

HEADS' LETTER

DECEMBER 3, 2009

- **EDU-THOUGHTS:** Progress is not about perfection, it's about improvement. Rarely is the road to progress a linear endeavor. Report cards are in your Thursday folder this week. They identify progress. We suggest that you ask your children what we ask ourselves regularly at IDS, "What is really working well? Where can we improve or get better? And what are goals for moving forward?" In this way, we pat ourselves on the back and celebrate our successes while remaining humble, vigilant, and open to the next level of growth. This is what we call the road to "*the best getting better model*" described in our book, *It's All About Kids: Every Child Deserves a Teacher of the Year*.



- **IDS BOUTIQUE and BRUNCH TOMORROW, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009; 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.** Enjoy a start to your day with IDS friends and begin your holiday shopping with a delicious brunch prepared by our very own Chef Garret! Please contact PFA Boutique Chair, Cindy Wendell at dwcl@aol.com or (813) 527-1239 for more information. Tickets are available at the door for \$20.00. To help make your shopping easier, there is a list of vendors in today's Thursday Folder.



- **ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009, FROM 8:30 – 10:00 A.M.** Remind your friends about the gift of an IDS education. Friends and family often need to be encouraged to consider investing in a child's education that is a gift for a life-time. The accolades we receive from visiting educators locally, nationally and internationally remind us how fortunate we are to live, work and study within the world of Independent Day School: Corbett Campus right here on Orange Grove Drive.
- **TEACHER IN-SERVICE & EARLY DISMISSAL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 12:00 P.M. EXTENDED Day is available from 12:00 – 6:00 P.M.** If you are in need of Extended Day on Wednesday, December 9, please call the IDS office by Monday, December 7. The cost for the afternoon will be \$15.00, regardless of the length of stay, (except for those 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.** We will provide snacks in the afternoon.
- **ANNUAL WINTER FINE ARTS NIGHT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10: Showtime promptly at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** Every student performs AND all are in the finale. Please clear your calendars and plan to allow students to participate in the entire performance filled with music, dance, instrumental pieces and student speakers. Make your hearts soar at this joyful performance! **ALL STUDENTS** from Pre-K3 thru eighth grade are expected to 1). Perform and 2). **WEAR IDS GREEN POLO SHIRTS.**

Fine arts time schedule: at 6:00 p.m., students will report to designated places where their teachers will be awaiting them. At **6:00 p.m.** Corbett Hall opens for adult seating and slide show presentation. At **6:30 p.m.,** the program begins **PROMPTLY** in Corbett Hall; please be seated by this time. All students will watch the performance with their classes on WIDS closed circuit TV. Students will report to the following locations:



- ① Pre-K3 through 5th grade
- ② Musical Theatre
- ③ Band (Beginning/Advanced)
- ④ Narrators
- ⑤ Middle School Division

Classrooms
Art Room
Music Room
Corbett Hall
Laney Library



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATULATIONS IDS: In two separate articles, the Tampa Tribune recognized the creativity and educational value of our Middle School Annual Multi-Cultural Day and the annual Early Primary celebration of cultural traditions through the Living Thanksgiving simulation. Although we pride ourselves as a school with a “culture of innovation,” we also take pride in honoring and respecting traditions that get passed from one class to another. It’s a balancing act between novelty and tradition and variety and routine. That can also go for home-life as well.

IDS MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSICS ELECTIVE: On November 18, IDSers in the forensics elective did a wonderful job competing in the community competition with Lumiere Rostick placing first for Oral Interpretation of Drama, and Reed Forehand and Valan Zuccolillo placing fifth for Duo Interpretation of Drama. We are very proud of their performance and how well they represented IDS!

MATH COMPETITION CAPITALIZES ON STUDENT INTEREST AND GIFTED AREAS: Independent Day School is currently competing in a year-long, on-line national mathematics competition. During the month of November, the students took an online test to compete against other students from around the country. The Middle School competed in four levels of competition for each grade plus Algebra. The tests are 15 questions of above grade-level difficulty. They are generally math questions that relate to the grade-level curriculum while still loosely relate to any specific content. In other words, they test the students’ inherent mathematical ability rather than their specific mathematical knowledge.

There will be two more tests during the school year: one in early February and one in March. The scores are cumulative and prizes will be awarded at the end of the year for the highest individual scores and the highest team scores. Currently, the IDS-CC Middle School is poised for an excellent showing. Because the team scores are calculated by using the top four individual scores, we have listed the top four scores from each level (including ties). **The first number is the student’s score (out of 15) and the second score is their national ranking.** We will have an update in February and March! Congratulations to these great teams and individuals.

Algebra test: – Team Score 58 – Currently ranked 2nd:

Pedro Lima – 15/15 – 1st place; Brett Sokol – 15/15 – 1st place; Avi Baskin – 14/15 – 12th; Nirja Patel 14/15 – 12th

Eighth Grade test – Team score 58 – Currently ranked 2nd:

Michael Arato – 15/15 – 1st place; Teresa Chorvat – 15/15 – 1st place; Pedro Lima – 15/15 – 1st place;
Austin McCullers – 13/15 – 29th; Nirja Patel – 13/15 – 29th; Anthony Pellingra – 13/13 – 29th

Seventh Grade test: – Team score 52 – Currently ranked 9th:

Brett Sokol – 14/15 – 30th; Jordan Fuller – 13/15 – 52nd; Jonathan Nasser – 13/15 – 52nd;
Zoe Dolcimascolo – 12/15 – 85th, Danielle Wilson – 12/15 – 85th

Sixth grade – Team score 55 – Currently ranked 10th:

Matheus Caldeira – 15/15 – 1st place; Lumiere Rostick – 14/15 – 52nd,
Samantha Reiss – 13/15-107th, Corey Shamley – 13/15 – 107th

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER MICHAEL VOKOUN: At the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Conference in Philadelphia in late November, Mr. Vokoun was once again a favored annual presenter. He has also retained his position as an elected member of the NCTE Middle Level Steering Committee, where he advocates to help NCTE with national legislation, community outreach, as well as hosting many events at the conference. One of his presentations was at the Middle Level Mosaic with three authors of young adult literature about the importance of reading as well as connecting the readings with meaningful assignments.

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWS

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! - The PFA thanks Girl Scout Troop 976 for giving service to IDS by running the Datz Deli and IDS water booths at the Fall Festival. Your service and leadership skills are appreciated! Everyone enjoyed seeing your smiling faces!



THE SPRING OF TAMPA BAY – ANNUAL PFA DONATION DRIVE STARTS NOW!!

'Tis the season to remember those in need! December kicks off the IDS-PFA Annual Holiday Donation Drive for The Spring of Tampa Bay, Florida's largest domestic violence family shelter. This year, The Spring is at capacity and they are trying to provide all families with some type of gift certificate, a book, and a toy for every child and the opportunity for every child to shop for mom. Over 51% of the women at the shelter have children.



You can participate in this Holiday Donation Drive by checking with your RPC (Room Parent Coordinator) for your child's classroom.

Questions? Call Nancy Leach at 813-915-9794 or NYLeach@aol.com

COMING SOON – IDS-PFA YARD SALE – JANUARY 23 - *It's back!* Just in time for your New Year's Resolutions to clean out your closets, our IDS Yard Sale is scheduled for January 23! This fundraiser can help you make more space in your home. It's a win win for everyone! Please set aside items you wish to donate, and we will start collecting right after the Winter Holiday Break. Questions? Please contact Julie Salek at (813) 382-2525 or jcsalek@hotmail.com.



IDS STUDENT/FACULTY SPORTS CHALLENGE and DINNER– JANUARY 8, 2010 – The Seventh Annual Student/Faculty Sports Challenge is coming soon! Watch as the IDS students challenge the IDS Faculty and Staff to games of volleyball and basketball. Tickets will go on sale, look for more information in your next week's Thursday folder about how to purchase tickets.



SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010
THE IDS BIG EVENT:



**OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON
MONDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2009
AT 8:15 A.M. IN THE
PFA OFFICE ABOVE
THE NEW BUILDING.**

IDS ANNUAL BOOK FAIR RUN THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009

Thanks a million for your support of the Book Fair! **THE ANNUAL IDS FALL BOOK FAIR** is in full swing at Barnes & Noble until **Monday, December 7**. Please help us make this year the best ever by telling all of your friends who are purchasing books to give IDS-CC the credit when they check out at the register.



The IDS Laney Library/Media Center receives 20% of the sales from the book fair. All purchases, *INCLUDING* café consumables, count toward the book fair. Also, when Barnes & Noble Scrip gift cards are used for purchases, the school receives additional funds. You can receive Scrip now by calling the office at (813) 961-3087 to place your order for Barnes & Noble gift cards.



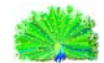
Tuesday's Early Primary Night and Wednesday's Primary Night brought many people to the Book Fair to buy books for now and holiday gifts. On Tuesday, we featured story times by teachers and dance recitals by the adorable Broadway Babies and Jazzy Juniors. On Wednesday night, we heard a beautiful mini-concert by our Third Grade chorus, *The Spirit of IDS*, which is directed by Mrs. Barbara McBride. Twenty-five third graders performed by singing a variety of songs, which brought smiles, laughter, and joy to all of us. The new IDS Community School of the Arts Dance Team directed by Mrs. Lisa Ferlita also performed for the first time in public and received a lot of admiration from the audience.



A huge thanks to Librarian Kim Fields for arranging the event. Her right arms are our wonderful, delightful and resourceful parent volunteers, Middle School parents Milene Lima and Cathy Peacock, along with alum parent Lauren Mandel who kept her promise and returned to help coordinate Scrip for our annual great Book Fair. We send them a huge standing ovation.



PROUD MOMENTS SOAR FOR OUR IDSers



TO OUR IDS FAMILIES, PLEASE SHARE SPECIAL MOMENTS SO THAT EVERYONE CAN ENJOY WITH YOU.

Congratulations to **Chandni Patel** (6th Grade) and **Suhani Patel** (8th Grade)! They came in 2nd place in Junior Folk and Best Costume award at the India Festival held at the USF Sun Dome on Saturday, November 7, 2009.



Congratulations to **Holden Bridge** (6th Grade). Holden's eleven and under travel baseball team, Team USA Boltz, had the honor of playing at Disney's Wide World of Sports in the Thanksgiving Super NIT tournament. Holden played catcher in five out of five games. His team made it to the championship game and won a berth to the Elite 32 National tournament this summer at Disney.



ENCLOSURES



1. IDS bookmark calendar
2. Spring SCRIP order form
3. Eighth Grade Smoothie King Fundraiser for Grades PK3 – 5th

**Please see
"All School"
enclosures also
found in
Thursday Folder.**

**ONE PER
FAMILY**

**independent
day school**
Corbett Campus

Important
DATE!

2009-2010 KEY DATES

- ❑ **IDS-CC BOUTIQUE & BRUNCH**
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- ❑ **IDS-CC FALL BOOK FAIR**
NOW THRU MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009
(REMEMBER TO BUY SCRIP)
- ❑ **NOON DISMISSAL**
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009
(EXTENDED DAY AVAILABLE)
- ❑ **IDS-CC: WINTER FINE ARTS NIGHT**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, CORBETT HALL
- ❑ **HEADMASTER OF THE DAY**
AHMAD EVERETT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009
- ❑ **NOON DISMISSAL**
& WINTER BREAK BEGINS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009 –
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010
- ❑ **SCHOOL RESUMES**
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010
- ❑ **STUDENT/FACULTY SPORTS**
CHALLENGE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2010, 6:00 PM
- ❑ **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**
SCHOOL HOLIDAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010
- ❑ **IDS YARD SALE**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- ❑ **HEADMASTER OF THE DAY**
DEEANNA SLYWKA
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010
- ❑ **ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE**
NOON DISMISSAL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010
OPEN HOUSE BEGINS AT 8:30 AM
- ❑ **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**
JANUARY 28, 2:00 PM – JANUARY 29, 2010
- ❑ **IDS BIG EVENT:**
BOARDWALK BLAST
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

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IDS: A SUPPORTER OF
THE SPRING of Tampa Bay
HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM

SCRIP ORDER FORM

Wal-Mart \$25.00 x Quantity _____ = Total \$ _____

JCPenney \$25.00 x Quantity _____ = Total \$ _____

Barnes & Noble \$10.00 x Quantity _____ = Total \$ _____

Borders \$10.00 x Quantity _____ = Total \$ _____

Student Name: _____

Phone# / E-mail Address: _____

Teacher: _____

Thank you for your support!

THE SPRING
HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM

2009 SPECIAL REQUESTS

TEENS (ages 13-17)

- Compact CD Players or MP3 player
- Sports Balls of any kind
- Electronic Game Boys/DS Lite, etc.
- Curling Irons/Flat Irons
- Make-up and make-up boxes for teen girls
- Journals or diaries
- Tech-Deck mini skate boards (hand size)
- Radio controlled cars
- Hair care and hygiene products for boys
- T-shirts/hats
- Backpacks

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- School supplies
- Canned foods
- Dish sets/flatware/glasses/pots & pans
- Queen or Twin sheets and comforters/blankets
- Pillows
- Towels
- Small electrical appliances

**SCRIP OR GIFT CERTIFICATES TO: Wal-Mart,
Sears, JCPenney, ToysRUs, Barnes & Noble or Borders**



8th Grade Fundraiser
SMOOTHIE KING DAY



Where: at the Eastside

When: Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at LUNCH

Flavors:

☆ **Strawberry Extreme**

or



☆ **Caribbean Way** (Papaya, Bananas, Strawberries, Turbinado, & Honey)

Price: \$4.00 each for a 12 oz. smoothie

Please send the form below with cash or a check by **Monday, December 14, 2009.**

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN BELOW BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Flavor: _____ Qty.: _____ Amount: _____

All proceeds will help fund the 8th Grade Class Gift.

Thank you for your support!

WEEKLY SPORTS UPDATE
December 7 - 11, 2009
Daily Sports Hotline: (813) 961-3087, ext. 399



| Date | Time | Team/Sport | School | Location of game | Pick-Up | Pick-up/Comments |
|-------------|-------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| Mon. 12/7 | 4:00 | Boy's Basketball-Silver | St. John's (E) | MS Gym | 5:00 | |
| | 5:00 | Boy's Basketball-Green | St. John's (E) | MS Gym | 6:00 | |
| | 6:00 | Boy's Basketball-Purple | St. John's (E) | MS Gym | 7:00 | |
| | Off | All Girl's Basketball | Off | | | |
| | 3:00 | Wrestling | Practice | Dean Dining Hall | 5:00 | |
| | 3:00 | Cheerleading | Practice | 8th grade deck | 4:30 | |
| Tues. 12/8 | 3:00 | Co-ed Intermediate Volleyball | Practice | MS Gym | 4:30 | |
| | 3:00 | 8-Man Football | Practice | Buchanan Field | 4:30 | |
| | 4:30 | Volleyball | Club | MS Gym | 7:00 | |
| Weds. 12/9 | 12:00 | Girl's Basketball | Practice | MS Gym | 2:00 | |
| Thur. 12/10 | off | Athletes' Day Off | off | | | |
| Fri. 12/11 | 3:00 | Girls Basketball - Purple | Practice | Corbett Hall | 5:00 | |
| | 3:00 | Girls Basketball - Green | Practice | Corbett Hall | 5:00 | |
| | 5:00 | Boys Basketball - Purple | St. Lawrence | St. Lawrence | 6:00 | |
| | 4:00 | Boys Basketball - Silver | St. Lawrence | St. Lawrence | 5:00 | |
| | 3:00 | Boy's Basketball-Green | Practice | Forest Hills | 4:45 | |
| | 3:00 | Cheerleading-Competetion Team | Practice | 8th grade deck | 4:30 | |
| | 4:00 | Wrestling | Tampa Prep | MS Gym | 7:00 | |

DIRECTIONS TO SCHOOL:

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL: 5223 N. Himes Avenue, Tampa, 879-5090. Take Dale Mabry SOUTH to Hillsborough Avenue. EAST on Hillsborough Avenue. RIGHT on Himes Avenue. School will be on your left.