



**HEADS' LETTER**

**DECEMBER 16, 2004**

# **On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Faculty & Staff**



**we wish the entire IDS community many blessings and  
joy for a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!**

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS REAP PROUD MOMENTS

**HEADMASTER CHRIS CIOCIA (Middle School 7th grader)** took the helm of the school at Monday Morning Assembly, December 13, and WOWED his IDS constituency with his leadership. Through rounds of applause, he announced the overwhelming response from our IDS families for donations to the SPRING. Our terrific classroom RPCs set a record by collecting 8 huge bags of donations plus \$2000 of Scrip. A special thanks to RPC Coordinator, Billie Valloreo, for spearheading this effort.

**HEADMASTER FOR THE DAY CHRIS CIOCIA** also visited all classrooms to supervise faculty and students and met with the Business Manager, Associate Head, and Facilities Manager to make sure the school is running well. He had great suggestions to give each. He will also be remembered for being the first Headmaster to declare equality with the younger grades and gave naptime to seventh grade. Their teachers also enjoyed the "nap time" on that special day. Thanks to Chris and his parents for a great day!



As **THIRD GRADERS** gathered for their annual auction, the classroom was filled with the excitement of a real auction in London or New York City. Our economic program is a simulation of earning, saving, and spending income. It is a motivational system that rewards students for academic excellence and for being responsible citizens. Our goal is to incorporate mathematics and economic standards into daily instruction, while familiarizing students with real world functions such as keeping an accurate balance of "moola" earned in personal

checkbooks. The auction provided an opportunity for students to be empowered consumers. They have worked toward this goal by saving their "moola" over a period of time. They bid on items and spent their hard-earned savings on trinkets and "priceless" gifts for family and friends.

The ***SPIRIT OF IDS*** Third Grade Chorus lived the excitement of community service on Monday, December 13. Mr. LeBlanc and the third grade team, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Kanarish, Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Sobel report their pride in the joy that their students brought to the resident seniors at John Knox Village. They celebrated their performance with a lunch at CiCi's. We are all proud of you. (Special note that Mr. LeBlanc was joined by his wife, music teacher Ginny LeBlanc and her school's hand bell chorus. What a great team.)



**UPPER PRIMARY DIVISION** (Grades 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Multiage) enjoyed the *Chocolate Nutcracker* at Ruth Eckerd Hall last Friday, December 10. It was an African American version of the *Nutcracker Ballet*. The *Chocolate Nutcracker* chronicled African American music, including Jazz from the 1920's to modern Hip Hop. The children enjoyed the movement, scenery, lighting, and maintained their focus for two and a half hours. We received an email from one of our parents who quoted her Multi-Age Brilliant Bug daughter saying, "*Mommy, the music was like poetry, it was romant-i-c-a-l. I'll remember it for all my school days and dream about it every night.*" Thanks to the Upper Primary Teachers for arranging for this great cultural exposure for our young IDSers.



**GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL MAKES HISTORY:** For the first time in IDS history, the Girls' Varsity Basketball Team remains undefeated. This team impresses everyone with their hard work, teamwork, and dedication. They are looking forward to representing IDS in the Second Annual Holiday Basketball Tournament this weekend. They will also be traveling to Vermont in February 2005 to play in a Northeast Kingdom Tournament, where they will compete against top teams from the northeastern United States and Canada. Way to go, Lady Warriors!

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS REAP PROUD MOMENTS (Cont'd.)

**BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL LEADS WITH A NAIL BITING WIN!** Yesterday, December 15, the IDS Boys' Varsity Basketball Team played a serious competitor, Mary Help of Christians School. IDS was down by three to nine points going back and forth until the very end. Guess what brought the IDS fans to their feet? It was so exciting when suddenly with a minute and nine seconds on the clock, they came back with a full court press and won the game! Their season record is 13-1. At this time our IDS Boys' and Girls' teams are number one in the Florida West Coast League. Go Warriors!



**FOURTH GRADE** charmed their audiences during their play "The Jungle Book", a tale about a young boy's journey in the jungle. The fourth graders were amazing demonstrating poise, teamwork, memorization of difficult lines and an abundance of multisyllabic, sophisticated dialogue. *The Jungle Book* play was a great example of integrating language arts with speech, presentation and listening skills. The costumes made by parent Patti Montefusco delighted the audience and our young actors. The entire production and its professional touch can be credited to PFA Drama Volunteer Chair Gina Shannon, and her committee with beautiful Scenery: Kim Karpodinis and Abigail Miller; coaching lines: Debbie Nouss; Sets: Jen Jones and Beatriz Stach. Backstage volunteer parents included Teresa Logan, Dawn Dobish Deborah Sexton, Susie Ladd, Jenny Stiles, and Kathy Baruch. Thanks to all! It was another great show thanks to Teacher, Producer and Director Seth Travaglino.

**FINE ARTS NIGHT:** Thanks to all of the parents who **1.** made sure their children were there to perform and **2.** who came as a part of our audience. Approximately 500 plus parents and friends enjoyed a great evening. *YES! YES! YES!* Every kid was great and with the big screen, we enjoyed those wonderful close ups. The Fine Arts Team was supported by the faculty and office staff to create an amazing program. The facilities team surprised everyone with lights around the campus that rivaled Disney. The evening was filled with family joy and appreciation for one another. Thanks again to the Music, Drama and Art teams for an amazing job to see that every student has the opportunity to perform.

**PFA HIGHLIGHT: The Third Annual Fashion Show Extravaganza was a resounding success.** Everyone had fun shopping, eating and enjoying new and renewed friendships. Congratulations to PFA Co-Chairpersons: Lana Bellini and Beverly Harris. Volunteerism was at its best with the support of their subcommittee; Deena Agliano, Valerie Chorvat, Michael LeBlanc, Kristen Manno, Nancy Martin, Lynn Poole, Yvette Riddle, Tatiana Rojas, Dawn Schocken and Jenny Stiles. A special thanks to our beautiful IDS parent models; Sarah Brady, Kelly Everson, Jennifer Jones, Kim Karpodinis, Deborah Levy, Kristen Manno, Debbie Nouss, Shari Stern and Helen Vasiloudes. Also, a **BIG THANKS** to the Warriors' Pride Chorus for entertaining the audience. All dollars raised benefited the children of IDS.

## KEY EVENTS COMING

**DECEMBER 17, 18 AND 19,** IDS hosts the Broadway musical **GODSPELL**, a production of the Tampa Bay Triple Threat Theatre. The four performances will be held in the IDS Theatre. Call 969-0240 ext. 21 to order tickets. Walk-ins will be accepted if there is room.



**DECEMBER 17 AND 18,** IDS hosts an area Basketball Tournament for both Girls and Boys. Come out and join the fans rooting for our IDS teams. Games are Friday night and Saturday until 1:00 P.M.

**JANUARY 19, 2005, PARENTNET Book Talk.** Be sure to get a head start on reading *Raising Self-Reliant Children in a Self-Indulgent World: Seven Building Blocks for Developing Capable Young People* by Stephen Glenn.

**MARCH 12, 2005, THE BIG EVENT**



**REMINDER**  
**EARLY DISMISSAL**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2004**  
**FOR ALL IDS STUDENTS**  
*EXTENDED DAY RESUMES ON*  
*TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2005*

**PLEASE CHECK LOST AND FOUND BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17. ALL UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO A CHARITY.**

**COMMUNITY ADVERTISEMENT**

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 ¼ page \$50, ½ page \$75, full back page \$150, and flyer insert \$200.  
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