

PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

On August 31 and September 1, our Middle School students attended the Sixth Annual IDS Middle School Retreat held in the *IDS Theatre Training Center*. There were 190 of us in attendance with 172 middle schoolers and 18 faculty. Over the years, our students have benefited from the latest and greatest thinking in the world of business and effective communication. This year they were exposed to the video and concepts of "Who Moved My Cheese" by Spencer Johnson and "The Art of Possibility" by the conductor and author Ben Zander. In past years, they experienced the "Fish Philosophy" video (before the kids version), "Whale Done" by Kenneth Blanchard, and were inspired by the story of the Lance Armstrong.

This training focuses on how to create an environment of dignity and respect and a climate that is conducive to promoting successful academic learning. The retreat is intensive, with high expectations for behavior, positive interactions, and community building. We were so proud of our students this year who were great and very attentive. The teachers noted that over and over. When our students make mistakes or need reminders on making good choices, they have the information from the retreat to draw on as we reflect on improvement and growth. Just think, if kids were perfect, they would be out on their own already doing our jobs. This is all about learning life skills where they can be appreciated and guided as they grow into confident and caring young adults.

Last Spring, we submitted this concept to the National Schools of Character to be considered for their Character Education Partnership citation for promising practices. We were proud to be awarded this honor as one of the recipients among 53 schools in the United States. We will be recognized at their National Conference in Dallas, Texas in October. Below is what they wrote about IDS. This information that summarizes our proposal will be published later in their annual Character Education book and on their website.

Character education at Independent Day School is based on a learning community where teachers and students treat each other with dignity and respect. The annual middle school retreat for grades 6 through 8 helps to establish the sense of community. This intensive two-day on-campus event is a time for students and faculty to come together to build a common language and share experiences that promote pro-social skills, tolerance, and acceptance of differences. The 170 students and the faculty meet in a variety of groupings: as a large group, in smaller multiage groups, in teams of four, and in pairs, with time for solo reflection as well. Groups talk specifically about bullying behavior and how to create a safe and productive learning environment by practicing how to align words, body language, and tonality. Additional resources used are *Building Moral Intelligence* and *Quantum Teaching*. In multiage advisory groups during the school year, students continue to discuss the issues raised at the retreat. Student and staff testimonials report that the retreat helps make the school a caring community.

References:

Borba, M. *Building Moral Intelligence: The Seven Essential Virtues That Teach Kids to Do the Right Thing*. New York: John Wiley & Sons; 2002.

Deporter, B., Reardon M., Singer-Nourie, S. *Quantum Teaching*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon; 1999.

EARLY DISMISSAL on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

12:00 p.m. Pick-up

While students have time away from school, faculty and staff are in seminars working on the Olympic Model – always growing, improving, refining and reflecting! Thanks for your support.

EXTENDED DAY OFFERED FOR EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

TO IDS PARENTS AND FACULTY:

In order to accommodate IDS parents and faculty members, we will have Extended Day on Wednesday, September 22 from 12:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. due to the early dismissal for Faculty In service.

Activities will be based in the Extended Day Room, and an afternoon snack of fresh fruit, chips and juice will be provided. We also will arrange for quiet time so that students can do their homework. The cost for the afternoon will be \$15.00, regardless of the length of stay (unless you are 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 **must register** with Marie Massara either by phone at (813) 961-3087 or in person in the office by Monday, September 20. In order to provide adequate staff for the afternoon, we need an official count.

COFFEE TALK/EDU-TALK WITH JOYCE



was held on Wednesday, September 15. Thanks for the great turn out, excellent questions, edu-updates and community spirit!

PFA NEWS



SALLY FOSTER Count Down - 9 more days!



Our Sally Foster sales dates are through next Friday, September 24. Catalog orders will be available for pickup on November 18. Sally Foster gives you the option of ordering items online as well. **The Sally Foster Internet order number is 308754.** All online orders are delivered straight to your door, and Sally Foster picks up the shipping charges! IDS earn 50% of all purchases!!!

PRIZES, PRIZES, PRIZES!!!

All students selling 10 items or more will be invited to attend a donut party OR The highest dollar amount sold per classroom by grade will attend a pizza party.

The student to sell the highest dollar amount at IDS will receive 4 box seat tickets to the Bucs game.



IDS BIG EVENT COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 at 8:15 A.M. in the MAIN OFFICE

The IDS BIG EVENT COMMITTEE will be MEETING on THURSDAY, 8:15 A.M. in the MAIN OFFICE Conference Room. They will be busy planning an amazing "Rainforest Rhapsody: An Amazon Adventure"! Be sure to mark your calendar for the IDS BIG EVENT on Saturday, March 12, 2005.

SNO-CONE SALE – PRE-K – 5th GRADE

TO BENEFIT FINE ARTS – Friday, September 17

Sno Cone Day for Pre-K – 5th Grade is Friday, SEPTEMBER 17 at Lunch. Our PFA volunteers will be selling the Sno-Cones. Cost \$1.00 – all proceeds go to Fine Arts.

PICTURE DAYS

MON., SEPTEMBER 27 SCHOOL PICTURE DAY – Primary Division (Grades Pre-K – 2)
TUES., SEPTEMBER 28 SCHOOL PICTURE DAY – Intermediate Division (Grades 3 – 5)
WED., SEPTEMBER 29 SCHOOL PICTURE DAY – Middle School (Grades 6 - 8)

BOOSTER CLUB UPDATE

Please be aware that the Physical Education Uniforms were delivered to your child(ren) during lunch on Wednesday, September 15. If you have any questions regarding these uniforms, please contact your Boosters Club Rep, Dawn M. Schocken at (813) 417-0075. Thank you for your support!

Watch the Date... Our **Annual Faculty/Student Challenge** will be held Friday, October 8 at 6:00 P.M. Additional information will be provided in next week's Head's Letter☺

Attention: Tuesday, September 21 will be the **Booster Club Day.**

We will feature **Smoothie King Banana-Strawberry Smoothies** during lunchtime.

Cost will be: \$3.50 per smoothie for a 20 oz. drink in the Middle School.

\$2.50 per smoothie for a 12 oz. drink in Late Primary and Intermediate Classes.

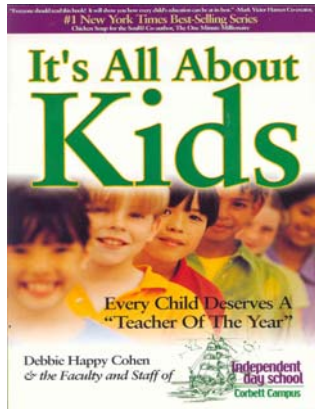
All Pre-K and K children will receive a free 4 oz. Sampler

Thank you for your Booster Club support!

Need a great idea for a grandparent, colleague or special friend?

Want to make Holiday Shopping easier?

Begin by shopping here at IDS!



“Whether you are involved in kindergarten or graduate school - whether you teach or have (grand) children - this book is for you. It emphasizes the key elements for creating a fruitful lifelong journal of learning and growth.”

- Angelo Conte, MBA, CCNA

It's All About Kids: Every Child Deserves A “Teacher of the Year,” our IDS book, makes the perfect gift for anyone on your list. Share the story of your child's wonderful school with relatives and friends!

For a limited time only, receive a special discount when you order large quantities:

Retail: \$18.00

QUANTITY GIFT DISCOUNT!!!
5 or more copies, ONLY \$12.00 each!
28 copies (box), ONLY \$10.00 each!

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For more information please contact Ashley Gairing at (813) 961-3087 or agairing@idsyes.com

***Start your shopping early and support IDS!
IDS is a private school with a public purpose.
Please share our story and help us make a difference in education.***