

PRESS RELEASE



IDS-CC Students Send Soldiers Gifts From The Heart

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During a time of year when everyone gives great thought and effort to selecting just the right gifts for family and friends, seventh grade students at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) in Tampa focused their energies on sending a gift that really matters to American military personnel overseas.

What they came up with, however, can't be found at the mall or wrapped in paper and bows. That's because their gifts come straight from the heart.

They're gifts of admiration, gratitude and affection – all packaged in letters that begin with, "Dear Courageous Soldier," or "Dear Heroic Soldier."

"You are an inspiration to every kid in America, fighting for what you believe in."

"I admire you so much."

"You have no idea how grateful I am. We are truly living the American dream because of you."

"You are the role model for us all."

"You are so brave and courageous that you would give your life for someone that you don't even know! Thank you for everything you've done to keep us all safe."

According to English teacher Lynne Grigelevich, the process of creating the letters that will be sent to a troop overseas began by giving the students the opportunity to reflect on what they did over the Thanksgiving holiday break. They then spent time imagining and discussing what Thanksgiving was like for American soldiers in Iraq.

"Regardless of personal opinions about the war, all students agreed that what the soldiers were doing was truly admirable, and they wanted to show their appreciation," said Grigelevich. Each student then created a special "gift package," made up of a personal letter, a poem expressing their gratitude and admiration, and a picture.

"The students realize that while they live wonderful, blessed lives, part of why they are so blessed is because people like these soldiers make tremendous sacrifices," said Grigelevich.

"The question then is what do you send someone who is doing all of that for you? These students are sending more than letters. They're sending a little piece of their hearts."

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County with 550 students from Pre-K3 through 8th grade. 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 2,000 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers. For more information about IDS visit www.idsyves.com.

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