

HEADS' LETTER

APRIL 10, 2008

ENJOY A STUDENT HOLIDAY! SCHOOL RESUMES ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

The entire school is closed in honor of the stellar evaluation received by our re-accreditation team last week. The Friday student holiday was set last year so that final preparations for the re-accreditation visit could be made for the end of April. However, when we were trying to set the date for our ten member team, the only dates available were the end of March. Therefore, we are honoring the many, many hours of preparing for our FCIS, FKC, and SACS visit by our teachers and staff with a well-deserved free day on Friday. We will work together in in-service today and Friday will be a personal "catch-up" day for all!!

We are also gratified to have received some major accolades from the team with the report to the Head of School followed by a report to the teachers with words like: spectacular, innovative, dynamic, high energy and unique. The praise about the IDS teachers was over the top! The praise about our campus facility and it's care was extremely gratifying. They did recommend that we do a better job of telling our story so that more people could benefit from what is happening at this school. The final report will be out at the end of May and we will be able to share more with you.

There is much more to share about their report, but we will wait until we get the final report to go into details...except for one thing...

BIRTH CERTIFICATES! The team that visited us this year was large, thorough, and very detailed. For the first time ever, we were told that we had to have birth certificates or copies of them on file for our student body. This is a Florida Kindergarten Council standard, and actually, it is the first time that it was brought to our attention. It is an easy fix, if you would help us comply with this standard. Please send in a copy of your child's birth certificate or come in the office and we will copy it for you. Thanks for your help!

BIG EVENT SCORES A HOME RUN!!!

All week, we have been hearing that this was the best ever! It was sooooo much fun! There were more tickets sold than any other year and enough auction items that varied in price that there was something for everyone. There were plenty of games and more auction items than we have ever had before. The food was delicious, the weather was beautiful for 80% of the night, the babysitting was great for the kids, and the decorations were outstanding and festive. The auctioneer, Fox News sports anchor Chip Carter, volunteered to do it again next year because he had so much fun, and he even sent a thank you to us raving about the event. Here are some people to thank:

- **Thanks** to all of the families who donated to the class baskets. They were a hit!
- **Thanks** to all of the families who helped with the class creations!
- **Thanks** to all of the families who donated auction items!
- **Thanks** to all of the families who secured auction items!
- **Thanks** to all of the teachers who came up with special parties, sign-ups and gifts to support the event.
- **Thanks** to all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the year to plan the event.
- **Thanks** to all of the volunteers who helped decorate and prepare everything the week of the event.
- **Thanks** to all of the families that bought tickets to the Big Event.
- **Thanks** to all of the families that brought guests to the Big Event.
- The amount of volunteers was soooooo gratifying and everyone pulled together to make it happen.



And a huge, over the top bravo to Chair, Julie Salek and her "detail team", Kathy von Thaden, Helga Stadick, and Beth Blacker for reservations, bookkeeping and general checking to make sure everything was perfect even in the wee hours of the night and mornings. The wonderful office staff and facilities team, who joined our volunteers with a labor of love to make everything perfect, is what teaming and partnership is all about. **IT TRULY WAS A WINNING NIGHT FOR ALL OF US! TO ONE AND ALL THANKS BILLIONS...OUR STUDENTS ARE THE REAL WINNERS...LOOK AT ALL YOU HAVE HELPED TO PAY FOR AND NOW WE CAN FINISH PAYING!!!! YOU DID IT...WE ALL DID IT!**

★ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SLEEPING BEAUTY COMES TO IDS! - PRESENTED BY THE WARRIORS' PRIDE CHORUS.**



- ★ The Green Cast will perform on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.
- ★ The Purple Cast will perform on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.
- ★ Tickets will be available at the door for \$5.00 and admission for current IDS students is FREE!!!

★ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FINE ARTS DAY ON THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008, MOVING TO TWO OPTIONS DURING THE DAY!** *See the reprint from the March 13, 2008, Heads' Letter as an important reminder below:*



A DATE REMINDER AND TIME CHANGE ALERT!!! The Spring Fine Arts Program on **Thursday, May 8, 2008**, will now move to two daytime presentations...one in the morning and one in the afternoon with a full day and week of visiting times for the school-wide "IDSer Art Exhibit". You may be asking, "*Why the Change?*" There are a number of reasons, **1.** Primary parents are the first to fill in the front rows at evening presentations and too many leave early for bedtimes and frankly, it's unfair to our performers to play to empty seats. We want you to be able to enjoy the whole show! **2.** In the Spring, we compete with Sports teams and their tournaments at night. It's tough on students who have to make a choice between two important obligations that both depend on them. **3.** Students work so hard all year for only one performance and this will give them a chance to perform twice. **4.** Parents can have a choice now between a morning performance (9:00 am) and an afternoon performance (1:00 pm) and **5.** There are other reasons but the above four are a start!

MULTI-AGE COOL CATS SAY”
“THANK YOU IDS!”



On Monday, April 7, 2008, the IDS Cool Cats presented a donation check to BIG CAT RESCUE for \$1,540! Thank you IDS for the fabulous support at our Cool Cat Safari Store. This community service will help the abused and abandoned big cats at this sanctuary to have a safe and peaceful life. A huge round of applause goes to Cool Cat Nicole Stambo for taking action to raise money on her own. Nicole set up her own lemonade stand and was able to raise an additional \$40 to give to our cause.

In addition to raising money, we learned a lot about running a store, organizing merchandise and had a lot of fun selling the items that we chose. It was a "Meow-wow" experience!



FIELD DAY SCORES WITH THE “BIGS” AND “LITTLES”

Field Day 2008 was a phenomenal success with the Middle School students (“BIGS”) hosting the Primary and Intermediate students (“LITTLES”)! IDS is proud of all of our students for the energy, enthusiasm, and excitement that they brought to this fun-filled event. Kudos to our Middle School students for being the best “Big Buddies” that our Primary and Intermediate students could have! A special thank-you goes out to PFA President Amy Bottini for coordinating our volunteers. To all of our generous and committed Parent Volunteers: Thank you for making this a Field Day for the record books (the “smile” count was through the roof!!!). A huge congratulations to the Physical Education team for a job well done and exemplary teamwork!!!





Touchdown! Slam Dunk! Grand Slam!

While the parents, staff and volunteers had a great time dining, bidding and dancing the night away at the Big Event, our kids are the big winners because they will benefit from all of the money IDS was able to raise! As your head coach and referee for the event, there are so many people I need to thank!

- Thank you to all of the teachers for generously donating their time for once in a lifetime experiences for the kids. These picnics and lunches raised a ton!
- Thank you to the IDS Facilities Team for always going above and beyond to help this committee. When you see Robert, Pedro, Mary and Federico, thank them personally. They worked for weeks to make the Middle School look its very best and to build an unbelievable bar for us to use each year!
- Thank you to the Administration and Office Staff for being so supportive, patient and helpful all year. They are the true angels of this school!
- Thank you to our fantastic Halftime performers: Polyfonix, a singing group which includes Michael LeBlanc, Tom Bronson, Matt Nelson and Charlie Nelson, entertained us with the "Star Spangled Banner" and the best Queen rendition ever done. As for our dancers, well, you had to see it to believe it. Mr. T, Coach Chumbley, Coach Starkey and Coach Taylor, the parents are STILL talking about your unbelievable talents! I have a feeling you will be asked to do several encore performances in the future!
- Thank you to all of the families, businesses and individuals that donated to the auction. Whether you gave items for a class basket, helped the kids with their creations, donated to the live and silent auctions, or gave money as an underwriter, it was because of YOU that the school will have funds to give directly to the classrooms.
- Thank you to the RPC's for all you do all year to help with the creations and the baskets. This is a big job, but the pay off is huge, and we appreciate all of your dedication and organization!
- Thank you to all of the guests at the Big Event. The bidding and checkout process helped the evening go smoothly. Thank you for bidding often and bidding high, and thanks for having such a great time! It made all of our work so worthwhile to see you each enjoying the night so much! The rain stayed away long enough for many of you to hit the bounce bungee jump and the batting cages, but somehow Dr. Joyce made it rain just in time for her to miss the dunk booth. Oh well, there is always next year!
- Finally, a HUGE thank you to the entire committee for your imagination, determination and dedication. You stepped up with helping hands, willing hearts and creative minds to make the entire event a smashing success! You helped make the whole week a lot of FUN! The laughs behind the scenes have given me memories for years to come! I adore and appreciate each and every one of you! A million thanks!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
Julie Salek, Big Event Chairperson 2008

IDS YOUNG AUTHORS CELEBRATION ANNOUNCEMENT!

The IDS Young Authors' Conference will be held on Thursday, April 24th. We are excited to announce we will have two guest authors, Brenda Martin and Ruth Vander Zee.

For our Primary students, Brenda Martin, the author of Freddie, Hector and Tish: The Treasure-Hunt Fish, will be personalizing and signing books purchased by IDS students following her presentation to students in Kindergarten and Second grade. She will also read her story to our PK3 and PK4 students in their classrooms before their naptime.

A synopsis of her book is as follows: While searching for treasure in Old Tampa Bay, the Treasure-Hunt Fish realize that life's most important treasures are diversity and being a friend to others and yourself!

You can visit the following website and see the first few pages of the book online to get an idea of the story and its format: http://www.brenmarcommunications.com/photo_gallery.html

The price of the book is \$16.00. If you would like to purchase the book for your child, please send a check payable to IDS by Thursday, April 24th. Cash is also acceptable. Your payment will ensure a book signing experience on that day.

For our Middle School and Intermediate students, **Ruth Vander Zee**, an award winning author, will make three presentations during our conference. She will share her stories Eli Remembers and Erika's Story with Fourth – Eighth grade and Mississippi Morning with Third grade.

We look forward to an exciting day focused on the joy of sharing, creating and writing with others.

THERE WILL BE A WAITING LIST FOR THIS NEW PROGRAM THAT WE ARE BRINGING TO IDS!

A NEW AND IMPROVED FORM OF NEUROFEEDBACK INFORMATION MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Grand Room

New technique being used in schools to help students achieve greater levels of focusing and concentration!

Phil Hayes, a school administrator and teacher for 29 years, will join us on Tuesday, April 29th, at 7:00 pm, here at IDS-CC to share this amazing program of help for students. This technique has been used for everyone from Kindergarten age to senior citizens and from students to professional athletes and CEO's. Come listen as he explains what is literally revolutionizing the way we think about treating attention issues.

You will become well-informed as he relates the program, answers questions and demonstrates an EEG with a member of the audience to take a look at the brain waves of the individual.

This technique was used with professional athlete and LA Clippers center, Chris Kaman, who was misdiagnosed for years before being evaluated by 139 Education staff last summer. He credits his remarkable basketball season this year to the work he did for two months using neurofeedback.

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

WEEKLY SPORTS UPDATE

April 14-18, 2008

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



Date	Time	Team/Sport	School	Location	Pick-Up	Comments
Mon.	off	Baseball-Red Team	off			
4/14	3:30	Baseball-White Team	Cambridge	Forest Hills	5:45	
	4:00	Softball-Red Team	Incarnation	IDS Softball Field	5:30	
	off	Softball-White Team	off			
	4:00	Tennis	Berkeley Prep	MP Tennis	6:30	Dean Dining Hall
Tues.	5:00	Volleyball	Club	Corbett Hall	7:00	
4/15						
Weds.	3:00	Baseball-Red Team	Practice	IDS Baseball Field	4:00	
4/16	4:00	Baseball-White Team	Trinity	IDS Baseball Field	6:00	
	3:00	Softball-Both Teams	Practice	IDS Softball Field	4:30	
	3:00	Tennis	Practice	MP Tennis	5:00	Dean Dining Hall
Thur.	off	Baseball-Red Team	off			
4/17	4:00	Baseball-White Team	Berkeley	IDS Baseball Field	6:00	
	off	Softball-Red Team	off			
	3:30	Softball-White Team	Acad. At Lakes	Land o' Lakes Rec Ctr	6:00	Dean Dining Hall
	3:30	Tennis	Tampa Prep	MP Tennis	6:15	Dean Dining Hall
Fri.	3:45	Baseball-Red Team	Acad. At Lakes	Land o' Lakes Rec Ctr	6:00	Dean Dining Hall
4/18	3:45	Baseball-White Team	Acad. At Lakes	Land o' Lakes Rec Ctr	6:00	Optional attendance
	off	Softball - Both Teams	off			
	off	Tennis	off			

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS TO SCHOOLS
APRIL 14-18, 2008

FOREST HILLS: 2 miles south on Orange Grove Drive.

LAND o' LAKES RECREATION CENTER: (ACADEMY AT THE LAKES: 1800 Collier Parkway, Land O' Lakes, 948-2133.)
Dale Mabry north to the end at Junction 41. Follow 41 north for 1/4 mile, then turn right onto 54. Travel approximately 3 miles, left onto Collier Parkway. The school is on the right. The recreation center is a 1/2 mile past the school on the right.

MP TENNIS CENTER (formerly JUDY ALVAREZ CLUB): South on Dale Mabry / Right on Humphrey after Busch Overpass / LEFT on Hubert /Courts are 1/2 block down Hubert on left side.