



September 17, 2021: Back on the Yard

Dear CDS Community,

This morning we held our last virtual-only assembly. If I'm counting correctly, this was our 45th one on Zoom, going back to March of 2020. We know that the transition to shelter-in-place was difficult, to say the least. But looking back, I am proud of some of the assemblies we hosted during the pandemic. In one of my Friday letters in the spring, I wrote about the [Joy of Friday Assembly](#) where I summarized the different ways that we, as a team, were planning online assemblies in this new Zoom era. As much as we enjoyed bringing those forty-five assemblies to your workspace or living room, it will be such a joy to see everyone next Friday in person – face to face, mask to mask. I hope many can “Leave Meeting” and come on out to the yard.

Current guidelines require that we check vaccination status upon entry, so please be ready to show your card, a photo of your card, or QR code at the gate. If you are more comfortable staying distant, you can still join us via Zoom.

We have a few special things planned for next Friday. We hope to once again open the CDS Merchandise Store with much of our inventory of spirit items for sale – **and** offer a few new give-aways. Additionally, it would be lovely if you have any gently used CDS gear that is too small for your child to bring and share for a CDS clothing exchange. Maybe we can all start the assembly wearing a piece of CDS history.

Looking ahead, Monday will be a big day for us as we will again have full access to our prized yard. I truly do believe that we will have a renewed appreciation for the space and easy access from St. Joseph's Hall next week. I am pleased to be able to say that our large-in-scope roof project and building repainting was completed on time and just under budget even though we had a few bumps along the way. This work was teed up by the facilities committee of the board during the 2019-2020 school year and was pushed back due to the pandemic and the city shut down in the Spring of 2020. Through all these challenges, Guzman Construction has been a great partner and we even had a former teacher as our site supervisor.

Construction themes emerged in our classrooms as student curiosity and inquiry was fostered by educators. At CDS, we strive to connect student learning to the happenings around us, be it construction in the yard or the recall election, the fight for justice in our city, state, and country or global trends related to climate change. One of my favorite things each weekend is to spend a bit of time on ParentSquare reading about all the classroom activities. I love the images and stories our educators tell about the student experience and am lucky enough to be on all the feeds, so I get to see A LOT of the magic that is shared with you.

A note about logistics

As I mentioned above, next week the yard will be a space for our children once again. We are confident that this will ease some of the driveway congestion we have seen in the first few weeks. If you have a chance, please review our “post-construction” procedures which have been posted online.

The next few weeks provide us with opportunities to celebrate some of the communities that make up San Francisco and CDS. On Wednesday, Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month began, and in early October we will celebrate our Native communities with the Indigenous Peoples’ Day Assembly on Friday, October 8. We would love to have families or community members participate and share in these celebrations. If you are interested, please reach out to Assistant to the Head of School Patricia Jameson or Equity and Inclusion Coach Josephine Saunders.

I wish everyone a great weekend.

Warmly,
Shelly