



November 27, 2018: Gratitude

Dear Families,

This past week I had a lot of time to reflect on what I am grateful for in my life.

I am grateful to have had my family and friends with me during this Thanksgiving season. Our family spent the week with grandparents who were disappointed to miss their first Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day but were happy to have some quality time with the boys. Michael works in St. Helena and spends the week there to be closer to his work. He had been renting a room so we could not visit him; this week we set up a place for him that has room for us to visit and it was great to be together as a family for the week. The boys were excited to celebrate Thanksgiving with our family's traditional meal of turkey, and we do put sausage in our stuffing along with roasted chestnuts. I know this is a hot debate in many households, including ours! With Michael as a chef, Séamus writing a food blog, and the rest of us who love to cook and eat, making a meal is the best family time we can spend together.

One of the challenges for the boys, having lived outside the U.S. for many years, is that they have little context of U.S. history as their school curriculum was focused on world and Korean/Asian history. Thankfully, they did not have the story of Thanksgiving that I was brought up with, watered down at best and full of misinformation. I am appreciative of the lens that CDS provides, giving a more balanced history with multiple perspectives. This is just one way social justice is on display each day in our curriculum, and it reminds me how grateful I am to be part of this community.

After the rain, I was grateful to see the air quality in the Bay Area return to a normal green level, while also knowing that life is not "normal," and perhaps never will be again, for those directly impacted by the devastation from the Camp Fire that has occurred north of us in Paradise and other communities. I am grateful for

the first responders who put their lives on the line each day to protect us all and for the incredible dedication of the Cal Firefighters who battle blazes in the most extreme conditions.

As we celebrate Giving Tuesday, there are a number of ways you can give back.

In talking with the homeless community in Dolores Park, some items they appreciate include:

- Snack foods such as PB&J sandwiches or crackers in the shelf-stable packs
- High protein foods such as peanut butter, tuna, and canned meals
- Toiletries such as baby wipes, toothpaste, and toothbrushes
- Clothing such as warm socks, underwear, gloves, scarves, and hats.

The San Francisco Chronicle has created a comprehensive resource in the [SF Homeless Project – How You Can Help](#) online guide if you would like to donate time or see other options.

In looking at ways to [support those impacted by the Camp Fire](#), it appears that gift cards and cash donations to organizations in the area are most appreciated at this time.

If physical gifts are your thing, I have given gifts in the past of [Kiva](#) credits to family so they can support projects they believe in with microloans. This year, I am looking at [Choose Love](#) for clever gift-giving opportunities. Perhaps the global refugee crisis is something you would like to support. I am guessing many of you have seen other worthy causes and I encourage you to pursue those. And if you are out and about, I encourage you to support our wonderful neighborhood businesses, as many of them also have programs that reach out into the community.

I am grateful for the parenting wisdom others share. A thoughtful article I have recently enjoyed was [Why Parents Need to be Patient with Their School-Age Kids](#). My favorite quote is “Admittedly, seeing kids for who they are rather than the people we wish they’d be can be terribly difficult, especially when the combined pressures of grades, sports, and college admissions—not to mention the weight of our own hopes, dreams, and regrets—cloud our vision. It’s important to recognize these moments, however, to question whether the goals we have for our kids are

truly for them, or for us.”

Today, I am grateful to hear the delightful sounds of children playing outside on our yard! Just before Thanksgiving break, the elevator was approved by the inspector and yesterday, a group of kindergartners took their first elevator ride in St. Joseph’s Hall! The elevator in St. Joseph’s Hall is now fully operational, making all CDS classrooms fully ADA accessible and welcoming to all. I am extremely grateful to our entire community of parents, grandparents, board members, faculty and staff, and friends who made this important renovation possible. We also look forward to hosting our Grandparents & Special Friends Day, which we have rescheduled to next month.



To commemorate the ‘Elevating St. Joseph’s Hall’ project and show our appreciation to our generous community, CDS will create a special gratitude plaque as a way to thank each and every donor who made this possible. If you would like to be part of the special dedication, please contact Jeanna Yoo, Director of Advancement, at jeannay@cds-sf.org or (415) 861-5432 x323, or make a gift [online](#). Gifts of all sizes are welcome and appreciated. I hope you will have a chance to ride the elevator soon.

As we give thanks this time of year, I hope that you and those you care about have much to be grateful for. I would love to hear from you about the things that inspire gratitude in you.

Warmly,
Shelly