

HEADS' LETTER

JANUARY 17, 2008

A HUGE THANKS TO IDS: COMMUNITY SERVICE On January 10, IDS received a very nice thank you for the donations given as a result of our November collections to Metropolitan Ministries. The letter thanked us for "...an amazing outpouring of love and hope." A huge thanks to the Middle School Student Council for organizing this effort!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES, NOON DISMISSAL, AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY It's a busy few days! Today we dismiss at 12:00 noon to officially begin Parent/Teacher Conferences. However, there were a lot of early bird parents conferencing last night and walking around with some very big smiles! Teachers are looking forward to connecting with you this week. Here's a friendly reminder **reprinted** from last week's Heads' Letter: "This is a good time to renew commitment with our children in raising the bar on homework habits, work habits and pride in our accomplishments thus far. Remember to praise their **efforts** and how well they **persist** to achieve their goals. Many of your conferences will be student-led. They worked hard to learn how to self-assess, reflect on progress, and identify where to revise and refine. Praise those efforts!! And think AMAZING! They will feel your joy!"

SHARE THE GIFT OF AN IDS EDUCATION Many of you have asked about next year for your friends' children. There are two ways you can help them: 1.) Call the Admissions Office (813-961-3087) and have Pam Barfield schedule a personal tour and/or 2.) join us for an OPEN House or Campus Tour Day. On **Friday, January 25**, we will host our third Admissions Open House of the school year for new families to come, visit, and "catch the spirit" of an IDS education for 3 year-olds through 8th graders. We have added campus tours for **Sunday, January 27**, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm to accommodate the challenge of work-week schedules.

Over 4,000 educators have visited or trained at IDS in the last 5 - 6 years. We are proud to help guide the way for all students to have an education that prepares students to lead and succeed in the 21st century. Let your friends and neighbors know so that they too can have master teachers who work and study tirelessly on behalf of students every single day!! It's a labor of love!...Our mission remains: "**OUR Children First**" and to have a "**positive impact on the greater community.**"

HEADMASTER THOMAS LECK LED WITH DISTINCTION and CREATIVITY Headmaster Leck started his day leading the Monday Morning Assembly with a great command of the entire student body, faculty and guests. He introduced our youngest dance group called **Broadway Babies** under the expert leadership of Ms. Lisa Kelly. Our young dancers proceeded in "wowing" the audience with a dance number from *Annie*. There was also a very enthusiastic presentation from our very skilled Middle School Warrior Cheerleaders coached by Middle School teacher, Mrs. Chris Thomas. The cheerleaders even taught us a new cheer to "catch the spirit with IDS". January birthday recognition was preceded by a renewed appeal to recycle all of our cans and plastic bottles from Middle School teacher Mrs. Jenn Jagdmann.

Headmaster Leck then shared his plans for the day which included an appearance on WIDS for the purpose of teaching Dr. Swartzman his very own choreographed dance steps. And guess what, he made it happen and the students were treated to a special showing of WIDS. It turns out that he is quite the dancer; however, Dr. Swartzman might take some more work!!! Another creative addition to his leadership was reinforcing Math with a bar graph lesson by implementing a whipped cream eating contest for the Multi-age Cool Cats!!! (Ask them for details! It was truly brilliant!) This was only a small portion of Headmaster Leck's activities as he masterfully ran the school throughout the day!!! Congratulations and thanks to Headmaster Leck and his parents Genevieve and Jeff Leck for giving him this Big Event opportunity.

A PARENT OPPORTUNITY: TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23. This is a "reprint reminder" from last week: **TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE:** Desktops and Printers and Macs, Oh My! You've heard about all the wonderful things going on in the computer lab from your children. Now is your chance to experience it for yourself. Experience all of the technology that is available at IDS, allowing our students to soar with Mr. Mel (Matt Melnick) and Mr. Jason Contino, our Technology Wizards.

This special opportunity will take place on Wednesday, January 23, at 8:05 am in the East Side Computer Lab. Bring your children to school and then report to Mr. Mel's classroom next to fifth grade.

EDU-NEWS AROUND IDS

FIFTH GRADE RETREAT: In preparation for Middle School, the Fifth grade was treated to a "mini-mini retreat" in the Farish Center when they returned to school last week. In Middle School, our Annual "in-house "retreat, reinforces work habits, character building, effective communication, study habits, an appreciation for learning strategies, and sets general expectations for reaching high standards. Each year the latest in training videos from the business world are utilized to "raise the bar" for student behavior and academic success! Fifth graders got a taste of that experience as they learned about the power of the brain's amygdala in commanding our behavioral actions. They were also the first to see the new business video "What's Your Pickle?" which is the third in an outstanding training series that everyone should see!! Fifth grade teachers have continued the theme...ask a fifth grader and they will tell you the "*power of the pickle.*"

FIFTH GRADE students demonstrated poise, presence, and the ability to clearly articulate their findings during the **IDS Science Fair** held on January 8. During parent and guest visitations, they answered questions and explained their study with so much information and enthusiasm about their investigations. Their knowledge was truly impressive. All are to be congratulated. The science fair judges had a big job choosing the ones that would represent IDS at the County Science Fair. Please see page 4 for results.

FIFTH GRADE: Katie Bernstine, Sarah Clark, and Issac Shur entered a recent Creative Communications Poetry Contest. All three had their work selected. We are so proud of them for taking the initiative to go above and beyond! The judges are poets, writers, and educators in elementary, secondary, and higher education. Poems are selected on their literary merit, creativity, or social significance. The chosen poems are published in an anthology "A Celebration of Young Poets" in order to offer a creative outlet that honors youth. The anthology will be published in four to five months.

FOURTH GRADE inspires a love of reading through class novels, literature circles, and projects that breathe life into books and the art of reading. For example: Have you ever heard of Oprah's book club? Well, Fourth grade has their own. Each semester they choose 15 different book choices. Students have lively discussions in small groups about the story's plot. Students plan, meet, and compare notes giving them even greater insight into what is being read. The organized interaction teaches life skills and allows for choice.

In addition, during the course of the school year, fourth grade requires students to read great literature. Fourth graders read three class focus novels with an in-depth study of each, followed by a comprehensive project where students take a critical look at what they are reading.

Currently, our fourth graders are so excited about sharing their culminating scrapbook project with parents at conferences. After an in-depth study on character analysis, students compiled a scrapbook of their focus novel book, "*The Kid Who Ran for President.*" What a great way to learn about government and more!!

THIRD GRADE: In addition to teachers preparing to meet with parents for conferences, students in most grades were doing the same. The student-led conferences allow students to learn at an early age to assess their progress. What a thrill it was to enter **third grade** and see every student analyze his/her work using a goal sheet that included: "*1. Areas I excel in are... 2. I'm proud of my progress in... 3. Goals I would like to accomplish during the rest of the year are...*" Bravo third graders! We are proud to **celebrate** their success, give **bravos** to their accomplishments both big and small, and we hope you join us in **inspiring** our students to continuously look toward self-growth and improvements. We hope to develop a life-long learning mentality.

SIX IDSers CHOSEN TO SING WITH THE BEST: Six IDSers were part of a grand concert performance at the Florida Music Educators Association All-State Conference held in Tampa at the Convention Center on Friday, January 11. After 11 hours of rehearsal, conducted by the famed Chicago conductor, Rollo Dilworth, the 200 singers performed in front of an audience of 800 music educators (including our own Michael LeBlanc, Tom McColley and Barbara McBride). Each singer was chosen by a state committee listening to hundreds of CDs of students auditioning for this honor.

Bravo to Kendal Allen (4th grade), Victoria Beaudoin (4th grade), Mimi Coto (4th grade), Kalie Schrader (4th grade), Jordan Fuller (5th grade), Jonah Watson (5th grade). They had an experience of a life-time!!!

PFA NEWS

PFA/IDS YARD SALE: THE SEQUEL SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2008

REMINDER: Our Fall Yard Sale was such a success that we are currently planning a yard/rummage sale to help you clean out your closets and raise dollars to support IDS! All items remaining will be donated to worthy charity. All books remaining will be donated to the IDS Intermediate Leadership Council Annual Book Sale.

This committee needs your help! How can you help?

- Bring your items in starting NOW! Drop off items during morning drop off or after school.
There will be a white pick up truck in front of the EASTSIDE office to collect your items!
- Sign up to help with pricing and organizing items or to work a few hours the day of the sale.

Questions? Call Chairperson Julie Salek (813) 382-2525

IDS BIG EVENT: IDS SPORTS JAM COVER CONTEST: The Big Event Student Cover Contest Entries are due by Friday, February 15, 2008. All entries will be displayed at the Big Event, **IDS SPORTS JAM**, on Saturday, April 5, 2008. Encourage your child to submit an entry. All entries will be on display at the Big Event.

IDS BIG EVENT MEETING: Starting Thursday, February 21, 2008, the Big Event Committee will meet every Thursday morning at 8:15 am to prepare for the April 5th Big Event excitement...this is your chance to help your school, make great friends, and enjoy the excitement on the campus. Everyone is welcome to join the team.



PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR OUR IDSers



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

Mrs. Ande Felder (Top Banana Monkey) and her husband Chad, were honored last week by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at the Tour of Champions in San Diego, CA. In 2002, her family began a non-profit organization called MaSquerade of Tampa Bay, Inc. The sole purpose of this organization is to raise money and awareness for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Over the past six years they have raised \$80,000. A huge IDS Cheer for going above and beyond in your dedication.

Mrs. Linda Boza (Middle School) Based on Mrs. Boza's leadership with the planning of the International School Connections China Summit, she received a scholarship to the American Council for International Studies Global Teachers' Conference in Merida, Mexico. The conference will include exploration of the ancient city of Chichen Itza and the Ikkil Eco Park, a session at the Anthropology and History Museum, and brainstorming sessions on history and cultural education. Kudos go to Mrs. Boza, it is a well deserved honor! She returns on Tuesday to tell us all about her trip.

**TO RESERVE A SPOT FOR 2008 – 2009
RE-ENROLLMENT CONTRACTS ARE DUE ON FEBRUARY 1ST.
A HUGE THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEAT THE DEADLINE!**

IDS SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

The IDS Science Fair once again “WOWed” the judges and impressed our visitors. Science is so important at IDS and for the future! **BRAVO** to all of the students who participated.

We are totally thankful for our volunteer judges who include Dr. Mark Stewart, PhD. – USF Professor of Geology; Janet White – Museum of Science and Industry; Michael Harrison – Geologist; Russell Ferlita – Environmental Engineering; Omatoyo Kofi Dalrymple – Environmental Engineering; Sam Dupont – Environmental Engineering; Cecilia Claudio – Environmental Engineering; Heather Robinson IDS Middle School Science; Dawn Schocken – USF Mental Health; and Gery Morey and Linda Wenzel for coordinating this important annual event. As always, each judge was amazed at the exceptional quality of the projects. We wish those students, representing the high standard of work of all our IDS students, the best of luck at the 2008 Hillsborough County Regional Science Fair in February.

All primary students participated by completing a class project. Intermediate students participated by completing either individual or small group projects. All projects reflected outstanding student effort.

FIFTH GRADE students are to be congratulated because **all** students successfully completed an individual science fair project. They demonstrated the ability to understand the scientific method through a hands-on experience. All fifth grade students are required to complete a research-background paper and their logs reflect the detail of their scientific investigation. **YEAH – FIFTH GRADERS! Fifth grade students selected to represent IDS at the Hillsborough County Science Fair for all are:**

Jennifer Astell (5th): “Do you “Truss” This Bridge?”
Avi Baskin (5th): ”Pick Up Slicks”
Blake von Thaden (5th): “Bridging the Gap”

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE students are to be commended for going above and beyond expectations by taking the challenge and initiative to complete a science fair project before Fifth Grade. Students can choose to do a group or individual project. Congratulations to our Fourth grade “Above and Beyond” students for their group projects.

Nikki Firestone & Alana Nelson (4th): “The Dynamic Dewy Diaper”
Kayla Ford & Lara Philips-Wolff (4th): “What Substance Makes Ice Melt Fastest?”
Briana Mayberry & Julia Peacock (4th): “Which Marker Brand Lasts Longest”

The following students will be representing the IDS third and fourth graders at the 2008 Hillsborough County Science Fair in February.

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Jordan Payne (3rd): “Which French Fries Are Easier to Chew?”
Lauren Leach (3rd): “How Does Math Affect the Speed of an Object Down a Hill?”
Lumiere Rostick (4th): “Does Storage Temperature Affect Battery Life?”
Corey Shamley (4th): “Shine Some Light on Your Lunch – How Different Kinds of Light Affect Ripening Fruit”
Nick Stambo (4th): “What Drink Evaporates the Fastest?”

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE GROUP PROJECTS

Eva Willard-Bauer & Maggie Kratzer (3rd): “Egg Afloat”
Kendal Allen & Terese Okulski (4th): “Seeing is Believing”
Madeline Dixon & Molly Sexton (4th): “Burn Baby Burn”
Carson Swope & Eric Wendell (4th): “Music of the Heart”

Listed below are the names of the primary class projects:

CLASS PROJECTS

Pre-Kindergarten 4	“Things that Make You Go MMM...”
Kindergarten	“Do Rats Have a Sweet Tooth?”
First Grade & Second Grade	“Candle Races”
Multi-Age (Brilliant Bugs)	“Burn Baby Burn”
Multi-Age (Cool Cats)	“Ice Cube Meltdown”

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