

IDS YES!!!

HEADS' LETTER

NOVEMBER 3, 2005

**IDS 11th ANNUAL KIDS GOLF AND TENNIS BENEFIT NOVEMBER 14
FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE FOUR**

**LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK BRING THE FWCL VOLLEYBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP AND TOURNAMENT WIN TO IDS**

On Wednesday, November 2, Corbett Hall was the site of the Florida West Coast League Volleyball Championship Tournament. IDS Varsity Girls played five games in a row to earn the championship title. They first won two games easily with Tampa Prep, and then inched out two out of three wins with Berkeley Prep. The competition was tough and the games were very exciting. The IDS Volleyball girls exhibited even more than great skills against two tough teams; their magic touch lies in their energetic spirit, exemplary teamwork, and superior leadership within their ranks. Coach Don Dewey deserves to be proud of his team. It was a spectacular afternoon for him and his mighty Warriors. By the way, yesterday gave them their 29th match win in a row. Next week's Heads' Letter will report on the whole Fall Sports Season and our pride in our entire athletic department.



**NOVEMBER 10 NOON DISMISSAL AND
NOVEMBER 11 VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY**



On November 10, teachers will be meeting in subject and grade level teams to work on our inquiry programs that we are adding to the IDS M.O.R.E. Approach. Remember, we have chosen to study the International Baccalaureate Program for Middle Years and Primary Years for our curriculum (<http://www.ibna.org>). We are looking forward to our IB consultants visiting us in November to review our work and give us "feed-forward" on our progress based on their experience with this advanced inquiry model. The bottom line is that we are always working to "raise the bar" on our levels of interaction with our students. This expensive and time consuming effort serves an important purpose in becoming connected to a global environment.

By the way, as we add to our curriculum we create exciting dialogues within grade levels and subject areas, within our four divisions and across divisions. As we prepare inquiry models, teachers gain renewed excitement, as they experience what their students will experience, when we ask questions that stimulate and challenge the mind to learn more and more and more!!! So let's hear it for the **IDS MORE Approach** (Multiple Options for Results in Education), which is always keeping IDS on the cutting edge. IB is just another addition to our already bag full of options!!! This exercise in life-long learning is also part of the process for our every Five Year Renewal for Reaccreditation from the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS), which will be in the Fall of 2007. We will be **M.O.R.E.** than ready!!!

EXTENDED DAY FOR NOON DISMISSAL on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10: Make a reservation with Ms. Marie by Monday, November 7 by calling (813) 961-3087. Please provide a **HEALTHY LUNCH** FOR YOUR CHILD. The cost will be **\$15.00**.

ANNUAL GIVING PHONATHON NOVEMBER 7 AND 8 THANKS TO ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE RESPONDED EARLY!

On Monday and Tuesday, November 7 and 8, the **ANNUAL GIVING PHONATHON** takes place. IDS Trustees spend the evening calling each family looking for 100% participation in Annual Giving. This annual request covers many unbudgeted big ticket items as they emerge, allowing us to keep IDS on the cutting edge and the school looking beautiful! Please remember that for independent schools, Annual Giving traditionally bridges the gap between tuition and actual costs to educate our students. Thanks to all of our families who pledged early to support our Board members' efforts and appreciate their limited time.

TEACHERS STUDY WITH CHOICE

November 11 is the FCIS (Florida Council of Independent Schools) State Conference in Orlando. Our teachers had the choice to attend IB trainings or subject area state conferences on the weekend of October 13 or attend the FCIS Conference on November 11 in Orlando. Also, the weekend of November 11, there will be teachers attending IB workshops in Salt Lake City, UT. Hats off to our entire IDS Faculty "where the best are always willing and eager to get better"!!!! The Olympic mentality is alive and well at IDS. Our students are the real winners.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL START AGAIN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7



Remember to register your child for a fun Afterschool Activity and a plethora of music options. *The second session begins November 7.* Extra brochures are in the front office. **HURRY!** All sessions fillup quickly.

SCRIP...SCRIP...SCRIP...SCRIP...

SCRIP is available for purchase on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005**, at the Bell Tower on the east side from 2:45 - 3:30 P.M. You may also email your SCRIP order to Celeste at cross@idsyes.com or give her a quick call at (813) 961-3087 ext. 303. **REMEMBER** SCRIP is a *GREAT GIFT IDEA* for you and your loved ones for the holiday gift giving season. SCRIP will come in handy for the annual **IDS FALL BOOK FAIR** beginning on Sunday, November 27 and concluding on Saturday, December 3, 2005. Place your orders now for SCRIP, so that your child can take convenient gift cards rather than cash.



DONUT DAY AT IDS SPONSERED BY 8TH GRADE PARENTS



On Tuesday, November 15, 2005 from 7:30 - 8:15 A.M., you will have the opportunity to purchase Krispy Kreme donuts by the dozen or singly. All proceeds benefit the 8th Grade Class gift. All orders must be returned by Monday, November 14, 2005. Please look in your Thursday folder for your order form.

REMINDER...PHOTO RE-TAKE – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

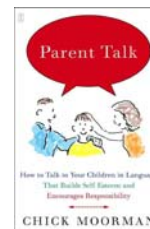
On Tuesday morning on November 8, Studio Artistry will be here to do picture re-takes. Any student that was absent on school picture day or any family choosing a re-taken, should contact Ms. Marie in the office at (813) 961-3087 to schedule a time.



PFA NEWS...

CALLING ALL LUNCH VOLUNTEERS. We have had many wonderful changes this year with regards to the lunch program. Please join us on Wednesday, November 9, 2005, at 8:15 A.M. in the IDS Theatre/Training Center Breakout Room for coffee and bagels to discuss all the new changes and fill out a form on how your best practices for serving lunch are achieved.

PARENTNET BOOK CLUB. We are having our meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, at 8:15 A.M. Parents are reading, "*Parent Talk: How to talk to your child in language that builds self esteem and encourages responsibility.*" Author Chick Moorman suggests languages to enhance personal accountability and decrease power struggles with our children. Join fellow IDS parents to discuss this author's ideas and exchange your own best practices with other parents. All parents and siblings are welcome to attend the meeting in the IDS Theatre/Training Center at 8:15 A.M. You can **purchase the book in the main office for \$13.00.**



INNISBROOK GIFT WRAP. The gift wrap and chocolates have arrived and distribution went very smoothly. Remember, if there are any errors with your order, please call Debbie Hill from Innisbrook at (813) 625-6232 within the next 48 hours. The frozen food items from the Helen Grace Gourmet Collection (eg. cookies dough, cheesecake & etc.) will arrive on **Monday, November 7, 2005**, in the afternoon. Anyone who ordered frozen items will need to pick up their items between 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. at the IDS Theatre/Training Center Kitchen on the east side. *We also recommend that you bring a cooler to ensure that your item(s) remain frozen.* We have ordered extra frozen items so anyone who still would like to purchase cookie dough, soft pretzels, and other items, can come by on Monday, from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. at the IDS Theatre/Training Center Kitchen to see what we have available for sale. If there are any questions about the Innisbrook fund raiser, please give a call to Sandy McCullin (813.404.7714) or Jenny Stiles (813.624.3726). Thanks again for your orders!

ART TO REMEMBER. The Fine Arts Committee greatly appreciates the support of so many IDS families for our Art to Remember fund raiser. Ordered products will be delivered to IDS in mid-December. If you have chosen not to place an order, please return the packet immediately, as IDS must return unsold magnets.



SIGN UP TODAY FOR NOVEMBER'S DINNER DONE. Our Pioneer Dinner Done Fundraiser was a blast! Many thanks to the following ladies for participating (some even brought significant others to help with the cooking and of course, there was no cleanup). We gave away a bottle of wine from Wine Not to the first person to sign up (Irma Schultz). Also, we did raffles for assorted wine bottles (we had 4 winners in all, great odds) and enjoyed a nice lunch compliments of Fresh Market. What a nice way to meet new parents, go home with dinner and wine and raise money for IDS. Thanks to these Pioneers and to Audra and Dan Nasser of Dinner Done for their generosity with this monthly fundraiser. If you are a parent of a child in Grades 3 thru 5, sign up today for next month's Dinner Done scheduled for Thursday, November 17th 5:15 - 7:30 P.M. The November menu looks amazing. Be the first to sign up and win a bottle of wine from Wine Not. Just like this month, we plan to have light hors d'oeuvres, wine giveaways and a lot of fun. The December Dinner Done is reserved for parents of kids in Middle School and is set for Wednesday, December 7th 7:45 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. Sign up TODAY at <http://www.dinnerdone.com>, password: idsyes. Please call Karen Blumenthal at (813) 495-6606 for additional information.

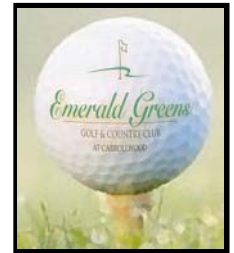
EAST SIDE SNO-CONE DAY. The PFA Fine Arts team is sponsoring a sno-cone day for the east side students. Enjoy a cool delicious treat for only \$1.00.



11TH ANNUAL IDS KIDS CLASSIC GOLF & TENNIS BENEFIT DINNER AND AUCTION



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005
12:00 P.M.**



Do you see yourself putting on the lush greens, driving your tee shot down pristine fairways, during our Florida fall season? Then you must get your clubs ready and bring yourself to the IDS Golf and Tennis Benefit at Emerald Greens. We still have some spots open for our golf tournament and our first tennis tournament. Please contact Mrs. Barfield at (813) 961-3087 or at pbarfield@idsyes.com to arrange to be part of this great day to benefit IDS!!!

ATTENTION ALL NON-GOLFERS

- Join the IDS Golfers at 5:00 p.m. for **Dinner** and an exciting **Live and Silent Auction!**
- Contact Pam Barfield with your dinner reservation:
pbarfield@idsyes.com or 961-3087.

ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS

- What is a *ROUND OF GOLF, LUNCH, DINNER, AND AN EXCITING AUCTION?*
- The Answer is – **THE 11TH ANNUAL IDS KIDS CLASSIC GOLF BENEFIT DINNER AND AUCTION**
- Reserve today to insure your shotgun start. Golfers of all skill levels wanted!

LIVE AUCTION

TBPAC ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE: 4 Box Seats to Annie
GOLF PACKAGE: Foursome at AVILA, OLD MEMORIAL and CHEVAL – \$1500 Value

SILENT AUCTION

Cheval Foursome

Foursome at one of these courses: Babe Zaharias/Rocky Point/Rogers Park

PRP Wines – Bottle of fine wine and Wine Tasting Party for 12

Family Fun Pack – Grand Prix (golf, go karts and food)

Bottle of Dom Perignon

Inn at Aspen – 3 nights plus breakfast (base of Buttermilk Mountain)

Veterinarian Natalie Long – spend a day in the Vet ER (adult)

Unlimitech – 3 hours computer service time

Westchase Foursome including cart

Dinner Done – (4) entrée certificate

United Skates – Hockey season

Pearl necklace from Continental Jewelers

Workout Express – 3-month membership

Jewelry from Julie Salvetti

Facial at Irene Gott Salon

RAFFLE

Private Pilates training session (in Safety Harbor)

Windy City Pizza

Passes to MOSI

Acupuncture (in Tarpon Springs)

Publix Gift Certificate

Strings n Rings (lunch for two)

And more...

OUR HEADMASTER RETURNS FROM SPAIN IDS MAKES AN INTERNATIONAL CONNECTION



*Top private schools in Spain have adopted the model of remaining on the leading edge of educational research by embracing the M.O.R.E. Approach written about in the IDS book, **It's All About Kids: Every Child Deserves a Teacher of the Year**. On October 28, Dr. Swarzman returned from her fourth trip to Spain over the past 16 months working to assist leading schools transition into 21st century learning environments. The trip began with the ISC Conference (International School Connection) which our Associate Headmaster Ms. Ripple also attended along with educators representing nine countries. Dr. Swarzman has this to say:*

“**Hola** IDS: It is great to be back home. It was a long but very gratifying and exciting two weeks. Before sharing about the trip, on behalf of Ms. Ripple and myself, I want to thank our entire faculty and staff for leading the school in our absence for the week we attended the International School Conference in Madrid. As always, the teachers, office staff, and facilities were wonderful, competent and supportive!!! Special thanks is well-deserved for Mrs. Barfield for overseeing the school and Mrs. Wenzel for supporting the east side and Mrs. George for the west side. They worked as a team along with Mrs. Mason to insure that everything was smooth sailing. Thanks to cellular phones and Blackberries, we were able to check in once or more daily. A phone hook-up also allowed us to step into the admissions open house for a brief time. The PFA also deserves kudos. Gina Shannon's leadership and our team of parent volunteers help make IDS run smoothly every day due to extensive volunteer support.

From October 16-20, we attended the ISC Conference with 75 educational leaders from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Canada, United States, Taiwan, Spain and Singapore. This group has been meeting for a number of years and is now expanding their base to endorse leadership models that are based on the book, **Living on the Edge of Chaos: Leading Schools Into the Global Age** by Dr. Karolyn Snyder. Her book has commanded much interest as it is based on leadership models that promote the latest research and practices for successful dynamic organizations applying the model to schools. Each country has its own hubs, and we are part of the Tampa Bay Hub with school leaders from our neighboring school districts. IDS and the schools from Spain represent the private school world. Combining lessons learned in both settings are key to building global connections that advocate for every child.

The educators from Finland were a highlight at the conference because Finland is well-known, once again, as the country with the highest standardized test scores in the world. They have thousands of visiting educators from all over the world trying to learn from them. Another highlight of the conference was our presentation, as we shared how we transform theory into practice in the classroom regarding learning and the brain. For more information on the ISC Conference, please go to <http://www.iscweb.org> or ask either of us for information. We are thrilled to share all about the experience.

Ms. Ripple returned to IDS just in time to lead IDS “Central Command” for hurricane decision-making. Board President Jim Conlin and others, along with me in my hotel room in Castellon, Spain, worked to advise her as she coordinated action with technology and phone chains to communicate with our IDS community. There are many advantages to being an independent school, and one is that we can make independent decisions as to whether we should close school or remain open. We were all blessed to be spared from what happened to South Florida. And, we are also blessed to have fabulous facilities and office teams that reported to work to make sure that everything would be beautiful and ready for students returning on Tuesday. Okay, I will just have to use the word *AMAZING* again, because they were and they are!!!

My second week in Spain was spent in Castellon with the Lledo School. What an incredible facility they have along with a dynamic group of teachers!!! The in-service model is to train all the faculty together for two days and nights on Friday and Saturday, and then to work with teams for three days and evenings with what

they most want and need. The most fun for me was modeling lessons in classrooms from three year olds through high school. At first the students were reticent, but soon they caught the magic of the **M.O.R.E. Approach** and it was a winning experience. There was always a group of teachers and administrators video taping and observing so that they could then follow up with the techniques with which they have interest. They recognize the benefits of the brain-friendly approach and they can see how readily students respond. The goal is clear: increase time on task for increased achievement in an environment that is both JOYFUL and CHALLENGING, STIMULATING AND PRODUCTIVE, NURTURING WITH HIGH STANDARDS AND VERY HIGH EXPECTATIONS.



Before going to Castellon and on returning to Madrid, I was able to do follow-up work with parents and teachers from the school in Madrid that we worked with last April. In January, we will also have teachers from some of the schools in Spain come and work with our IDS teachers. Soon our students will be connecting, and who knows what other great opportunities await us!!!

You may be asking how do we communicate since my Spanish is "nada". Translators are with me all of the time, except this last trip when I drove from Madrid to the school in Castellon with the Head of School. For four hours straight, we traveled by car without a translator; he speaks as much English as I speak Spanish. Thanks to our IDS Spanish team, I had the perfect pocket dictionary with me. The result was that we both learned "*Spanglish*" in four hours rather than sit there in silence. You can bet we laughed a lot and learned much from each other. However, it was a relief when we arrived to meet his wife and daughter for dinner, and they could translate for us!!!

For further information on our move to be globally connected, please contact us at any time and/or use the form below. We are always ready for **M.O.R.E.** while we hold tight to what works. It is all about a balancing act...**M.O.R.E.** later."

PLEASE USE FOR M.O.R.E. INFORMATION...

Dear Dr. Swarzman,

1. How can I find out M.O.R.E.?

2. Questions I have?

3. Thought to share...

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email: _____