



February 11, 2010

THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

Words from Rick

Technology and Children

Facebook and YouTube and Twitter, oh my!

A parent of a sixth grader emailed me from her iPhone:

My adjustment to Marcus's emerging, pre-teen internet social network life is akin to 4 stages of grief—denial, anger, depression, acceptance. I started out with "get off the computer now," as I witnessed this new viral habit consuming his attention that otherwise went to piano practice and reading and family time. Then, "Hey Marcus, why don't you finish up that conversation and say goodbye now (as the screen pings and his fingers fly across the keyboard in cryptic abbreviations) so that you have time to finish preparing for your math test." Then I recognized that I need to respect his new social world enough to give it some degree of privacy. Then I began to notice the rare (and not altogether reliable) sparks of maturity when he might sometimes ask me to help him: "Mom. Interrupt me in 20 minutes. I have some other things I want to do besides be in front of this screen."

I have been coming up the learning curve, too. The first time I realized that new technology is not the enemy was when a couple of girls brought me print-outs of what a fifth grade boy had IM'ed (instant messaged) them. We had heard stories of the boy harassing other kids, but no matter how much we talked to him, we found it hard to get him and his parents to see the error of his ways. My first reaction to his cyber-bullying was to blame the cyber. But then I realized that cyberspace is my friend, and that there's a silver lining to online bullying. Because cyberspace provides us with evidence, it's easier to turn bullying into a learning experience. Seeing bullying in writing can cut down on arguments and excuses.

Another parent was in my office last fall because a Facebook friend of a Facebook friend of her eighth grade son had shown her a quasi-obscene posting he had written on someone else's wall. Making this a learning experience for the son was the easy part. (President Obama tells kids that if they want to be president some day, they had better watch what they put out there into cyberspace.) The harder part was helping the mother deal with the standard 13-year-old conflict. That challenging relationship was there, with or without technology as the vehicle. The mother was learning that she would increasingly have to let her son learn from his own mistakes. She began discovering ways that she could use modern technology to keep in touch with his mistakes so that she could be there for him.

Hot Dates

Thursday, February 11
4:10 p.m.

CDS Bulldog basketball
championship game
Kipp Academy
1430 Scott Street

Friday, February 12
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly and tour of the
Boys & Girls Club
Seventh grade presenting
450 Guerrero Street

Monday, February 15
Presidents' Day observed
No school
No extended program

Tuesday, February 16 – Friday,
February 19

February vacation
No school
Extended program camp available

Dates also posted on CDS website
www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html



Thank You!

- To Ann Van Gelder, for coordinating all of the admission tour volunteers with organization, grace, humor and all-around awesomeness.
- To Susi Alexander, Amy Hecht, Lida Morgenstein and Andrea Reynolds for helping with last week's kindergarten visit day.

The main take-away from these and many other such experiences is that it behooves adults to keep up with technological advances, not because they are good or evil, but because we need to know about their value and their dangers so that we can help our children. We cannot teach them the dangers of Facebook if we don't know how it works. The standard adult knee-jerk reactions of denial and anger are bad for many reasons: a) they are not helpful, b) they model decision-making based on ignorance, c) the technology is actually turning out to be very useful, and d) it is here to stay.

When I turned 12 my father gave me my first Swiss Army knife. Along with the knife came a lesson in how to and how not to use it. He carefully showed how I could cut myself unless I used it properly. That didn't stop me from nearly cutting off the tip of the index finger on my left hand two days later. No one suggested, however, that we should get rid of the knife.

So, familiarize yourself with Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. At the same time, keep reading to your kids and keep practicing the piano and maintain family time that is "off-screen." We can respect advances in technology, integrate them into parenting and family life in an educated, unafraid way and still keep working toward a balance with our children.

From the Classrooms

From the Middle School

Dear CDS community,

In an effort to aid the victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the middle school is hosting a car wash and bake sale on Sunday, February 28 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please come and get your car washed for \$10; tell your friends to come too!

From February 28 until March 5, the middle school will be collecting supplies at CDS for Haiti. Supplies may be

dropped off at the car wash, or brought in to the Community Based Learning Board in St. Joseph's Hall. Preferred items for donation are:

- Rubbermaid bins for storing supplies
- Shoes
- Clothing (not winter clothes)
- Bedding
- Towels
- School supplies
- Books (French, English or Creole)
- Toiletries

Additionally, a coin collection is available at the front desk.

The bake sale last month was a huge success, raising \$1,162. Thank you so much for your generosity. We encourage you to continue to give what you can.

The proceeds of the car wash and the supplies will go to Sirona Cares, an organization working directly with orphans in Haiti, located here in the Bay Area. Thank you!

The CDS Middle School

From the Office

Tour the Boys & Girls Club

Please note that this Friday's assembly and coffee will be held at 8:30 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club, right around the corner at 450 Guerrero Street. Coffee will be available, seventh graders will lead assembly and we'll hold a tour of the Boys & Girls Club following assembly. All are invited to attend!

CDS Yahoo Group

Our CDS Community Yahoo group is a forum for the CDS community to share information about life outside of school. Join this Yahoo group, our in-house "craigslist," by visiting: groups.yahoo.com/group/cdscommunity.

Become a Fan of CDS...

...on Facebook! Once in Facebook, simply search for Children's Day School – San Francisco and become a fan. You'll have access to up to the minute basketball scores, meeting updates, *Weekly* news and more.

March Conference Sign-Ups

All families are required to attend a winter parent-teacher conference on Thursday, March 4 and Friday, March 5. These two days are an important part of the education and communication process and should not be used as extra vacation days by families. Depending on the teacher, conferences will range from 20 to 40 minutes long. Middle school students (grades 5-8) are expected to attend the conferences with their parents and will have an additional day of conferences on Wednesday, March 3; middle school students will be in classes with substitute teachers that day.

An Extended Program camp will be available with prior registration, and free childcare is provided on the yard for CDS students during the times that their parents are in conference with their teachers.

The online scheduling system, Pick-A-Time, will be available beginning Wednesday, February 10 and will remain **open until Monday, March 1** so that teachers can plan their very full days. If you have not signed up by March 1, you'll need to contact Kerry Parker with your last-minute request.

Signing up via the Pick-A-Time website

To schedule your conference, please log on to the Pick-a-Time website at:

<https://www.pickatime.com/client?ven=11601461>.

The site will ask you to enter your email address and the password that you chose the first time you used your account to log in. In the field titled *Student ID*, please enter your child's "proper" name as one word (ex: kerryparker or kerryparker-smith). In the field titled *Student's Birthday* enter your child's date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) to access your child's teacher's appointment schedule. You can view sibling calendars next to one another by following the directions to enter the values for an additional student and push "Add." If you do not have access to e-mail or the internet, please let me know and I will help you choose a conference and orientation time.

If you need to cancel or change an appointment, please

do so via the Pick-A-Time website up until March 1. If you need to make changes later than that, contact Kerry Parker at 861-5432 x312.

Family Farmer Dates

We have just a few remaining dates to cover for family farmer duty. If you can help out during the April 12-16 vacation, please contact Misty Cummings at 861-5432 x321 or mistyc@cds-sf.org.

Events

Donate to Fiesta Now!

By now you should have all that you need to donate to our annual spring fundraiser, Fiesta 2010! It's super easy to donate at www.biddingforgood.com/cdsfiesta2010. Once registered, the site will walk you through the donation process. You can also pick up a donation form at the front desk, or on our website at http://www.cds-sf.org/life_at_cds/springauction.html. All donations are due by Friday, February 26.

Extended Program News

February Vacation Camp

Next week's February vacation camp still has space for all ages. Come join us for fun and adventure as preschoolers study "Winter around the World" and elementary students get active in "Kids in Motion."

Winter around the World

Travel the globe with Ngoc, Gloria and Gladys and explore the winter season across different continents and countries.

- **Tuesday:** Venture to Taiwan to study migrating birds and learn the secret of local rice.

Go Bulldogs!

Basketball Scores

February 9, CDS vs. Synergy
CDS 42, Synergy 27

Basketball Calendar

Division championship game vs. SF Friends School
Thursday, February 11, 4:10 p.m.
Kipp Academy, 1430 Scott Street

- **Wednesday:** Visit Australia's snowy mountains, and make your own!
- **Thursday:** Let's go to the Himalayas and learn how people stay warm there, then travel south to India to recreate the peacock, their national bird.
- **Friday:** Return stateside to make Igloos in Alaska and warm up with homemade hot chocolate.

Kids in Motion!

Come join Jasmin, Laura, Sophie, Noah and Zachary for four days of exploring fun, healthy living through games, exercises, field trips and relaxation practices.

- **Tuesday:** Reserve your tee times for rounds of frisbee golf and whet your appetite for a healthy afternoon cooking project with a guided tour of Rainbow Grocery.
- **Wednesday:** Challenge yourself to complete the playground and structure obstacle course in record time, relax with afternoon meditation and prepare a green afternoon appetizer.
- **Thursday:** Pack a lunch for a mid-day hike through Golden Gate Park, prepare for headstands, handstands and tumbling in a room full of mats, and help prepare a fresh homemade snack.
- **Friday:** Bring your best soles for an afternoon Dance-A-Thon, limber up in preparation with morning yoga and close the day with a satisfying group meal.

Library Corner

Greetings from the Library



The first floor of the 16th Street building is full of resounding activity, as music students and book lovers visit the music room and library once again.

The library is new and improved with a number of exciting new books, thanks to the Richard family, Zelda Perkins, Eric Steinberg and Brin Huseby. The students greatly appreciate these thoughtful donations. Also, thanks to Molly Meng's tireless energy and tremendous talents, new signage now makes finding books a breeze! Carol Damm, grandmother of Starfish Ava Young, has shared her energy and talents, too: by carefully wrapping dust covers with plasticine, she added life and luster to dozens of books. Thank you!

We'd also like to thank all those who helped out with CDS' "Project Bookmobile" over the months - Mr. Rick, Cristobal, the awesomely awesome fourth graders, Greta Hanley, Melanie Piech, Diana Hunt, Luma Dahlbacka and Krista Carleson - your support was more than uplifting!

Parents, grandparents and guardians are always welcome to visit the library and check out books. There's even a section of books on child development that parents and teachers can explore.

To arrange a visit, or to volunteer during class library times, please contact Elsa at elsat@cds-sf.org.

PTTA Corner

Friday Morning Coffee

Come join other parents for coffee and doughnuts in the yard after Friday drop-off, 8-9 a.m. This is your chance to meet other families, have a few minutes of grown-up conversation and grab sustenance and caffeine before you start your day.

PTTA Questions or Ideas?

- Robin McClarren, President, (415) 235-0295 or robinmcc@speakeasy.net
- Rebecca Grey, Secretary, (415) 269-0996 or rgrey@pillsburylevinson.com
- Carlos Vasquez, Classroom Liaison Coordinator, (415) 564-9734 or xvasquez@aol.com
- Meredith Ashworth, Faculty Appreciation Coordinator, (415) 254-0229 or meredith@glugcollection.com
- Sara O'Malley, Parent Education Coordinator, (415) 348-8841 or sara@omalleyhylton.com
- Ann Van Gelder, Admission Volunteer Coordinator, (415) 647-8561 or cds.tourvolunteering@gmail.com
- Kristen Peña, Parent Involvement Coordinator, (415) 244-1411 or Kristen@glugcollection.com
- Kate Flynn, Middle School Representative, (415) 305-6625 or k8fln@aol.com
- Lauren Schwartz, Preschool Representative, (415) 495-5757 or schwartzbaum@mac.com
- Andrea Reynolds, Fiesta Chair, (415) 860-7556 or andrea-reynolds@sbcglobal.net
- Danielle Gutherie, Country Fair Chair, (415) 515-7994 or danielle@vegaproject.com

Upcoming Dates

Friday, February 26

Fiesta donations due

Sunday, February 28

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Middle school car wash

CDS driveway

Wednesday, March 2

2 p.m.

Middle school selectives performance:

Grease!

Grace Community Fellowship Church

Thursday, March 4 & Friday, March 5

Family conferences

No school

Extended program available

Monday, March 8

Fiesta online auction goes live at

www.biddingforgood.com/cdsfiesta2010

Monday, March 22

Professional Development day

No school

No extended program

Saturday, March 27

6:30-11 p.m.

Fiesta 2010

Mighty

119 Utah Street

Dates also posted on CDS website
www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail

CDS February Vacation Preschool Camp Registration



Winter Around the World

Travel the globe with Ms. Ngoc, Ms. Gloria and Ms. Gladys as we explore the present season across different continents and countries.

TUESDAY: Venture to Taiwan to study migrating birds and learn the secret of local rice.

WEDNESDAY: We'll not just visit Australia's Snowy Mountains, we'll make our own!

THURSDAY: Let's go to the Himalayas and learn how people stay warm there, then travel south to India to make recreate the peacock, their national bird.

FRIDAY: Return stateside to make Igloos in Alaska and warm ourselves with homemade hot chocolate.

Dates: February 16-19, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Register by: February 11th (24 spots available per day)

Payment required to register (circle your tuition and write check to CDS)

Tuition Range	\$15,000 - \$21,190	\$14,999 - \$11,000	\$10,999 - \$5,500	\$5,499 - \$2,119
Cost	\$60/day	\$45/day	\$30/day	\$15/day

Child's name _____

Grade _____

Parent's name _____

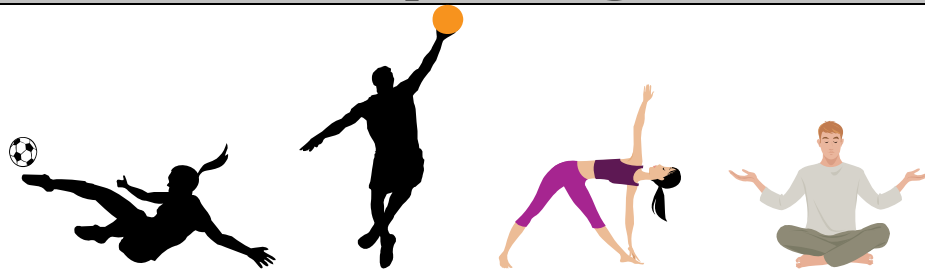
Parent's cell phone _____

Choose which days your child will participate and note estimated drop-off and pick-up times:

Tuesday, February 16	Wednesday, February 17	Thursday, February 18	Friday, February 19
a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.

Questions? Contact Dan Larson, Extended Program Director,
at (415) 861-5432 x315 or danl@cds-sf.org

CDS February Vacation K-8 Camp Registration



Kids In Motion!

Come join Jasmin, Laura, Sophie, Noah and Zachary for four days of exploring fun, healthy living through games, exercises, field trips and relaxation practices.

TUESDAY: Reserve your tee times for rounds of Frisbee golf and wet your appetite for a healthy afternoon cooking project with a guided tour of Rainbow Foods.

WEDNESDAY: Challenge yourself to complete our playground and structure obstacle course in record time, relax with afternoon meditation and prepare a green afternoon appetizer.

THURSDAY: Pack a lunch for a mid-day hike through Golden Gate Park, prepare for headstands, handstands and tumbling in a room full of mats, and help prepare a fresh homemade snack.

FRIDAY: Bring your best soles for an afternoon Dance-A-Thon, limber up in preparation with morning yoga and close the day with a satisfying group meal.

Dates: February 16-19, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Register by: February 11th (35 spots available per day.)

Payment required to register (circle your tuition and write check to CDS)

Tuition Range	\$15,000 - \$21,190	\$14,999 - \$11,000	\$10,999 - \$5,500	\$5,499 - \$2,119
Cost	\$60/day	\$45/day	\$30/day	\$15/day

Child's name _____

Grade _____

Parent's name _____

Parent's cell phone _____

Choose which days your child will participate and note estimated drop-off and pick-up times:

Tuesday, February 16	Wednesday, February 17	Thursday, February 18	Friday, February 19
a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.

Questions? Contact Dan Larson, Extended Program Director,
at (415) 861-5432 x315 or danl@cds-sf.org