

IDS-CC Third Graders Provide Musical “Treat” For Elderly Residents

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As children everywhere knocked on doors this Halloween and received candy and other treats, the third grade teachers at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) knocked on the doors to the hearts of their students. In response, these eight and nine-year olds shared something sweeter than candy – the gift of themselves.

This year, as in the past 15, the third graders at IDS-CC made an annual visit to the Carrollwood Care Center. Dressed in friendly costumes, they provided a musical program for the elderly residents, as well as kind smiles and companionship.

“Visiting elderly people in a nursing home can be intimidating,” said Judy Sobel, IDS-CC teacher who started the tradition. “Yet these children were able to dig down inside and give of themselves with genuine compassion and tenderness.” Sobel is part of the third grade teaching team that includes Kim Fowler, Jaelyn Kanarish and Jeanne Rivera.

To help them relate to the difficulties of being elderly, the students experienced a kind of “sensitivity training.” They put on eyeglasses with Vaseline smeared on the lenses, tried picking up items wearing gloves, and put cotton in their ears to help them understand some of the limitations of old age. In addition, they practiced shaking hands and initiating conversation. Music teachers Michael LeBlanc prepared them to sing a variety of songs selected especially for this audience.

According to teachers Fowler and Rivera, the residents responded to their young visitors with joy and appreciation.

“Children have so much to offer, as well as a natural ability to put smiles on the faces of others,” added Kanarish. “It is also a gift that we give to them – understanding the value of contributing to the world around them.”

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County serving 530 students in Pre-K through 8th grade. A 2004 National Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award school, IDS-CC features superior academic programs, small class size, and leading edge fine arts, sports and technology programs. IDS-CC balances a nurturing learning environment with high standards and expectations and has become recognized as an exemplary school with several hundred educators visiting the school annually to observe IDS-CC teachers and attend professional seminars. *For more information about IDS visit www.idsyves.com.*

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