

**HEADS' LETTER**

**DECEMBER 2, 2004**

**A DREAM COME TRUE: On November 30, 2004, IDS-CC  
officially acquired 70 acres of land for a high school.**

(See the story inside for details.)

**THIRD ANNUAL IDS FASHION SHOW: TOMORROW!**

The **IDS Fashion Show** will be held tomorrow morning on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3** in the Theatre/Training Center. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to: shop, see the latest fashion trends modeled by IDS parents, enjoy a wonderful brunch, visit with your friends, and enjoy the holiday spirit.

For those of you who have attended before, you know to expect a great time! We will have booths from many local vendors, including fashion, jewelry, home accessories and children's gifts. The fashion show is provided by **Leslique Designer Fashions**, formerly Sevals. **You can purchase your tickets at the door for \$50;** payable to IDS. We begin at 10:00 AM and wrap up at 1:00 PM.



**REMINDER: NOON DISMISSAL, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8**  
**Please remember to RSVP for Extended Day**

**FINE ARTS NIGHT**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2004**

Please clear your calendars and plan to be at IDS next Thursday for a delightful evening at our **ANNUAL FINE ARTS NIGHT**. The **ENTIRE** school will participate in the program. **ALL STUDENTS** from Pre-K thru 8th grade are expected to 1) perform and 2) wear IDS polo shirts. All chorus and band members wear specified polo shirts.

**TIME SCHEDULE:** **6:30 PM** Students in **Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade** will **report to their classrooms** where their teachers will be awaiting them. All students will watch the performance with their classes on WIDS closed circuit TV. **Middle School students** will report to:

<b>Musical Theatre</b>	<b>Art Room</b>
<b>Band (Beginning/Advanced)</b>	<b>Music Room</b>
<b>Narrators</b>	<b>Corbett Hall</b>
<b>Middle School Division</b>	<b>Library/Media Center</b>

**6:30 PM** Corbett Hall opens for adult seating.

**7:00 PM** Program begins in Corbett Hall; please be seated by this time.

**PARKING FOR FINE ARTS NIGHT:** There will be **deputies** on duty as well as our own staff to assist us in parking. **The parking options include:**

- 1) IDS main school parking lot on the East Side;
- 2) IDS Middle School parking lot on the West Side;
- 3) IDS grass parking lot on the East Side north of the school; and
- 4) Carrollwood Elementary School parking lot on the corner of McFarland and Orange Grove Drive. **Our buses will shuttle people to and from** Carrollwood Elementary or you may enjoy the short walk.

## NEWS IN REVIEW...KEEP UP TO DATE

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY:** Once again, Grandparents' Day proved to be a *5 star event in the memory book!* Emotions of joy and appreciation spanned the generations from our wee ones to our very wonderful grandparents and grandfriends! Every student on campus participated on stage for this great day. Four-year-olds to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders modeled poise, confidence, enthusiasm, talent and succeeded in capturing the hearts of our guests. Visitations to the classrooms topped off the morning with teachers, students, RPCs, and other parent



volunteers going above and beyond to welcome our guests and share some of the excitement that lives in our classrooms every day.

Special thanks to all of our families for supporting all those who had relatives or friends here that day...You gave service to making special memories for others. Also, a special thanks to those of you who brought grandfriends...We hosted over 450 visitors. A very special thanks to our classroom teachers, office staff, and facilities crew for working so hard to create a great day for all, as well as for supporting the best Fine Arts Team anywhere. They worked as a team to weave art, music and drama into a most impressive program.

**FIFTH GRADE:** The fifth grade trip to Savannah before Thanksgiving provided 57 fifth graders and 36 parents with a tremendous learning opportunity to support the studies of an important era in the history of America. **BRAVO** to our fifth grade teachers for providing this terrific experience.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL:** The can drive gathered **EIGHT BARRELS** of food to donate to Metropolitan Ministries for the upcoming holiday! *That was a barrel of giving!* Thanks for your support!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSICS TEAM:** (part of the drama elective) had its second meet of the year on November 17, 2004. At this competition, drama/forensics students who chose to be part of this elective competed against eight other public and private schools. "The students did another outstanding job!" Mr. Vokoun, team coach, stated. "I am so proud of their hard work and dedication." Mrs. Watson, co-team coach, explained, "It is impressive how consistently our students continue to perform on this high level".



Thirteen of the twenty-two students that competed in the competition placed in the top five of their category, and six of those thirteen won their second trophy in as many completions. Therefore, special congratulations go out to **Dylan Attal, Alyssa Blumenthal, Amanda Buck, Alexis Dempsey, Desiree Meyncke, and Elena Walker**. The following are the results from this competition. Congratulations to all!

<b>Dylan Attal</b>	Fifth Place in <i>Oral Interpretation of Prose</i>
<b>Alyssa Blumenthal</b>	Third Place in <i>Impromptu</i>
<b>Amanda Buck</b>	Second Place in <i>Oral Interpretation of Poetry</i>
<b>Alexis Dempsey</b>	Second Place in <i>Oral Interpretation of Drama</i>
<b>Aisha Hatter</b>	Third Place in <i>Oral Interpretation of Prose</i>
<b>Katya Heversy and Desiree Meyncke</b>	Third Place in <i>Duo Interpretation of Drama</i>
<b>Nima Iranmanesh and Cameron Taylor</b>	Fifth Place in <i>Duo Interpretation of Drama</i>
<b>Natasha Kurji</b>	Fifth Place in <i>Oral Interpretation of Drama</i>
<b>Max Landwirth and Shay Patel</b>	Second Place in <i>Duo Interpretation of Drama</i>
<b>Elena Walker</b>	First Place in <i>Oral Interpretation of Poetry</i>

## T-SHIRT CONTEST OPPORTUNITY

See inside flyer for information about USF Author Celebration. Entries due December 15, 2004



## REPORT CARDS

Look inside today's Thursday folder for your child's report card.



## PFA NEWS

- **ROOM PARENT COORDINATORS WORK TO HELP IDS GIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE TO THE SPRING:** Donations to **The Spring** are due in the classrooms by *Thursday, December 9, 2004*. See our enclosed **SCRIP order form to purchase gift cards from various merchants and food stores to benefit those in need at this holiday giving time. Remember this donation is VOLUNTARY.**



- **THE BIG EVENT:** REMEMBER TO HOLD THE DATE SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005 Rainforest Rhapsody a big event spectacular.

- **IDS BOOK FAIR Results:** Parents once again you were incredible...IDS reads, reads, reads...*Barnes and Noble* reported that a total of \$22,000 of books were purchased by our IDS families during Book Fair Week. Amazing kudos to everyone who helped to break our school record through efforts to buy books during that week. **IDS RECEIVES 25% OF THE TOTAL.** All those dollars go directly into supporting our own *Laney Library* right here at IDS. Included in the overwhelming support of the book fair were parents who generously donated a total of 125 books to their children's classroom libraries. Great appreciation is due to Librarian/Media Specialist, Bettyann Pitti and PFA Book Fair Co-chairs, Milene Lima, Marilyn Gatlin (IDS founder 1968), and Dana Hoffman and Scrip Co-chairs Lauren Mandel and Milene Lima.



## CLASSROOM ENTREPRENEURS

**The Fifth Grade** has found the perfect fundraiser for the holiday gift giving time. Support Florida and IDS fifth graders fundraising effort to repay expenses for their Civil War study trip to Savannah. *How do you do this?* See the insert in Thursday folder that shows you how to mail Florida oranges as a gift for people at work or family and friends.



## PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR IDSers

(To our IDS families, please share special moments so that everyone can enjoy with you.)

**Jonathan Katz** (IDS 4<sup>th</sup> Grader) was one of 600 area students to enter the Hispanic Heritage 2004 Bookmark Contest sponsored by the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative. His drawing was picked out of the 600 entries to receive the first place honor. Jonathon's drawing is on thousands of bookmarks all over the Tampa Bay area. Representatives of the Hillsborough County Library System gave him his prizes at our IDS Monday Morning Assembly. Everyone got the chance to be proud of one of our own and all students received their very own bookmark. Congratulations Jonathan!!!!

**Kelsey Tillotson** (IDS 4<sup>th</sup> Grader) competed in two cheerleading competitions recently with Northside Dolphins cheerleading team. Her team won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Antioch Cheer Competition and they brought home 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 12 teams in the Tampa Bay Youth Football League Cheer off. Way to go Kelsey!

**Paige Tucker** (IDS 5<sup>th</sup> Grader) was honored on Tuesday, Nov. 30 with a Youth Appreciation Award from the Optimist Club of Carrollwood. In addition to volunteering at her grandmother's retirement home, Paige plays the piano and flute, dances ballet and jazz, acts with the Carrollwood Playhouse Theatre, and she writes and publishes her own newspaper, called *The Tucker Times*. We are very proud of her contributions and willingness to give so much to so many. A big thanks to you Paige!

## PART I: A DREAM COMES TRUE

**ONCE UPON A TIME**, a father of three IDSers got excited about some land that he heard about near the Sunshine Parkway that could be a potential High School for IDS. His name was Jim Donovan. He brought this information to the Head of school and the President of the Board of Trustees who at that time was Cornelia Corbett. With both excitement and reservations, the idea was pursued. The price of that land grew rapidly and so other pieces of property were explored, and a small team of parents and trustees continued the search. Gina Shannon, Trustee Stuart Sierra, Jim Donovan, Trustee Jeff Shannon and with advisor grandparent George Karpay, they met regularly to pursue options.

**T**wo years ago, parent Chuck Wehrle suddenly arrived on the scene with a new thought about where the high school could go, and he eventually led the planning team to find our current property. Another parent, Doug King came on board because he was heavily involved with that area where he himself has property. He supported Gina Shannon, and they pulled a team together to do our due diligence on the land. After we secured a contract on the property, Jim and Trustee Cindy Donovan donated the first \$100,000 to get us started on examining the property. Engineers, surveyors, and hours and hours plus days and days with the county commission led to the belief that this would be a perfect site for a high school for the northern part of the Tampa Bay area. Our volunteers even helped work with Pasco County to carve out a road that would support the entire area and could welcome a private high school. Thanks to Jeff Shannon and the Fowler, White, Boggs, Banker Law Firm, we were provided with the legal expertise all along this journey. They gave us the confidence and legal perspectives that we needed to go forward, especially on the zoning issues.

**T**o have a happy ending to Part I of this story, we needed \$2,250,000. Purchasing seventy acres one mile north of SR 54 on SR 41 was a huge cost for our school. After all, we were still raising money for the Bond that has given us a beautiful first class middle school, a theatre/training center and many other additions to the school. When we were just about ready to give up hope in purchasing the land, something very special happened. Parents John and Susan Stanton called me on one very special day in April 2004 promising to make an IDS high school a reality, and indeed, they kept their promise! On November 30, we closed on the property with the incredible generosity of the Stantons, a second generous gift from Jim and Cindy Donovan and an investment of our borrowed Bond money to finish the project. The Stantons came through without even being asked, and they iced the cake on all of the work done above by Jim, Gina, Jeff, Doug, Chuck and Stuart.

**T**he Board of Trustees also deserves so much credit for continuing this effort. They never wavered on the importance of pursuing such a major project and included this in the IDS long-range plan. Led by current president, Jim Conlin, the IDS Board can be described as brave, courageous, enthusiastic and visionary. The Board members are devoted to the school and believe in the many miracles that happen here daily.

**I** know that the Board of Trustees would want everyone in the community to know just how much we will be forever grateful to the Stantons for making this happen and the Donovans who began this journey and saw it through. Additionally, as Jim Donovan said, *"the heart, soul and central character in this endeavor from beginning to end has been Jeff Shannon"*. He gave us access to Fowler, White, Boggs, Banker Law Firm and he personally gave hundreds of volunteer hours and a lot of love in bringing this baby home...Jeff, you are amazing!

**T**o all of the heroes, we say thanks...now it's time to begin Part II. We need to get ready to build. Just think that almost all of the volunteers named above came forward without ever being asked. WOW!!! Who will join us now? Tune in for the next *Once Upon a Time*...

With appreciation, Joyce