

November 5, 2009

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words from Rick

### “We Don’t Call Her Weird”

“Glue guns are useful for everything in the world, except for gluing two planets together.”

“This animal is afraid of ketchup.”

“Snoop’s power is mind control and his weakness is ants.”

“All flies are tiny, except the bigger ones.”

“We don’t call her weird. We call her rainbow.”

What do all these quotations have in common? Three things: all were delivered by kindergartners last week, none are clichés and all reflect the creative power of young minds entrusted to our care.

As parents and teachers we are, first and foremost, stewards of this creative power. Rising to that challenge effectively requires pursuing three strategies simultaneously: encourage decision making, define boundaries and beam love.

The first thing to remember is that we cannot teach creativity. What we can do is create the conditions in which the wonderful little engine that is causing the child to say things and inspiring them to do things is functioning at its maximum power. Building on their ideas, following their enthusiasm and noticing their work all help reinforce the notion that we see the children as creative beings, and are there to support them in a creative decision making process. One could respond with any old crazy thing such as “Tell me how mind control works?” or “What is the weirdest non-weird thing?” Humans are decision makers, creators and investigators. Education is a messy, creative dance as teachers and students engage together in the process of learning. Education cannot be done *to* kids. If practicing the piano doesn’t come from within, we *risk* wasting this creative power.

A large chunk of the job of supporting our children as they make decisions is to clarify the requirements of the environment. Often just stating these requirements is only the beginning of the learning that needs to take place. The human brain is ready for anything and will try anything, and many self-respecting brains can’t state that something is true until they discover that it is true. Asking “Was that a good choice?” works because it communicates “You are the decision maker” at the same time as it communicates, “No.” We need to find at least a dozen different ways to say, “No.”

The other part of supporting the decision making potential and blossoming creative power of our children is to give them unconditional love. Balancing these three strategies is an art, not a science, but it might be useful to think back to when your child first said, “Mama.” You didn’t say, “Nice try dear, but the correct pronunciation is “Mom-my.” Your eyes got wider, a smile

## Hot Dates

Friday, November 6

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Second grade (Lindsay) presenting

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



## Thank You!

- **Thanks to all of our recent Friday Coffee hosts for their generosity:** Angie Jolie, Zahra Ghayour-Kelly, Rachel Yeaman, Carlos Vasquez, Michael Silver and Kristin Henry. Also, a great big thank you to May and Hank Lim, CDS parents and owners of Church Street Cafe, for helping us meet our morning coffee needs.
- To Kerri Anthony, Wendy Bokhorst-Heng and Tina Leung for volunteering on our photo days last week.
- To Akilah Bixler, Jocelyn Colopy, Zahra Ghayour-Kelly, Amy Hecht, Todd Hosfelt, Roger Nys, Jen Wana and Jeanette Wilmerding for leading admission tours.

burst onto your face and you exclaimed something. Delight, wonder and amazement are all excellent responses to a child. Widening the eyes and dropping the jaw are good for a child's soul. It still works for me.

## Board Corner

### Head Candidate Feedback

If you've had the opportunity to hear from any or all of our head candidates, please provide feedback online at <http://tinyurl.com/headsearch> before 6 pm on Thursday, November 5.

## From the Classrooms

### Taking Care of Our Chickens

Super Fluffy, Ginger, Pom Pom and Moonlight are elderly and are no longer laying eggs so we are looking for a loving retirement home for the hens. We would like them to be placed with a family that is able to provide comfortable and safe shelter, daily access to the outdoors where they can hunt for worms and other invertebrates, and live out the rest of their days peacefully and comfortably. Super Fluffy and Ginger need to stay together, as do Pom Pom and Moonlight. If you or someone you know would like to adopt them, please contact Misty at 861-5432 x321.

## Digging Deeper – CDS Tour

Curious to learn more about what's going on in our K-8 classrooms? After coffee and the assembly on Friday, November 13, from 9-11 a.m., join Rebecca Kroll, Margaret Piskitel, Josée Mayette and Aimee Giles for a tour and discussion of the CDS academic program. We will start with an overview of our K-8 programs and end with a school tour. This is an excellent opportunity for current CDS parents to see our K-8 classes in action and to ask questions. No RSVP is necessary – we hope you join us.

## From the Office

### Annual Fund Pizza

As an incentive to keep up the great work on the Annual Fund front, your CDS development office will provide a kid-friendly pizza lunch to all kids (and teachers too!) in each CDS class that reaches 100% parent participation in the Annual Fund before Thanksgiving. The Leaping Lizard class, which has already reached 100% participation, will be the first to get their lunch. School-wide, parent participation is 62% right now, and parent gifts and pledges total over \$75,000. We're well on our way to meeting the parent goal of \$125,000 raised this year, and we'd love to serve lunch to the whole school.

### Fall Conferences

Fall conferences will be held on Thursday, November 19 and Friday, November 20. These two days are an important part of the education and communication process and should not be used as extra vacation days by families. While no classes will be held, Extended Day Camp is available with prior registration, and childcare is available on the yard for CDS students during the times that their parents are in a conference with teachers.

All families are required to attend a fall parent-teacher conference. Middle school students (grades 5-8) are expected to attend the conferences with their parents. Depending on the teacher, conferences may be 20 to 40 minutes long.

The conference scheduling system, Pick-A-Time, will be available until November 17 so that teachers can plan their very full days. If you have not signed up by November 17, you will have to call Kerry Parker at

## School Wish List

The after school program needs your socks, buttons and fabric! To donate, contact Jasmin Hoo at [jasminh@cds-sf.org](mailto:jasminh@cds-sf.org).

We need Apples! Apple computers, that is. If you have an old iMac, Mac Pro or Macbook that you'd like to donate, please contact Rico Tan, IT Director, at [ricot@cds-sf.org](mailto:ricot@cds-sf.org).

Here are the minimum system requirements for the donated Mac:

- iMac G4, G5 or Intel iMac with minimum of 1Gb of RAM (Minimum of Tiger OSX)
- First generation intel Macbook or Macbook Pro
- Powermac G5 or first generation Mac Pros

861-5432 x312 to see about fitting in your last-minute request.

## Sign Up via Pick-A-Time

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 a password of your choice to create your account. 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 Kerry know and she will help you choose a conference and orientation time.

If you need to cancel or change an appointment, please do so on the Pick-A-Time website until November 17. If you need to make changes later than that, you will need to call Kerry to help facilitate the process.

## 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:

- February 13-15
- February 18-19
- April 12-15

## Events

### Book Fair

Mark your calendars now for the CDS Book Fair on Friday, December 4 at Books Inc. in the Opera Plaza. Do your holiday shopping and help support CDS at the same time. 10% of all revenue will go directly to CDS. The event will run from 5:30-9 p.m., childcare will be provided at school and Mr. Rick will make a guest appearance. See you there!

### Fiesta Quilt Volunteers

Calling all quilters, sewers and helpers! Please check in with your classes and see how you can help with the fabulous Fiesta class quilts. You don't have to know how to sew; there are opportunities to help out in the design process and in the classroom with students as they do their artwork. Contact Susan Chastain at [susan@susanchastain.com](mailto:susan@susanchastain.com) for information or inspiration!

## Extended Program News

### November Conference Camp

Please see the attached description and registration form for our November camp held on Thursday, November 19 and Friday, November 20 during parent-teacher conferences.

## PTTA Update

### SPEAK Event

Dr. Ken Ginsburg, author of *A Parent's Guide to Building Resilience in Children and Teens: Giving Your Child Roots and Wings*, is the featured speaker at the upcoming talk hosted by SPEAK, a parent education coalition of San Francisco independent schools.

Dr. Ginsburg is a nationally recognized pediatrician in Adolescent Medicine at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia who aims to start a dialogue among parents and children of all ages to redefine perceptions of success and evaluate the significant physical and emotional

damage that stress and everyday pressure can have on development. He creates strategies to raise resilient children who are capable of dealing with life's difficulties and learn from personal defeat.

The event will be held on Thursday, November 12, at 9 a.m. at the Hall of the Greek Orthodox Annunciation Cathedral (245 Valencia Street @ 14<sup>th</sup> Street). For more information, go to <http://speaksf.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](mailto:robinmcc@speakeasy.net)
- Rebecca Grey, Secretary, (415) 269-0996 or [rgrey@pillsburylevinson.com](mailto:rgrey@pillsburylevinson.com)
- Carlos Vasquez, Classroom Liaison Coordinator, (415) 564-9734 or [xvasquez@aol.com](mailto:xvasquez@aol.com)
- Meredith Ashworth, Faculty Appreciation Coordinator, (415) 254-0229 or [meredith@glugcollection.com](mailto:meredith@glugcollection.com)
- Sara O'Malley, Parent Education Coordinator, (415) 348-8841 or [sara@omalleyhylton.com](mailto:sara@omalleyhylton.com)
- Ann Van Gelder, Admission Volunteer Coordinator, (415) 647-8561 or [cds.tourvolunteering@gmail.com](mailto:cds.tourvolunteering@gmail.com)
- Kristen Peña, Parent Involvement Coordinator, (415) 244-1411 or [Kristen@glugcollection.com](mailto:Kristen@glugcollection.com)
- Kate Flynn, Middle School Representative, (415) 305-6625 or [k8fln@aol.com](mailto:k8fln@aol.com)
- Lauren Schwartz, Preschool Representative, (415) 495-5757 or [schwartzbaum@mac.com](mailto:schwartzbaum@mac.com)
- Andrea Reynolds, Fiesta Chair, (415) 860-7556 or [andrea-reynolds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andrea-reynolds@sbcglobal.net)
- Danielle Guthrie, Country Fair Chair, (415) 515-7994 or [danielle@vegaproject.com](mailto:danielle@vegaproject.com)

## Upcoming Dates

**Friday, November 13**

9-11 a.m.

CDS tour for current families

**Thursday, November 19 – Friday, November 20**

Family Conferences

No school

Extended program camp available

**Wednesday, November 25**

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Noon dismissal

No extended program

**Thursday, November 26 - Friday, November 27**

Thanksgiving vacation

No school

No extended program

**Friday, December 4**

5-9 p.m.

CDS Book Fair

Books Inc.

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

**Speak** is a coalition of San Francisco K-8 Schools that have joined together to enhance parent education. Our goal: Enrich the education and learning experience for our families, our children and our communities.

**FALL**  
2009

# Speak

SPEAKERS FOR PARENTS EDUCATORS AND KNOWLEDGE

## Participating Schools

Cathedral School for Boys  
Children's Day School  
The Hamlin School  
Katherine Delmar Burke School  
Live Oak School  
Marin Country Day School  
Presidio Hill School  
San Francisco Day School  
San Francisco Friends School  
The San Francisco School  
Synergy School

Kenneth Ginsberg, M.D.

## Raising Resilient Children and Teens



Dr. Ken Ginsburg, a nationally recognized pediatrician in Adolescent Medicine at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, aims to start a national dialogue among parents and children of all ages to redefine perceptions of success, and evaluate the significant physical and emotional damage that stress and everyday pressure can have on development. He creates strategies to raise resilient children who are capable of dealing with life's

difficulties and who learn from personal defeat. Ginsberg is the author of *A Parent's Guide to Building Resilience in Children and Teens: Giving Your Child Roots and Wings* and *Less Stress, More Success: A New Approach to Guiding Your Teen Through College Admissions and Beyond*, with Marilee Jones.

**Thursday**  
**November 12**  
**9am**

at the Hall of the Greek Orthodox Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street @14th, San Francisco. Limited on-site parking available. Carpooling and use of public transit encouraged.

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**Admission** Free for participating school educators and parents; \$10 for non-members.

**Coming March 23, 2010 • 7pm**

## Smart Parenting in an Online World

common sense  
media

**Ann Zehren** from CommonSense Media, **B.J. Fogg**, Stanford Professor and author of *The Psychology of Facebook*, and **Matt Levinson**, Assistant Director and Head of the Middle School at Nueva School, participate in a panel discussion on parenting in the digital age. This community forum will speak to the unique challenges faced by parents trying to manage and understand the revolution in communication and information technology that is part of their children's lives. It is an extraordinary opportunity for parents to gain insight into the educational, social and psychological implications of growing up as a digital native.

# CDS November Conference Camp Registration



## Preschool Camp: Unsinkable Art

Come join Ms. Danielle, Ms. Rebekah and more as we create unsinkable fun in the preschool bungalows! We'll be reading about boats and ships during both days as we study watercraft and the people who work with the sea for a living. On Thursday we'll be making our own buoys out of ping-pong balls, paint, clay, tape, drinking straws and paper. On Friday we'll be making sail boats out of cork, thumbtacks and paper, so come join us for some creative projects and potentially wet fun!

**Dates:** 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., November 19 & 20    **Register by:** November 18

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent's home phone \_\_\_\_\_

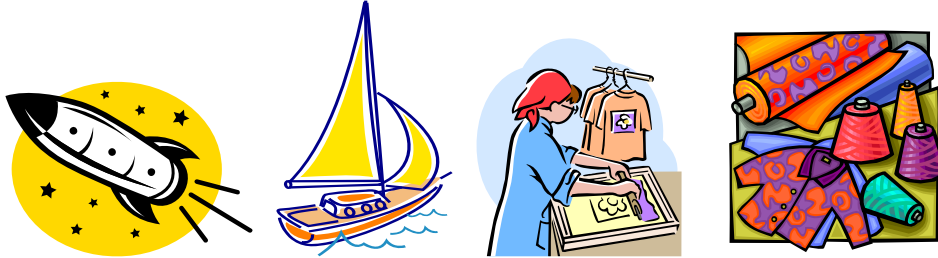
Parent's cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
a.m.	a.m.
p.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: Creative Reinventing

Come join the after school staff as we turn old trash into new treasures! Thursday is **Things That Fly, Float and Roll**, and we'll be making pop bottle rockets, milk carton boats and more! Please bring a two-liter pop bottle and milk carton if you have them. On Friday we'll move into **Redesigning Fabrics**, when we'll decorate old fabric and t-shirts with paint and stencils to create new designs and looks, so bring in an old shirt, a tired pillowcase or any fabric you want to reinvent!

**Dates:** 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., November 19 & 20    **Register by:** November 18

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent's home phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
a.m.	a.m.
p.m.	p.m.

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