

HEADS' LETTER

JANUARY 27, 2005

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

See guide for Parent/Teacher Conferences on Page 4 of this Heads' Letter. The guide contains ideas to help prepare for a successful Parent Teacher Conference. We appreciate your time and willingness to work together on behalf of your terrific children. We “share in caring” about our IDSers’ academic, social, emotional and physical well-being. School resumes on Monday, January 31.



VARSIY GIRLS' BASKETBALL MAKES IDS HISTORY! 21-0 FOR A WINNING SEASON



Congratulations to all of our **six basketball teams** and **talented cheerleaders**. Our students had a great season. Both the boys' and girls' teams had fun, demonstrated a lot of spirit, showed great teamwork, and all developed excellent skills. Our two cheerleading squads were amazing this year. They combined high energy and joy with skill, poise, and presence.

On Monday, January 24, our two teams of cheerleaders opened the Monday Morning Meeting with a couple of dazzling routines that brought huge applause from our student body. Our coaches are proud of their teams.

This year, special recognition is due our Varsity Girls' Basketball team for making IDS history. Other teams have had undefeated seasons, but this is the first time for our girls' team. Some members have played together since 5th grade. In fact, when they began, they could barely make a basket. They have come a long way. Congratulations to: Bailey Harrison (8th), Juliana Harrison (8th), Shelby Houston (7th), Jessica Magrill (8th), Ellen Pautler (8th), Kristen Pawlowski (8th), Fernanda Pierre (7th), and Carolyn Rosemurgy (8th).

Coach Sonny LeBlanc and Coach Kim Fowler have worked to help our girls' team develop into a cohesive, highly skilled team. In addition, they are all nice, down to earth young ladies, who enjoy both the sport and teamwork. Right before basketball season, Coach Sonny had been in the hospital with a hip replacement barely able to move and providing some very scary moments for his family. It is said that when his IDS girls' team came to visit him, he rallied. Within a few days of their visit, he was out of the hospital and ready to coach the season. The rest is now history. **All IDS athletes are recognized and highlighted during the Annual Athletic Celebration Evening in May.**

IDS VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM invited to play half-time at the USF Sundome on Sunday, January 23

Our girls' basketball team played in the Sundome on Sunday, January 23. It was exciting for them to be invited to play an exhibition game during the University of South Florida Girls' Basketball game half-time show. For seven minutes, they played on the “big court” with Trinity School. At the close of half time, the score was 2 to 2. What fun for them and their proud parents. Our Girls' Basketball teams will be traveling to Vermont for a basketball tournament in February.

FIELD DAY HELD JANUARY 26 WITH "BIGS" AND "LITTLES"

Every year, Field Day matches up our fifth through eighth graders with Pre-K through fourth graders for a day filled with athletic fun that is filled with movement, variety, cooperation, camaraderie, mentorship and more. The creativity of our Physical Education teachers always provides a wonderful experience for our students and celebrates activity that is healthy, active and good for "firing neurons, connecting dendrites, and growing healthy brains." All teachers work to support our Athletic Faculty team **PLUS** our volunteer parents organized through the cooperation of the Boosters and Room Parent Coordinators. We had close to **70 volunteers!!! -- AMAZING --** It takes teamwork with parents and teachers to pull off a great day like this. Thanks to all for making great memories for our students.

IDSers SHOWCASED at *YOUNG at ART 2005 EXHIBITION* TAMPA MUSEUM of ART

Elyssa Wider (Pre-K), Quinn Pruitt (fifth grade), and Sophia Kim (eighth grade) have been selected to represent IDS in the *Young at Art 2005 Exhibition* at the Tampa Museum of Art. They each have a work of art showcased at the museum. The artworks include a mixed media collage by Elyssa, a prisma pencil illustration by Quinn, and a ceramic sculpture by Sophia. Their art represents the creativity of IDS students throughout our school.



This special exhibition includes artwork from both public and private schools in Hillsborough County. **The Young at Art Exhibit will be on display until February 13.** We are proud of our young artists and hope IDS families will take the time to visit the Tampa Museum of Art!

IDS SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER RETURNS FROM ENGLAND



Sixth Grade Social Studies teacher, **Linda Boza**, attended the Global Teachers' Conference in London, England on January 14-16. Mrs. Boza earned a scholarship from the American Council of International Studies due to her commitment to bringing learning alive through travel. In the past, Mrs. Boza has planned and/or supervised student trips to England, France, the Grand Canyon, Italy, Savannah, St. Augustine, Switzerland, Tallahassee, Williamsburg, and Washington, D.C. This summer, she is taking a group to Italy again. During the Global Teachers' Conference, the teachers enjoyed a private address from a British Barrister in Lincoln's Hall along with many other inspiring and informative sessions.



THIRD GRADE SPONSORS: VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY GRAMS



Please *return* the **order form** to your child's Teacher by **Tuesday, February 1.**

IDS SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS TO BE REPORTED IN THE NEXT HEADS' LETTER

PLEASE HOLD THESE DATES:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 at 3:00 PM - REFLECTIONS CONCERT: *MOSTLY MOZART* in the Theater/Training Center. Please see enclosed Ticket Order Form for more information.



SATURDAY, MARCH 12 at 6:30 PM – THE BIG EVENT
Rainforest Rhapsody: An Amazon Adventure Thanks again to all those families who have brought in **AUCTION ITEMS** for The Big Event. Keep up the good work! Remember, all donations are due by **Thursday, February 17.**

Entries into the **CATALOG COVER CONTEST** are rolling in! Your child's drawing could be the winner! All entries are due by **Friday, February 4.**

PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR IDSers

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



Last weekend several of our IDSers participated in the Pinellas County Hunter Association Horse Show at the State Fairgrounds. We are very proud of their accomplishments! **BRAVO TO THESE EQUESTRIANS!**

Savannah Walters (6th grade) won "Reserve Champion" in the Step Up Hunter division and won ribbons in all six classes of the Short Stirrup division. Congratulations, Savannah!

Samantha Robinson (8th grade), and her pony Lexie, a.k.a. Tempting Time, was the youngest rider to place in the ribbons in the Adult/Junior Hunter Division, coming in 6th in a field of 27. She also took a 2nd and a 4th in the Large Pony Hunter Division.

Caroline Poole (3rd Grade) is in her third year of horseback riding and participated in the show.

Caitlin McIver (8th grade) won Reserve Champion in the Long Stirrup division and won ribbons in 9 out of the 12 classes in which she competed.

Brandis Linn (Primary Multi-age) placed 5th in the Undersaddle portion of the Walk/Trot classes. Congrats Brandis and Marshmellow!

Natalie Chapkis (3rd grade) placed 5th and 6th in the Walk/Trot Event.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:
NEW LUNCH PROGRAM BEGINS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005.**

LUNCH ORDER FORMS ARE DUE NOW!



Please remember that on Wednesday, February 2, we begin to invite new students to join IDS. Student RE-ENROLLMENT CONTRACTS and deposits are due TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 in order to hold a space for the 2005-2006 academic year.





**FOR PARENTS:
MIDTERM PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE WORKSHEET**

Think about Key Questions you'd like to ask your teacher if you had 5 - 10 minutes of their individual attention. Prepare some questions in advance.

Here are some suggestions:

- What should I/WE expect **in this subject for the rest of the year?**
- What are the expectations for **homework? Has my child turned in all assignments?**
- How are my child's **work habits? Does he/she use time well?**
- What is the quality **of my child's work?**
- Does my child read **at the level you would expect for this grade?**
- Is my child able to do **the work you would expect for a student at this grade?**
- How does my child get along **with others?**
- What can I do at home **to help my child be more successful or remain successful at school?**

What Should the Teacher know?

As a parent, you should know your child better than anyone else. Here is some information you might want to share with you child's teacher:

1. Favorite subjects.
2. Outside interests **and hobbies.**
3. Any medical **or health needs.**
4. Things happening **at home that may affect schoolwork - moving, divorce, the birth of a child, celebrations, vacations, TV time, homework habits.**
5. Child's reaction **to coming to school.**

Catch the IDS Spirit!