

# PRESS RELEASE



## Art From The Heart

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There's classical art and modern art. There's pop art and op art. There's abstract art and animation art.

And if you visit the Laney Library at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC), there's an extensive collection of yet another type of art. It's called appreciation art.

While the work looks as if it were done using traditional methods such as paint or markers, the first and second grade students who created the pieces actually used more intangible mediums -- creativity, respect, enthusiasm and, of course, appreciation -- to develop personalized art for each of the adults at IDS-CC who contribute hard work, time and love in innumerable ways.

"We started this project in one of our multiage classes as a 'creativity project,'" said art teacher Renee Holden. "It was an opportunity for students to practice familiar skills in a new context. They were given a choice of three different types of projects, and could create it to honor any person of their choice who helps make IDS such a wonderful place."

The children received the project with such enthusiasm that Holden and teaching partner Debbie Kerr decided to give all of the students in the upper primary division the opportunity to create a piece of art to honor someone within the IDS community.

The project helped introduce the young students to everyone in the IDS family -- from familiar faces on the east side of the campus, to middle school teachers, room parent coordinators, administration, board of trustees members and office staff. "We discussed who each person is and his or her contribution to IDS," said Kerr. "We also used this project as an opportunity to discuss the meaning of appreciation -- how one shows appreciation and why -- because we wanted to add another dimension to the thought process behind the art that the students were creating."

For example, to honor fifth grade teacher Michelle Hill, second grader and "Top Banana" Jack Tolliver drew -- what else -- yellow and brown streaked bananas.

To honor office staff team member Celeste Ross, multiage "Brilliant Bug" Haley Schumann painted what "bugs" paint best -- a unique orange and green striped butterfly.

And to show appreciation for room parent coordinator Diane Ross-Swope, Jake Markman created an abstract design of multiple, tranquil shades of blue for a busy volunteer.

"Of course, each honoree will be able to take the artwork created just for him or her home at the end of the school year," said Holden, "It's a gift they can appreciate for years to come."

*Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County with 550 students from Pre-K3 through 8th grade. At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 2,000 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers. For more information about IDS visit <http://www.idsyas.com>.*

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