

HEADS' LETTER

JANUARY 8, 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR: IDS-CC WELCOMES 2009!

We hope everyone had a great break. On Monday, January 5, 2009, our teachers returned to prepare for an exciting rest of the year. The morning in-service training was filled with reaffirming our goals, setting high expectations for ourselves and our students, and reviewing and reinforcing skills that help accelerate learning in a brain-based learning classroom. The afternoon was filled with division and team meetings along with classroom preparation for the return of our IDSers on Tuesday. Our entire faculty and staff were all geared up for a wonderful welcome back, and indeed, it was one of those great IDS days; everyone was filled with appreciation for each other and the opportunity to learn together in this amazing setting.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR FAMILIES



It was a very humbling time for our teachers and staff, including facilities and office, when our IDS families, honored them so generously during the holiday time. Please know how much everyone deeply appreciated your thoughtfulness. Huge kudos to the PFA leadership and classroom RPC's for all of the time and energy to coordinate such an effort. Also a huge thanks to those who purchased SCRIP for work and home holiday gifts. Each SCRIP has a value of 2% to 8% depending on the business. The purchaser of the SCRIP gets the same value, the school earns the percentage, and everyone wins. Thanks so much to Lauren Mandel for starting and coordinating this effort for the last five years. SCRIP are available **ALL YEAR LONG** by calling or e-mailing the office for your request.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY: MULTIPLE OPTIONS

The Heads' Letter is written each week to keep our families aware of what is happening in school, to help families prepare for upcoming events and to share our enthusiasm for all of the many things that take place each and every day in our "magical kingdom" for learning. Our goal is to get the information out to you in only four pages! Some people like all of the details, some people prefer to skim, and some put it in a pile until they can get to it...Whatever, the Heads' Letter provides a source of information as well as documenting a history for the school. Information is sent to our families in three ways:

1. The Heads' Letter is sent to your e-mail addresses weekly and takes you directly to our website. This information remains on our website so that you can always refer to the site. Please be sure to communicate your current, accurate e-mails to us by e-mailing info@idsyes.com.
2. You can find the Heads' Letter in your Thursday folder each week. The very first Heads' Letter was added to the Thursday folder tradition in January 1997. Many people think that we should go paperless. Our position remains aligned with how we teach in the classroom, where our success is based on finding as many ways as possible to reach and communicate effectively with our students. With regard to the Heads' Letter, our goal is to **communicate the information** rather than force people into the digital age. Each person will do that on his/her own and in his/her own time. Also, while some people are attached to their computers, others use it much less frequently. Please feel free to share the paper copy with your friends and neighbors so that they can enjoy all we are doing here.
3. When we want to send quick reminders, updates or in case of an emergency, we will also use the Heads' Letter e-mail list to keep you informed. That is why we really need to ask everyone to keep us up to date with your e-mail addresses. We also have the Alert system as a back-up which we tested in the Fall. As an FYI, we will be running another test in the next couple of weeks.



STUDENT/FACULTY SPORTS CHALLENGE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009 - 6:00 PM DINNER IN PAVILION

7:00 PM GAME TIME CORBETT HALL



Please come and join us for a night of “family friendly” sports competition as the faculty challenges the students in a match of volleyball and a game of basketball Friday, January 9, 2009. The pre-game dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. in the pavilion and the games begin at 7:00 p.m. in Corbett Hall.

It’s a great night for everyone to have dinner and enjoy the annual competition and choosing up sides to cheer for your team. The cost for tickets is \$5.00 for pre-order by 8:00 a.m. Friday morning or the cost is \$8.00 at the door. Ticket cost includes dinner and admission to both games. All proceeds go to benefit our IDS Athletic Program! This will be a great evening of fun and school spirit for students and parents of all ages!!! We hope to see everyone there!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:

EARLY DISMISSAL AND EXTENDED DAY OFFERED ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES will be January 15 and 16. Please be sure to be in contact with your teachers and confirm your times. January is always a great time to renew commitment with our children in raising the bar on homework habits, work habits, and pride in our accomplishments for now and the future. Many of the conferences will be student-led. Your child/children have worked hard to learn how to self-assess, reflect on progress, and identify where to revise and refine. Just a gentle parent reminder **to praise their efforts and how well they persist to achieve their goals...and think AMAZING! Children are a remarkable marvel! Enjoy every moment with them! We do! (well almost every moment! ☺)**

EARLY DISMISSAL WILL BE THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, AT 12:00 P.M. Please be prompt so that our teachers can grab lunch and then begin back to back conferences well into the evening on Thursday night.

We are offering **Extended Day** on that Thursday for those in need of child-care, from 12:00 until 7:30 p.m. If your child will be staying at Extended Day, *please provide a lunch* and reserve with Ms. Marie at (813) 961-3087. The cost for the afternoon will be \$15.00, regardless of the length of stay (except for those on the Yearly-Extended Day Plan). We are also trying a NEW complimentary service by offering to watch our IDSers for parents who have multiple conferences or need childcare for a **SHORT PERIOD DURING A CONFERENCE**. Please check in with Ms. Marie to advise her of your need.



FIELD DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009, 1:00 – 2:30 P.M.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED



Field Day for Pre-K4 through 8th grades will be held January 21. The PE team runs an incredible Annual Multi-age Cooperative Field Day with the help of IDS parent volunteers. We need you again this year, too! Please hold that date and help make this a special event. You can contact PFA President Amy Bottini if you would like to volunteer and join in the fun!

FIND ME PLEASE!!!



OUR FOUND AREA is loaded with beautiful clothing items, especially coats, sweaters and jackets as well as lunch boxes that were left over the last six weeks. They have been washed and are ready to go to charity, but they are calling out for their original owners first! Please check by the bell tower on the east-side this week and during parent/teacher conferences. On January 20, they will all be donated for charity. **WE ARE ENCOURAGING EVERYONE TO WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING SENT TO SCHOOL INCLUDING CLOTHES AND LUNCHBOXES ETC.** Thanks so much.

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION (PFA) NEWS

1. **IDS Parent Book Club will meet next Tuesday, January 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the Grand Room**, on the second floor above the Kindergarten classrooms. We will discuss One Fifth Avenue by Candice Bushnell. All are welcome to join us for what promises to be a very funny, New York City-style discussion (read the book and you'll know what I mean)! Also at Tuesday's meeting, we will set the date for our next gathering, when we will discuss Burning Bright by Tracy Chevalier and perhaps even the third book on our list: The Shack by William Young. For more information, contact Vera Murphy Trayner at vpmurphy@comcast.net or (813) 948-4016.



2. **MARK THE DATE: BIG EVENT COMING SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009**



This is the perfect time to start thinking of what YOU can obtain for a donation item. We count on the generous donations of our parents and their resources to obtain our auction items. Please take a copy of our donation letter with you when you are out doing your shopping, dining, etc. **You will find one enclosed in this week's Heads' Letter.** Ask those with whom you do business to donate an item of any size for our auction. In the past, the auction has offered everything imaginable: autographed memorabilia, event tickets, books, art, jewelry, spa packages, dinner out, movie passes, household items, trips. It is important to remember that items of small value are just as important as expensive items because we often group them and create great packages out of them in combination with one another.

How do I get involved?

Call Julie Salek, Big Event Chairperson, at (813) 382-2525 or come to our next committee meeting, which is to be geared towards many important parts of the event including decorations, invitations and more. There are so many exciting opportunities to get involved, and this is truly one of the most memorable experiences at IDS each year. Thanks and we look forward to talking with you soon!

BIG EVENT MEETINGS

FRIDAY MORNINGS, starting tomorrow! 8:15 a.m.
Grand Room (above Kindergarten)

KUDOS, HONORS, AND THANKS!

At the December Monday Morning Assembly, Brownie Troops #193 and #976 presented a check to IDS for \$326.40 which was raised by selling baked goods and lemonade at the 40th Anniversary Celebration in November. The Brownie troops and their leaders were so proud to donate the proceeds to their school. We are soooooo appreciative and proud that they love their school so much to count us as a high priority. Bravo and gratitude go to these troops. The money will be used to beautify the area in front of the Farish Center that really needs a "make-over".

The Associates in the IT Department at Raymond James raised funds through bake, soda and hot dog sales etc., to give donations to the community. One of the selections is the "adopt a class" program. Each month a name is drawn and a \$150 donation is given to the classroom of choice by that person. Michelle Davison chose to donate to the seventh grade English class on behalf of her daughter Emma Davison. The money will go directly to purchasing literature for their class, so they can begin to enjoy the contribution immediately. Thank you Michelle Davison and Raymond James for putting IDS on the top of your list!! Ms. Ragg and Mrs. Jagdmann are grinning from ear to ear with this honor and surprise!

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS: AUDITION TIME

This Saturday is audition day for the next two Community School of the Arts musicals. The auditions are open to the community so please invite your friends and neighbors. For students in grades second through seventh, we are producing *How To Eat Like A Child*, and for students in grades eighth through twelfth we will offer *A Chorus Line*. Registration forms are available in the music room. **Please come to Corbett Hall for the auditions.**



Grades	Show	Day and time	Audition
2 – 7	How To Eat Like A Child	Saturday 9:00 – 12:00	Sing a song and read lines from the script
8 – 12	A Chorus Line	Saturday 10:00 – 1:00	Sing 32 bars of a song in the style of the show, extensive dance audition (wear appropriate clothes and footwear), cold readings from the script.



PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR OUR IDSers

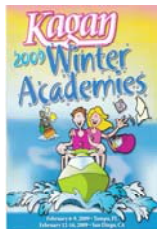
TO OUR IDS FAMILIES, PLEASE SHARE SPECIAL MOMENTS SO THAT EVERYONE CAN ENJOY WITH YOU.

IDS Alum, Jordan Morgan (Class of 2008), was a stellar volleyball team player at IDS and went on to Sickles High School to join their Junior Varsity Volleyball team. At the end of their successful season, Jordan was awarded the Most Valuable Player for the most kills, digs, and aces in serving. At one of the regular season games, she served 14 points in a row and eight of those were aces. Congratulations also to IDS' Coach Don Dewey for helping to prepare another successful athlete!



IDS-CC: A PRIVATE SCHOOL WITH A PUBLIC PURPOSE

February 6 thru 9: For the past 10 years, IDS has hosted private and public schools for a Kagan Cooperative Learning Workshop. This is first year that the Kagan group has designated Independent Day School Corbett Campus as the site for one of their Annual Winter Academies. Teachers from all over the nation and world are invited to attend. We are enclosing a brochure so that all of our parents are able to register or parents may choose to share with their friends outside IDS. All registrations go through Kagan. Please know that in return for opening our classrooms for observation, our teachers get complimentary registrations to attend the Saturday and Sunday trainings. **So while we are giving a lot, we are also gaining more opportunities to polish and refine our own skills. There is always MORE to learn!**



SESSION FOUR AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Session 3 has two more weeks before ending. Please be sure to check next week's Thursday folder for the new After School Brochure to sign up for Session 4. Next week, we will also tell you all about how great our Chinese program is going, how our Nanjing 4 from China who were here for 2006-07 are doing and much more!



THANKS AND REMINDERS

FIRST: Thanks to all of the families that have already contributed to the Annual Giving Fund! We are soooooo grateful! Our goal is 100%. All of our teachers and Board members have contributed!! Okay everyone else, please participate through our website, drop-off or in the mail!

SECOND: Bravo to our early birds who beat the February 1st deadline and have already sent in their re-enrollment contracts! You honor us with your quick response! Everyone make sure you received your re-enrollment packet! At the PFA meeting today eighth grade parents stated how strange it felt to be without one!!!

**Please see
"All School"
enclosures
found in
Thursday Folder.**



**BIG EVENT LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION
FOR INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL - MARCH 7, 2009**

We appreciate your support of this annual event to benefit the students of Independent Day School. The funds raised from this event, including the proceeds from the auction, will have a direct impact on our students. All donations received by **February 20, 2009** will be acknowledged in the 2009 Big Event Souvenir Auction Catalog. To make your donation, please fill out the form below and return it to Independent Day School. All services, trips, etc. should be valid for at least one year after the auction, through 2010. All items and services donated to the auction are tax-deductible as permitted under the Tax Reform Act of 1986. A letter acknowledging your gift will be provided for your tax records upon request. If the item is to be delivered or collected after receipt of this form, please include the name and contact information in order for the purchaser to receive the item.

Please Print:

Donor/Company Name: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Item Description:

(Describe fully, as you would like to have item appear in catalog)

Specific Instructions or Restrictions/Exp. Date: _____

Item Value: _____

Contact name and number: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

IDS Use Only:

Item Secured Storage Location: _____ Category# _____

White to Acquisition Yellow to Inventory Pink to Donor

Event Chairperson: Julie Salek (813) 382-2525 jcsalek@hotmail.com



Independent Day School
12015 Orange Grove Drive, Tampa, FL 33618
(813) 961-3087 Phone (813) 963-0846 Fax



CASINO NIGHT UNDERWRITING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to all underwriters having their family/ corporation name printed on the Big Event Thank You sign, which hangs on the Orange Grove Drive fence from March-June 2009, the exciting underwriting benefits for this year's Casino Night are as follows:

High Stakes Room Underwriter: \$5,000

- Ten complimentary tickets to the event at a reserved table
- Corporation/ Family information displayed as the sponsor of the HIGH STAKES Casino Room
 - Full page ad in the event program catalog
 - Corporation/ Family information printed on souvenir playing cards distributed at the event to all guests in attendance
- Recognition on signage on Orange Grove Drive fence from March 2009-June 2009

Card Deck Underwriter: \$2,500

- Four complimentary tickets to the event
- Half page ad in the event program catalog
- Corporation/ Family Information printed on deck of playing cards distributed at the event to all guests in attendance
- Recognition on signage on Orange Grove Drive fence from March 2009-June 2009

Texas Hold'Em Underwriter: \$1,000

- Two complimentary tickets to the event
- Half page ad in the event program catalog
- Texas Hold'Em table named after your family/ corporation; complete with designated signage on table and emcee recognition
- Recognition on signage on Orange Grove Drive fence from March 2009-June 2009

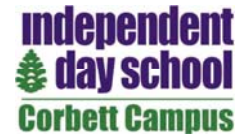
Blackjack Underwriter: \$500

- Two complimentary tickets to the event
- Half page ad in the program catalog
- Blackjack table named after your family/ corporation; complete with designated signage on table and emcee recognition
- Recognition on signage on Orange Grove Drive fence from March 2009-June 2009

Roulette Underwriter: \$250

- Two complimentary tickets to the event
- Quarter size page ad in the program catalog
- Roulette table named after your family/ corporation; complete with designated signage on table and emcee recognition
- Recognition on signage on Orange Grove Drive fence from March 2009-June 2009





Underwriting Reservation Form

Name(s) as you would like it to appear on signage, screen, and catalog.

Also, please attach camera ready artwork.

Business Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

____ YES! I would like to be the exclusive ***High Stake Room Underwriter.***

A check for \$5,000 is enclosed.

____ YES! I would like to be a ***Card Deck Underwriter.***

A check for \$2,500 is enclosed.

____ YES! I would like to be a ***Texas Hold'Em Underwriter.***

A check for \$1,000 is enclosed.

____ YES! I would like to be a ***Blackjack Underwriter.***

A check for \$500 is enclosed.

____ YES! I would like to be a ***Roulette Underwriter.***

A check for \$250 is enclosed.

____ YES! I would like to make a donation to help underwrite The Big Event as a teacher sponsor.

Please use my donation to provide admission to the Big Event for a teacher and guest

Please make check payable and mail to:

Independent Day School
ATTN: Big Event
12015 Orange Grove Drive
Tampa, FL 33618

Questions? Please contact Big Event Chairperson Julie Salek 813-382-2525 jcsalek@hotmail.com

WEEKLY SPORTS UPDATE

January 12-17, 2009

Daily Sports Hotline: (813) 961-3087, ext. 399



Date	Time	Team/Sport	School	Location	Pick-Up	Comments
Sat. 1/10	1:00	Cheerleading	Practice	Corbett Hall	4:00	
Mon.	4:00	Boys Basketball - Silver	Berkeley Prep	MS Gym	5:00	
1/12	4:00	Boys Basketball - Green	Berkeley Prep	Corbett Hall	5:00	
	5:00	Boys Basketball - Purple	Berkeley Prep	Corbett Hall	6:00	
	4:00	Girls Basketball - Green	Berkeley Prep	Berkeley Prep	6:45	
	5:00	Girls Basketball - Purple	Berkeley Prep	Berkeley Prep	6:45	
	3:00	Cheerleading	Berkeley Prep	Corbett Hall	6:00	
	3:00	Track & Field	Practice	8th Grade Deck	4:45	
	4:00	Wrestling	Practice	Dean Dining Hall	5:15	
Tues. 1/13	3:00	Girls Basketball - Green	Practice	MS Gym	4:00	
	3:00	Girls Basketball - Purple	Practice	MS Gym	5:00	
	5:00	Volleyball	Club	Corbett Hall	7:00	
Weds.	off	Boys Basketball - Green	off			
1/14	4:00	Boys Basketball - Silver	Acad. Holy Names	Acad. Holy Names	6:45	
	5:00	Boys Basketball - Purple	Acad. Holy Names	Acad. Holy Names	6:45	
	4:00	Girls basketball - Green	Acad. Holy Names	MS Gym	5:00	
	5:00	Girls Basketball - Purple	Acad. Holy Names	MS Gym	6:00	
	3:00	Cheerleading	Practice	Corbett Hall	4:30	
	3:30	Track & Field	Practice	8th Grade Deck	4:45	
Thur. 1/15	5:00	Vermont Girls Basketball	Practice	MS Gym	7:00	
Fri. 1/16	Off	Athletes' Day Off				
Sat. 1/17	2:00	Cheerleading	Party/Sleepover	Lightning City Gym	TBA	Sleepover in M.S.
	8:00	Wrestling	Invitational Meet	Indian Rocks Christian	TBA	See Coach Taylor