

IDS YES!!!

HEADS' LETTER

AUGUST 24, 2006

**WELCOME BACK WAS A
WOW!**

Do you remember the book, *In Search of Excellence* by business guru, author and speaker Tom Peters? He also wrote the book called, *Pursuit of WOW*, which has continued to influence the beginning of every IDS school year for many years. This week the WOW's were everywhere from Pre-K3 through 8th grade. From the Middle School, which created a Global Village, through the Pre-K3 Flower Patch, the excitement permeated the campus this week with sunshine and smiles everywhere!

Each grade devoted time to building community and establishing high expectations for every child in the school. Expectations have been raised for high moral character, high academic standards, and respectful behavioral boundaries. Teachers spent hours and hours of lesson preparation in order to capture students' attention with the joy of returning to school, while also creating the environment for a work ethic that values both challenge and productivity.

This may have been our best first week yet!!! The feeling may have been conveyed by a new parent who said, "This is what I dreamed for my child" as she welled-up with tears of appreciation. Actually, we appreciate all of you and the gifts you share with us everyday---your children...Thanks parents, and welcome back to you too!!!

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

Friday morning, August 25, 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. is the official naming of the **Farish Center** to honor the family of past president, Cornelia Corbett. This will be held in Corbett Hall with an all-school-assembly. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend. We have surprises for our students with special guest presentations. You will want to be there...

Friday night, August 25, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 P.M. is our **ANNUAL WELCOME BACK PARTY** held in the Farish Center for *adults only*!! This annual event welcomes both returning and new families to IDS. It is a wonderful time to meet your teachers, meet new people, and make connections with other parents in the school and in your classroom. This year's reception celebrates the dedication of the Farish Center and the opening of the "New Building". It is a night to party, enjoy each other, and appreciate all of our many blessings!!!

VISITING EDUCATORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD COME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT M.O.R.E. Last weekend four teachers and the Headmaster from the award winning Beijing Chaoyang Foreign Language School in Beijing, China arrived along with four teachers from the prestigious Ramón Y Cajal School in Madrid, Spain. They are here to learn from our teachers, observe in classrooms, connect with some of our students, and attend our workshop on *Effective Communication in A Brain-Based Learning Environment*. The Headmaster from Beijing who has traveled world-wide to schools, including the US gave us quite a compliment. She is sure IDS is one of a kind in the world. Actually, she is speaking of our team of teachers, and the miracles they make everyday!!!

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE INTERNS ATTEND SEMINARS AT IDS before beginning their internships in schools surrounding the Tampa Bay area. Six days of seminars began this week for 55 SPC interns before embarking on their internships, the final phase in becoming teachers. Their first three days end today (Thursday) and they will be back in two weeks for the remaining training. The college has found that the training with the IDS **M.O.R.E.** Approach gives them a head start in the success of their teaching experiences. Our Chinese and Spanish visitors are also taking the training along side of them. It has been a very exciting week at IDS for learning for all ages and nationalities!!!

THE NEW LUNCH PROGRAM



The first day of the new lunch program got off to a rocky start with the need for more lunches with our huge response. The SLA Management Group responded swiftly with adjustments made and for the rest of this week, lunches have been plentiful and good. Our parent volunteers have been a gift to us making sure that this new system runs smoother and smoother each day. We especially thank PFA volunteers Sandy McCullin and Jenny Stiles for the devotion to making sure our students are well-taken care of with a great lunch program. Many thanks to the parents who have agreed to assist them each day.

Please note that Friday, August 25, is the last chance to pre-pay for lunches until the second round of lunches begins in October. In order to have a lunch after this date, your child will need to charge the lunch or bring \$4.75. In order to charge a lunch, we will need parent permission. Please sign the enclosure giving that permission. **However**, if a child is without any lunch from home, you will be called and charged automatically. For those who have yet to sign up ahead of time, you will help the speed and efficiency of our lunch program by signing your child's right to charge a lunch. It will save the office, volunteers, and your teachers much time. Please be sure to read the enclosure regarding lunch.

FORE!!!

We are looking for volunteers to help out with the planning, organizing, and working the day of the IDS Golf Tournament set for Monday, November 13, 2006! The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 30, 2006, at 8:15 AM in the Grand Room (2nd floor of the New Building, right above Kindergarten). Please call Angela Kaliban at (813) 928-5073 for more information.

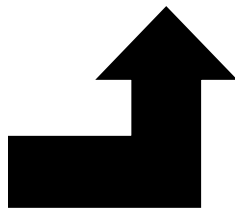
THE AMAZING AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

In today's Thursday folder, you will find the 1st session brochure for Afterschool Activities. We are excited to offer 21 fun clubs, a number of them new ones. We begin the day after Labor Day so you will want to send in the registration form quickly. Your child will have an enjoyable time joining any of these activities.

ENCLOSURES

- **IDS PRESS**
- **PARENT PERMISSION FOR LUNCH FORM**
- **AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES BROCHURE**
- **IDS SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER**

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