

HEADS' LETTER

MARCH 27, 2008

BIG WEEK COMING UP!!!

Next week is a perfect week for everyone to show what we know! It's a big week for the school, trustees, teachers, students and parents! So here goes!!

1. **RE-ACCREDITATION TIME (March 30 – April 1)** Beginning Sunday afternoon, through Tuesday, a team of 10 educators will begin our five-year re-accreditation visit. This is a big team from FCIS (Florida Council of Independent Schools), FKC (Florida Kindergarten Council) and SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). One of the great aspects of an independent school with accreditation is that it is renewed every five years. It's our turn again, and your teachers have been preparing for this all throughout the year. In fact, we started preparing the day the last one was over.

We have so much to share in the last five years...from Blue Ribbons to Character Awards to International Baccalaureate recognition to international themes integrated into our curriculum adding a global perspective to national pride and on and on and on. The growth over the last five years is like a chapter out of the best-selling book "Tipping Point" with wonderful new families joining us each year who have contributed to the energy and excitement of an IDS education.

This is also a time to look at all of the areas where we can improve, as well as noting the strengths we want to continue to embrace!! Teachers and the Board of Trustees have been and will continue to analyze both short and long-term goals. We welcome the opportunity to live in a "continuous improvement model" in the same way we ask our students to look at what they do well and where they can improve and/or "raise the bar".

So, a **huge thanks** to the parents who filled out the Annual Parent Survey which was sent out in February. Your responses were sooooooo important to us. We appreciated both the accolades and the comments where you would like us to do better. We take every word seriously. Because it is anonymous, please be sure to contact us if you would like to follow-up. Please know that we do as well.

2. **SAT TESTING (April 2 thru April 10)** It is the time of year when we administer the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) to our students from Second through Eighth Grades. First graders practice so that they have the experience to prepare them for the following year. You can help prepare your children by doing the following:

1. Start getting them to sleep at a good time beginning this weekend. They should be **very well** rested.
2. Provide a healthy nutritious breakfast. If they choose to resist breakfast, send it to school and the teachers will handle it.
3. Smile at them a lot and let them know you think they are special just because they are your kids!!
4. Their teachers have been practicing with them all year and even more in the last few weeks.
5. Attendance is critical these days...it is much tougher to take the tests at a make-up time.
6. One last point...begin your mornings early and try to get the kids here early or at least on time. If they are late, they will remain in the office and need to make up the tests during a make-up time after the initial testing is over. Part of giving the test is to avoid any interruptions. All specials are even on hold until later in the morning.
7. We appreciate your support and help with attendance, being on time, and the smiles generated within your families and to the kids. That is the best encouragement for success!!

3. **BIG EVENT: Saturday April 5** It's the Count-down to the Annual Big Event! This year's IDS Sports Jam is full of surprises...Even huge tents are arriving to add to the gym and Dean Dining Hall, which will all be transformed into some major fun activities. It will be an evening where adults can enjoy participating, watching or just enjoy a night out that is kid-free. If you still need to find a kid-sitter, we have made arrangements for kid-sitting in Corbett Hall. They really enjoyed last year!



Please, please make your reservations to keep me off the street in some crazy costume begging for you to make a reservation. Have mercy on your Head of School and make your reservation today. Twelve years ago this started with Kim Rogers bringing a Carmen Miranda outfit to remind everyone to make a reservation for the Copacabana. It's about time to end that tradition. Help!! **Most importantly, thanks for supporting the PFA volunteer parents who are working so hard on behalf of all of our IDSers!! You really know how to get a winning team!!**



FOURTH GRADE TALLAHASSEE TRIP: A LESSON IN GOVERNMENT

We asked for the best weather possible and we got it! Bright sunny skies and cool breezes greeted the 108 students, parents and teachers who experienced an amazing trip to Tallahassee. As a parent cheers on the first steps a toddler takes, so proud were the fourth grade teachers who beamed with pride as their enthusiastic and confident students proved they **are** indeed “going places!” The students were independent learners exhibiting appreciation, knowledge and cooperation all along the way!!

Viewing our state’s new and old capitol, participating in mock trials and House Bills was a delight for the students as they engaged in hands-on practical application of our social studies curriculum. WOWING Representative Kevin Ambler with their insightful questions and knowledge of the three branches of government while filling the seats on the House Floor, gave us reason to grin with pride. The study tour which included visits to Wakulla Springs, the Tallahassee Museum of Science and the Governor’s Mansion was a great example of hands-on learning!

Comments from students:

Roshan Kedar – *“I enjoyed Supreme Court. We got to do a court case and I got to sit in the Justice’s seat and speak into the microphone.”*

Lumiere Rostick – *“I loved Fun Station, but more importantly I was able to meet Representative Ambler, because he told us about the law a student made requiring students to have Driver’s Ed before getting a license.”*

Lara Phillips-Wolff – *“I liked the Old Capitol, because it had a lot of rooms of historical significance. I loved the old uniforms on the walls from past wars as well as the weapons.”*

PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR OUR IDSers

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

We have a poet in our midst! Congratulations to fifth grader Isaac Shur who was recognized among the Top Ten poets in the Creative Communication Poetry Contest. Several thousand students applied to be published in the company’s 2007 - 2008 anthology. Isaac was one of two fifth graders in the state of Florida to be recognized in this National Contest. He will receive a \$50.00 Savings Bond and a complimentary copy of the book. The whole school and especially our Fifth Grade teachers are so proud of his honor. Bravo to Isaac!

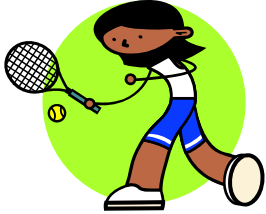
Adam Lewis and Kyle McCullin who are fourth grade students at IDS competed March 14th and 15th at the Florida State Wrestling Championships in Naples, Florida. There were 63 clubs and over 700 wrestlers represented at this year’s event. Adam Lewis had a perfect 4-0 record at the tournament to become a Florida State Champion in the 80 lbs. 10 - 12 age division. Please congratulate both boys on their hard work.

Lumiere Rostick, (IDS Fourth Grader) in the bottom of the last inning of a softball game with the Citrus Park A's Minor League, hit an infield home run with two runners on base., Her performance helped her team which down by one run, secure their first win of the spring season.

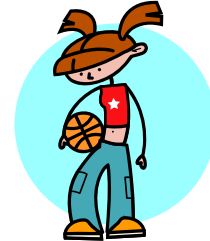


March Madness at IDS!

Just 9 days until the Big Event!



Sports Stats for the Evening:



- *Doors open at 6:30*
- Complimentary valet parking
- *Dinner is served at 7:00*
- Your tailgate party menu includes wings, chili, vegetarian chili, Italian sausage, pulled pork, all beef pigs in the blanket, sushi, raw bar, jumbo shrimp, raw oysters, veggies, sandwich bar, pretzels, popcorn, cracker jacks and more!
 - *Live auction starts at 7:45 and will be emceed by Fox Tampa Bay's Chip Carter!*
- Babysitting available on campus! Book your spot today by calling Marie or stopping by the front office. VERY limited space is available.
 - *Failure to RSVP by tomorrow could lead to a technical foul! Turn in your RSVP!*

Today's Thursday Folders include your copy of this year's auction catalog! Read it for a great preview of the auction, and mark those items you and your family wants. Remember we are still accepting donations and have more items for you to purchase from our addendum, which you will receive at the Will Call window when you check in at the Big Event.

Announcing the winners of this year's catalog Cover contest:

1st place: Cassidy Brown, 5th grade
2nd place: Riley Huennerkopf, 2nd grade
3rd place: Abigail Friedman, 7th grade

All entries were submitted anonymously and judged by the IDS faculty and staff. Congratulations to all participants! The entries will all be displayed at the Big Event.

Please remember to send pictures of your kids playing sports to bigevent@live.com so they can be displayed in the Big Event Slideshow! Come volunteer for set up all week next week in Dean Dining Hall!

WE COULD REALLY USE EVERYONE'S COOPERATION!!!

It's spring and time to remember the dress code on page 14 of the student/parent handbook. All students needing a reminder will be provided with and charged for a new IDS polo shirt. The handbook states the requirements:

DRESS CODE – PRE-K THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE – Please read and shop carefully!!

All students are expected to wear clothing that is school appropriate, i.e., promotes a positive self-image for the student and maintains proper decorum for a learning environment. Clothing should be clean, in good repair, and totally appropriate for a school setting. Articles of clothing that contain offensive or distracting messages are unacceptable. The student will be sent home to change at the discretion of the administration. Modest dress and a neat appearance are expected for both girls and boys.

Appropriate dress means:

- Shirts for both boys and girls are of a length that *can* be **easily** "tucked in."
- **Polo or round neck T-shirt tops** with sleeves are required everyday. Low cut tops are unacceptable!
- Skirts, shorts, and skorts must be mid-thigh in length or wear long pants. The acceptable limit is 5" above the knee measuring from the top of the kneecap.
- Boys' and girls' undergarments must be covered by shorts or pants. All pants must be in good condition.
- All shoes must allow students to move quickly and safely on school grounds. Flip flops and stacked heels are for use outside of school only.
- Athletic shoes are **required** for all PE classes, and intramurals.

Students choosing to challenge the dress code will be sent to the office and will remain there until parents arrive with appropriate clothing. We ask that parents handle these issues at home so that both teachers and the office staff may focus on the business of learning.

TWO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COST-SAVINGS

1. There are some beautiful jackets and sweaters that come with our IDSers on cold mornings and get to the Lost and Found by the end of the day when the weather warms up. We would love to get the clothing, lunch boxes, etc., back to the owners. To do that, please take time to write the first and last name of your child in all clothing or "stuff" that comes to school. After two to three weeks, it all goes to a local charity before it's time for you to say good-bye to these great items you have purchased. So, help us help you by putting names in everything! Thanks so much.
2. The IDS lunches are really, really good. We are all getting spoiled with this healthy variety of lunches. Many more students are walking-up and paying \$5.00 a lunch for the "walk-up." If you go on line or call Billie in the office, you can fill out the form and save 50 cents daily, or you can save a dollar a day for lunch by ordering a lunch everyday for the rest of the year. So, this is just a helpful reminder.

COMMUNITY AD

FREE Child Safety Event
NEW Biometric Fingerprinting
& DNA Identification Kit for Children



Endorsed by
John Walsh

SPONSORED BY
Land Rover Tampa
11301 N Florida Ave
Tampa, FL. 33612
Saturday, April 5, 2008
9:30 am – 2:00 pm



Call (813) 930-2505
For More Information

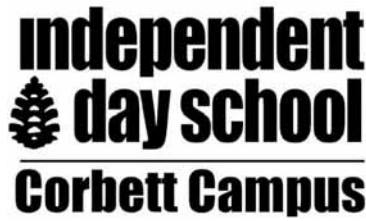
FOR ALL OF YOUR PARTY NEEDS



IS THE PLACE TO BE!

If you are interested in running an advertisement in the *Heads' Letter*, please contact: Celeste Ross at (813) 961-3087.
¼ page \$100, ½ page \$175, full back page \$250. *Advertisements run only when space is available.*

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



Send a Teacher Packing!



For only \$5, you can send one of our very special IDS Faculty and Staff Members, or as we like to call them, our MVP's, on a fabulous 2 night stay at a luxurious gulf front condominium on St. Petersburg Beach! This raffle is a school fundraiser and the winner's name will be drawn at **SPORTS JAM** on April 5. What better way to show your favorite staff member your appreciation? And you'll be raising money for the school, too!

Here's how it works:

- Each raffle ticket costs \$5.
- Purchase as many as you choose. (Additional copies are available on the IDS Website or in the office.)
- Purchase them for anyone who works at IDS. (teachers, administrative staff and/or facilities team members)
- The winning ticket will be drawn at 10:00 pm at the Big Event. The more tickets purchased for a person, the higher his/her chance is of winning a fabulous 2 night getaway!
- To purchase your raffle tickets, complete the bottom of the page and return it with cash or a check (made to IDS) in your child's Thursday folder.

IDS EMPLOYEE NAME (S): _____

PURCHASER: _____

RAFFLE TICKETS _____ X \$5= _____ Total Enclosed



You could be the very lucky recipient of the PFA sponsored annual Tuition Credit Opportunity, or TCO, which will be chosen on March 3, 2007 at this year's Big Event. The winner will automatically receive a credit of \$5,000 towards his or her child's 2008-2009 tuition. Only 125 tickets will be sold, so be sure to act quickly. Here are some details on how the TCO works:

- 👤 Funds raised from the sale of Tuition Credit Opportunities will be split two ways: \$5,000 will be automatically applied towards the tuition of the child whose family wins the TCO. The balance will be added to the net proceeds of "Sports Jam." These proceeds go into the IDS General Operating Fund, thereby helping IDS keep its tuition costs as low as possible.
- 👤 You may purchase TCOs from now up to and including the night of the Big Event on April 5, 2008. Only 125 TCOs will be sold. By purchasing two, you are able to increase your chances of winning and get a value price on the tickets!



# of TCOs	Purchase Amount
1	\$100.00
2	\$175.00



- 👤 There can only be one winning TCO for the year; however, if you share the cost of a TCO ticket with a friend and that ticket wins, the tuition credit can be split. (Just make sure that all purchasers' names are on the TCO purchase form.) For all remaining participants, the cost of the ticket is tax deductible. (Please consult your personal tax professional.)
- 👤 You will be contacted by phone if you are elsewhere the night of the Big Event, although you will definitely enjoy yourselves if you are there!
- 👤 Fill out the form below, include your check payable to IDS, and either mail it to IDS-attn: TCO or return it in your child's Thursday folder by Thursday, April 4, 2008. Ticket(s) purchased prior to April 4th will be included in your child's Thursday folder the following week. Tickets purchased after April 4th will be in your registration packet at the Big Event. Any one who plans to be elsewhere that evening can pickup their ticket(s) in the school office.

Name(s): _____

Phone#: _____

Address/ City/ Zip: _____

Please check the option that applies: 1 TCO ticket at \$100 2 TCO tickets at \$175

Enclosed is my check for \$_____

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 FCIS/FKC EVALUATION VISIT Day 4	2 SAT Testing Day 5	3 SAT Testing Pre-K3 Rainforest Café 9:00 am Day 1	4 SAT Testing Day 2	5 IDS BIG EVENT: "THE IDS SPORTS JAM" 6:30 pm
6	7 SAT Testing Cool Cats Big Cat Rescue Field Trip 9:00 – 11:20 am Day 3	8 SAT Testing FIELD DAY 1:00 – 2:30 pm Day 4	9 SAT Testing Coffee Talk with "Dr. Joyce" 8:05 am Top Bananas Busch Gardens Sleepover Day 5	10 Middle School Community Service Day Noon Dismissal/ Teacher In-service Day *	11 STUDENT HOLIDAY/ TEACHER IN-SERVICE	12
13	14	15 Warriors' Pride Chorus Performance Green Cast 9:00 am & 7:00 pm Day 2	16 Middle School Drama Forensics 3:00 pm Day 3	17 Warriors' Pride Chorus Performance Purple Cast 9:00 am & 7:00 pm Day 4	18 Fourth Grade BBQ Middle School Dance 7:00 – 10:00 pm Day 5	19
20	21	22	23 Dance Recital PK3 – 2 nd Grade 8:30 and 9:45 am Day 3	24 IDS-CC Authors' Celebration Cool Cats Busch Gardens Sleepover Day 4	25 7 th Grade Wolfcreek Trip Departs at 10:00 pm Day 5	26 8 th Grade Washington DC Trip Departs at 5:00 am
27	28 6 th Grade Pathfinders Trip Departs at 8:15 am Day 1	29 Top Bananas Performance 1:30 pm Day 2	30 Pre-K3 Field Trip to Florida Aquarium 8:45 am – 12:45 pm 8 th Grade Washington DC Trip Returns at 9:30 pm Day 3	May 1 6 th Grade Pathfinders Trip Returns at 2:30 pm 7 th Grade Wolfcreek Trip Returns between 5:00 – 7:00 pm Day 4		
						2008

WEEKLY SPORTS UPDATE

March 31 - April 4, 2008

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



Date	Time	Team/Sport	School	Location	Pick-Up	Comments
Mon 3/31	4:00	Baseball-Red Team	St. Lawrence	Baseball Field	6:00	
	3:45	Softball-Red Team	CDS	Northlakes	6:15	Dean Dining Hall
	3:00	Tennis	Practice	MP Tennis	5:00	Dean Dining Hall
	Off	Baseball-White Team	Off			
	Off	Softball-White Team	Off			
<hr/>						
Tues. 4/1	5:00	Volleyball	Club	Corbett Hall	7:00	
<hr/>						
Weds.	Off	Baseball-Red Team	Off			
4/2	4:00	Baseball-White Team	Berkeley	Baseball Field	6:00	
	3:00	Softball-Red Team	Practice	Softball Field	4:30	
	3:00	Softball-White Team	Practice	Softball Field	4:30	
	3:00	Tennis	Practice	MP Tennis	5:00	
<hr/>						
Thur.	3:30	Baseball-Red Team	Cambridge	Baseball Field	6:00	
4/3	3:30	Baseball-White Team	Cambridge	Baseball Field	6:00	Optional
	3:00	Softball-Red Team	Practice	Softball Field	4:30	
	3:00	Softball-White Team	Practice	Softball Field	4:30	
	3:45	Tennis	St. Mary's	MP Tennis	6:00	
<hr/>						
Fri.	Off	Both Baseball Teams	Off			
4/4	Off	Softball-Red Team	Off			
	4:00	Softball-White Team	St. Mary's	St. Mary's	6:45	Dean Dining Hall
	4:00	Tennis	AHN	MP Tennis	6:15	
<hr/>						