



September 17, 2009

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

The Secret Lives of Children

*My love winks. She does not bother.
She knows too much to argue or to judge.*
—Bob Dylan

Harry Levinson (first grader) was decked out in camouflage from head to toe last Friday. Dan Larson, Extended Program Director, saw him on the playground after school and said, "Harry! I could barely see you with your camouflage." Harry looked up, paused, and said, "Thank you."

I do not presume to know the secret lives of children. They are secrets until they out themselves. But it is the job of all good teachers to respect, believe in and work with that ineffable life within, even though it is sometimes a bit of a mystery just what it is we are working with.

Good middle school teachers know that eighth graders are children masquerading as adults, and they know how to keep working with the child, even as they treat them as an adult. They get good at respecting the façade without being taken in by it. They learn how to wink (without winking).

In last week's *Weekly* I referred to my thrill at seeing "315 joyful, thoughtful, curious, playful, imaginative, wonderful, creative children" sitting at my feet at assembly "all silent and ready to launch themselves into a new year of learning!" These adjectives constitute the power of children, powers we must not lose as we engage in the business of educating them.

As we present them with hundreds and hundreds of academic challenges that are intended to march them toward a successful experience in high school, we promise to do it in such a way that we do not take away their imagination, playfulness, creativity, thoughtfulness, curiosity, wonder and joy. In fact, we promise to employ these qualities in the pursuit of academic rigor. Two reasons: 1) We cannot actually maximize academic achievement if we do not employ these powers that all children have; 2) To deprive any of them of their childhood in the cause of academic advancement would be a waste. To channel Mark Twain: we won't let their schooling interfere with their education.

I should add humor to our list of powers. Humor is a marvelous mental mechanism. It bridges gaps in the brain that one is unaware of or is supposed to pretend do not exist. We must not forget humor. Humor is a way of winking without winking. Thank you, Harry.

Hot Dates

Friday, September 18
8:30 a.m.
Friday assembly
Fifth grade presenting

Thursday, September 24
5:30-6:30
New Parent Reception

6:30-8:30 p.m.
Preschool and Elementary Back-to-School Night

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



From the Office

Call for Volunteer Photographers

We are looking for a cadre of volunteer photographers who would like to be part of an ongoing group that helps capture the many “moments of greatness, large and small” happening at CDS. If you are a photographer with a keen eye for composition and some basic photo-adjusting skills, we want you to join the volunteer paparazzi! Volunteers are needed to help photograph events such as Grandparents & Special Friends Day, the Cesar Chavez celebration, and more, as well as field trips and school projects. If you would like to volunteer to help capture the spirit of our wonderful CDS community, please contact Diane Larrabee, Associate Director of Admission & Communication, at dianel@cds-sf.org, or 861-5432 x344.

Sibling Admission

Do you have a child who is a sibling of a current CDS student who you would like to enroll at CDS in the fall of 2010? If so, please let us know of your interest as soon as possible by contacting Diane Larrabee, Associate Director of Admission & Communication, at 861-5432 x344 or dianel@cds-sf.org. We would appreciate hearing from you by October 1 at the latest. Sibling applications are due on Friday, October 23. Our admission application may be accessed via our website, www.cds-sf.org, and families are encouraged to apply online; please contact Diane if you would prefer a paper application. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Aimee Giles, Director of Admission & Communication, at 861-5432 x322.

Updated Drop-Off Procedures

Due to relatively low use for drop off, we have decided not to staff the white zone in front of Mission Dolores. You will still be able to find adult drop off oversight and help across the street at our own white zone, adjacent to the CDS driveway. If it is convenient for your family, you may still use the area in front of Mission Dolores for drop off, and the crossing guard will still be guiding kids across the street. But please note that it will no longer be staffed by a CDS administrator each morning.

In addition, please remember that there is no parent parking in the lot before 4 p.m. Space is extremely tight this fall with Plant construction vehicles, so we do not have any drop-in spaces available, as we have in past years.

Every space is assigned to a teacher or administrator. Thank you for your understanding.

Become a Family Farmer

Interested in fresh eggs for Sunday morning brunch? Itching to get to know our resident sheep and chickens? Simply sign up to be a family farmer and you'll have the opportunity to care for our beloved animals. Misty Cummings will be scheduling farmers for weekends and holidays from November-April and will provide a family farmer training on Friday, October 2, from 7:45-8:30 a.m. Please note that returning farmers are welcome to e-mail or call Misty to sign up for specific dates, while all new farmers will sign up for dates on the day of the training. If you can't make the October training, the next training will take place in March. You can contact Misty Cummings at 861-5432 x321 or mistyc@cds-sf.org.

PTTA Update

Coffee Bean Sale

For the last several years, Tina Corse has led a very successful PTTA Wraps & Greens fundraising campaign for our faculty and staff holiday gift fund (thank you Tina!). This year, to raise that money and thank the teachers, we're trying something new. Something green. Something local. Something organic.

Starting Friday, September 18, you'll be able to buy your Ritual or Coast Roast coffee at school. All proceeds will go to the faculty and staff as holiday gifts. (The idea behind this effort is that an all-school coffee sale is more useful and inclusive than passing the hat among families for a holiday gift for their teachers.)

The average American consumes 10.5 pounds of coffee a year. At my house, we consume 24 pounds per year. Now we'll be able to buy all that coffee from the school for the same price we spend at the grocery store.

How does it work? Many of you have signed up for the Eatwell Farm weekly box of organic fruit and vegetables.

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

- The after school program needs the following materials: wood screws, twine, steel wool pads, heat-proof glass jars, pine cones, bubble wrap, toilet paper rolls, clean old socks, fabric scraps, old clean pillows and a large cardboard box (for a puppet show theater). If you have any of these items, please drop them off at the front desk for Jasmin Hoo.

Coffee Club will work in a similar way. You sign up, provide payment details and your coffee order is placed in your child's backpack on delivery day.

There are three ways to sign up for Coffee Club:

- Fill out the attached sign-up sheet and drop it off at the front desk
- Visit the Coffee Club table at Friday Coffee in the yard.
- E-mail Stephanie Scarpulla at bluebirdcollection@gmail.com or call 415-999-6227.

Buy your coffee from the CDS PTTA and do three things at once: support local companies, organic living and our faculty and staff.

Welcome Coffee

Though we didn't get to gather last weekend for the Welcome Picnic due to rain, we are celebrating the spirit of the Welcome Picnic at this Friday's "Welcome" Coffee. Please join us this Friday, from 8-8:30 a.m., for coffee, donuts and socializing on the yard. Don yourself with a nametag, meet new families and reconnect with familiar faces. All are invited; see you on Friday!

Book Swap

Come one, come all to the first CDS book swap on Sunday, October 4 from 11-3 in the yard. Everyone is invited to show up, browse, talk with a fellow parent or student about books and take home new books for free. You don't need to bring a book to take a book—just show up and explore new authors. See the attached flyer for further details.

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?

- General e-mail, CDSPTTA@yahoo.com
- 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
- Stephanie Scarpulla, Faculty Appreciation Coordinator, (415) 999-6227 or bluebirdcollection@gmail.com
- Sara O'Malley, Parent Education Coordinator, (415) 348-8841 or sara@omalleyhylton.com
- Ann Van Gelder, Admission Volunteer Coordinator, (415) 647-8561 or [cgs.tourvolunteering@gmail.com](mailto:cds.tourvolunteering@gmail.com)
- Kristen Peña, Parent Involvement Coordinator, (415) 244-1411 or Kristen@glugcollection.com
- Meredith Ashworth, Preschool Representative, (415) 254-0229 or meredith@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 Gutherie, Country Fair Chair, (415) 515-7994 or danielle@vegaproject.com

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, September 30

6:30-8 p.m.

Middle School Back-to-School Night
(Grades 5-8)

Sunday, October 4

11-3 p.m.

CDS Swap Meet
Yard

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

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!)

12-2 p.m.

Alumni Reunion

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

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Contact Mary to receive the *Weekly* via e-mail



September 17, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the new school year! Children's Day School has gotten off to a great start, with a terrific burst of energy as students begin fall classes, after-school enrichment programs and field trips.

As we begin the new school year, all of us have one additional thing to think about – we anticipate a very active HINI flu season. As I'm sure you are aware, HINI was identified across the country during the summer and is widespread currently in the southern hemisphere (where it is winter). To date, the severity of the illness due to HINI is very similar to that of seasonal flu. However, its wide reach and potential unpredictability require that we exercise all precautions we can to stay healthy and to limit its spread. Of particular concern is the fact that this virus, even more so than regular seasonal flu, spreads very rapidly among young people.

Since the primary way HINI is spread is through droplets produced by coughing and sneezing, the most important steps students and adults can take involve hand hygiene and appropriate sneeze and cough etiquette.

Students, families and staff can help prevent illness by following these low-tech measures:

- 1) Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or with your arm when you cough or sneeze.
- 2) Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- 3) Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. We have alcohol-based hand sanitizer available throughout the school and school yard for everyone's use.

And most critical of all for CDS students and staff:

- 3) If you come down with flu-like illness, with symptoms typical of seasonal flu – fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea – **STAY HOME** from school or work and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them. We absolutely ask for parents' cooperation this year in adhering to this guideline. Keeping sick students home means that they keep their viruses to themselves rather than sharing them with others.
- 4) We are enforcing our policy that students remain at home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone.

While at home sick, students will be able to keep up with their assignments by emailing their teachers, and middle schoolers can check EdLine and speak with their advisor if necessary.

We will be making an effort to monitor the impact of flu on our school community. When reporting your child's absence to the receptionist, parents will be asked if their son or daughter is experiencing a flu-like illness. If you email in notice of

their absence, please note whether or not they are suffering from flu-like illness.

We are anticipating that an H1N1 vaccine will be available by late October/early November, and young people under the age of 24 will be a priority population. The best place to be vaccinated is always at your doctor's office within the context of ongoing primary care. In addition, county public health officials are planning to set up vaccination clinics. We will keep you advised as we have more information about the clinics.

New this year, we are planning to administer regular seasonal flu shots here at school for our faculty and staff on Friday, October 16. Also, students are expected to wash their hands immediately upon entering the classroom, in addition to before lunch or snack. Further, hand sanitizers are being installed throughout the school for use by students and staff.

Current CDC guidelines are not calling for school closure during flu season unless a school has so many students and teachers home sick that it is unable to continue its operations. Children's Day School will be working closely with the SF Department of Public Health and state public health officials to monitor how the flu season progresses, and based on their guidance, we may in extreme circumstances need to close down the campus. In that event, we are developing plans and procedures to continue to run middle school classes using our student and faculty laptops and our technology infrastructure here at school.

All of us know how closely linked student health and good learning are; the H1N1 flu pandemic underlines that connection even further. Every fall and winter, we experience a resurgence of seasonal influenza, which is usually relatively mild. Because of the potential unpredictability of H1N1, we are asking Children's Day School families, students, faculty and staff to take extra precautions to ensure they stay healthy and thus minimize the disruption to students' academic lives.

As the flu season unfolds and new developments emerge, we will continue to keep you informed. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,

Rick Ackerly
Head of School

For more information and resources about H1N1, as well as the seasonal flu, please visit www.flu.gov.



CDS PTTA Coffee Club Order Form

Benefitting the CDS Faculty & Staff Holiday Gift Fund

Name	Contact Info
Child's Backpack Name & Class	Comments

Item	Price Per 12 oz Bag	Quantity Per Month	Total
Monthly Total			
Annual Total			

Payment Information (Circle One): Check Credit Card

CC # _____

Exp Date _____

Billing Address _____

Credit card will be charged the monthly amount on the 20th of each month. Send checks to CDS (payable to Children's Day School) by the 15th of each month, with "PTTA Coffee Club" in the memo line.

Coffee Club is a year-round subscription and requires a 30-day cancellation or change notice. Please contact Stephanie Scarpulla at 415-999-6227 or bluebirdcollection@gmail.com with any change requests, questions or comments.



CDS book swap

Sunday, October 4th, 11:00-3:00 p.m.

The book swap is designed for all readers!

Who can come?

Everyone is invited and you do not need to swap books to be able to take books home!

If I want to swap, what should I bring?

Hardback, paperbacks and audio books on tape or CD.

What condition do the books need to be in?

Gently used, no broken spines or outdated material please.

Do I need to swap to get a book or tape?

Absolutely not! Just come and get some books.

What's the limit?

There is no limit. However, it is FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE, SO COME EARLY!

What happens if it rains?

We will be inside St. Joseph's Hall.

Will there be food and refreshments?

Yes, thanks to the middle school students.

When and where do we turn our books in?

During drop-off from September 28th -October 2nd.

Can I bring books to swap on Sunday?

Unfortunately not. We need them early to set-up.

