



December 11, 2020: Mirrors, Windows, and Puddles

Dear CDS Community,

During the Grandparents & Special Friends Day assembly as our fifth graders were sharing their perspectives about fairy tales, a preschooler came up to me and started chatting. She looked at me a bit quizzically and then said, “You are the principal, right?” I said yes, basically, that's true. She looked at me again and said “When I was three, I thought only boys could be principals” and ran away to play.

This moment has stuck with me and I keep coming back to it since that day. It was another reminder of the importance of representation and how seeing someone can be the difference between thinking you can do something and not even seeing a possibility. Teachers are intentionally ensuring that there are mirrors and windows in the classroom where a child can see themselves, and as a school we continue to work to provide those same mirrors and windows in the adults with whom students interact during their time at CDS. This is work that will never be “done” and is part of our ongoing work to truly celebrate our value of **Differences Lift Us**.

This morning at assembly, I thanked the community for the ways families are working to keep our community safe by proactively communicating with us. We know that staying at home is challenging for all, and we thank our community for prioritizing the health and safety of our teachers, students, and families. We are so appreciative that you have embraced, and are following, our community agreements that are designed to keep us all safe. We are only as strong collectively as we are individually and we all appreciate you living our value of **Community Matters** by respecting our health and safety needs.

I wish you all a lovely weekend as I hope for rain that we desperately need and which might provide some fun puddle jumping! Happy Hanukkah to those who celebrate. I appreciate all the ways that the celebration of light engages communities during our darkest months.

Warmly,
Shelly