent auction. You'll find student artwork, a host of first come first served items that include wine tasting, a scavenger hunt and dinners, a Pixar tour, as well as a Russian River vacation home, a baseball signed by Mariano Rivera and much more.

Live Auction

This year's live auction includes the ever-popular class quilts, the famous Rick's Rough Riders, an Andalusia, Spain vacation home and many new items such as a tour of ABC, a Tahoe vacation home with flight included, and more!

Fund-a-Need

Didn't get the quilt you were hoping for? Don't worry. You can still support sliding scale tuition. This year's Fund-a-Need is ear marked for sliding scale tuition for current CDS families experiencing financial hardship. Help us build the emergency SST fund with donations of \$50 to \$5,000!

Instant Wine Cellar Raffle

The raffle is on! Raffle tickets will be on sale (\$100 each) during morning drop-off through Friday, March 26. The raffle winner will receive the ever-popular Instant Wine Cellar. No more than 100 tickets will be sold. The Cellar includes a Hafner six year vertical (1986-1991 Hafner Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley), a Silver Oak horizontal (2005 Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon Napa), 2006 Opus One, 2005 Turley Howell Mountain Zinfandel Dragon Valley and much, much more!

We still need wine donations for the wine cellar. We welcome single bottles and cases; simply drop bottles off (labeled with donor name) at the front desk or with Mary DeNardo on the second floor of 16th Street.

Fiesta Ticket Confirmation

Did you send in your RSVP card? We look forward to seeing the entire community there. The \$90 ticket price is suggested, please pay what you can. Also, if you are able, sponsor a teacher's ticket. If you have any questions regarding tickets or confirmation, please contact Mary DeNardo at maryd@cds-sf.org.

Childcare at CDS

Childcare will be provided at CDS from 6 to 12 a.m. Advance reservations will ensure that there are enough adults on hand; reservations must be made with the front desk by Tuesday, March 23. Bring pj's and sleeping bags for a fun night of movies, pizza and snacks.

Please note that childcare is available for any CDS student (grades pre-8) and any sibling in grade K-8. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate any non-CDS siblings that are preschool age or younger.

Still Interested in Volunteering?

It's not too late to volunteer; if you'd like to help out with the Fiesta, please contact Andrea Reynolds at andrea-reynolds@sbcglobal.net or Shermalee Nicholson Guillen at shermalee.nicholson@mac.com. We still need people to help with raffle tickets sales, photography, check-in, check-out (which will take place the week after the event at school), set-up and clean-up. Thank you again to all volunteers for your great help and efforts.