



HEADS' LETTER

AUGUST 31, 2006

	<p style="text-align: center;">BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT Thursday, September 7 SESSION I - 6:30 P.M. SESSION II - 7:45 P.M.</p>	
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PARENTS: Back to School Night is your first important opportunity to hear from your teachers who have much to share with you. It is also a great way to meet other parents in your child's classroom. Make sure your teachers know you are there! Please introduce yourselves; also watch the time so that the teachers can be ready for each rotation. In order to provide more time with teachers and accommodate "babysitting" needs, we are using the following format:

1. *Please go directly to your classrooms.*
2. *Please note that there will be two sessions for First through Fifth Grades. Pre-K/K and Middle School will have only one session. If you have children in two divisions be sure to start at 6:30 P.M. so that you can attend both sessions. If you have children in three divisions, plan ahead and divide up your time between parents and/or caregivers.*
3. ***Please ARRIVE ON TIME to each session so that the valuable time is honored with the teachers without interruptions.***
4. *Specials will also be available and eager to meet with our parents. They will be in the Parish Center to speak to parents individually or in small groups from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. Please drop in and enjoy a special time to say hello or ask questions about their programs: Fine Arts, Sports, Spanish, and Technology/Media.*

PRE-K3 through FIFTH GRADE

SESSION I: Begins promptly at 6:30 P.M. and ends at 7:30 P.M.

Pre-K3 meet in child's classroom. **(One session only.)**

Pre-K and K meet in the Theatre/Training Center Breakout Room. **(One session only.)**

First through Fifth meet in child's classroom.

SESSION II: Begins promptly at 7:45 P.M. and ends at 8:45 P.M. (FIRST THROUGH FIFTH ONLY!)

First through Fifth Grades meet in the child's classroom.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ONE SESSION ONLY: Begins promptly at 7:45 P.M. and ends at 9:30 P.M. in the Middle School Gym.

Middle School rotations begin promptly in the Middle School Gymnasium. Block out this time for meeting with, and hearing from, all middle school teachers! Please arrive at the beginning time to be placed in a rotation schedule, which the teachers and parents will follow.

PARKING: You may park on the eastside, westside, in the IDS parking lot or at the Carrollwood Elementary School parking lot. There will be two IDS buses to shuttle people back and forth to Carrollwood Elementary for overflow parking. One car per household would be so very, very much appreciated.

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION: FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR



All parents are invited to attend the PFA opening meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2006, at 8:15 A.M. in the Grand Room on the second floor of the "New Building". Everyone is welcome!! Come and learn all about the many things that are happening this year, renew friendships and for others - meet new people!!! Once again, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

A HUGE THANKS TO...

A huge thanks to all of our parents who attended one or both of the events on Friday. The Farish Center Dedication in the morning was incredible with the students, faculty and parents all wrapped-up in the joy of appreciation, celebration and how to leave a "living legacy" by living by example...Next week's Heads' Letter will have all of the morning's events for you in a Press Release. Please look for it in your Thursday folder next week.



It was great to see so many parents at the Welcome Back Party. They got a chance to listen to Cornelia Corbett's "Letter to My Grandmother" from the morning, which filled everyone up with tears of joy, appreciation and admiration. Teachers and Trustees enjoyed seeing everyone!!! The evening was really a warm and enjoyable welcome back. Thanks to the PFA for another great organizational success!!! And thanks to those of you who included IDS in your plans!!!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: FOR OUR PARENTS!!!

All of the information is on the front of this Heads' Letter. This is just another reminder of the importance of parents getting the information and attending this key evening...We are counting on this time to share our hopes, dreams and plans for a great year in all of our classrooms...See you all there!!!



PROUD MOMENTS SOAR



Congratulations to parent Holly Tomlin, named "BusinessWoman of the Year" by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal* on August 18, 2006. Holly Tomlin is president and owner of Tomlin Staffing, mother of two IDS alums, 7th grader, Greg Tomlin, and wife of Board of Trustee member John Tomlin.

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Cub Scouts will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 5, from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 15520 North Blvd. All boys in grades first through fifth are invited to join.

Registration for new scouts will be held before the first meeting at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 5, 2006. For more information, please contact Lisa Herscovici at (813) 961-9721.

NOTE: ¼ page \$100, ½ page \$175, AND full back page \$250. *Advertisements run only when space is available.*
If you are interested in running an advertisement in the *Heads' Letter*, please contact: Celeste Ross at (813) 961-3087

Building Community Sets Stage For Learning In Primary Grades

For immediate release: August 30, 2006

Tampa, Fla.

What's in a name?

Any primary student or teacher at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus would answer, "Plenty!"

Take the name each grade has created for itself. If you're in PreK-3, you're part of the "Flower Patch." PreK-4 students are "Beach Buddies." There's the "Funtastic Kindergarten Frogs." And if you're in first or second grade, or in a multiage class, you're either a "Top Banana," "Cool Cat," or a "Brilliant Bug."

Fun? Yup. Silly? You bet. Especially when first and second grade teachers Fran Ehrlich and Kristine Looker don their banana costumes to greet students on the first day of school – a class tradition. Or when multiage teachers Debi Brockmeyer and Jaelyn Kanarish put on pointy cat ears or kindergarten teachers Jean Harrison, Roberta Lipschutz and Jessica Moore sport colorful aprons dotted with friendly-looking frogs.

It's a typical IDS approach to learning: make the classroom environment fun for students to keep them engaged and on task. Yet there is always a rationale for every action teachers take. It is founded upon brain-based research on how children learn and is directly tied to increasing student achievement and success.

According to longtime teacher of the Top Bananas, Fran Ehrlich, the name is an "affirmation" that each student is special and valued. It also provides a framework for classroom expectations, standards and behavior. "For example," she says, "Students in my class know that a Top Banana is an 'I *can-er*' – a student who always goes above and beyond to do his or her best. Being a Top Banana gives students goals plus guidelines for achieving those goals."

In PreK-4, teacher Michelle Robson says that being a "Beach Buddy" gives students a concrete way to understand concepts that could otherwise be somewhat abstract for such young children. "Throughout the first week or so of school, we give students many items to decorate their own paper cut-out of a beach buddy," she explains. "A conch shell necklace helps them understand how they should listen and allow others to listen in the classroom. A bucket and shovel symbolize working together. A life preserver reminds them that teachers want them to make safe choices."

Upper Primary Division Leader Debi Brockmeyer says, "Having a class name gives students a sense of family and of community. It provides them with a sense of belonging and builds self-esteem. And when there is a feeling of community, then students are more willing to trust each other, cooperate and share ideas. Then the stage is set for learning and for student success."