



May 13, 2010

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Are the Frills Essential?

Read about the importance of connection, in the classroom and in life, in Rick's article on his blog at www.rickackerly.com.

Transforming St. Joseph's Hall

St. Joseph's Hall Update

Summer has been a busy time of year for St. Joseph's Hall and the CDS campus. Last summer, we renovated the 16th Street building, and the summers of 2008 and 2007 were devoted to transforming the "Big Building" -- finishing five classrooms on the third floor, extending a staircase, installing a kitchen and adding new bathrooms and heat for the entire building.

This summer, plans are in the works for major upgrades to the building's foundation and electrical service. While strong and solid, St. Joseph's Hall will benefit from significant seismic retrofitting, adding more concrete and steel to the foundation. In addition, a new electrical transformer will provide the building with power sufficient to run an elevator, as well as support other possible development of the campus in the future.

This work, which will start the day after school ends, will be prudently scheduled to minimize the impact on carefully-arranged CDS summer camp programs. While new arrangements will be implemented for pick-up during early sessions, students will be able to enjoy full use of the yard, structure and necessary classrooms throughout the summer. In other words, the transformation of St. Joseph's Hall will in large part "go underground" this summer.

In contrast, the capital campaign to help fund these renovations needs ample air time and daylight and your help. Your gift is especially important right now, before the end of the year. A CDS family has made a wonderfully generous pledge by agreeing to match all new gifts to the campaign up to \$50,000 this spring. We have \$260,000 to go to get from the current campaign total of \$1.99 million to our goal of \$2.25 million, and you can help CDS reach this milestone and show your gratitude to Mr. Rick for eight great years as Head of School by making a donation. **All gifts up to \$50,000 received by June 15 will be matched dollar for dollar.**

Volunteers will be conducting a friendly email-a-thon for the *Building Our Future* capital campaign on the evening of Tuesday, May 25, but we'll happily accept any and all donations now and will spare you an email (or a phone call) if you contribute online (www.cds-sf.org/giving) or in any other way before May 25. Thank you!

Hot Dates

Friday, May 14
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Kindergarten (Jen) presenting

Saturday, May 15
Families of Color Picnic

Monday, May 17 – Friday, May 21
CDS Spirit Week

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



Thank You!

- To Kristen Aitken for hosting coffee in the yard last Friday.

From the Classrooms

CDS Spirit Week

Next week is CDS Spirit Week! The middle school student leadership team has chosen a fun focus for each day of the week. Many classes will be participating and dressing up according to the day's focus; please check in with your child's teacher to confirm if they will be participating in the week's events:

- Monday, May 17: Crazy hair/hat
- Tuesday, May 18: Twin day
- Wednesday, May 19: Giants/baseball day
- Thursday, May 20: Formal day
- Friday, May 21: Pajama day

From the Office

Annual Fund Update

Bravo to CDS families for reaching a new record in parent participation in the Annual Fund -- 91% throughout the school, with the preschool at 100%! Thank you to all who have contributed and brought us closer than ever to our tantalizing goal of 100% participation. If you have not yet made a gift, please consider clicking here www.cds-sf.org/giving right now. As we near the end of the CDS fiscal year next month, each and every gift counts more than ever, and we hope every family will join in this all-hands-on-deck effort to set a new record and strengthen our school and the many programs that make CDS great.

2010-11 Tuition Payments

Just a reminder that, for families who selected the full tuition payment plan for the 2010-11 school year, tuition is due **Tuesday, June 1**. Families who selected the 10-month payment plan will have their first payment made through FACTS Tuition Management on June 5 or June 20. Tuesday, June 1 is also the last day that, with written notice, you may withdraw your child from the 2010-11 school year without incurring the obligation for the total tuition. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Donna Shibata, Director of Finance & Operations, at donnas@cds-sf.org or 861-5432 x314.

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 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 if interested.

Events

Families of Color Picnic

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."

The picnic for families of color grew out of a chance encounter on the first day of preschool. "Wow, you look just like me!" one child said to the other. Indeed, both girls were wearing the same dress, but they also just so happened to be children of mixed-race. Much adulation ensued and a friendship was born. The idea behind the Families of Color Picnic is certainly not to exclude anyone, but to give parents and children of color the opportunity to meet and share their experiences, thoughts and ideas with one another. "Has your daughter ever come home and asked why her hair

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.

is different than the other girls?” “Do you ever feel weird when your parents speak with you in Spanish in front of the other kids?” “What if we got together for a play date and the kids can practice their Mandarin?” There is great comfort in knowing you are not alone and in helping to create an environment that supports and embraces our differences.

See you on Saturday for great food, stimulating conversation and most importantly, good fun! Basic picnic food and drinks will be provided, but if you can, we encourage you to bring a potluck dish to share.

PTTA Update

End the Year with Coffee

We are still looking for “Friday Coffee in the Yard” hosts to fill the last two open spots on May 14 and May 21. Please contact Robin McClarren at robinmcc@speakeasy.net if you can host and keep your friends well caffeinated. Thanks for helping keep this amazing CDS tradition alive!

Upcoming Dates

Friday, May 28
Step-Up Day

Friday, May 28 & Saturday, May 29
7 p.m. (Friday) & 1 p.m. (Saturday)
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 kindergarten 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

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