

HEADS' LETTER

JANUARY 6, 2005

2005 Brings both JOY and CHALLENGES! WELCOME BACK IDS!

Tuesday, January 4 was a great day to welcome back all of our IDS parents and children for the beginning of 2005. The sun was shining brightly, there were a lot of big smiles and warm hellos, and there was a huge sense of appreciation to be back at school after a good long break. At the same time, there seemed to be a big cloud hanging out there with both children and adults concerned about the tragedy in Southeast Asia and the horror of how several hours could drastically change the lives of so many.

It is amazing how fast we have connected in our hearts with strangers in far away places from cities and villages with names that many of us are hearing for the first time. The world seems to have become so much smaller and people much more fragile. IDS students and faculty will be joining in the Tsunami Relief Effort in the following three ways:

USED BOOK SALE on February 4 to support the Tsunami Relief Effort: The **Intermediate Leadership Council**, with representatives from 3rd, 4th and 5th grades, have unanimously decided to turn the Annual Used Book Fair into a fundraiser for the Tsunami Relief Effort. Fifty percent of the proceeds will be donated to help children in Southeast Asia.

NEEDED: Donations for the Used Book Sale will be accepted beginning Friday, January 7 through Friday, February 4. Books for all ages including adults are welcome. Whether you have one used book to donate or fifty, all will support this worthy cause. Please bring your used books to 1.) Ms. Kanarish in the 3rd grade classroom, 2.) Mrs. Lewis in the 5th grade classroom or 3.) the Middle School Office. We are hoping to receive books from all of our IDS families.

WHO ATTENDS? On Friday, February 4, **all IDS students and parents** will have the chance to attend the Used Book Sale. Beginning at 8:30, students will go with their classes to buy books priced for as low as 50 cents. Remember to mark that date and consider sending your child with extra change so that everyone may participate in this worthy cause. Parents are welcome to come throughout the morning from 8:30 -11:30 AM

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL DANCE to support the Tsunami Relief Effort: On **Friday, January 21**, the Middle School Student Council will be hosting a Tsunami Benefit Dance for IDS Middle School students. The dance will be from 7:00 to 10:00 PM in the Middle School Gym and will have a Gasparilla theme. Costumes are encouraged, but optional. Proceeds from admission will go to the Tsunami Relief Effort. Student Council will research organizations to determine where to send the funds. Dance reservation forms are in Middle School students' Thursday folders today. Reservations are \$5 and the form is due on Wednesday, January 12th in order to be eligible for a drawing prize. The drawing will be on Friday, January 14th edition of WIDS News. Tickets will be available at the door for \$7.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL SPONSORS PIZZA BENEFIT to support the Tsunami Relief Effort on Wednesday, January 26 from 3:00 – 3:45 PM. Middle School students will research different safe ways to contribute the proceeds from their event.

IDS SCIENCE FAIR OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 12 - 14

IDS students have been busy working toward the completion of science fair projects. Primary students have been exploring a question and using the inquiry approach (scientific method) to find an answer as part of classroom lesson plans. They have created science boards reflecting their scientific investigation.

Intermediate classrooms started their Science program in September, with each grade level investigating a question and following the scientific method of exploration to reach their conclusions. Each grade level completed a class project at that time. All fifth graders are required to complete a Science Fair Project, which is then judged by volunteers in various scientific and educational fields. The judging will take place on Tuesday, January 11th in the IDS Theatre. Each year the winning projects are submitted to the Hillsborough County Science Fair. Other intermediate students also have the opportunity to participate in the Hillsborough County Science Fair by entering the IDS Fair with an individual or group project.

Middle School students who choose to go above and beyond the rigors of their science classes in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades join Mrs. Morey for the Science Fair elective. In this elective, the students pose a well-researched hypothesis and following it through using scientific methodology. These projects will also be judged and exhibited in the IDS Science Fair next week.

All of our Science Fair participants deserve applause and recognition for going above and beyond. Completion of a science project and board requires many, many hours of inquiry and work outside of the school day.

All Science Project Boards will be on display for students and parents next week. Classes will be signing up to view these projects. We are extending the invitation to our IDS parents also. **Fifth grade students will be acting as docents during this time. Times for parent viewing are:**

Wednesday and Friday, January 12 and 14

8:00 – 8:30 AM

*Thursday, January 13

8:00 – 8:45 AM (recommended for fifth grade parents as all fifth graders will be present with boards)

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Session 3 begins January 24

The brochure describing all of the activities is in this week's Thursday's folder. Mrs. Grady reminds everyone to register early so that you can be sure to reserve spots in your favorite option.

IDS once again offers our COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL with both group and individual lessons. For a brochure, call (813) 961-3087 or come by the office.

ADMISSIONS' OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 20 at 8:30 AM

Remind your friends that this is an opportunity to come and learn all about IDS, as well as get a tour with our wonderful Middle School Ambassadors. IDS will be opening a PRE-K 3 program Fall 2005 when three year olds will be invited to get an early start with an IDS education!!!

FIFTH GRADERS TO BECOME COMMUNITY SERVICE JR. AMBASSADORS HELPING WITH ARRIVAL ETIQUETTE

Fifth graders will act as Jr. Ambassadors to assist with morning arrivals on the east side. Our fifth grade leaders will assist teachers in starting the day for students with a warm welcome and wishes for a great day. Mrs. Kerr and the Specials Team will work closely to insure a smooth arrival in the morning. We ask all parents to follow *DROP-OFF ETIQUETTE* with speed limit, parking courtesy, and having all belongings ready to go so that we can move the drop-off system safely and smoothly.

PFA NEWS:

LUNCH FORMS are in your Thursday folder. Lunch for the first half of the year ends on Monday, January 31. All lunch forms for the second half of the year are due by **JANUARY 21** in order to insure that your child will have a school lunch.

A huge thanks to Sandy McCullin for organizing a great lunch program. The volunteers have been wonderful. Please remember that we have five months left of school. We run our program with volunteer assistance. Now is the time to become reinvigorated: to continue to volunteer or to start now by contacting Sandy McCullin at home (813) 991-6322, cell (813) 404-7714 or e-mail smccullin@tampabay.rr.com. Help make her voluntary leadership job fun by being there to help our kids. A big thanks to all of our Lunch Chairs.

BIG EVENT 2005 PRESENTS RAINFOREST RHAPSODY: AN AMAZON ADVENTURE on March 12. See page 4 for details. The donation forms for auction items are enclosed in today's Thursday folder. Thanks to those of you who have already responded. Make sure to mark your calendar and make arrangements to be at this great event. Each year it receives rave reviews!!!

BIG EVENT CATALOG COVER CONTEST: Directions for students to submit a drawing for the catalog cover for the Big Event are enclosed in the Thursday folder. All entries must be submitted by **February 4**. All entries will be displayed in the library and all those who enter will be recognized at a Monday Morning Assembly. The winner will be announced in the Heads' Letter. Encourage your child to read their enclosed flyer and have fun submitting a drawing.

HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT GREETED WITH SCOREBOARD GIFT!!!

At the IDS Holiday Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament held December 17 and 18, the IDS girls won their first tournament in IDS history during a season of being undefeated. They were thrilled to be playing in the Middle School gym with their new giant professional scoreboard **donated by 8th grade parents Scott and Jane Wetmore**. The top of the scoreboard in huge letters says, "*TAKE THE SHOT*". Our girls did just that. They played with class, fun, good sportsmanship, and excellent skills. Congratulations to both our Girls and Boys teams for an excellent tournament and thanks to our coaches and boosters for volunteering their time to make it happen. And to the Wetmores', we are so humbled by and overjoyed with your generosity to our teams and IDS!!! *THANKS with an IDS Cheer!!!*

PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR IDSers

(To our IDS families, please share special moments so that everyone can enjoy with you.)

TEACHER: Fran Ehrlich was featured in the *Carrollwood News* on January 5, along with students **Blake Rehl** and **Avi Baskin**. Thank you to **Jennifer Rehl** for recommending her as an outstanding teacher.

Middle School Teachers, **Tom Bronson and Thelma Rosenberg**, have been selected to present two sessions on programming the graphing calculator at the Teaching Teachers with Technology (T-Cubed) Conference this Friday and Saturday in Daytona. Bravo on this honor!

Linda Boza, Middle School teacher and Assistant Division Leader, received a scholarship to attend the American Council of Independent Studies Global Teachers Conference in London, England. Mrs. Boza, you deserve the honor!

Stephen Kaywell and Brian Waksman, 8th graders, had Book Reviews published in the *St. Petersburg Times* on December 6, 2004. What a great and impressive honor!!

Alum, **Tristin Kauchick** (Class of 2004), was honored as the MVP for the King High School Volleyball team. She is a student in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. Congratulations to Tristen and her proud IDS Coaches!

Jessica Brewer (4th Grade) competed in Boca Raton at the USA Level 5 gymnastic meet. Jessica brought home a Gold medal in addition to her other achievements. Bravo Jessica! Your talent shines!!!

RAINFOREST RHAPSODY AN AMAZON ADVENTURE

January 6, 2005

Dear IDS Community,

PARADISE IS WITHIN OUR REACH!

We invite you to visit a place where anything is possible; the exotic, the mysterious, the adventurous... IDS Parents and Friends are invited to embark on a Rainforest Adventure, Saturday, March 12, 2005. Come explore our jungle while dancing, eating and bidding on our live and silent auction treasures.

Our goal is to have each IDS family donate two items to be auctioned off at The Big Event. Think of all the places you visit everyday. Ask those galleries, theme parks, sports clubs, hairdressers, dentists, hotels, etc. to donate items or services to help support our school. Let's make this year the most profitable ever!

An auction form is included in today's Thursday folder. Additional forms are available in the office. **The deadline for all donations is Thursday, February 17.**

Some ideas include:



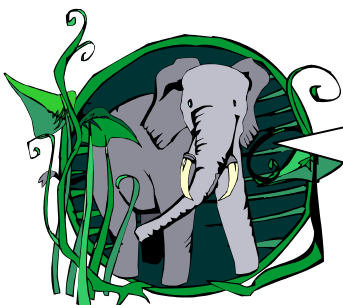
- Electronics
- Gift certificates for dining or shopping
- Sports/ Concert tickets
- Jewelry
- Gift certificates for services (massage, nails, spa)
- Vacation rentals/ hotel stays
- YOUR IDEA HERE!



We will also have the very successful "SIGN UP" portion of the auction. This section of the Event includes opportunities to participate in unique experiences that you sign up for at a certain price per person. (You could dine at your favorite teacher's home or send your child to a sleepover in Corbett Hall!) If you have any ideas for a sign up item, please call one of us at the numbers below!

Julie Salek, Big Event Co-Chair
(813) 382-2525
jsalek@prutropical.com

Kathy von Thaden, Big Event Co-Chair
(813) 695-6784
kvonthaden@tampabay.rr.com



Catalog Cover Contest Deadline is February 4.

See the insert in today's Heads' Letter to read the details of this year's catalog cover contest!

Teaching Veteran Ehrlich Says She 'Loves Every Day'

INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL TEACHER

By KATE KRAMER
kkramer@mediageneral.com

Fran Ehrlich doesn't just teach her second-grade class facts – she teaches them how to learn.

Ehrlich begins her 37th year of teaching this year. This will be her 14th year at the Independent Day School in Carrollwood.

Pam Ripple, associate headmaster at Independent Day School, said Ehrlich is highly dedicated to each child she teaches.

"She has each individual child's best interest at heart and is just awesome," she said.

Ehrlich, who has taught every grade from kindergarten to 12th, has led classrooms in Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Florida.

She uses that experience to help her teach her second-grade class at Independent Day School.

She also holds a before-school help program every morning from 7 to 8 a.m. and a reading and math club in the afternoon.

Ehrlich, a University of Maine graduate, received her master's at University of Connecticut.

Q: What is your style of teaching?

A: What I try to do is analyze children and find their multiple intelligences. I find what they love the most and what they want to learn about.

Kids will give you insight in



Photo courtesy Karen Waksman

Fran Ehrlich, a teacher at Independent Day School in Carrollwood, uses Venn diagrams as a tool to enhance concepts in mathematics with students Avi Baskin, left, and Blake Rehl.

what they want to learn. If a child is interested in art, you can challenge that child in math and have that child draw the problem.

Having a perspective of teaching junior and senior high school has made me a better teacher because it helps me teach my students techniques that they can use in high school and junior high including scanning text and using highlighters. I will tell my students in a whispered voice 'I remember that I taught this to seventh- and eighth-graders.' Children will (then) be more interested in learning it.

I also try to draw a thread from every subject for each topic we learn. I will have children write about an insect,

study the geography of where it is and have them draw the insect.

I teach them to be "I-can-ers" so they will never give up. Children will feel empowered if you believe in them.

Q: How do you think your style of teaching helps students?

A: It teaches them to be life-long learners. They learn how to learn; how to find main ideas, how to read to learn and how to transfer information into all subjects.

It helps them get what they want out of life so they can be successful, proud, independent and develop a good self-concept.

did it by himself gave me the most pride. He was the one who didn't give up.

Children learn concepts in pockets and as a teacher I must teach them how the concepts connect together. I'm not teaching facts because facts are going to change. I am teaching how to learn. It's not the what. It's the how and why you are learning.

Q: What advice would you give parents who want to help a child to do well in school?

A: Parents must help their children. They have to sit with them and edit their work and help them. They must guide them.

They shouldn't give them the words or the answers, but help their children learn it themselves.

Q: What is the biggest challenge facing teachers today?

A: The biggest challenge for teachers is staying focused. Teachers must keep growing, learning and reading. Teachers need to love what they do. The kids will know their teachers love it, and they will love it too.

Q: What is your favorite part of teaching?

A: Just being with the kids. This is my home away from home. I've loved teaching everyday of my life. It's my hobby. It's my life, and it makes me feel good about myself. The kids are funny, and they really help you enjoy life.

Q: Is there any one particular incident that sticks out in mind as rewarding?

A: There is one situation that really brought teaching home to me. I was teaching first grade and I was teaching one boy how to read. I tried every technique to get him to learn how to read, and we worked every morning and afternoon. I was not going to give up on that child.

On Feb. 1, he came in to school and announced to me, "Miss Ehrlich, I learned how to read last night. I learned myself."

He absorbed everything I taught him and utilized it so he could read. The fact that he