



May 6, 2010

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Seeing Things Differently



Anticipating that my community will become mostly virtual in a couple of months, I decided it was time to take the plunge: I've launched a blog! It's a space to continue the conversation we have been having here at CDS about what really matters in education.

I have cherished the many conversations I have had with teachers and parents about children, child rearing, education and life, and I don't want it to end. So as I take my act on the road (as it were), I am taking the conversation into the clouds, and hope you'll join me there. All those conversations (Friday coffee, on the sidewalk, at the gate, in my office, just about everywhere) are very important to me, and I need them to continue; so I hope you will join me at [www.rickackerly.com](http://www.rickackerly.com), the new, improved, illustrated "Words from Rick."

Visit my blog to read "Education and Schooling," featuring the Teddy Bears.

My mission is to help us see our children a little differently and to experience school more joyfully. I hope this blog will keep me going even without the support of this wonderful educational institution.

## From the Classrooms

### Farm and Garden Blog

Curious about what the older kids do in the farm and garden? Look no further than the middle school farm and garden blog at <http://cdsmsfng.posterous.com/>! Read up on all the great projects happening right now.

## From the Office

### Driveway Entrance News

You may have noticed that the very uneven sidewalk surfaces are being repaired

## Hot Dates

Friday, May 7  
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly  
First grade (Paula) presenting

Monday, May 10 – Friday, May 14  
ERB testing, grades 3-8

Monday, May 10  
COID Meeting  
4:30-6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 11  
5:30-7 p.m.  
PTTA meeting: Responsible Internet  
Brainstorm

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



## Thank You!

- To Angie Jolie and Arin Fishkin for taking pictures of the Earth Day celebration and Sustainability Fair.
- To all first grade parents for providing a delicious faculty breakfast last week!

in front of Notre Dame Plaza. They hope to be finished with the job by Friday, but the white zone drop-off area will probably be compromised all week.

**The entrance driveway area is also being repaired.** They plan to tear it up and then place large steel plates over the area so that cars can continue to enter.

Notre Dame Plaza apologizes for the disruption and interruption of traffic flow and is working with their contractor to minimize traffic problems.

## Health Forms

Parents of new students and rising kindergarteners should be on the look-out for health forms arriving in the mail this week. Forms need to be completed by both you and your child's physician and turned into school by Tuesday, June 1.

## 2010-2011 Calendar

Please note the attached school calendar for the 2010-11 school year. If any changes arise, we will let you know.

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

Plans are taking shape for two events to which all CDS families will be invited to celebrate Mr. Rick and thank him for eight great years at Children's Day School. More details to come, but please mark your calendars and plan to join the festivities this June.

- **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.-2 p.m.** - All families, friends, alumni, teachers and staff are invited to a picnic in the CDS yard to celebrate Mr. Rick.

## Staff Transitions

Unlike businesses, many independent schools employ teachers and staff on year-by-year employment contracts that can be renewed each spring. This is how CDS operates and it means that behind the scenes, spring is an important time in the life of the school. It is the time of year when teachers and administrators, in consultation with Rick and Rebecca, finalize their decisions about what positions they will hold and whether or not to renew their contracts.

This means spring is also the time of the year when we start the hiring process. When an opening is confirmed, we look first to our current faculty members; changing roles within CDS can be a great opportunity for an employee to grow professionally as an educator. If we do not have an internal candidate, we post the position on our website and in many places in the community. A hiring committee led by Rebecca or Josée and made up of teachers and administrators helps to recruit, identify and interview candidates; one of our top priorities when hiring is to increase the racial diversity of our staff. Hiring recommendations are then made to Rick.

Our policy here at CDS is to announce teacher departures, hires and roles for next fall in the last *Weekly* of the school year. Teachers may choose to tell their colleagues they are leaving when the decision is made, but we try to communicate all staff transitions to the larger school community at once. Our number one priority is that each student feel safe and secure that their teachers are here for them for the remainder of the current school year. It can be distracting and detrimental to student learning (especially for the younger students) for students to be concerned about a beloved teacher not being here next year. For this reason, we ask for your patience in learning about our staff transitions, and if you hear of something through the grapevine, please don't share this information with your child yet.

We are in the process of hiring new staff for several positions here at CDS and look forward to sharing our new hires with you in the final edition of the *Weekly* in June.

## 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:

- June 12-13
- July 3-5, 10-11, 24-25
- Aug 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, afternoon only 23-25, 26-29, afternoon only 30-31
- Sept 4-6, 25-26
- Oct 2-3, 9-11, 23-25, 30-31

Also, if you'd like to help out with watering and weeding, we are looking for a volunteer to water and weed for about 1 hour a week. E-mail Misty Cummings at [mistyc@cds-sf.org](mailto:mistyc@cds-sf.org) if interested.

## Events

### Families of Color Picnic

Por favor asisten al picnic de COID. Este picnic es una celebración de todas nuestras culturas: nuestras diferencias y lo que tenemos en común. El nombre "Gente de Color" significa una historia rica del movimiento y lucha para los derechos iguales de todas razas. Todos son bienvenidos!

The CDS Families of Color Spring Picnic is Saturday, May 15, from 12-2 p.m. This event is an affinity gathering for families and teachers/administrators of color -- including multi-racial families, trans-racially adoptive families, Asian, Latino, African-American families and others.

Please don't hesitate to come to the picnic, even if you do not identify as a "Family of Color." We have used this name for the past two years to create an affinity space for families who have typically been underrepresented in independent schools (e.g., African-American, Latino, Hispanic, Middle-Eastern, Asian Pacific Islander, Native America, biracial, etc) to gather and meet, hang out and share experiences and perspectives. The names given to these types of events vary, so if you feel more comfortable, think of this as a "multicultural" picnic, celebrating our differences and our commonalities. All are welcome. If you have feedback or just are curious, please join us and enjoy a community event. Please note that the term "People of Color" comes from a rich U.S. history of struggle for racial equality, including the Civil Rights movement, and carries with it a political significance that many do not want to forget or underplay.

Basic picnic food and drinks will be provided, but if you can, we encourage you to bring a potluck dish to share.

It could be a favorite family recipe, or just something your family loves to eat. E-mail Sara O'Malley ([Sara@OMalleyHylton.com](mailto:Sara@OMalleyHylton.com)) or Michael Silver ([msilver73@gmail.com](mailto:msilver73@gmail.com)) if you'd like to help organize or set up the event.

### Country Fair Thanks!

Who knew we could gather 700 people, in the middle of a city, on a gorgeous sunny day to watch two sheep get their annual haircut? Thanks to all who came out to eat great food, play fun games, buy amazing home-made items and take home cool crafts!

A huge thank you to our team leaders who made such wonderful contributions to the fair, including being great fun to work with. It wouldn't have been the same without you!

- Danielle Guthrie: Co-Chair
- Dave Klaus: Co-Chair, Music and MC
- Jon Gilmour: Grill Master
- Lida Morgenstein: Food Queen
- Mary Dennis and Wendy Fountain: Market
- Jeanette Wilmerding: Bake Sale
- Kristin Henry: Games
- Heather Kunz: Kiddie Crafts
- Meghna Agarwal, Kristin Henry and Heather Kunz: Raffle Baskets
- Miel Alegre: Photography
- Luis Peña and Kathryn Buono: Video
- Greta Hanley: Face Painting
- Pat Rose: Supplies
- Elizabeth McClellan: Fiber Arts
- Karen Slovak: Mural
- Sophie Johnson: Puppet Show
- Amanda Richard: Administrative Support
- Meredith Ashworth: Food Ordering and T-shirt Production
- Kristen Peña: T-shirt Production
- Cristina Hernandez: Tamale Maker Extraordinaire

In addition, a big thank you to Mr. Zachary and all of the kids in aftercare that shucked lots and lots of corn; to Sophie Johnson and the aftercare kids that created puppets and performed in the Country Fair puppet show; and to Maya Dahlbacka for writing the puppet show script.

Thank you to Misty Cummings and all the CDS kids for making enough lemonade for 700 people!

Thank you to Robert Tran and Stafone Jackson, students at Mission High School, for all of their help the day of the fair, and to Eric Guthertz, Mission High School Principal.

Thank you to the aftercare team for being flexible and allowing us to use the environmental education kitchen.

Thank you to Jake and Cristobal for keeping the yard nice and moving things around, and around, and then back again to make room for the fair.

Thank you to all of the wonderful liaisons who helped organize parent volunteers.

Thank you to Carlos Vasquez and Mary DeNardo who repeatedly let Danielle send them last minute updates for liaison emails and the *CDS Weekly*.

Thank you to Dave Klaus and Alycia Freeman; Carlos Vasquez, Michael Silver and Julian Vasquez-Silver; Jeff Caldwell; Robin McClarren and Ruby Noto; Kristin, Andrew, George and Miles Henry; Sam, Diana, Mason, Sasha and Rowan Hunt; Amanda and Brian Richard; and Cristina Hernandez and family for helping us build, prime and paint on Country Fair Work Day.

Thank you to all of the cooks and craftsmen and craftswomen for donating all of the gorgeous items for the market.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped set up bright and early on Saturday morning. Thank you to Fred Scarpulla for picking up and delivering our garden burgers and buns.

Thank you to our wonderful entertainers including Kerry Parker's band, Failure to Disperse, accompanied by Rick Ackerly, for the great opening music; Molly Tyson and Maikaze Daiko for the amazing drum performances and demonstration; Dave Klaus for his really bad cupcake song; Rich Torres for being the pie eating MC; and to all of our jam band musicians who

jumped in for a musical hurrah to end the day.

Thank you to all of the local businesses who donated food, ice cream and entertainment including:

- Strauss Creamery
- Joanna Sachs face painting
- Alvarado Bakery
- Bi-Rite Market
- Marin Sun Farms
- Let's be Frank
- Tarantino & Sons
- Copymat
- James Norman
- Ed Sobral and Bank of America
- Michael S. Hensley Party Rental
- Whole Foods Market

Thank you to the local businesses and CDS families who helped support our raffle with their generous donations: Rick Ackerly, Meghna Agarwal, A.G. Ferrari, Bernie's coffee, Bi-Rite Market, Jim Campbell, Chloe's Closet/Molly Tyson, Clary Sage Organics, Common Scents, Cover to Cover, Dolores Park Café, Flax, Glug Baby, Imagiknit, Imagineering, La Boulange, Ladybug Ladybug, Lovejoy's Tea Room, Chris Luomanen, Elizabeth McClellan, Molly Meng, Paxton Gate, Miranda Phaal, The Pirate Store, Pixie Hall Art Studios, San Francisco Parlor Opera, Saratoga Chocolates, Sunny Schwartz, Scribaddoodles/Artsake, The Sippy Cups, Small Frys, Starbelly, Terra Mia, Urban Bread, The Vega Project, When Modern Was and Wink SF.

## Country Fair T-Shirts

We still have country fair t-shirts in both kids and adult sizes for sale. If you would like to purchase one, please e-mail Amanda Richard at [amandar@cds-sf.org](mailto:amandar@cds-sf.org).

## Item Pick-Up

Thanks to all of you that lent us your coolers, platters and baskets. Please come by this week to pick them up. Coolers are located under the metal fire-escape stairs and everything else is in the first floor hallway to the left of the front desk.

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

## Upcoming Dates

**Saturday, May 15**

Families of Color Picnic

**Friday, May 28**

Step-Up Day

**Friday, May 28 & Saturday, May 29**

*Macbeth*

Alumni reunion preceding *Macbeth*, May 28

**Monday, May 31**

Memorial Day observed

No school, no extended program

**Tuesday, June 1**

New student and rising kindergarteners health and registration forms due

Last day that, with written notice, you may withdraw your child from the 2010-11 school year without incurring obligation for the total tuition

**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

**Tuesday, June 15**

3:45 p.m.

Eighth grade graduation

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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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail



## 2010-2011 Calendar as of 05-05-10

<b>August</b>	30-31	Mon-Tue	Family orientations and conferences
<b>September</b>	1	Wed	First day of school
	6	Mon	Labor Day observed (no school, no camp available)
	10	Fri	Installation of Molly Huffman, Head of School 8:30am
	11	Sat	All School Kick-off Picnic @ CDS 10am-1pm
	14	Tue	PTTA Meeting 5:30-7:00pm
	16	Thu	Middle School Back to School Night (grades 5-8) 6:00-8:00pm
	22	Wed	New Parent Reception 5:30-6:30pm
	22	Wed	Preschool and Elementary Back to School Night 6:30-8:30pm
<b>October</b>	3	Sun	Book Swap 11:00am-2:00pm
	11	Mon	Government holiday observed (no school, no camp available)
	12	Tue	PTTA 5:30-7:00pm
	19-20	Tue-Wed	Annual Fund Phonathon
	25	Mon	Professional Development day (no school, no camp available)
	27-28	Wed-Thu	Picture Days
	29	Fri	Halloween Parade (afternoon)
<b>November</b>	5	Fri	Middle School – end of first trimester
	9	Tue	PTTA 5:30-7:00pm
	17	Wed	Middle School conferences begin – school in session
	18-19	Thu-Fri	Family conferences (no school, camp available)
	20	Sat	SSAT administered at CDS for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
	24	Wed	Grandparents and Special Friends Day, noon dismissal (no camp)
	25-26	Thu-Fri	Thanksgiving vacation (no school, no camp program)
<b>December</b>	3	Fri	Book Fair – evening event
	7	Tue	Sliding Scale Tuition Workshop 6:30-7:30pm
	9	Thu	Curriculum Night
	17	Fri	Sliding Scale Tuition Applications due
	17	Fri	Winter Performance (11am), noon dismissal (extended program available)
	20-22	Mon-Wed	Winter vacation (no school, camp available)
	23-31	Thu-Fri	Winter vacation (no school, no camp available)
<b>January</b>	3	Mon	Classes resume
	11	Tue	PTTA 5:30-7:00pm
	17	Mon	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed (no school, no camp available)
	21	Fri	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

<b>February</b>	4	Fri	Lower School – end of first term
	7	Mon	Teacher work day (no school, no camp available)
	8	Tue	PTTA 5:30-7:00pm
	14	Mon	100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School ♥
	18	Fri	Middle School - end of second trimester
	21	Mon	President’s Day observed (no school, no camp available)
	22-25	Tue-Fri	February vacation (no school, camp available)
<b>March</b>	7	Mon	CAIS Professional Development day (no school, no camp available)
	16	Wed	Middle School conferences begin - school in session
	17-18	Thu-Fri	Family conferences (no school, camp available)
<b>April</b>	1	Fri	Cesar Chavez Celebration
	12	Tue	Parent Education Night 5:30-7:00pm
	18-22	Mon-Fri	Spring vacation (no school, camp available)
	27	Wed	Health & Human Sexuality Education Parent Night
	29	Fri	Earth Day Celebration/Sustainability Fair
<b>May</b>	9-13	M-F	ERB Testing
	7	Sat	Country Fair 11am-2pm
	10	Tue	PTTA 5:30-7:00pm
	27	Fri	Step-Up Day (9-10am, students only)
	30	Mon	Memorial Day observed (no school, no camp available)
<b>June</b>	13	Mon	Passing the Torch Ceremony 8:30-9:30am
	14	Tue	Last day of school
	14	Tue	8 <sup>th</sup> grade Graduation, 3:45 pm (no extended program)
	20	Mon	Camp, Session I begins
<b>July</b>	4	Mon	Fourth of July observed (no camp available)
	5	Tue	Camp, Session II begins
	18	Mon	Camp, Session III begins