



November 23, 2020: Grandparents and Special Friends

Dear CDS Community,

Friday offered us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our broader community with our annual Grandparents & Special Friends Day. We had nearly 500 visitors during the program, seeing the students sharing thanks, their deep knowledge, and their musical talents. It was obvious how excited the grandparents and special friends were to have this moment of connection with our community and their special CDS students. We received comments from visitors who joined us from Philadelphia, the UK, Newington CT, Westwood, Wales, Manteca, Sweden, Canada, India, Southern CA, and the unceded Territory of the Tsimshian peoples on the NW coast of British Columbia, Canada; one comment was “It is wonderful to see you honouring the First Peoples of Turtle Island.”

Here are some other comments that were shared in the chat from our special guests. It is clear that this year, especially, being able to share learning and gratitude has struck an important note.

- *This is so heartwarming. What a delightful way to start a week of thankfulness!! We are thankful for you, CDS!*
- *So beautiful! Thank you all for what you do and for sharing out with all of us.*
- *Well done everyone... thank you so much for the amazing job you are doing with these wonderful children! 😊*
- *Thank you so much. We love your school.*
- *This has been phenomenal! This would never have happened without the creativity and efforts of so many!*
- *Wish I could go back in time so I could attend this wonderful school!*
- *Love the children's' presentations! A big hug to my adorable grandchild, and all her teachers and supporters at CDS!*
- *OMG, these children are growing up with incredible social responsibility and moral fiber. Good for all of you.*

- *Thank you CDS for such a great event to allow us to be close to our family during this difficult time.*
- *These are amazing! Yes, please continue to rewrite history (and these stories!)*

Just prior to the Grandparents & Special Friends assembly, our third-grade Dusty Chickens shared their learning about the native Taínos people and gave us some action to take this year as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Here are the resources they shared with us:

- <https://native-land.ca/resources/mobile-app/>
- <https://native-land.ca/>
- <https://shellmound.org/take-action/>
- <https://sogoreate-landtrust.org/>
- <https://www.blackearthfarms.com/>

My habit during this time of year is to reflect on what I am grateful for and although this has been a very complex year, I continue to be grateful for this community of learners, actors, musicians, artists, inquirers, and activists.

Warmly,
Shelly