



## May 21, 2021: Reflections

Dear CDS Community,

This week offered us a number of opportunities to reflect and learn. Over the weekend, I watched the film [Chinatown Rising](#) and learned about how the activism of a small group of people in Chinatown in the mid-1960s led to the change that is felt today. On Tuesday, as a follow-up to the viewing, we were part of an intimate conversation with the film's co-director, Josh Chuck, who shared his experiences making the film. He showed us some clips and talked about the process and experience. Much of the historical footage was actually shot by his father and the story, both intimate and personal, was really about ordinary people refusing to accept substandard living conditions. The process of creating the film allowed all the participants to reflect on what they did and their impact. Many said that they just knew they needed to act, and did not see themselves as change-makers in the moment. Josh said one of the most important takeaways was that even if you're uncertain an effort will be successful, it's important to try and to keep trying.

Today, we celebrated another changemaker important to San Francisco history, Harvey Milk, who saw injustice in the world around him and decided to take action. As Chris Wachsmith said so beautifully in his closing remarks this morning, "By taking action, Harvey changed the course of San Francisco history. He fought back against his foes to show that queer people deserved their full place in society and could be leaders of popular movements. It's because of Harvey Milk that a school like CDS can exist!"

By continuing to celebrate these important changemakers, we all have a chance to reflect on history and the work of those who have come before us. At CDS, being a changemaker and activist is something we aspire to for all of our community members. It's in the school's DNA. Activism can be a simple act of noticing something that is not right, or it can be a big public act, such as a demonstration or speech. The opportunity to notice, do something, and then reflect on the impact is an opportunity we can all take advantage of whether we are 3 years old or 90.

Speaking of reflection, thank you to those who joined us on Zoom last night for a chance

to look back and reflect on the complex year that was 20-21. I'm thankful to Lindsay Hershenhorn, our Director of Curriculum and Program Innovation, and our full team of administrators and educators for leading last night's session and for offering us a chance to pause and, at the same time, celebrate all that we have done despite the many challenges we faced. It's truly been a team effort. Thank you all for the support, engagement, and trust. Our students are the true beneficiaries of our collaboration and partnership.

Warmly,  
Shelly