



October 22, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Being Human—In a Good Way

I was feeding bologna to my children in the car and somehow I broke into the Oscar Mayer song. It was a hit. Both children demanded that I sing it over and over and over again. Around the 20th, 30th, I don't know, 40th rendition of this song I cried uncle saying my voice hurt (It didn't). A minute or two later, Emma asked me to sing the ABC song. Always happy to oblige and educate, I did. Then she said, "Tell me again, why you can't sing the Oscar Mayer song?" Darn it. —Cortney Todd, CDS parent

Darn it. Indeed. Caught in the act of lying to your children! Our children count on us to be reliable sources about the world they are getting themselves into. Distorting reality is bad for that marvelous reality-testing mechanism—the brain.

And yet children's brains are more marvelous than we give them credit for. They take it ALL in. Emma has been trying to sort it all out for well over four years. By now, for sure, she is already mightily impressed with the confusions and inconsistencies in the world. Cortney was expecting to always be truthful to her daughter, but her daughter would be a fool if by the brilliant age of four she holds her mother accountable for such perfection. She already knows too much to expect that.

At school, for heaven's sake, how many different messages do you think she hears from the broad array of CDS teachers? Do you suppose all ten preschool teachers stay on message all day long? They try mightily. They talk to each other. They correct each other. They ask each other for better ways of saying things, but if two parents diverge from each other in their methods and messages (and we know they do), what would we suppose the mathematical probabilities are of 10 teachers all presenting the same reality?

On Monday night, sixty-some parents and teachers came together for an hour and a half to learn how to talk with preschool-aged children about race. Talk about diversity! The remarkable racial diversity in the room was only the surface manifestation of a much more complex diversity—how many different responses there are to, "You can't be the princess because your skin is brown. You can be the dog." It became obvious to me that saying the right thing is only half the job. It may not even be a realistic objective. What is most important is not to be afraid of the situation.

To be sure, finding the right words for each situation is certainly a challenge. We have to keep trying to find better and better words to help kids understand things—to distort reality as little as possible. Having in your tool kit, "That's a weird thing to say" is certainly better than "Oh, don't let that bother you,

Hot Dates

Friday, October 23
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly
Third grade (Carli) presenting

Sibling applications due

Sunday, October 25
(note new date and time!)

11-1 p.m.
Alumni Reunion

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

Tuesday, October 27
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Green Task Force meeting
Second grade (Lindsay) classroom

Wednesday, October 28 &
Thursday, October 29
Rescheduled Photo Days

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



Thank You!

- To Miel Alegre, Zahra Ghayour-Kelly, Amy Hecht, Kristin Henry, Justin Juson, Jeanette Layden, Shermalee Nicholson-Guillen, Tina Leung, Sara O'Malley, Louis Schump and Ann Van Gelder for leading admission tours.

Dear. She was just being racist.” Word selection is important, but playing the game does not require that you just be good at words. Playing the game requires another set of skills. Even if you happen to have the right golden egg for that moment (and they always catch you by surprise, right?) you will need plenty more golden eggs in the near future. Better to have the goose that lays golden eggs, and that means having a loving heart and an open mind.

Many years ago, when I was getting ready to put my six-year-old son Peter to bed, I noticed that there was a two-hour TV show that I wanted to watch, which I would miss because of his bedtime. I irresponsibly said, “Peter, would you like to stay up late and watch TV with me? Or would you like me to read you a story and put you to bed?” He said, “Dad, what would be the smart thing to do?” Peter was a great teacher even at the age of six.

It would be good if we always did the right thing, if we always knew just what to say, if we were consistent, if we always told the truth, but maybe we can't all the time. And one thing is for sure: trying to be super-human will definitely distort a child's reality-testing mechanism. We will all get along better with our children and with each other, if we just try to be human—in a good way.

So, Cortney, I think the moral of the story is: don't feed your kids no bologna.

From the Classrooms

Green Task Force Meeting

Please note that the first Green Task Force meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the second grade classroom (Lindsay's class). Students in third grade and up are welcome to join but need to pick up and return a permission form for the 2009-10 school year to the front desk. Aftercare during the meeting is free.

From the Office

Annual Fund Phonathon

Thank you to all parents who graciously picked up their phones last night and made a pledge to the CDS Annual Fund. The phonathon continues tonight; please answer the call of your parent volunteers and help support all of the programs your children know and love.

Kid Chow Survey

Did you know that Kid Chow offers brown bag lunch and hot lunches five days a week to families of participating Bay Area schools? The Kid Chow program includes a broad range of healthy, child-friendly menu items which are prepared and delivered directly to participating schools each morning. You can order lunches online at www.kidchow.com.

Kid Chow is not a school-sponsored program. Although Kid Chow obtains each school's permission to deliver lunches on the school premises, Kid Chow operates its services completely independent from the school.

This year participation in the Kid Chow lunch program has dropped tremendously at CDS (to about 20 lunches per day.) Kid Chow has approached us to say that, “From a business standpoint, if we deliver less than 50 lunches a day to a school we significantly reduce any profit on our end. At around 30 lunches a day, we break even. At 20 lunches a day, your current participation rate, we lose money. In our industry it is customary to charge schools a \$25 a day delivery fee on days under the lunch minimum.”

Before we make any decisions about this situation, we want to hear from you! Please click on the following link to help us understand your level of interest in this service, so we can take the appropriate next steps to make sure we are providing appropriate options for the lunch needs of CDS students.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=k9YwS4SI_SAYjRKJfm7CC8g_3d_3d

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.

Events

Families of Color Picnic



We are delighted to report the Families of Color Picnic was a great success! The sun shone while tug-o-war and tricycle races took place and many wonderful families got to know each for the first time over great conversation. Some even took to showing off their best dance moves! Rice and peas, chicken tostadas and Venezuelan corn pudding are just some of the scrumptious foods that were shared. Thank you to all the families for your contributions and for helping make the picnic such a hit. Mark your calendars: the next Families of Color Picnic will be held on May15, 2010. It's definitely more than just a picnic!

Extended Program News

Lights On After School

Please join us for this national event which highlights the importance of after school programming in children's lives. On Thursday, October 22, we will join other local after school programs in a rally and march around the Mission neighborhood. We hope many students will come out to tell the community why we need after school programming. In order for your child to participate in this event, please sign and return the permission slip (available at the front desk.) We would also love parent volunteers to help bring students over. Please contact Jasmin Hoo at jasminh@cds-sf.org or 415-861-5432 x362 for more information.

New Fall Club Schedule

Please note our new fall club schedule:

Mondays/Wednesdays

- 3:45-4:45: Theater, Building Club, Group Games
- 4:45-5:45: Meditation, Fun Hall

Tuesdays/Thursdays

- 3:45-4:45: World of Wonder, Puppet Club, Group Games
- 4:45-5:45: Pet Club, Wrestling (Thursdays), Fun Hall

Fridays

- 3:45-4:45: Snack Club, Community Service
- 4:45-5:45: Art Room, Fun Hall

Go Bulldogs!

Co-ed Volleyball Scores

October 15, CDS vs. SF Friends (Team B)

Game 1: CDS 25, SFFS 14

Game 2: CDS 25, SFFS 13

Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Thursday, October 22, 4 p.m.

Creative Arts Charter School, Boys & Girls Club

Monday, October 26, 4 p.m.

Chinese American International School, 150 Oak St.

Tuesday, October 27, 4 p.m.

Katherine Delmar Burke School, 7070 California St.

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, November 19 – Friday, November 20

Family Conferences

No school

Extended program camp available

Wednesday, November 25

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Noon dismissal

No extended program

Thursday, November 26 - Friday, November 27

Thanksgiving vacation

No school

No extended program

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

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