



October 29, 2009

# THE CHILDREN'S DAY SCHOOL Weekly

## Words to Rick

*This week's article is guest written by CDS parent, Ann Van Gelder.*

Dear Rick,

I just wanted to thank you for recommending Carol Dweck's *Mindset*. It was a transforming and illuminating book for me, both for how I see my children's development and my own.

One example that seemed to come right out of the text has been Owen (first grade) and his piano lessons. His teacher has been saying for the past year how gifted he is and how surprising his progress has been. Every time she says such things, I have had two conflicting feelings. First I burst with pride (as if it is my unique genetic make-up that has caused such a thing). But I also cringe.

You see, when I was young, I also took piano lessons. And I loved it! It came easy to me, and I was told that I was gifted. I practiced very little, but would still get accolades from my teacher. Somewhere in there I learned that if I was gifted, I wouldn't need to exert effort or struggle. And then, of course, with anything that demands discipline and technique, I began to struggle. The pieces became harder, and my fingers had to play faster. I began to have trouble reading the music. I could not forgive myself for making mistakes. I must not be gifted, I thought. So I gave up, even though I still loved music. So I watched it from the sidelines. And, in my adulthood, regretted it.

So when Owen started the piano, I shared this story with him. I told him that playing the piano requires practice and effort, regardless of whether you think it's easy now, because it won't always be. I told him it's okay to make mistakes because then you learn from them. If you always only play what you think are easy pieces, you'll get stuck. And I do tell him that he is good, maybe because of some innate talent, but definitely because he practices every day. I didn't know then that this was a growth mindset way of thought. I only knew that it was the opposite of what I did as a child.

Dweck has given me a more concrete sense of the fixed vs. growth mindsets so that I may take this thinking and incorporate it into our lives. I will try to not box my kids with fixed assumptions—the "social one", the "athletic one" or the "smart one"—and assume that they will never encounter challenges in those areas. In fact, I hope they do encounter challenges, so that they may bolster those strengths. And, more importantly, I will no longer assume that they can't grow in areas that have been challenging for them. I've learned from the book that mastery does not equal success; the love of the continuing process does.

Plus, I have asked my mother to send over my old piano books, as I am still

## Hot Dates

Wednesday, October 28 &

Thursday, October 29

Photo Days

Friday, October 30

8:30 a.m.

Friday assembly

Second grade (Colette) presenting

2 p.m.

Halloween Parade with K-8 students

CDS yard

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



## Thank You!

- A very special thank you to Rachel Yeaman for writing the Annual Fund letter and leading the volunteer charge during this year's phonathon and parent campaign!
- To our fabulous Annual Fund phonathon callers: Amanda Chapman, Elizabeth Seirmarco, Cristina Hernandez, Dave Jasso, Kit Land, Rich Torres, Zahra Ghayour-Kelly, Bob Concannon, Susi Alexander, Robin McClarren, Tracy Kirkham, Gigi Rosales, Sarah Cooper, Dave Klaus, Meredith Ashworth and Chris van Löben Sels.
- To Katie Buono, Viru Gupte, Michelle Lapuz, Carlene Lim, Lauren Schwartz and Ann and Dirk Van Gelder for representing CDS at the Preschool Preview Night.
- To Jocelyn Colopy, Viru Gupte, Kristin Henry, Keri Lehmann, Hank Lim, Michele Morgano, Andrea Ow, Lauren Schwartz, Ann Van Gelder and Rachel Yeaman for leading admission tours.
- To Kevin Chen and Arin Fishkin for taking photos at the Families of Color picnic.

## Friday, October 30

- 9:45 - 10:45: Classroom visits (John will be dropping in to various classrooms to meet students and see them in action)
- 11:30 - 1:00: Drop-in lunch with faculty and staff (4th grade classroom)
- 1:00 - 1:45: Parent forum (location tbd)
- 2 - 3: Halloween parade
- 3:45 - 4:30: Faculty forum (Doug's classroom)
- 5:15 - 6:00: Parent forum (Melanie's classroom)

## Saturday, October 31

- 9 - 10 a.m.: Parent forum (Melanie's classroom) - childcare will be provided. Please sign your child/ren up at the front desk by Friday afternoon.

We truly appreciate your flexibility with this unexpected change of events. Please drop in to a forum of your choice, and remember to log on to <http://www.tinyurl.com/headsearch> to share your reactions, impressions and questions with the Search Steering Committee by Monday, November 2.

"becoming" as well.

Thank you for the book suggestion. My book club is reading it as well.

## Board Corner

### Letter from the Board

Don't miss the attached letter from Board Chair, Matt Schwartz, regarding the Board of Trustees' goals for the year, along with a memo from Rick regarding K-4 enrollment.

### Head Candidate Update

As you know, one of our Head of School finalists, Phil Clinton, has withdrawn his candidacy. We are pleased to invite John Zurn to join the finalist group and interview for the position. Unfortunately, John has commitments that make him unable to be here for the regularly scheduled Wednesday and Thursday meetings, but even on such short notice, John has agreed to make himself available to be here on **Friday, October 30** and **Saturday, October 31**. Please join us in welcoming John Zurn this week. His visit schedule is as follows:

## From the Classrooms

### Halloween Parade

All families are invited to this year's Halloween parade, which will be held on Friday, October 30 at 2 p.m. Students in grades K-8 will be participating and everyone is invited to gather on the yard and watch the procession. Please note that preschool students will not participate in the parade and that **preschool pick up is walk-in only**. K-4 students will be signed out from classrooms (before dismissal time) or at double doors (at or after dismissal time). After care will take place as usual. Happy Halloween!

## From the Office

### Annual Fund News

An enthusiastic thank you to all CDS parents on both ends of the telephone for making last week's phonathon both successful and fun. Parents have been terrifically generous, as always—52% of families have made a pledge or gift to the Annual Fund so far. Over \$70,000 has been committed to the campaign, up 15% from the total raised at this time last year. Led by intrepid class

## School Wish List

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

captain Rich Torres, the Leaping Lizard class has regained its title as the first class to reach 100% participation this year.

We invite all parents to participate in this campaign by contributing as much as you can. Donations to the Annual Fund allow CDS to lead the Bay Area in sliding scale tuition and inspire confidence in foundations and other outside donors. Gifts support your children's teachers and the Board of Trustees' efforts to continue raising teacher salaries. Please contact the Development Office if you have any questions or would like to make a donation, or go online to [www.cds-sf.org/giving](http://www.cds-sf.org/giving) to make a credit card gift right now. Thank you for helping us reach our goal of \$125,000 in parent gifts before June 2010.

## Fall Conferences

Fall conferences will be held on Thursday, November 20 and Friday, November 21. 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 for you to choose your conferences on

Thursday, October 29 and will be open 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 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=II60I46I>.

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.

## HINI Vaccinations

The City and County of San Francisco has reported that the first shipment of HINI vaccine has arrived. As school-aged children are among the top priority groups for receipt of vaccines, the city plans to conduct public health clinics beginning Thursday October 29 at nine San Francisco sites. The clinics will be open from 4-7 p.m. October 29 and 30, and Saturday, October 31, from 8-12 p.m. Please continue to check their website for updates on locations and hours at

## Go Bulldogs!

### Co-ed Volleyball Scores

October 27, CDS vs. Katherine Delmar Burke School

Game 1: KDBS 25, CDS 22

Game 2: KDBS 27, CDS 25

### Co-ed Volleyball Calendar

Thursday, November 5, 4 p.m.

CAIS, 150 Oak Street

<http://www.sfcddcp.org/FluVaccinesSites.html>. These clinics will be conducted to provide vaccines to the following priority groups:

- Children between the ages of 6 months and 24 years of age
- Pregnant women
- Caregivers of children under 6 months of age
- Health care providers with direct patient contact
- Emergency response personnel
- Individuals between the ages of 25-64 with medical conditions that put them at risk for complications of influenza

In addition, nasal spray vaccines for children are available in limited supply at some doctor's offices. Please call first. More supply is expected to arrive within 1-2 weeks and eventually, everyone who wants a vaccine should be able to receive one.

## 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.

## 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

## Kid Chow

Thank you to those of you who completed the Kid Chow survey last week. We received 35 responses, and it is clear that a delivered lunch option is very important to many who responded.

We would love to continue offering Kid Chow, but we'll need to find a way to increase participation, or spread the \$25/day charge amongst users if we are under 30 lunches that day. Are you interested in helping spread the word to increase participation? We will continue to explore hot lunch and other companies as options, and would love your help if you want to be involved in this project. Please contact Rebecca Kroll at [rebeccak@cds-sf.org](mailto:rebeccak@cds-sf.org) to help.

## Events

### Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Invitations were mailed this week to all grandparents and special friends for our annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day on Wednesday, November 25 from 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon. If your child's grandparent or special friend has not received an invitation, please check with Mary in the Development Office ([maryd@cds-sf.org](mailto:maryd@cds-sf.org)) to make sure that we have the correct information and address on file for them.

Guests are invited to gather in the yard (weather permitting) for coffee and a short presentation, spend time in the classrooms and attend a musical assembly at 11:30. Dismissal for all students will be at noon, following the assembly, and will take place in the classrooms and at double doors. Preschool pick up will take place at noon at the preschool gate and will be walk-in only. Please note that if you'd like a grandparent or special friend to pick up your child, you need to send in an authorization note before Wednesday, November 25.

## PTTA Update

### Coffee Club Demystified

*Coffee Club is a place where people get together and talk about coffees.*

Ummm. No. Coffee Club is a painless fundraiser; instead of buying your coffee from the grocery store, you now buy it from the Children's Day School PTTA. Coffee beans are delivered every other week.

*Grinding my own coffee beans is a big pain in the boutonniere.*

Home coffee grinders cost about \$20. When you grind your own beans, you get more for your money and a richer cup of coffee. And yes, it adds a step during the morning, but it's a step for a good cause!

*I don't drink coffee – is there some other way I can give to the Faculty & Staff Holiday Gift Fund?*

Fundraisers are always looking for some cold hard cash and this one is no exception! Contact Stephanie Scarpulla at [bluebirdcollection@gmail.com](mailto:bluebirdcollection@gmail.com) for more information.

*I missed the sign-up period.*

You can order coffee year-round, at anytime. Order it for just one month, or order it year-round. Order coffee for your office. Order a bag for your sister who lives in Hogeye, Arkansas and still drinks Folger's. Coffee beans make a great holiday gift. The sooner you sign up, the sooner your dollars go to the Faculty & Staff Holiday Gift Fund.

*I liked Wraps & Greens. What happened to Wraps & Greens?*

Many of us loved Wraps & Greens and all of us appreciate Tina Corse's hard work raising money for the Holiday Gift Fund with Wraps & Greens. With Coffee Club, we can raise that money purchasing something we use every day while supporting organic, local businesses. Coffee Club makes Children's Day School even greener!

*I left my order form in the car.*

Holy hootenanny. You think that excuse would fly in Mr. Kirk's class? Go get it and turn it in. Right now. No more excuses, people.

Contact Stephanie Scarpulla at [bluebirdcollection@gmail.com](mailto:bluebirdcollection@gmail.com) or 415-999-6227 with more of your questions, comments and coffee feedback.

### 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)

Children's Day School

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Submissions due Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Contact Mary to receive the Weekly via e-mail



## CDS PTTA Coffee Club Order Form

*Benefitting the CDS Faculty & Staff Holiday Gift Fund*

| Name                             | Contact Info |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
|                                  |              |
| Child's Backpack<br>Name & Class | Comments     |
|                                  |              |

| Item                 | Price Per<br>12 oz Bag | Quantity Per<br>Month | Total |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|                      |                        |                       |       |
|                      |                        |                       |       |
|                      |                        |                       |       |
|                      |                        |                       |       |
|                      |                        |                       |       |
|                      |                        |                       |       |
| <b>Monthly Total</b> |                        |                       |       |
| <b>Annual Total</b>  |                        |                       |       |

Payment Information (Circle One):    Check    Credit Card

CC # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card will be charged the monthly amount on the 20th of each month. Send checks to CDS (payable to Children's Day School) by the 15th of each month, with "PTTA Coffee Club" in the memo line.

Coffee Club is a year-round subscription and requires a 30-day cancellation or change notice. Please contact Stephanie Scarpulla at 415-999-6227 or bluebirdcollection@gmail.com with any change requests, questions or comments.



October 28, 2009

Re: Trustee Goals for the 2009-10 Year

Dear Members of the Children's Day School Community,

Each fall the Board of Trustees sets goals for the school to achieve by the time school lets out in June. The Board's goals are meant to be bigger picture strategic goals in addition to more detailed goals that the Head of School develops with the input of the faculty and the administrative team. In the past, Board goals have focused on topics such as expanding our facilities, achieving and maintaining greater diversity and becoming a greener school, to name a few. Here are our three big goals for this year:

### **I. Finding A New Head of School**

Our most important goal for this year is one that we announced last March after we first learned of Rick's plans to relocate to Decatur, Illinois to be with his wife, Victoria: namely to find and hire the best possible person to succeed Rick Ackerly as Head of Children's Day School. As we hope you know, we are far along in this process and with your help we expect to announce the hiring of our new Head by the end of 2009. But with choosing a new Head of School come two related goals: (1) to welcome and orient the new Head so s/he will be ready and eager to start work in July; and (2) to thank and say goodbye to our current Head. We will need your input and help to achieve these specific goals as they can only be achieved with involvement from the whole community.

### **2. Developing A Clear Plan for Growth**

The Board spent the better part of last year investigating the question of the optimal size of Children's Day School, that is, whether our school would have a stronger program if it reduces the number of classes to one section per grade, or fully commits to growing to two sections per grade. After carefully weighing various alternatives, the Board concluded unanimously this summer that CDS will be a stronger, more sustainable school, better able to achieve our mission if we grow to two sections per grade.

We know that many things need to happen for us to be able to grow in a way that maintains the quality of our children's education and our community including finding and/or building additional space, obtaining necessary approvals from the City, and obtaining support from our donors and approval from our lenders. The goal for this year, then, is to develop a detailed implementation plan for growth that includes a Master Facilities Plan and a revised Long Range Financial Plan along with a timeline that makes it clear when we can begin admitting more students. (See the attached memo from Rick Ackerly for information about our enrollment plan for next year, 2010-11).

### 3. Engaging the Entire Community in Support of the Capital Campaign

Over the past three years, parents, faculty, trustees, grandparents, foundations and other friends have generously contributed \$1.9 million toward our goal of \$2.25 million to fund extensive renovations to St. Joseph's Hall. We have worked together to fund improvements throughout the building – transforming the third floor into sustainable classrooms, enhancing fire and seismic safety, accessibility and building systems and adding a kitchen classroom and new bathrooms. Great progress has been made, and there are still several critical tasks remaining including installation of an elevator, additional seismic upgrades and construction of a porch, photovoltaic canopy and other environmentally friendly features. Our goal by the end of the school year is to inspire participation from everyone at CDS and gather together to celebrate the significant improvements to our facilities that result from this shared endeavor.

These are ambitious goals even in normal times and we certainly recognize that this past year has been anything but normal. Nonetheless, we are confident that with your help and participation, we will achieve these big goals thanks to the leadership of Rick and his capable team, who will continue their excellent work of advancing the school's curriculum, facilities and community. Thank you all for your continued participation in and commitment to the CDS community. With your help, we look forward to continuing the work of building an even more successful CDS.

Sincerely,

Matt Schwartz  
Board Chair

Richard Hylton  
Board Co-Vice Chair

Gayle Tsern-Strang  
Board Co-Vice Chair

# Memo



DATE: Friday, October 16, 2009  
TO: CDS Families  
FROM: Rick Ackerly, Head of School  
RE: **Near and long term enrollment plans for grades K-4**

1. During their June 2009 retreat, the CDS Board of Trustees decided that the long range plan for the school is to grow to two sections of each grade with an average of 22 students in each section (plus or minus 2 students).
2. The trustees are energetically developing a facilities master plan that will find the space we need to accommodate us as we grow (building, renting, etc). As soon as it is clear that we have an adequate, long term master plan in place, we will target to enroll 44 students in kindergarten every year, with 2 sections of about 22 students.
3. Meanwhile, because it is highly unlikely that we will have an adequate master plan in place by enrollment time of this year (i.e. February-March), **here are our enrollment goals for the 2010-11 school year that will allow us to fit into our existing facilities:**
  - A. Next year's kindergarten (class of 2019) – current enrollment is 36 preschoolers age-eligible for next year's K
    - **We are planning for two sections of kindergarten with 15-18 students in each room.**
    - If CDS families indicate they are likely to leave, we may add students to target a kindergarten of 32 students (plus or minus 2).
    - According to our calculations based on historical attrition between grades, it is highly likely that the class of 2019 will have between 22 and 26 students total by the time they enter 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Most likely 22 to 24.
    - As of today, we have space for 2 rooms to be devoted to the class of 2019 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (that's what we have now: 2 sections of K-3). (Past classes that have started kindergarten with 30 to 32 students have ended up with 22 to 24 students by fourth grade, or are currently tracking toward those numbers.)
  - B. This year's kindergarten and first grades (classes of 2017 and 2018)
    - Due to unexpectedly high enrollment in kindergarten for the classes of 2017 and 2018, we **plan to continue to target an enrollment of 22 students per section, with two sections per grade**, for grades 1-8 for the classes of 2017 and 2018.

- C. This year's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (class of 2016) – current enrollment is 28
- **We plan to have two sections of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next year (unless class size is 24 or less).**
  - Based on historical attrition between grades, we anticipate a 4<sup>th</sup> grade of 22-24—probably in one room.
- D. This year's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (class of 2015) – current enrollment is 26
- **Probably will be in one room next year for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, but it's too soon to know.** We will provide an update in December.
  - We will add students to this grade if necessary to target 22.

Important note: When the board is able to find and plan for the space necessary to grow the school to 2 sections of each grade, all of the above may change accordingly.