

## HEADS' LETTER

JUNE 23, 2010

### SIMPLY AMAZING: AN ENDING WITH JOY AND FILLED WITH APPRECIATION

#### TRADITIONS: JUNE 2, 2010:

The first week in June ended the school year in the same way that we began with lots of smiles, appreciation, and by utilizing every moment with meaningful experiences right up to the very end. **On June 2, 2010**, the entire school assembled with a few hundred parents gathered in Corbett Hall to witness two traditions that mark important life passages during the "growing up" years.



**First Tradition:** Each year the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Candlelight Ceremony allows every graduate the opportunity to bequeath something important to them to the school. It is their last opportunity to leave their mark before graduation and become a member of the IDS alumni community. The 59 members of the class of 2010 were "over the top" with their creativity and stellar delivery! They touched our hearts by combining humor and seriousness with what was important to each of them. It's hard to let this class go! They made everyone proud. ☺



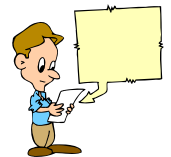
**Second Tradition:** The "Moving-Up" Ceremony began as soon as the 8th Grade completed the Candlelight Ceremony, leaving Corbett Hall with their places at the top of the bleachers painfully empty. First the **Class of 2011** awaited their opportunity to scramble up to the top to take their places as the next leaders of the school. It was finally their turn! Each grade followed, as they all experienced their "rite of passage." Parents cried and laughed while watching the oldest to the youngest scramble to their new seats, only after proclaiming proudly and loudly the year they would become IDS graduates! It is always an "**IDS photo moment**" when Kindergarten moves to the seats and bleachers followed by Pre-K4 sliding into the spot held by Kindergarten and then watching the Pre-K3's reluctantly leaving their teachers to find their new spots in the Pre-K4 area. Some of next year's Class of 2012 were even able to move into "Pre-K3 Heaven" and they of course stole the show. However, the real memorable pictures were found in the huge smiles, often sprinkled with tears of nostalgia and joy, worn on the faces of the parents and teachers as they shared this special moment in time with their IDSers.



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#### TRADITIONS: JUNE 3, 2010

The **last day of school** was filled with activities to celebrate the end of a great school year. The teachers worked hard to create a memorable day of thanks and fun. However, next year's calendar will be modified! The last day of school next year will be on Friday, June 3 and will be a full day! This change, back to the way it was in the past, is for a number of reasons: **1.** A full day of school allows for more opportunity to build and reflect on all of our activities, **2.** It allows for a regular day for parents without adding the cost of Extended Day for those who are working, **3.** It just makes sense and we can do **MORE!** So, please be sure to adjust your IDS calendar and wait to start your vacations until the end of the day on June 3, 2011! This is a "heads-up" to all of our early planners.



TRADITIONS: JUNE 3, 2010, cont. from page 1

**GRADUATION: A REAL WOW!** Just imagine a graduation ceremony where everyone participates, where everyone has ample opportunity to be up and down at the microphones, where everyone speaks like "professional" key note speakers, where their words, thoughts and creativity make each graduate shine as they weave their stories and appreciation into the fabric of the presentations, where the stage filled with graduates is "adult-free" until 80 minutes into the program, and where the audience is truly amazed at both the diversity and talent of each participant! Well, on the evening of June 3rd, in Corbett Hall, that is exactly what happened. President of the Board of Trustees, Jim Conlin, addressed the graduates and their families and proudly proclaimed these 59 alums as amazing and then went on to eloquently inspire them to continue to strive for excellence! The graduation ceremony was followed by a celebration party successfully and beautifully planned by our 8th grade parent graduation committee! CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2010! We miss you already!

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### TRADITIONS: JUNE 4 -10, 2010

**TEACHERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!** On Friday, June 4th, our entire faculty and staff gathered on the second floor of the New Building to kick-off the next five days of in-service, closing out this school year, and planning for the next year. We always begin by sharing our last day activities and celebrating the special moments that happened in each activity. This community builder allows us to "enjoy the joy" of each class and share in those special moments together as an IDS family. We truly love our IDSers. It's great fun and very invigorating to celebrate our kids and their successes with each other. Part 2 always includes a Plus/Delta session, where each grade and division takes time to note the best parts of the day's activities and the deltas that can be improved for the next time. The Plus/Delta activity ensures that we always maintain a continuous improvement model in all that we do....

**GIFTED COURSE #4:** A good part of our week was the completion of our masters degree course work on gifted education and **we did it!** The entire faculty completed Course 4 under the masterful leadership and instruction of the Head of Gifted Education in the USF College of Education, Dr. Elizabeth Shaunessy. We actually learned so much to help us understand our diverse learners in many different and key ways. This course focused on special gifted populations relating to gender, culture, differentiated needs, and research on best practices. The activities were challenging and stimulating, and the articles and sources cited provided a wealth of information. One more course to go in the fall on curriculum and the faculty will be designated as having the qualifications to be noted as a "*gifted-teacher*." One of the areas that we stress the most is that everyone is gifted...just in different ways.

## IN THIS JUNE MAILING, YOU WILL FIND...

**REPORT CARDS:** Report cards are included in this final mailing and are for your records. Each report card has grades and comments from all trimesters. Another hard copy is kept in your child's school record file in addition to having an electronic record.

**SAT TEST SCORES** (for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades). We are pleased to announce that once again our **average school wide SAT 10 test scores** were in the **highest range with a 7 stanine!** Scores of 7, 8 and 9 stanines are ranked as above average. Scores that are 4's, 5's and 6's are in the mid range or on target for grade level. Each grade level's group report from the test described the "**typical IDS student**" as scoring overall in the highest range (stanines 7, 8, or 9).

We do want to emphasize strongly that **this is just one assessment**. Some students tend to vary from year to year depending on their reaction to a test. Scores can be inflated as well as unrelated to what the student can actually accomplish. Overall class performance on a day-to-day basis has equal significance when noting a child's potential. Test taking definitely comes easier to some than others, so we must have multiple ways to assess student progress. If you have any questions, please call and we will meet with you or arrange for the appropriate person(s) to answer your questions.

**While school shopping this summer, please remember to honor Dress Code Expectations. If you are purchasing jackets, coats, or sweatshirts, please continue to follow the dress code if they are worn during the school day.**

### **Excerpt from 2009-2010 Student/Parent Handbook (page 17)**

#### **DRESS CODE - PRE-K THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE**

School is the workplace for students until they are ready to go out on their own. This is their job and their work environment. Adhering to appropriate dress expectations prepares students for real life work expectations. In order to minimize teacher and administrative time in monitoring appropriate clothing, the dress code guidelines will be more specific. The criteria are designed to promote a positive self-image for the student and maintain proper decorum for a learning environment. All items should be clean, in good repair, represent modest dress, present a neat appearance, and be totally appropriate for a school setting. The guidelines below are to make it clear that articles of clothing that contain offensive or distracting messages and/or pictures are unacceptable. Since everyone's idea of unacceptable is often different, we seek to clarify the gray areas altogether.

#### **Dress expectations for MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY are as follows:**

1. Required options include: polo style, a buttoned-down collared or Oxford shirt, and/or crew neck tee shirt tops with sleeves.
2. All **shirts/pants/shorts** can be any solid color or pattern (i.e., paisley, plaid, stripes, polka dots), with or without a small logo displayed. (Use the IDS logo on field trip shirts as a guide.) Shirts/pants/shorts with **ANY** writing or **ANY** pictures are to be left for places other than school (except for Friday's theme days).
3. **All IDS tee shirts or polo shirts** are acceptable with or without writing. We encourage any IDS shirt to be worn to show pride in and appreciation for IDS – YES!
4. Shirts for both boys and girls are to be a length that can **easily** be tucked in.
5. Please note that skirts, shorts and skorts must be 3 inches above the knee or longer. Long pants are always an option. All pants must be in good condition and school appropriate. Pants with rips, holes or tears are definitely non-examples.
6. Boys' and girls' undergarments must be covered by shorts or pants.
7. Shoes must be closed-toed for safety at play and healthy outdoor activities. Athletic shoes (often called sneakers) are preferred daily and are **required** for all PE and intramural classes.

**FRIDAY OPTIONS:** The Middle School Student Council and the eastside Leadership Council will have the responsibility and opportunity to gather ideas from all students to make Fridays special theme days. Sports days, vacation tee-shirt days, cartoon character days, pajama pants days, spirit days, and other ideas for special clothing days will give the students ownership, leadership decision-making strategies, and latitude for options within reasonable boundaries. The themes will be announced in Monday Morning Meetings and posted on the IDS website monthly so that students can plan ahead.

**NOTE 1:** The field trip **polo** shirt is **required** for every field trip and most special events. The field trip shirt has helped to increase safety off campus, as well as build pride and spirit for our school.

**NOTE 2:** We will adhere to the above dress code policy; students needing shirt reminders will be charged for a new shirt.

# OPTIONS, OPTIONS AND MORE OPTIONS...

**COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS: SUMMER PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY:** It's a great time to begin to play an instrument or reinforce your ease and skill with great instructors that are passionate about learning music and care about their students. CSA is offering private and pair-lessons throughout the summer months for those wanting to take the opportunity to hone their skills in music, band, dance, art, and/or acting. Please e-mail Mr. McColley at [csa@idsyes.com](mailto:csa@idsyes.com) for more information.

## **THE NEW RAGE IS TO HAVE YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY AT IDS. LET INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL: CORBETT CAMPUS BRING YOUR PARTY TO LIFE!**

Party Coordinators Lisa Ferlita and Michelle Hill team up to host your party here at IDS: CC. There are many parties to choose from including dance, drama, arts and crafts, glamour, Pirates of the Caribbean and Princess parties. If you have an idea for a party, they always find a way to bring it to life. The parties will be held in the dance room and on Harry's Deck. The packages include cake, decorations, entertainment and two hours of supervised fun. So what are you waiting for? Call our dance teacher Lisa Ferlita to book your party now. Look for the birthday party brochure enclosed in this mailing. For any questions you may contact Lisa Ferlita at (813) 961-3087 x310 or email [lferlita@idsyes.com](mailto:lferlita@idsyes.com).

**CAMP IDS IS AN EXCITING PLACE TO SPEND YOUR SUMMER!** Check our website at [www.idsyees.com](http://www.idsyees.com) to learn about the many options or call the office at 813-961-3087 for personal service! There are smiles everywhere! Our counselors are IDS teachers and IDS Alums! We are swarming with amazing alums here to give back the memories that they made and enjoyed during their experience at IDS and CAMP IDS.

## **KEY REMINDERS TO START THE YEAR**

**(For a full calendar see insert and updates on the website by July 1, 2010)**

1. NEW PARENT NIGHT ORIENTATION FOR ALL PARENTS OF ALL NEW STUDENTS IS **AUGUST 19 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE GRAND ROOM...**
2. SCHOOL OPENS for students **BRIGHT AND EARLY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25<sup>th</sup>.**
3. WELCOME BACK PARTY FOR THE ENTIRE IDS PARENT COMMUNITY, **FRIDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup> (7:00 p.m.)**
4. THE IDS KIDS CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT at AVILA, **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>.** (see insert in mailing.)

## **ENCLOSURES**



1. 2010-2011 IDS-CC School Calendar
2. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual IDS Kids Classic Golf Tournament Information
3. Birthday Party Information

## **SUMMER CAMP**

OVER 60 CAMPS · PreK3 · 12th Grade · Open to All

# **CAMP IDS 2010**

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A GREAT TIME!

**June 14**  
through  
**July 30**

Full & Half Day  
One Week Sessions

Transportation  
After Camp Care  
Available

**independent  
day school**  
**Corbett Campus**  
12015 Orange Grove Drive

813-961-3087

[www.idsyees.com](http://www.idsyees.com)

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

# Independent day school Corbett Campus School Calendar 2010 -2011

## August

Mon. 15 – Tues. 24 Pre-Planning and Teacher In-Service  
 Wed. 25 First Day of School (Noon Dismissal for Pre-K and Kindergarten Only)  
 Thurs. 26 Noon Dismissal Pre-K and Kindergarten Only  
 Fri. 27 Welcome Back Party Farish Center 7:00 pm



## September

Mon. 6 Labor Day -School Holiday  
 Tues. 7 Back to School Night East Side 6:30 pm  
 Mon. 13 Back to School Night West Side 6:30 pm  
 Wed. 15 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
 Mon. 20 IDS Kids Classic Golf Tournament



## October

Wed. 6 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
 Thurs. 7 & Fri. 8 Parent Teacher Conference Days  
 Thurs. 21 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
 Fri. 22 Professional Study Day / Students Day Off



## November

Wed. 3 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
 Wed. 24 Grandparents Day / Noon Dismissal  
 Thurs. 25 & Fri. 26 Thanksgiving Holiday



## December

Wed. 8 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
 Thurs. 9 Fine Arts Night  
 Fri. 17 Noon Dismissal / Teacher Meeting  
 Mon. 20 Winter Break Begins



## January

Mon. 3 Teacher In-Service  
Tues. 4 Students Return from Winter Break  
Mon. 17 Martin Luther King Day – School Holiday  
Thurs. 27 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service / Parent Teacher Conference Day  
Fri. 28 Parent Teacher Conference Day



## February

Wed. 9 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
Fri. 18 Student Holiday/Teacher In-Service  
Mon. 21 School Holiday



## March

TBA Big Event  
Wed. 9 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
Fri. 25 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
Mon. 28 Spring Break Begins



## April

Mon. 4 School Resumes for Students and Teachers  
Mon. 11 – Fri. 15 SAT Testing Week  
Thurs. 21 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
Fri. 22 School Holiday



## May

Mon. 2 – Fri. 6 Middle School New Horizons Week  
Thurs. 12 & Fri. 13 Fine Arts Days  
Wed. 18 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service  
Mon. 30 Memorial Day – School Holiday



## June

Fri. 3 Last Day of School – Class Celebrations  
Noon Dismissal  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation



