



September 24, 2021: Together Again

Dear CDS Community,

It brought me such joy to see so many of you back on campus this morning for Friday Assembly – our first on the yard in 18 months! The sun was shining, great music was playing, and I like to think that our collective energy could be felt blocks away – or miles away for those who joined us virtually.

Part of this morning's festivities included a warm welcome to those newest members of our community – students and their families, as well as new members of the faculty and staff. We look forward to a partnership this year with the PTTA, led by two new Co-Presidents, Hope Van Sciver and Iris Escarramán. And the CDS spirit was on display with the many shirts, hats, and our new magnets and coffee mugs (remember to bring your mugs back to campus next Friday!)



Our tradition of music bringing us together has grown during our virtual Fridays as we added dancing to our closing. Today, the tunes were provided by our own DJ Darryl, and we also enjoyed performances by some of our third and seventh-grade students. Long a song that connects our community, “Don’t Stop Believing” by San Francisco band

Journey was a great first sing-along. Our third graders shared their knowledge about the recent Harvest Moon and how cultures celebrate and appreciate this time of year by performing a Japanese hand-clapping chant about the full moon and a rabbit pounding rice for mochi.

For many of our community events, we feel that it's important, and in alignment with our mission and values, to start with a land acknowledgment. This morning, our Equity and Inclusion Coach Josephine Saunders shared beautiful remarks along with the land acknowledgment. As Josephine said, "we intentionally include the land acknowledgment in our professional practice to advance cultural safety and humility. It is a small but essential step toward centering the Indigenous people who are often erased from our conversations. People who continue to defend and protect the land on which we live. The land acknowledgment serves as a disruption. We are recognizing a deeply spiritual protocol that is still practiced daily."

A few resources are linked here below:

[Land Defenders and Water Protectors](#)

[Shellmound Ohlone Heritage Site and Sacred Grounds](#)

In just a few weeks, we will host our Indigenous Peoples' Day Assembly on Friday, October 8. Assistant to the Head of School Patricia Jameson and others from our Indigenous communities will lead this annual CDS tradition. As we move into our Fall months we are excited to continue learning and celebrating our community.

Warmly,
Shelly