

HEADS' LETTER

APRIL 16, 2009

SOMETIMES IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE: A MOMENT OF APPRECIATION

For 12½ years Mrs. Pitti reigned over our beautiful, lake-front library making it a wonderful place for students to feel the comfort and joy that comes from being surrounded by over 15,000 books. When Mrs. Pitti joined the Third Grade (now 3/4) All Stars' partnership, our friend Nan at *Barnes and Noble* recommended someone that she had worked with and admired for a long time and who also was just completing her degree in Library Science. When we met Ms. Fields, we all knew that this was a great match. A couple of weeks ago, Ms. Fields had one of those very special times when we allow ourselves to stop for a moment, notice what's happening around us, and feel the appreciation just flow inside of us. She was inspired to write her thoughts down, and we wanted to share this with you!



"Today must be one of the most beautiful days in the history of the world! I just walked the IDS shaded board walkway to get ice for my drink, and I thought I would burst with happiness for the day! Fifth graders are eating their lunch, and the Pavillion is filled with the happy sounds of their combined voices. The sun is out, clouds are brilliant white and fluffy; the wind blows gustily, keeping the temperature down and the air dry. Spring has bloomed here in central Florida; the trees turned green overnight and the smell of blooming flowers perfumes the air. The lake shimmers as the clouds and wind ripple across the surface of the water, and the Spanish moss dances happily in the trees. How fortunate I feel today, working in such an environment, living in the brilliant sunshine of today. Today, my cup runneth over with happiness to be right here at IDS-CC."

WARRIORS' PRIDE CHORUS: DIRECTOR BEAMS WITH PRIDE BY MR. MICHAEL LEBLANC

Congratulations to the entire Warriors' Pride Chorus for four fabulous, astounding, superb, inspiring, and exciting performances of *Pirates of Penzance Jr.* This show was an incredibly huge undertaking and every student really stepped-up and made the experience fun and memorable! I can honestly say that I absolutely immensely enjoyed rehearsing this group of students immensely. *Did you know that we had 27 hours of rehearsal time outside of school hours?* This excitement and dedication was captured on the stage! The feedback I am receiving about the shows has been wonderful. Everyone is so impressed by the children's talent, maturity and professionalism on stage. Thanks to all 86 students, teachers and parent volunteers who through their own "blood, sweat and tears," made the show a complete success.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE: THE IDS-CC TV STUDIO CALLED WIDS

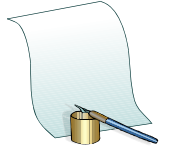


Mr. Mel (Technology and WIDS Elective Teacher) Matt Melnick made sure the **WIDS ELECTIVE** continued its annual tradition of taking a trip to the local NBC Affiliate, WFLA in downtown Tampa. *The WIDS MORE On Day 4* Crew was given a tour of the facility and got to learn about all aspects of television production. Students had the opportunity to sit behind the actual news desk and talk with various behind the scenes employees. They even sat in the studio audience for a live taping of the DAYTIME morning show. It was exciting and inspiring to see how the skills practiced at school can be applied to a real career setting. Many thanks go out to Steve Powell, Senior Editor at WFLA, who donates his time and knowledge each year on this tour.

NEWS UPDATE

IDS YOUNG AUTHORS' DAY BROUGHT AMAZING ROLE MODELS TO CAMPUS:

This year's IDS Young Authors' Day, held on April 3, welcomed three authors who successfully shared stories that showed the behind the scenes work it takes to be an author. They each wove great stories about their experiences and their books. Our students were both appreciative and attentive audiences who gleaned a lot of information and inspiration from our speakers. Who knows? Someday, our own IDSers will be presenting to future generations! A huge thanks to Authors Gloria Houston (also grandmother of Laurel Floen), Kelly Hicks (mother of Mackenzie Hicks) and Suzin Carr (who also showcased her work at our December Holiday Boutique). All of our students are writing special pieces to be put in a new time capsule that will be opened in 10 years for the IDS 50th Anniversary.



THE POWDER PUFF GAME! A NEW TRADITION of School Spirit:

Congratulations to our 8th grade graduation parent committee for working so creatively with our Middle School teachers, coaches and students. They successfully pulled off a fabulous Powder Puff flag football game. The preparation and implementation was stellar. Ms. Robinson (Asst. Middle School Division Leader) writes:



"This Tuesday, April 14, the Middle School hosted the first annual Powder Puff flag football game. The eighth grade girls challenged the sixth and seventh grade girls in a competitive "down to the last minute" well-played game! The crowd was entertained by eighth grade boys that took the role of "cheerleaders" to help cheer on their graduating class to victory! This eighth grade class sponsored the event as a fundraiser and it was a huge success that has started a tradition sure to continue in the future. Thank you to all of the sixth and seventh grade girls for giving their best and representing the middle school as outstanding athletes! Congratulations to the class of 2009 ladies in their victory!"

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS: COACHES' UPDATE: Tournament time is right around the corner. As our spring season winds down, please mark your calendars that the week of **April 27 thru May 1** is the time to catch your warriors as they once again attempt to bring home the championships.



Both the boys and girls Tennis Teams have had outstanding seasons with the girls currently at 6-2 and the boys at 7-1.



The boys' Baseball Teams have also had tremendous seasons with our Purple team currently 5-1 in league play and our Silver team currently 2-1 in their league.



The girls' Softball Team has been very competitive this spring making every game a thriller as they gear up for a Cinderella run to bring home the league title.



Please remember that on **Monday, May 11, our Athletics Awards Night** will honor all athletes for the 2008 - 2009 year. At this time, our coaches and players get a chance to celebrate the seasons of athletics, our athletes, and coaches.



INTERMEDIATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Let's Celebrate Spring! Intermediate Leadership Council is sponsoring FLIP FLOP Day on Friday, April 24. Wear your favorite flip flops and enjoy the fantastic April weather! Please bring tennis shoes for play time and PE.



PFA NEWS

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 8: For more information please see the enclosed letter in your Thursday folder or attachment online from the PFA Committee for planning Teacher Appreciation Week.



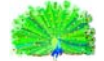
SEEKING PARENT VOLUNTEERS FOR 2009 / 2010: Please complete the enclosed IDS-CC volunteer form to express your interest in becoming a committee leader, committee member, and/or Room Parent Coordinator for the 2009 – 2010 Parent Faculty Association. There are a wide range of volunteer opportunities to fit everyone's interests and schedules. Please submit your completed form to the East side office by Monday, April 20, 2009 (second reminder).



YARD SALE INFO: Please see the enclosed form about the upcoming IDS YARD SALE on **Saturday, May 16, 2009!** We need your gently used items and also welcome your volunteer time. We can help with your spring cleaning and help to increase the space in your closets and storage areas by having you bring in as many items as possible. We are doing a lot of advertising about this sale. You may drop off your donations beginning Friday, May 1, 2009. Please call Yard Sale Chairperson, Julie Salek at (813) 382-2525 with any all questions.



PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR OUR IDSers



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

Our Alums make us very proud!!!!!! Ben McBride (Class of 2008) and Michael Fears (Class of 2008) participated in the Florida Bandmasters' Association District level Solo & Ensemble Competition on February 20 at Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg. They played in a brass quintet and received a superior rating. This rating qualified their quintet to compete at the State level in Naples on April 8. Both boys are in the International Baccalaureate program in Pinellas County Schools.



Congratulations to **Jordan Payne (All Star 3/4)** who received a "by invitation only" to participate in the Super Stars for Chess competition. Unfortunately, he has to choose between that and the Ju-Jitsu tournament on the same weekend. Jordan's passion for chess is moving IDS closer and closer to our own competitive team.



BON VOYAGE!

**Middle School heads out for adventures as they take school on the road!
NEW HORIZONS WEEK BEGINS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Next week will be a quiet week on the west side as Middle School students and teachers pack-up for a week of off-site learning experiences. All students will have follow-up projects that reflect upon the experience and demonstrate understanding of lessons learned.

SIXTH GRADE is off to Pathfinders for four days of taking IDS curriculum to the outdoors for an amazing experience. This is the eighth year at Pathfinders for our sixth graders.

SEVENTH GRADE is off to Wolfcreek for a junior-type outward bound experience. Our IDS seventh graders have been part of the Wolfcreek experience for over 20 years.

EIGHTH GRADE is off to Washington DC and Williamsburg, VA. where they see and experience first hand the history that they are studying.

REMINDERS

SPRING FINE ARTS: mark your calendars for our Spring Fine Arts performances. You can either attend **Thursday, May 7**, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. or **Friday, May 8**, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. We want to offer options to work around peoples' schedules!!! Day performances insure 100% attendance by our students



CLASS PICTURES: Class pictures will be taken on **Thursday, April 30** for **Pre-K 3 through 2nd grades** and **Friday, May 1**, for **all Intermediate and Middle School students**. On your scheduled picture day, please have your children either wear or bring their green polo shirt for the picture. Pictures will be taken throughout our beautiful campus and will include your child's teachers. These pictures will be available for purchase. An order form will be included in a future Thursday folder.



ENCLOSURES



1. Two Press Releases
2. Teacher Appreciation Week Letter
3. Yard Sale Form
4. MS Wind Shirt Order Form
5. Parent Volunteer Sheet



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