October 29, 2021: Students Bring Joy and Learning

Dear CDS Community,

There are many things to love about working at a school and one favorite is the joy that comes with Halloween.

I love becoming a kid again on this day when adults and children alike dress up and get to experience a different persona. Maybe it’s a character from a favorite book; a sports figure; or an action hero. Or perhaps a tech device that walks on two legs. One thing I have observed in my time at CDS is the students’ many innovative costumes. Each year, I am impressed by these outfits. Maybe it has something to do with the creative community that we have here at CDS. And this year, the children get to dress up twice! Today and again on Halloween Sunday.

Before the preschoolers kicked off our Halloween celebration with their parade, our seventh-grade students led our Friday Assembly and reminded us of some powerful history that took place right here in our backyard. Among other things, the students spoke about the International Hotel (or I-Hotel), a place where elders came to live after immigrating from various places, including China and the Philippines, after World War II. In August 1977, the elderly residents of the I-Hotel, many of whom were Filipino American, were unfairly evicted to construct a parking lot. This decade-long fight to stop
Eviction was the largest multigenerational, multiethnic, and multiracial organizing campaign for low-income housing in San Francisco. The efforts years ago of these San Franciscans inspire our students today to find the courage to act and create change.

For more information, please see these links below that Cristal Fiel, All School Librarian, has provided us. As we honor Filipino American History this month, I hope that you take a moment to explore the rich history of the Filipino Community.

Warmly,
Shelly

**Videos**
- "The Fall of the I-Hotel" documentary
- How San Francisco Erased a Neighborhood (Vox)

**Books**
- San Francisco's International Hotel: Mobilizing the Filipino American Community in the Anti-eviction Movement by Estella Habal
- Filipinos in San Francisco

**News Articles**
- Kimberley Acebo Arteche Uplifts Filipina Women’s Contributions to San Francisco’s First Anti-Displacement Movement, this Art on Market Street poster series is up through the end of the year.
- A community lost, a movement born from San Francisco Chronicle

**Organizations**
- Manilatown Heritage Foundation
- Filipino American National Historical Society
- Kearny Street Workshop