



HEADS' LETTER

MARCH 31, 2005

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN!!!!

It's true that there are only two more months left in school for this academic year. Even though it may feel to some students that the year is almost over, we at IDS look at every day as the "**first day of the rest of the year**". On Monday, March 28, our faculty returned to school the day before our students returned from break. Our focus in training was to gear up for making **every** day for **every** student meaningful and substantive. We are always working on balancing academic routines that provide structure and certainty with academics that produce novelty, surprise, and variety. As parents, you can expect to see us juggling that balance over the next two months, as well as placing an emphasis on working to insure a healthy emotional, social, and physical environment.

When a teacher signs up to be at IDS, it requires a **commitment** to being a top professional, always willing to go above and beyond for our students. Our teachers are our **greatest** resource. We join you in being grateful to them for all they do!!

Parents, we need you to work with us as well. Please let your teachers know if we need to give extra attention and encouragement to your children if spring fever sets in to the home or school scene. Very often, you have the inside scoop from the home front that would be helpful to us at school. We count on you to keep communication lines open whether it is an academic, social, or emotional issue. Throw us in those plays the same way that we work to keep you informed!!! Please feel free to call us (Joyce and Pam) as well. It's all about keeping lines of communication open even with our busy schedules.

SAFETY AND SECURITY TAKES TEAM WORK: REMINDERS

This week we have had a ton of meetings with different IDS role groups. We have had meetings to reaffirm our procedures and expectations for security and safety for both adults and children. Meetings with office staff, facilities team, and faculty have reaffirmed our requirements for working to insure that everyone is following expectations regarding campus safety. Here are some reminders for our parents:

- **Everyone** who comes on this campus must have a visitor's nametag. Parent tags will say Parent Pass, which means everyone must sign in the office to get a stick-on nametag.
- **PFA Leadership and Board members** have their own leadership tags. If they leave them elsewhere, they too must sign in the office.
- All of our staff are expected to nicely remind every parent on campus to be sure to check in the office if they are without a nametag. So, if you see a member of our faculty, office or facilities team, and they remind you about a nametag, please thank them for caring to insure that our campus is following procedures. The upside of these nametags is that we can all learn each other's names.

Arrival and Dismissal: Parents, we need your help!!!!

- Please remember that drop-off begins at 7:30 a.m. or after...
- Parents, please remember that bringing your children to school **on time** allows them to get a great start to the day. You're right that sometimes it is very tough to do that. If you are late, please get out of your cars and sign in your children before sending them to class. This is important and models for our children considerate behavior.
- We are so fortunate to have a vigilant and caring office and facilities team who monitor our campus continuously. Please be sure to follow procedures to help them feel as if we are all a team.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TALENT SHOW A HUGE HIT!!!

The entire Middle School beamed with joy as they watched their peers perform in the IDS Middle School Annual Talent Show! The faculty joined in with pride as everyone cheered and applauded all of the acts, which included dancing, juggling, singing, piano, and guitar. Our middle schoolers have a lot of talent and enjoyed seeing each other shine. The morning performance ended with a standing ovation as **Alex Holder** sang *God Bless America* with heart and soul!!

The talent acts included:

Tommy Erskine as the M.C.; **Schuyler Arakawa**, **Kirsten Dewey**, **Allie Rivera** – dance; **Carmen Stach** and **Michelle Nastir** – piano; **Nima Iranmanesh** – juggling; **Kelsea Fowler** – wrote the song she sang and played on guitar; **Sam Lagos** and **Will Loeffler** – guitar; **Michael Evanoff** – piano; **Alexis Dempsey** and **Ellen Pautler** – dance; **Olivia Bowns** – dance; and **Alex Holder** – singing.

SCHOOL-WIDE CONTRIBUTIONS TO TSUNAMI RELIEF

We are pleased to share with you that our students have had some wonderful success raising funds to send to the Red Cross to assist with the Tsunami Relief Effort.

- The *Middle School Dance* proceeds totaled \$356.00.
- The *Intermediate Leadership Council Used Book Sale* earned \$1,526.50.
- *Middle School Advisory Community Service Day Carwash/Bake Sale* earned \$166.75.
- *Top Bananas* raised \$186.53. **Cameron Farzaneh**, **David Friedman**, **Brandon Noriega**, and **Troy Herscovici** started collecting coins because **Cameron** suggested the project to his classmates. All soon joined in the project. They used *St. Pete Time's* articles to research how they could help and then they collected change. The students graphed their results and presented the money at a Monday Morning Assembly.
- The *Upper Primary Bake Sale*, held March 18, earned \$442.83. The Cool Cats (1st grade) Brilliant Bugs (multi-age) and the Top Bananas (2nd grade) did a great job and we all loved the treats!

FOURTH GRADE TALLAHASSEE TRIP – BEST EVER!!

By Fourth Grade Team: **Vickii Ausburn**, **Lisa Hutchinson**, and **Kim Rostick**

What a warm and pleasant adventure fourth graders experienced as they triumphed over rain, puddles, and a 39 degree wind chill to canvass our state's capitol during the three days before Spring break. They really WOWed Secretary of State, Glenda Hood, and Representative Kevin Ambler with their insightful questions and knowledge of the three branches of government and the U.S. and Florida constitutions.

Our three-day tour included greeting Governor Jeb Bush, prior to a cabinet meeting. IDS Fourth Graders were front and center with the Governor during the cabinet meeting, giving our students a bird's eye view of civic participation and the executive branch at work. Governor Bush was even so kind as to invite guests to explain their comments so that our students could easily understand and appreciate the significance of the resolutions being discussed.

The fourth grade class was also able to sit in on the Florida Senate and stood with poise and presence as they were recognized and welcomed by Senate President Tom Lee and the entire Chamber. In addition, they were able to participate in a mock debate to pass a legislative bill in the House of Representatives. They enjoyed sitting in the chamber in the actual chairs of the Representatives. They also participated in a simulation of a Supreme Court mock case. Our talented fourth grade teachers even incorporated a Kagan structure to ensure equal participation for all students. This study tour was a great example of hands-on learning and application of lessons to real life settings.

PFA NEWS

PFA LEADERSHIP: 2005 – 2006: IDS thrives because of the teamwork with our Parent Faculty Association (PFA). PFA is currently looking for volunteers and committee chairpersons for next school year (2005 - 2006)!! If you have an interest in finding out more about our PFA and the positions that we have, please contact Shannon Spagnuolo, PFA President at (813) 792-2045.

Note to all RPCs and committee chairs: When on campus, be sure to wear your leadership nametags or get a Parent Pass nametag in the office, even when you are on campus for short periods of time.

PFA Fine Arts Sponsors Sno Cone Sale on Friday, April 1, for the Eastside and Friday, April 8, for the Middle School. Support the Arts and enjoy a special treat. The sno cones are \$1.00 each.



PFA ParentNet: Thanks for running another informative session. They shared all about finding camps and types of summer opportunities.



PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR IDSERS

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

Sixth grader **Derek Schocken** is a great model for community service and an advocate for good health with his work for the American Heart Association. The Florida/Affiliate of the American Heart Association nominated Derek for the Youth Advocacy Award because of all of his efforts. Derek, this recognition is well deserved.

Congratulations to **Savannah Walters** who spoke about her fuel conservation organization, *Pump 'em Up!* alongside Senators Cantwell, Kerry, and Lieberman in Washington, D.C. in March.

Lindsay Pearl recently completed her second season in HCU soccer. As part of the U10 Girls Scorpions, she played right wing and goalkeeper. She had a great season and was selected to play on the U10 Girls All-star team.

ALUM 2001, **Adam Beeble**, co-captain of the Avon Wrestling team, had an awesome day, taking home a second place medal at the 160 lbs. category in February. He competed in the New England Wrestling Finals March 4-5. Adam will be attending UCF in the fall.

All Brilliant Bugs and Top Bananas entered a creative writing and art contest sponsored by The St. Pete Times. We are proud to announce that **Mercy Anderson's** artwork was chosen and published in the Monday, March 28 edition.

THURSDAY FOLDER ENCLOSURES

- Reflections Concert: Tasteful Trios – Sunday, April 17 at 3:00 p.m. – Theater/Training Center. Please see enclosed Ticket Order Form for more information.
- Fourth and fifth graders: “Just Say No” *Substance Abuse* poster contest. Entries are due Thursday, April 14. The 2004 – 2005 theme is “Tomorrow’s Heroes”.

THREE STUDENTS HONORED AS HEADMASTERS OF THE DAY

CONGRATULATIONS to *Mimi Coto, 1st Grade Cool Cat, Brandon Flittner, 4th Grade, and Benjamin Peacock, 6th Grade*, who will take charge of IDS for **FALL 2005** as **Headmasters of the Day!** *We all look forward to their leadership and thank their very generous families!*

CLASSICAL MUSIC BUILDS SMART BRAINS JOIN A FAMILY CONCERT OPPORTUNITY

PROFESSIONAL CONCERT SERIES

REFLECTIONS

SUNDAY
APRIL 17, 2005
3:00 PM



Carmen Bannon
Flute

Stacey McColley
Clarinet

Maurizio Venturini
Bassoon

Felicia Brunell
Violin

Olga Glick
Piano

TASTEFUL TRIOS

Featuring music by
VIVALDI, HAYDN & MILHAUD

Featuring snacks from
ITALY, ENGLAND & FRANCE

THEATER

INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL
CORBETT CAMPUS
12015 ORANGE GROVE DRIVE
TAMPA, FL 33618

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TICKETS CONTACT

Tom McColley or Michael LeBlanc 961-3087
tmccolley@idsyes.com

ALL TICKETS \$5.00

The IDS Community Music School will be hosting an Instrument Petting Zoo following the concert. Children of all ages, including adults, will be able to try out a variety of instruments.

COMMUNITY ADVERTISEMENT

If you are interested in running an advertisement in the *Heads' Letter*, please contact: Celeste Ross at (813) 961-3087. ¼ page \$50, ½ page \$75, full back page \$150, and flyer insert \$200.

Advertisements run only when space is available.

Easidance
Ballroom, Inc.

4507 Gunn Hwy
(813) 908-3340

Children's Dance Class

commencing



Saturday, April 9

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

\$7.00 per person

Hip-Hop Salsa Freestyle
Latin Swing



Call for more info or to register
(813) 908-3340

Easidance Ballroom, Inc. is registered with the State of Florida as a
Ballroom Dance Studio, Reg. No. DS-00419