

## HEADS' LETTER

**OCTOBER 26, 2006**

### ***INNISBROOK GIFT WRAP IS COMING!***



The Innisbrook gift wrap and chocolates will be available for pick up on Wednesday, November 1, during dismissal in Corbett Hall and the Middle School Gym. Check out next week's Heads' Letter for the announcement of the winners of the grand prize, D.J. Party, and raffle drawings!

### **TRUMPETS THROUGH THE AGES: REFLECTIONS CONCERT** **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 3:00 PM** **FEATURING MUSIC BY: HANDEL, MOZART, HUMMEL, TORELLI, DEBUSSY, AND MORE!**

Yes, it's a professional concert with professional musicians who will be playing for the whole family! The Reflections Series, held in the Farish Center each year, begins the season with a holiday spectacular to fit the Halloween season. Both kids and adults are invited to come in costume and even participate in a costume parade. We plan to see everyone there for this special classic event, with a view of the lake, beautiful music featuring **trumpets through the ages** and a good time for family fun and enjoyment. Ticket information can be found in the your Thursday Folder.



### **EDU NEWS: RENOWNED EDUCATOR** **DR. ROBERT H. ANDERSON VISITS MULTI-AGE**



We filmed this major happening for the Brilliant Bugs and Cool Cats to cherish and observe long into the future. On Tuesday, October 24, Dr. Robert H. Anderson came to observe the multi-age classrooms and provide them with his observations of their work. For over 50 years, Dr. Anderson has been a wise leader in transforming education into "kid-friendly" schools whether as a teacher, a principal, a superintendent, a Professor at Harvard, a Dean at Texas Tech University or as a consultant/lecturer throughout the world. He co-authored the first book on non-graded education, which we call multi-age classrooms, and while at Harvard he became well-known for creating the concept of team teaching to end the isolation of one teacher without the benefits of the team concept.

While at IDS on Tuesday, he was thrilled to observe in the Brilliant Bugs and Cool Cats classrooms noting how his vision has taken hold throughout many places in the world and continues to be an important contribution to education. In the afternoon, the teachers, Jen Jones, Sammi Borosh, Debi Brockmeyer, and Jaelyn Kanarish, had an hour dialogue with Dr. Anderson about the power of multi-age learning, the myths, and the strengths. The teachers left there with huge smiles feeling so appreciative of the time spent with this wonderful and brilliant educator. The experience was filmed so others could learn as well.

IDS uses multiple ways to organize students. For the entire Upper Primary, Science class rotations take place throughout the year for Top Bananas, Brilliant Bugs and Cool Cats where they get the opportunity to learn from all of the Upper Primary faculty after completing a year of rotations. Multi-age is how we also organize Pre-K and Kindergarten developmental center rotations each week, as well as Intermediate Division Science, and Advisory, Electives and Clubs for Middle School. Multiple ways to organize students gives the variety and novelty for both teachers and students that breathes life into learning.

Dr. Anderson will return soon to observe and film his work with team teaching, which is one of the great teacher recruitment advantages we have at IDS. Mixing team teaching and team planning with solo teaching throughout the day provides an energetic, dynamic environment for teacher stimulation as well as diverse perspectives and personalities for our students!! This also allows teachers to model for their students what is expected of them. The world of work is searching for those who can work with others. The art of working and living with others begins at the beginning...right here at IDS, lessons are learned, practiced, and monitored.

We love to always learn and grow here at IDS. Having Dr. Anderson in the area is a real plus for us!! We appreciate the opportunity to work with him and gain from his wisdom.

## IDS NEWS UPDATE:



1. **Congratulations:** Physical Education Coach Rob Heller is now the proud father of twins Hank and Grace.
2. **Congratulations:** Middle School English and Math Teacher Jen Jagdmann had her baby boy--Jacob Matthew!!! She returns to IDS in January!!!



3. **A fond farewell:** Our very own Athletic Director Kyle Fenton has moved to Washington D.C. having been chosen for a position with Homeland Security amongst hundreds of applicants. We wish him well and hope that all of the men and women protecting our country share his deep integrity and caring for the well-being of others.



4. **New Athletic Directors Named:** Coach Rob Heller has assumed the role of Athletic Director and Coach Adam Chumbley has been named Assistant Athletic Director. This team has taken the lead on new initiatives already and we thank them for assuming these leadership roles.



5. **New Technology Director:** Our Middle School Technology Teacher Jason Contino has been appointed as Technology Director for IDS, which adds to his role as teacher "extraordinaire". Our current director Scott Kolinsky is moving to part time as he assumes a job as a paramedic. Scott managed our sophisticated technology infrastructure for the past six years. Tune in for infrastructure updates, networking and wiring improvements and all that takes place for a system that has over 450 PCs. It is a rather big system to operate and we appreciate the tech team that Mr. Contino will coordinate: Dewey Wong, Jr. in the office and for special projects; Matt Melnick for educational software; Scott Kolinsky and William Zeledon for tech support services. Board Member Chair of Technology Brian Metz and Trustees David Bellini and Paul Stiles serve as advisors to the tech team.



6. **Kindergarten Medieval Festival** was a huge hit on Wednesday, October 25. The knights, kings, queens and princesses simulated the life and recreation of past times in the present. So many volunteers made it happen!! WOW! On Friday October 27, **Pre-Kindergarten 4** takes the Beach Buddies back in time to the **medieval period** as well, with a different twist. Their feast is based on the literature read in the book **Aliki** and their classroom castle has evolved through art projects and readings that teach the cultures of the time through hands-on activities. Both Kindergarten and Pre-K4 teachers once again have created that magic that makes learning come alive and creates meaningful opportunities for our youngest IDSers. This is what you call value-added learning!



7. **The Chemistry Science rotation for Intermediate Division:** You have to see it to believe it. Go to the **Grand Room** in the new building on a Science day for the intermediate division and you will be amazed at the third, fourth and fifth graders level of study with their Chemistry unit. The Grand Room is perfect for our budding scientists. Thanks to teachers Michelle Hill, Kim Rostick, and Ann Cashen.

## IN YOUR MAIL

- **IN YOUR MAIL:** We hope you are enjoying your Annual Report for 2005 - 2006. You can see that we have soooooo many people to thank for helping to support IDS with dollars, time, and energy. Please take time to read the Annual Report. Let others know that we are all grateful for the yearly support we receive to allow us to acquire items for the school, classrooms and facility, which continues to astound our many visitors from both the private and public world.
- **IN YOUR MAIL: The 2006 - 2007 Annual Giving Kick-off** began this week. Please remember that your every dollar helps us meet our budget for salaries, maintenance of facilities, budgeted items and all of the many things that are so special and critical to the successful functioning of IDS. We are still working to complete the new building expenses but have dropped the specific Capital Campaign. The building is now serving the IDS community for all of us to enjoy.
- That differs from **PFA Events**. PFA donations to Boosters and the Arts go directly to supporting those programs. PFA projects like Innisbrook Gift Wrap, The Big Event, the IDS Golf Tournament, and the Lunch Program targets specific items. Last year due to PFA efforts, we purchased an ID card system, an updated and expanded

fire sprinkler system for the Farish Center, Smart Boards with LCD projectors and stands for some classrooms in both the east and west sides, a new field trip bus (which eliminates travel expenses for class trips in the area), additional classroom computers and replacements of out of date computers, four new Smart Carts with 24 laptops per cart, a video technology system entitled Safari Montage which extends the use of video clips to enhance instruction, and the ability to allow teachers to get special items that are unique to their classroom. In addition, we replaced the old dock that the middle school uses for Lake Watch and for canoeing opportunities with a new, beautiful and **safe** dock. We also set aside \$20,000 toward the fence for the front of the school. This is quite an impressive list!!! Who made this happen? Our IDS community did it. The needs continue. So PFA support is key for big and small ticket items to support the above and beyond needs. We truly appreciate all support!!! You can see your dollars at work all around you!!

## PFA SOARS WITH FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL AND FUN RUN! HUGE KUDOS AND THANKS FOR A TERRIFIC DAY



PFA did it again! The **Family Fall Festival** was bigger and more fun than ever. All of the Room Parent Coordinators—(RPCs) brilliantly set up truly creative and attention - grabbing booths and attractions for all ages. It was fun to watch and fun to participate. Smiles were everywhere. The **Hoff family and Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q in Wesley Chapel** generously donated the delicious food for a great outdoor picnic in the pavilion by the Farish Center.

We soooooo appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers for taking shifts to make everything run smoothly at the Family Fall Festival. We also thank all of our wonderful families who came to enjoy the weather, good friends, family time, and the beautiful IDS campus. Special Kudos to PFA Chair for this event, Gina Shannon, for pulling together an incredible team of leaders: Debbie Nouss and Sherri Zwirn for food coordination, Iza Winston and Lisa Herscovici for RPC Booth Coordination, and the office staff and faculty who organized the sign in and welcome table.

**The Fun Run** began this beautiful sunny day with coaches coordinating teacher volunteers, student volunteers and parent volunteers to facilitate a two mile, one mile, and half mile run (The Peacock Trot). At the finish line, runners were greeted with a medal to hang around their necks. Everyone cheered on the runners from age 4 through adult, and there were students and parents stationed all along the running path to encourage everyone every step of the way. The positive support worked! It was great fun and very invigorating. Bravo for making this annual event bigger and better every year!

### **BEST TIMES FOR EACH RUN WERE:**

#### **Two mile:**

Boys: Jacob Nicker, Kritos Vasiloudes, Alec Firestone, and Richard Golinello

Girls: Caitlin Herlihy, Kris McBride, Courtney Ellis, Brie Nicker, and Alena Joyiens

#### **One mile:**

Boys: Blake Rehl, Lawson Cogar, Russell Duncan, Adler Shannon, and Seth Cashen

Girls: Kris McBride, Lauren Golder, Avi Baskin, Jordan Fuller, and Sally Thompson

#### **Half mile:**

Boys: Noah Gold, Jack Tucker, and Dominic Bottini

Girls: Maggie Kratzer, Regan O'Leary, and Riley Huennerkopf



## MORE NEWS...

- 1. Community School for the ARTS announces its Second Session. November 13, 2006 through February 10, 2007. Group and Private lessons are available New Dance Classes are added! Classes available for both adults and children...**

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- 2. MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, SESSION 2 BEGINS FOR AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES.** Be sure to sign up for afternoon experiences with our terrific faculty. A new addition is our very own talented dance teacher. Lisa Kelly is thrilled to share her love of dance and the performing arts with the students of IDS. She earned her degree in Dance and Theatre from Hofstra University and has studied with many accomplished choreographers, vocal coaches, and acting instructors in New York. She has even been part of Broadway touring companies. She has a passion for teaching dance, and enjoys our regular daytime program as well as offering dance for afternoon activities.

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- 3. Friday, November 3 is the Fourth Annual Student-Faculty Sports Challenge beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Corbett Hall.** Enjoy dinner from Beef O'Brady's and share the excitement of this match between teachers and students. The little ones love it and the big ones cheer for their side. It's a great night for everyone. All proceeds go to benefit the Sports Booster Program.

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- 4. THE IDS KIDS CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT** is approaching fast. Guess what the committee has arranged? There will be extended child-care from 5:00 - 9:00 pm for all children of parents involved in the Golf Tournament. Join our Heads of School and purchase Tee and Green sponsorships for \$100 to advertise your business or special message to our golfers. The tournament is at Emerald Greens in Carrollwood Village.

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- 5. A NEW PFA ACTIVITY LAUNCHED:** The IDS Book Club will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, November 14 at 8:30 am. The first book will be the **Alchemist** by Paulo Coelho. It is a terrific quick read and is available at your local bookstore. SCRIPS are available in the office for Barnes and Noble.

## ENCLOSURES IN THURSDAY FOLDER

1. Reflections Concert Ticket Form for Sunday, October 29
2. Community School for the Arts Brochure for second session
3. Student Faculty Sports Challenge flyer and ticket form
4. November Calendar