

HEADS' LETTER

MAY 28, 2009

CANDLELIGHT & MOVING UP CEREMONY

- ★ Eighth grade **CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY** begins at 8:05 a.m.
- ★ **MOVING UP CEREMONY** begins immediately following the Candlelight Ceremony!
- ★ Parents are invited to the all school assembly
- ★ Tuesday morning - June 2, 2009, 8:05 a.m.

Please make sure that all students arrive at school on time to prepare for our final school ceremonies for the 2008 - 2009 school year in Corbett Hall.



THE IDS-CC 2009 GRADUATING CLASS

Invites You to Independent
Day School: Corbett
Campus
For the Eighth Grade
Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at
6:30 P.M. in Corbett Hall

Congratulations: CSA (Community School of the Arts) Program for their productions of "How to Eat Like a Child" and "Curtains." Both shows were so entertaining and the talent that is being developed is truly outstanding.

The Spirit of IDS Chorus directed by Mrs. Barbara McBride presented a concert for the residents of Manor Care Nursing Facility. All 32 third graders that participate in this chorus, travelled there to sing. They were amazing! They represented IDS well by sharing the gift of music with residents, visitors and the employees of Manor Care. Everyone who heard them was inspired by their beautiful singing and the energy with which they performed. Bravo!

International Visitors: Last week we welcomed a group of educators from São Paulo, Brazil who came to visit IDS to learn more about Cooperative Learning and the M.O.R.E. Model. They had a wonderful visit, will definitely return for more, and even gave a standing ovation at the first performance Friday night of the CSA musical Curtains. Our school transcends language barriers and complete strangers become our immediate friends, admirers and colleagues. It's exciting!

EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2009

Extended Day will be provided on the last day of school on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Activities will be based in the Extended Day Room and an afternoon snack and juice will be provided. The cost for the afternoon will be \$15.00, regardless of the length of stay (*except for those on the Yearly-Extended Day plan*). **NOTE: PLEASE BE SURE TO SEND A LUNCH WITH YOUR CHILD IF HE/SHE WILL BE STAYING FOR EXTENDED DAY.**



Parents interested in taking advantage of this special extended day session on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, **MUST REGISTER** with Ms. Marie either by phone at (813) 961-3087 or in person in the office by **Monday, June 1, 2009.**

NEXT YEAR'S LINE-UP: FACULTY UPDATE

At this time of year, transitions are always taking place as people look to the future and change happens. We wanted to share with you so that we can bid "Fond Farewells" as we also have our "Welcome-backs:"

Mrs. Michelle Robson and her family will be moving to Miami at the close of the school year. Husband Ian is already there. Mrs. Robson and her family have been a wonderful integral part of our school from the baby room through eighth grade for a number of years. We pay tribute to her for her leadership and all of her great gifts that she has so readily shared with countless students and teachers! We will also miss Corbin, Colin, Aidan and Ariana. Their smiles and energy have been a joy and a delight since Corbin began here in Kindergarten eight years ago.

Mrs. Rania ElChaar walked into the IDS world and our hearts three years ago. She followed her students to Kindergarten this year after two years in Pre-Kindergarten. Her teammates sing her praises and her students have been blessed with her kindness and knowledge. Mrs. ElChaar, her husband Jamal, and Pre-K4 son Ibrahim will be relocating to Beirut, Lebanon, where she will be a second grade teacher in the American School of Beirut. Technology is amazing. She had her interview on Skype where we could all see each other. We plan to welcome her back in one to two years because we are calling this a leave of absence.

Mrs. Kim Fowler: YIPPEEE! Mrs. Fowler (an IDS Teacher since 1997 and one of Dr. Swarzman's students from the University of South Florida's SCATT program) is returning to IDS for the 2009 - 2010 academic year after a two-year leave of absence. When her daughter Kelsea graduated from IDS (next year a junior at Academy of the Holy Names), she was granted a leave; however, she is always here for every event, girls basketball, trainings including our gifted courses, etc. We are delighted to have her returning to where she began in 1997.

With farewells and welcome backs, there are some shifts in our system:

In Early Primary (Grades Pre-K3, Pre-K4 and Kindergarten): 1.) Mrs. Jessica Moore and Mrs. Marla Vildostegui are excited to welcome an experienced kindergarten teacher to their amazing team! Mrs. Ande Felder will move from the Mighty Monkeys second grade to join the Kindergarten Frogs. 2.) Ms. Leah Gucciardi, who has been in the Pre-K3 class for the past month, will be teaming with Mrs. Lauren Bronson for next year while Mrs. Samantha Nelson takes maternity leave. Ms. Gucciardi is already loved by her students and colleagues. She began with us two years ago as a resident teacher! It is great to "grow" our own faculty whenever possible! Pre-K4 remains the same.

In Upper Primary (Grades 1st, 2nd and Multi-age 1/2): Now that Mrs. Felder is moving to Kindergarten, the following shifts will take place. Mrs. Teresa Waterman will move up to the graded Mighty Monkey second grade class with her current first grade students. Mrs. Andria Petty, who is an experienced first grade teacher, will move from the Cool Cat Multi-age class to the Mighty Monkey first grade class. She joined us this year as a wonderful team partner with Ms. Debi Brockmeyer in the Cool Cat Multi-age Class. Moving back into her original home and the founder of the Cool Cats with Ms. Brockmeyer is Mrs. Kim Fowler (see above in welcome back section). The Brilliant Bugs remain the same. We will also be welcoming a new resident teacher to the Upper Primary Division.

Intermediate Division (Grades 3rd, 4th, and Multi-age 3/4): All classroom teachers remain the same. Our resident and 1999 alum Ben Donovan will complete his residency with the IDS fourth grade "Going Places". We so enjoyed having one of our own growing and learning with us. We all want to say with pride, "Ben, you are the BEST. Thanks for sharing this year with IDS. This will always be your second home!"

Middle School: All subject area classroom teachers are returning for a great new 2009 - 2010 year...Coach Don Dewey will be taking on a new sports program...TBA later. Middle School is busy immersed in preparing and delivering Final Exams and getting ready for well-deserved end-of -the-year celebrations.

Specials Division: Our eight specials: Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Physical Education, Library, Spanish, and Technology remain the same for next year. They have had some amazing successes this year with spectacular, show-stopping performances, a trip to Spain, welcomed international guests, won sports recognition, advanced technology to the limits, and on and on and on. It makes sense that they are all called "SPECIAL s."

So that's it for now! We are looking forward to an incredible next year. The teachers are excited about the new opportunity with all of our teachers earning Gifted Endorsements, while also lesson planning for next year with refinements which are always in the works. As always we are thinking of new and exciting ways to keep our students, teachers, and school in the forefront of "what's best in education"! Parents, we love your IDSers day in and day out. Thanks for sharing them with us! We like teaming with YOU!

PFA NEWS:

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008 - 2009 PFA FOR AN OUTSTANDING YEAR! WOW! In challenging times, they persevered and IDS students are the ones that benefit each and everyday with state of the art technology, an abundance of key resources for teachers to make learning the best it can be, and so much more. In fact, the energy that parents create with their support of the PFA is one of the special aspects that makes this campus a "magical kingdom" for learning! Lots of appreciation to everyone for MORE that can be described through words!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008 - 2009 PFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for guiding the goals of an active, dynamic group of leaders for all of our events and many successful fundraisers. Special thanks to the Executive Committee: President: Amy Bottini, Vice President: Marcie Mueller, Treasurer: Billie Valloreo, Secretary: Avis Harrison, Past President: Jennifer Stiles, RPC Corrdinator: Vera Murphy-Trayner, Golf Chair: Kristen Barrett, Big Event Chair: Julie Salek, Hospitality Co-Chairs: Stacy Leeds and Linda Simonton, and Fundraising Co-Chairs: Heather Lee and Vanessa Minick.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 2009 - 2010 PFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President: Heather Lee, Vice President: Marcie Mueller, Treasurer: Billie Valloreo, Secretary: Cindy Gruden, Past President: Amy Bottini, RPC Corrdinator: Vera Murphy-Trayner, Golf Chair: Steve Riddle, Big Event Chair: Julie Salek, Fundraising Chair: Vanessa Minick, and Community Outreach: Nancy Leach.

KEY DATES FOR NEXT YEAR: IDS Kids Golf Classic: Monday, October 19, 2009, at the Avila Golf & Country Club, IDS Big Event Casino Night: Saturday, March 6, 2009, and Gift Wrap, Kitchen & Home Gourmet Foods by Jaxco kick-off Thursday, August 27, 2009.



PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR OUR IDSers



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

Stephanie Desmairis Georgiades (Brilliant Bug parent) will be a presenter at the SENG SUMMIT: Mission Possible Gifted Conference in Orlando this summer July 17 – 19 and co-presenting with Katie Owens, her former student (an IB graduate and senior at FSU). The title of their presentation is "**Study Skills for Gifted Learners: A Proactive Approach to Challenging Course Work.**" Any parents interested in attending the conference which includes a children's program can find information at http://www.sengifted.org/conference_about.shtml. **Dr. Elizabeth Shaunessy**, Head of the USF Gifted Program will also be presenting at the conference. Dr. Shaunessy is our professor/mentor for the Gifted endorsement for our IDS faculty partnership with USF and the Gifted Program.

Jessica Riddle (Grade 7) competed at the Sunshine State Games Figure Skating Championships May 16 - 17 in Coral Springs, FL. Her Artistic medal earned her an invitation to the 2011 State Games of America competition in San Diego, CA. where she will be one of over 11,000 athletes from 49 State Games nationwide to compete. On May 22 - 25, Jessica competed at the ISI 50th National Ice Skating Competition in Orlando, FL., receiving 1st for her Wicked Showcase program, first with her Synchronized Skating Senior Youth team, 2nd for her Artistic program, and 2nd with her Synchronized Skating Formation Team. **Nice Ice Jessica!!**

Laurel Floen (All Star Multi-age 3/4) and Caitlyn Distasio (Grade 4) bridged from Jr. Girl Scouts to Cadets in a formal Bridging Ceremony for Troop #61 which has been together as a team since they were Daisy Scouts. **Congratulations** for being recognized for leadership, working in the community, working as a team, taking care of our earth, and being responsible for their own actions, as well as those of the troop. Bravo for going above and beyond!!

Connor Brown (All Star Multi-age 3/4) After five rain postponed tries, Connor's team, the Storm, won the Keystone Little League Championship game with a 10 to 9 comeback in the final inning finishing their season with a 19-1 record. **Good luck** with the regional Tournament of Champions playoffs this week.

Jack Georgiades (Multi-age Brilliant Bug) and his Rattlers baseball team are the CHAMPIONS of the Keystone Baseball Minor C Little League. They completed their season with a record of 14-3, and Jack got the MOST IMPROVED PLAYER award. We are very proud of his hard work and dedication in his first season of playing/learning baseball.

CAMP IDS

For all your Camp IDS information, please visit: <http://www.idsyes.com/summer-camps.htm> or call us at (813) 961-3087.



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