

# PRESS RELEASE



## **Butterflies, Bananas and Bridges Set the Stage for a Year of Learning Success**

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While emotional “butterflies” on the first day of school are common, students in the multi-age class at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) experienced what is becoming a tradition for the first and second graders – a unique, first-day encounter with real butterflies designed to empower them to help create a successful school year.

The students learned that according to a legend, if one shares a wish with a butterfly, the wish will come true when the butterfly is released into the wild. Carefully holding their butterflies, the students whispered their wishes, telling their butterflies what would make this school year the best ever. Then they released the butterflies, and their wishes took flight!

While the butterflies were unique to the multi-age class, teachers throughout every IDS-CC classroom set the stage for learning success through a variety of exciting and meaningful experiences.

For pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, that first day experience included a walking tour of the school campus. Presented as a treasure hunt, the orientation was designed to increase the emotional comfort level, so critical to effective learning, of the school’s youngest students by familiarizing them with their new surroundings.

Second grade teachers greeted their classes dressed in banana costumes to emphasize, in a light-hearted way, the significant expectations and standards that come with being a second grade “Top Banana.”

In fifth grade, students built bridges of cooperation among themselves by constructing paper bridges. The objective of the team-building activity was to apply analytical skills and creativity to the creation of bridges that could withstand the weight of 100 pennies. The task also served as a model of how to meet the challenges of the upcoming year with excitement, determination and cooperation.

For sixth, seventh and eighth graders, an overview of each of their subject areas was transformed into an Olympic-style “opening ceremony” complete with a torch and rings. Athletes, a.k.a. middle school teachers, enthusiastically reviewed curriculum and opportunities for success, focusing on the Olympic mentality of being and doing your best every day.

“At IDS, our vision is to provide an environment for learning that is joyful and challenging, stimulating and productive, nurturing with high standards and expectations,” said Headmaster Dr. Joyce Burick Swarzman. “Our mission is to put children first, and to have a positive impact on the greater community. Thanks to our wonderful teachers, children and parents, we had a fun first day that sets us perfectly on the path to accomplishing that goal during the 2004-2005 school year.”

*Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County. It serves 500 plus students in grades Pre-K through 8. At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 1,500 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers. For more information about IDS visit [www.idsy.com](http://www.idsy.com).*

**Contact: Dr. Joyce Burick Swarzman, Headmaster**  
**Independent Day School-Corbett Campus Telephone: (813) 961-3087**