

## HEADS' LETTER

**FEBRUARY 17, 2005**



### **IDS TEACHERS and Students RECEIVE ACCOLADES FROM VISITING EDUCATORS**



Approximately 450 educators visited our campus last Friday and Saturday. Some came only for the class visitations, some only for Saturday training with Dr. Spencer and Laurie Kagan, and most came for both days. Our own teachers (96%) attended the Saturday training either for Brain-Friendly Research Instruction or to review the Basics of Cooperative Learning.

Just imagine how stressful it could be for teachers to have colleagues, that are highly respected from local schools and from all over Florida and beyond, observe you teaching in your classrooms. Just imagine how **gratifying** it was to receive glowing accolades for each and every teacher from our visiting educators. The written and verbal comments were a tribute to the amazing talent of our faculty. Our students were great and very real. This was their opportunity to practice poise, respect and appreciation for giving to others, and speaking with confidence. What great gifts they gave and received while also learning their classroom lessons!!!!

Visiting educators, including principals, assistant principals, and classroom teachers from elementary through high schools clearly noticed the wealth of resources that we have for our students, as well as the many skills the teachers exhibited. We continue to emphasize that cooperative learning is just one of the many strategies that we use to increase time on task and achievement levels in a brain-friendly environment.

We explained to our guests that we are a model school, not because we think we are perfect, but because we are always studying, learning and dialoguing about ways to become better and better. We feel like an action think tank, working to bring joy to learning with the best results possible. It is clear that both adults and children are learning everyday. That makes sense since we are all in school at IDS.

### **WE WOULD NEED A BOOKLET TO WRITE ALL OF THE COMMENTS FROM THE 220 VISITORS ON FRIDAY...HERE IS A SAMPLING:**

***“Thank you for allowing us to get a glimpse into your everyday teaching lives. It was a privilege to be a part of such an incredible learning environment.”***

*“Keep up the great work! It’s great to see kids so excited to learn....”*

*“...because of you I will be changing things in my own classroom.”*

*“Teachers were awesome, they demonstrated cooperation as well as taught it. I was impressed. BRAVO!”*

*“We loved being in your classrooms! We got so many ideas. We would love to come back!”*

*“Thank you for allowing us to come in and for all you do with your students. You have inspired me!”*

*“I am so impressed with your professionalism, patience, warmth and welcoming us! Thank you - this is my 2<sup>nd</sup> year here & I will come as often as I can.”*

*“Thanks so much for being our models. I will always remember your excellent teaching methods and the way students worked on their tasks. **OUTSTANDING!**”*



## OFFICE STAFF, FACILITIES, AND OUR PARENTS DESERVE A STANDING OVATION!!



*Our children come first at IDS.* The difference between a Child-centered school and Teacher-centered school is clear. When the focus is Teacher-centered, doing everything the teacher's way is expected. When the focus is learner or Student-centered, the focus is finding every way possible to create a brain-friendly environment that maximizes learning potential. It is a customer-inspired approach. That approach exists throughout the adult community as well as in our classrooms; this includes our Office Staff and Facilities Team who work hard to benefit our students and their families each and every day.

Last week, our Facilities Team and Office Staff joined ranks to also embrace IDS as a *private school with a public purpose*. Each and every person worked tirelessly to create an efficient joyful environment for our visitors, knowing that our work here could also have a very positive impact on hundreds of other students as well as our own. The campus was beautiful. Behind the scenes, everyone worked to make this an incredible day. Our dedicated bus drivers even took busloads of teachers to restaurants during lunch times on Friday and Saturday to help with parking issues. With a lot of dedicated help, by 5:30 P.M. on Saturday afternoon, everything was cleaned up and ready for the Reflections Concert on Sunday and school on Monday. What a great team of people we have at IDS! WOW!!!

Keep reading for more tributes...the PFA executive committee took care of the breakfast for our Friday's guests, which will turn out to be a nice fundraiser for their efforts. It was so appreciated to have them there. The PFA lunch crew also sold lunches to our guests which allowed many to enjoy lunch on our beautiful campus. Now to our parents: You were wonderful! Thanks for your patience during arrival and dismissal. Together we accomplished a great day of community service for so many!

To all of our parents: We send you a huge bundle of appreciation for your patience during arrival and dismissal.

## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA PROGRAM ROCKS!

A huge Bravo to Seth Travaglino, Barbara McBride, and Barbara Grady for producing and directing a real "show stopper"! **State Fair** was a hit! Musical Theatre had the audience's attention with the pizzazz on the stage. Congratulations to our talented students! Thanks to those who joined us for our evening performances. You were great audiences. A special thanks to our PFA Drama Chairperson Gina Shannon and her committee, whose support helped make this another huge success!

The 8th grade class of 2005 also deserves to be highly commended. Their 8th grade play was last Tuesday with three separate performances. Seeing all three made you want more, more, more. They were really good for several reasons. One, the vignettes chosen were fun and very clever. Two, the students are just very talented. Three, the flu epidemic hit and a number of students were out, which meant that they had to take other people's parts for the first time or play the part with different people. Well, they did it!!! And they did it well!!! Bravo to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their Drama teachers Seth Travaglino and Victoria Watson. They make a great team!!!

## SPRING SPORTS IN FULL SWING



Track has one more week and our students are really having a ball with Coaches Tom Bronson, Kyle Fenton and Megan Welsh. Spring sports include tennis, girls' softball and boys' baseball. Please notice that our Buchanan Sports Field has been transformed for softball and baseball. Thanks to the hard work of our PFA and support of our parent community, this year we were able to get the facilities team a new cart that could make this huge job easier and their work around the campus easier as well. We invite everyone to join us for tennis, baseball, and softball games during this Spring season...



## TRIMESTER II COMES TO AN END...

Congratulations to all of our IDS Students who participated in Trimester Exams. They worked very hard this trimester. They earned a great break with President's Weekend coming at a perfect time. The new Trimester begins Tuesday, February 22.

## INTERMEDIATE DIVISION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Intermediate Division Leadership Council is sponsoring a **Backwards Day** for the *East Side on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>*. We will be making signs to hang around campus. Thank you to Advisors Ms. Kanarish (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) and Mrs. Lewis (5<sup>th</sup> Grade).



**REMINDER: PRESIDENTS' WEEKEND  
BRINGS SCHOOL HOLIDAY ON  
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18 AND MONDAY FEBRUARY 21.  
SCHOOL RESUMES ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

## PFA NEWS:

**APPRECIATION**

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2005**

**APPRECIATION**

The celebration begins at the Monday Morning Assembly on Monday, February 28, and continues with a catered breakfast in the Theatre/Training Center to recognize the 2004 - 2005 IDS volunteers. We thank you for all of your volunteer efforts. Whether in the classroom or in support of special projects or events, your time and effort at IDS makes a difference. See you on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:05 A.M.

## IDS BOOSTERS SPONSORING A SKATING PARTY

This fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. at United Skates of America. Please look for the insert in your Thursday folder for more information on how to sign up for a “rolling” good time.



**9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
IS FAST APPROACHING.**



March 5<sup>th</sup> is a great family morning. It is a perfect way to start your day with good friends and our children performing throughout the morning. We hope to see everyone there to support the arts! All children are expected to perform as part of their community service, as they join with others to create a wonderful morning of music and performance.

**MORE NEWS...Yearbook ads available for purchase** - Be sure to remember your children in the yearbook! Ad space is limited, so please reserve your spot in the yearbook as soon as possible! Call (813) 961-3087 to connect with our Middle School Yearbook Students and Staff.



FROM YOUR BIG EVENT RAINFOREST EXPEDITION GUIDES:  
JULIE SALEK AND KATHY VON THADEN



# Leaping Lizards! Only 23 days until the Big Event!



*“Iguana Party... What About You?”*

Calling All Party Animals: Have you turned in your RSVP yet? Remember prices go up to \$60 per person at the door! So buy your passport to party now! Book the sitters and turn in your RSVP to the front office or in Thursday folders soon!



The auction has something to offer **EVERYONE** at all prices. From trips to NYC to services like haircuts to experiences like a Kids’ Corbett Hall Sleepover, the auction will fascinate all of the Kings and Queens of the Jungle. Swing by on March 12 & get in on the fun! You’ll find many things a-peel-ing!

Just a note from your Rainforest Expedition Guides: We are still looking for some Event Underwriters. Do you know of a company or individual interested in assisting in underwriting or sponsoring a portion of the 2005 Big Event? Have them call Kathy at (813) 695-6784 or Julie at (813) 382-2525 for details. Thank you!

See the inserts again this week for your exciting raffle opportunities! The TCO raffle will sell only 125 tickets and have one winner. This lucky parent will receive a \$5000 discount on next year’s tuition! Wow! The Rainforest Retreat Raffle allows your child to show appreciation to the world’s hardest working teachers and staff! For only \$5.00, you can enter your favorite IDS staff member’s name into a drawing to win a night away in a downtown hotel with breakfast the next morning!



**REMEMBER:** This event is so successful each year due to fantastic and generous parents like you! Check with your RPC to see when your class deadlines are to donate to your child’s class basket, and the deadline for the general auction donations is next Friday, February 25. We are still in need of many items, so contact the restaurants, galleries, salons, spas, stores and other places with which you do business, and ask them to contribute to the 2005 IDS auction.