



October 8, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Caring for Someone

Mr. Nick, first grade teacher, sent me this story:

“One day last week when dismissal was over and Sadie and her sister Emmi had yet to be picked up, Barbara and I offered to escort them to the front desk so that they could sign in for extended care. Upon hearing this, Sadie gathered her things and headed towards the building. Emmi, however, started to cry. Barbara tried to console her, but to no avail. So we called Sadie to “help her little sister.” With a large, seemingly annoyed sigh she turned and walked back to her sister. By the look on her face, Barbara and I thought Emmi was in for an ear-full. But the sweetest thing happened. Sadie picked Emmi up and carried her (most of the way) to the double doors. As she carried her little sister, Sadie whispered things to her like “It’ll be okay” and “We’ll be home soon.” Emmi’s mood and outlook changed almost instantly! Her “big” sister had saved the day! What struck us both was that moment when Sadie sighed.”

That first loud sigh was a pretty normal big sister reaction. “I was so happy just going about my own business, and now I have to be burdened by someone else’s dependence. Why can’t people just take care of themselves and not bother me? Why do I, just because I am competent and older, always have to take care of others?” Maybe she felt some of these feelings. If she did, I am sure she is in good company.

What is important is that hard on the heels of these feelings was more brain activity. Messages went back and forth in Sadie’s brain between her limbic system and her frontal lobes, and a decision was made. You can almost hear the conversation as you watch it on our imaginary fMRI screen:

“Aw come on. She’s your little sister.”

“Yeah, but she’s heavy.”

“Oh, for heaven’s sake. You are strong enough.”

“I know but I’m busy.”

“I know, but she’s crying. How busy are you, really?”

“You’re right about that, and actually I don’t like the image of myself as a mean big sister.”

“Of course you don’t”

“In fact, I really like the image of myself as a nice, big sister, strong, helpful, kind and compassionate.”

“All right, then. Let’s do this thing.”

Way to go Sadie!

Hot Dates

Friday, October 9

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Fourth grade presenting

9-10 a.m.

Annual Fund phonathon training

Monday, October 12

Government holiday observed

No school, no extended program

Tuesday, October 13

5:30-7 p.m.

PTTA meeting: CDS Finances
and the Annual Fund

Tuesday, October 13 &

Wednesday, October 14

School photos by Mugshots

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



Thank You!

- Thank you to Amanda Chapman, Barbara Kirkwood and Sophia Hirsch for representing CDS at school information nights last week.
- Thank you to Jocelyn Colopy, Todd Hosfelt, Lauren Schwartz, Jeanette Wilmerding and Ann Van Gelder for leading the first admission tours on Tuesday.
- To Miel Alegre, Suzie Chastain, Vivan Chu, Fasil Fikreab, Amy Hecht, Kristin Henry, Stephanie Holland, Todd Hosfelt, Jeanette Layden, Andrea Ow, Beth Porter and Ann Van Gelder for attending the admission docent curriculum training.

From the Classrooms

From the Green Task Force

Earn an "I GO GREEN" sticker! Win CDS logo items at Assembly! Here are a few Earth-Friendly Friday tips.

- Bring your favorite (sturdy) mug to Assembly.
- Phone those CDS neighbors you've been thinking about carpooling with on Fridays.
- E-mail your CDS neighbors and invite them to join a WALKpool!!
- Plan your Friday morning commute to school via MUNI by visiting:
<http://www.nextbus.com/predictor/stopSelector.jsp?a=sf-muni>

Thanks for going GREEN!

From the Office

Annual Fund Training

If you're considering volunteering for the annual fund phonathon on October 20 and 21 and would like to know more about what to expect, please come to an informal **phonathon training meeting this Friday, October 9** after assembly. We'll meet on the second floor of the 16th Street building to review materials that will be mailed to all parents, including hot-off-the-press copies of the 2008-09 *CDS Annual Report*, and answer questions about volunteering for the phonathon.

No experience is necessary to help with the phonathon, just enthusiasm for CDS and a fondness for connecting

with other parents and getting things done. Parent and trustee volunteers are the key ingredients to successful and entertaining phonathoning, and everyone is encouraged to help. The phonathon will be held from 6-9 p.m. on the evenings of October 20 and 21 in the 16th Street building at CDS, and we'll enjoy a casual dinner together before making calls to all CDS parents.

The presentations from members of the CDS Board of Trustees at the PTTA meeting on Tuesday, October 13 (5:30-7:00 p.m.) will also provide helpful background information on school finances and the annual fund. And there will be time for last minute volunteer training on the evenings of the phonathon. Bottom line—whether or not you can make it to the meetings on October 9 or 13, the phonathon gratefully welcomes volunteers, new and veteran. Please get in touch with Marion Quinones (marionq@cds-sf.org) with questions or to sign up. Thank you!

Photo Day

Mugshots will be taking individual photos of students again this year on Tuesday, October 13 and Wednesday, October 14. Here is the schedule for both days (starting at 9 a.m.).

October 13 – Leaping Lizards, Starfish, 5th grade, 8th grade, Kindergarten (Luisa), 1st grade (Barbara), 2nd grade (Colette), 7th grade, 6th grade.

October 14 – Teddy Bears, Kindergarten (Jen), 3rd grade (Ginny), 1st grade (Paula), 2nd grade (Lindsay), 4th grade, 3rd grade (Carli).

Photo Day Volunteers Needed

We'd love to have a few more parent volunteers on hand both days between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to help escort students to and from classrooms, tame unruly cowlicks and other important matters. If you have a few hours to spare, please contact Ryan or Elsa at the front desk (frontdesk@cds-sf.org).

Events

CDS Families of Color Picnic

Please join us on Saturday, October 17th for the CDS Families of Color Picnic. This event is designed as an affinity gathering for families, teachers and administrators of color—including multiracial families, trans-racially adoptive families, Asian, Latino and African American families, but all people are welcome!

Anyone who wants to spend a couple of hours with families from other grades and classes just getting to know each other better outside of school are invited. This is a chance to make connections with other families, and support and celebrate the experiences and perspectives of kids and families of color in the CDS community.

Come to the CDS yard at 12:00 noon for food and fun. Bring the whole family!

Basic picnic food and drinks will be provided, but if you can, we encourage you to bring a potluck dish to share. It can be a favorite family recipe or just something your family loves to eat.

Please email Akilah Bixler at bixler414@comcast.net if you would like to help organize or set up the event!

CDS Book Swap

The book giveaway on Sunday was great. The sun was out, families came and read to each other, talked about books, picked up books and bought baked goods from the Middle School Leadership group.

Many, many thanks to co-chairs Tina Corse and Janine Wilburn, who make everything seem easy. Thanks, also, to Elsa Townsend for sorting the children's books. And thanks to father-son teams Darryl and Christian Wilburn and Kevin and James Corse who carried boxes of books back and forth several times over. Thanks also to the middle schoolers who helped move the picnic tables into place, and to Cristina and Katie Hernandez for leading the bake sale effort.

Lastly, thanks to all of the families who donated books, and those that came to enjoy and celebrate books on Sunday!

Extended Program News

Lost and Found!

Please check the lost and found for your child's belongings before Friday October 16, or they will be donated to charity!

Afterschool Play

Come audition for the After School Play on October 19 and 21 at 3:45pm.

Rehearsals will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45. The show will be Friday, December 11.

All actors must have their parents/guardians sign a permission slip (come to the auditions for a permission slip!)

Please contact Jasmin Hoo at jasminh@cds-sf.org or 415-861-5432 x362 for more information.

PTTA Update

Show us the money!

Ever ask yourself how CDS is funded or where those tuition dollars go or why you pay all that tuition and yet the school keeps asking for more money? Well, stop talking to yourself and come talk to CDS trustees and PTTA leaders at the PTTA meeting next Tuesday, **October 13 at 5:30 p.m.** The people that create and implement CDS' financial and fundraising policies, including, Rick Ackerly, Board Treasurer Rick England, Director of Finance & Operations Donna Shibata, Trustee Andrew Henry, Director of Development Marion Quinones and some of our star parent volunteers will be on hand to do some 'splainin about everything from CDS' economic goals, trends in Bay Area school tuition, to the Annual Fund ("What Is It and Why Do I Care?"). There will be time for your questions, comments and ideas. And there's childcare! Contact Ryan Lambert to sign up for childcare at ryanl@cds-sf.org or at extension 310.

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.

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
- 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

Saturday, October 17
Families of Color Picnic

Tuesday, October 20 & Wednesday, October 21
Annual Fund Phonathon

Friday, October 23
Sibling applications due

Sunday, October 25
(note new date!)
11-1 p.m.
Alumni Reunion

Monday, October 26
Professional development day
No school
No camp available

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

Children's Day School

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