



January 21, 2010

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### Arrogance is a Learning Disability

In response to last week's article, "The Content of Character," about the centrality of character to education, a parent sent me an article about character education. This document describes a school's approach to moral education and states, "How we conduct ourselves as human beings in relation to one another is at the core of what we do."

The document is great with respect to the importance of moral education—our conduct "in relation to one another;" my quibble with it is that by making character education solely about how we treat other people, we inadvertently marginalize it. The education of character is most fundamentally the strengthening of self, including development of the frontal lobes so that we make good decisions, not only in relation to others, but also in everything we do. Strengthening character is integrating the whole complex organism into an effective decision-making self.

Many years ago I was consultant to a school that had a reputation for "strong academics," but was having a lot of "behavior problems." Kids were being mean to each other—and even to adults. In one conversation about a seventh grader, Mac, his teachers discussed his disrespectful behavior. Mac interrupted his classmates, sounded like a know-it-all, barked out answers, held long discursions on his opinions and knowledge, put others down for their answers and insulted teachers, sometimes even to their face.

At one point in the conversation one of the teachers said, "Yes, it's a shame because he is such a good student." At this point I thought to say: "Wait. That statement is oxymoronic. Arrogance is a learning disability. He may get good grades on the tests, but he is inhibiting his own learning as well as others'. A know-it-all will not learn as much as someone who is humble enough to put all of their energy into learning as much as they can, rather than showing how much they know."

In the article, character education is described as including the virtues of respect, responsibility, compassion, integrity, humility, openness, passion, courage, honesty, resourcefulness, trustworthiness, perseverance, empathy, patience, kindness, generosity, forgiveness and creativity—virtues necessary for "a strong moral compass."

But these are not just virtues for moral education, they are disciplines necessary for education, period. Humility, for instance, is necessary for learning in groups, working through a complex math problem, participating in a spelling bee and for making friends. In order to put these values into action, it's important to name them disciplines, and give students the opportunities to

### Hot Dates

Thursday, January 21  
4 p.m.

Basketball game vs. SF Friends  
Boys & Girls Club

Friday, January 22  
8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly  
Starfish class leading  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Celebration

Dates also posted on CDS website  
[www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)



## Thank You!

- To Jen and Erin Fox for hosting coffee in the yard January 8, and to May and Hank Lim for hosting coffee in the yard January 15.
- To the Teddy Bear class for providing a delicious faculty breakfast last week!
- To Wendy Bokhorst-Heng, for taking photographs of the Winter Performance.

practice them. Then, they can experience the power that comes from this practice.

Character education is not “at the core of what we do,” it is what we do. Education of character is education itself.

## From the Classrooms

### Bake Sale for Haiti

The fifth and eighth grade classes are hosting a bake sale this Friday from 8-9:30 a.m. on the yard to benefit Haiti. They are also sponsoring a coin drive at the front desk. All proceeds will go to Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam. In the event of rain, the bake sale will take place in the first floor hallway of St. Joseph’s Hall.

### Kaleidoscope Theater Production

All are invited to this year’s middle school Kaleidoscope Theater production: All the Days of Our Lives in the Whites of their Eyes: A Case of Three Parodies. The performances will be held on Friday, January 29 (7 p.m.) and Saturday, January 30 (1 p.m.) at the Dolores Park Church, 455 Dolores Street. The suggested donation is \$5; we hope to see you there!

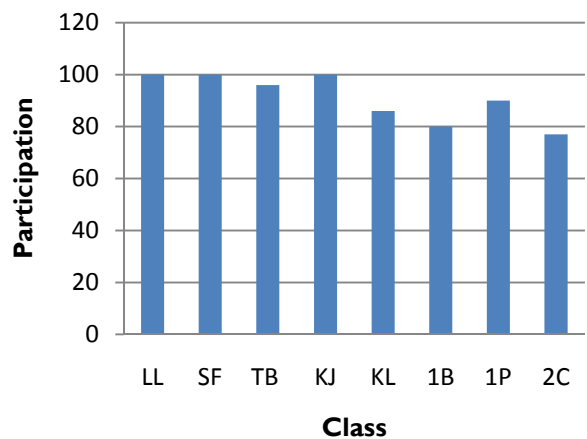
## From the Office

### Annual Fund Update

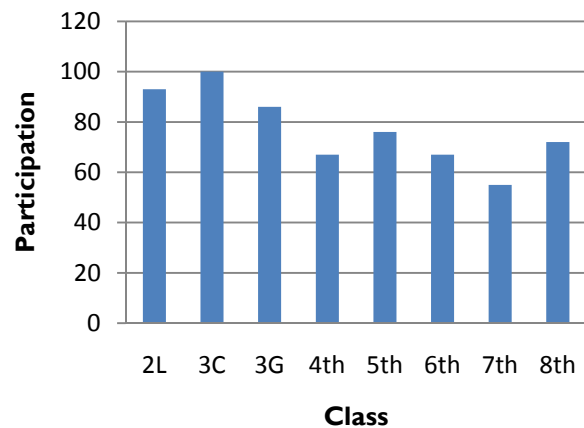
Thank you to all who have helped with this campaign by talking to other parents and giving with good humor and great generosity. Parent participation is up to 84% this year, and the total of parent gifts and pledges is over \$104,000. All 22 members of the CDS Board of Trustees have contributed, as well as 61% of CDS faculty and staff and 30 grandparents. We have some ground to cover to reach the parent goal of \$125,000; if you have not yet donated, please go online to [www.cds-sf.org/giving](http://www.cds-sf.org/giving) to

support what’s happening right now at school – from Kaleidoscope Theater to sliding scale tuition to reading workshops to basketball games to field trips to fire stations, city hall and museums. Each gift, regardless of its size, increases participation and strengthens our pitch to foundations, corporations and other prospects. Four classes – the Starfish and third grade Egg class, as well as the Leaping Lizards and Prairie Dog kindergarten class – have hit 100% parent participation, and 96% of Teddy Bear parents and 93% of parents in the Penguin second grade class have contributed. If four (and almost six) classes can do it, why not all I6? Let’s send Rick off to Decatur with a record-setting annual fund. Please make a gift today! Thank you.

AF Participation by Class



AF Participation by Class



## School Wish List

- Country Fair planners need your lemons! Harvest your lemons and leave them at the door of the environmental education kitchen. Thank you!

## Drop-Off Safety

Two weeks ago, we sent home some gentle reminders about the good disciplines of sharing our driveway so that pick-up and drop-off work for all. Thank you for practicing these behaviors!

Additionally, we also wanted to share some improvements we've made to our morning drop-off procedures so that we have more coverage in more places during this busy time.

- Volunteer middle school students are now lining the path on the play yard that preschool students walk each morning when they're dropped off at the preschool gate. These middle school students make sure that our youngest students walk safely to their classrooms from their cars.
- Volunteer parents sometimes lend a hand at the preschool gate, either helping preschool students out of cars, or escorting those that need a hand into class.
- Elsa has changed her position from opening car doors and welcoming students, to standing in the open gate to make sure all who enter and exit are known quantities. She'll still say hello, but please don't expect her to have lengthy conversations from this important post.
- Administrators and volunteer parents rotate responsibility for staffing the Dolores Street car exit driveway. They're there to make sure pedestrians can cross the driveway safely and cars can exit efficiently.

Thank you to all involved in this choreography for making it happen so smoothly! We're always interested in additional volunteers, so if you'd like to have a morning job at CDS, please contact Kerry Parker at 861-5432 x312.

## 2010-11 School Calendar

Please note the 2010-11 school year holiday/vacation calendar attached to today's *Weekly*. Here are some of the significant dates:

- September 1 – first day of school
- December 20-31 – winter vacation
- February 21-25 – February vacation
- April 18-22 – spring vacation
- June 14 – last day of school; 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation

## Class Pictures

Class pictures are ready! We tried out a new photography company this year for our class pictures (Schoolhouse Candids). Click on the link below to see the pictures and to order prints. Please let Aimee Giles ([aimeeg@cds-sf.org](mailto:aimeeg@cds-sf.org)) know what you think of the pictures, and of the ordering process. Orders are due by January 25, 2010.

<http://schoolhousecandids.smugmug.com/Chidrens-Day-School> (The password is mission83).

## Family Farmer Dates Available

Please note that the following dates are still available for family farmer duty. Don't miss your chance to tend to our beloved chickens and sheep. Contact Misty Cummings (861-5432 x321 or [mistyc@cds-sf.org](mailto:mistyc@cds-sf.org)) to sign up:

- April 12-16

## Go Bulldogs!

### Basketball Scores

January 14, CDS vs. CAIS  
CDS 29, CAIS 27

January 19, CDS vs. Lycee Francais  
CDS 29, LF 16

### Basketball Calendar

Thursday, January 21, 4 p.m.  
SF Friends (White), Boys & Girls Club

Come cheer on the Bulldogs; they are 5-1!

## Extended Program News

### Camps, Camps, Camps

The extended program will offer two sets of day camp in February. Information and registration materials for February vacation camp will be sent home in backpacks and available in next week's *Weekly*. Enrollment for the camps on February 1 (during Teacher Work Day), Star Explorer and The Fun of Science, is now open with room for 24 preschoolers and 45 K-8 students. In Star Explorer, preschool students will build their own spacecrafts, study the Milky Way, our neighboring stars and make tasty moon pies. In The Fun of Science, campers will make bubbles of all shapes and sizes, create salt formation sculptures, develop environmental dioramas and close camp with a themed cooking project. A registration form for this camp is attached.

## PTTA Update

### Save the Date

Please save the date for our next PTTA/Committee on Inclusion and Diversity (COID) meeting on Tuesday, February 9. Our topic will be "Making CDS a Safe Place to be Yourself: Stories from the Classroom." The meeting will run from 5:30-7 p.m. on the third floor of St. Joseph's Hall. Free child care will be available.

## Upcoming Dates

**Friday, January 29 & Saturday, January 30**  
7 p.m. (Friday) and 1 p.m. (Saturday)  
Middle school Kaleidoscope Theater performance  
Dolores Park Church  
455 Dolores Street

**Monday, February 1**  
Teacher work day  
No school  
Extended Program Camp available

**Tuesday, February 9**  
5:30-7 p.m.  
PTTA meeting

**Monday, February 15**  
President's 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](http://www.cds-sf.org/news/calendar.html)

Children's Day School  
333 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-861-5432 (ph)  
415-861-5419 (fax)

**[www.cds-sf.org](http://www.cds-sf.org)**

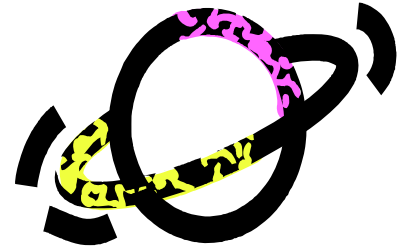
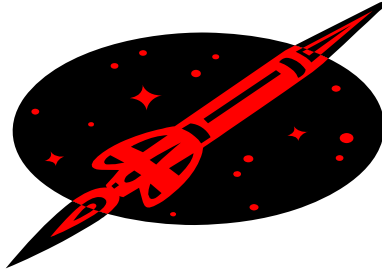
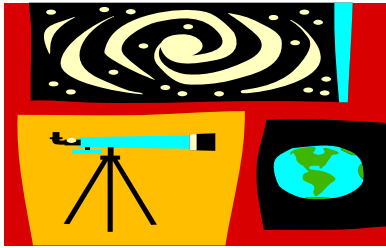
Editor: Mary DeNardo, [cdsweekly@cds-sf.org](mailto:cdsweekly@cds-sf.org)  
Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.  
Contact Mary to receive the *Weekly* via e-mail



## 2010-2011 Holiday/Vacation Calendar

<b>August</b>	30-31	Mon-Tue	Family orientations (grades pre-8) and conferences (mandatory for new students, optional for returning students)
<b>September</b>	1	Wed	First day of school
	6	Mon	Labor Day observed (no school, no camp available)
<b>October</b>	11	Mon	Government holiday observed (no school, no camp available)
	25	Mon	Professional Development day (no school, no camp available)
<b>November</b>	18-19	Thu-Fri	Family conferences (no school, camp available)
	24	Wed	Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day, noon dismissal (no extended program)
	25-26	Thu-Fri	Thanksgiving vacation (no school, no camp program)
<b>December</b>	17	Fri	Winter Performance (I I am), noon dismissal (extended program available)
	20-23	Mon-Thu	Winter vacation (no school, camp available)
	24-31	Fri-Fri	Winter vacation (no school, no camp available)
<b>January</b>	3	Mon	School resumes
	17	Mon	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed (no school, no camp available)
<b>February</b>	7	Mon	Teacher work day (no school, no camp available)
	21	Mon	President's Day observed (no school, no camp available)
	22-25	Tue-Fri	February vacation (no school, camp available)
<b>March</b>	7	Mon	CAIS Professional Development day (no school, no camp available)
	17-18	Thu-Fri	Family conferences (no school, camp available)
<b>April</b>	18-22	Mon-Fri	Spring vacation (no school, camp available)
<b>May</b>	30	Mon	Memorial Day observed (no school, no camp available)
<b>June</b>	14	Tue	Last day of school; 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Graduation, 3:45 pm (no extended program)

# CDS February 1<sup>st</sup> Camp Registration



## Preschool Camp: Star Explorer

Come join Ms. Danielle, Ms. Rebekah and more as we search for new realms of fun and learning in the preschool bungalows! We'll be reading about the Milky Way Galaxy and the 200 billion stars that surround us before **making spaceships** for our journeys of discovery. An examination of light here on planet earth will follow before we close with the making of sweet and **tasty moonpies**, so come join us for some creative projects and out of this world fun! Camp will be limited to **24 students**, so make sure to register as soon as possible.

**Dates:** 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., February 1

**Register by:** January 28

**Payment required to register** (make checks payable to CDS)

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

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (including classroom) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

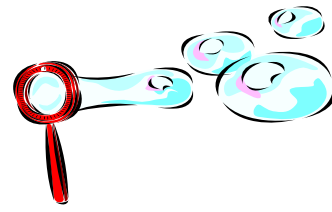
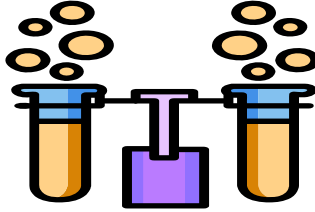
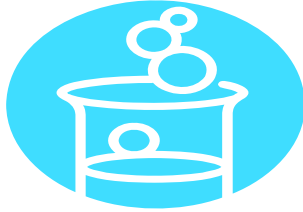
Please note estimated drop-off and pick-up times:

<b>Monday</b>
a.m.
p.m.

**Questions?** Contact Dan Larson, Extended Program Director,

at (415) 861-5432 x315 or danl@cds-sf.org

# CDS November Conference Camp Registration



## K-8 Camp: The Fun of Science

Come join the after school staff as we explore the mysteries of science at work in the world of fun around us. We'll spend a good deal of time making and playing with **bubbles of all sizes** to analyze surface tension and its relationship to shapes, sizes, forces and solutions. We'll also be creating **salt formation sculptures** as we uncover the mysteries at the core of this everyday ingredient. Finally, we'll be studying different ecosystems and using art and natural found materials to create **environmental dioramas** before closing camp with a themed cooking project.

**Dates:** 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., February 1

**Register by:** January 28

**Payment required to register** (make checks payable to CDS)

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

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (including classroom) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please note estimated drop-off and pick-up times:

<b>Monday</b>
a.m.
p.m.

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