

Edu-Talk: Unique Learning Opportunity Inspires IDS-CC Parents

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From inside the Grand Room at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC), the early morning light could be seen shimmering off Lake Lipsey. One floor below, the kindergarten classrooms vibrated with the enthusiasm and joy of young learners starting their day as a distinctly diverse group was gathering in the bright and airy meeting room above.

Dressed in a white shirt and tie and prepared to head to the office was the father of a middle schooler. With a gurgling baby on her lap was the mother of a kindergartener. There was another mother whose two-year old sat amiably coloring while munching on a bagel. And there was the parent of an eighth grader who talked about how her teen was fervently waiting to step up to the challenges of high school.

They were parents ready for the day ahead, but for now all engaged and focused on a common goal: to glean from the speaker all the ideas and nuggets of information they could that would enable them to actively support their children's learning and personal growth.

Welcome to a typical IDS-CC Edu-Talk: a unique learning opportunity for parents focused on educational topics specific to IDS. Conducted several times during the year by the school's headmaster Dr. Joyce Burick Swarzman, these gatherings offer parents information and insight into the teaching techniques and principles used every day by the school's world-class teachers.

"Edu-Talks are a key part of the IDS-CC goal of building a well-educated learning community," said Associate Headmaster Pam Ripple. "This includes developing a well-informed parent body as part of a school environment that promotes life-long learning."

On this particular morning, Swarzman shared with parents an inspirational tool borrowed from the business world that she had used during a recent teacher training session: the Ken Blanchard corporate video entitled "Whale Done." The message focused on developing positive relationships by building trust, redirecting an individual's energy towards proper behavior, and praising progress.

"Today's students need more than one focus," said Swarzman, "more than one way of learning. That's why our teachers apply a multiple strategy system in their classrooms that includes "Multiple Options for Results in Education – our "M.O.R.E." approach. Parents need the same opportunity. Edu-Talks are one part of a multiple strategy system that gives them the tools they need to be a well-informed member of our learning environment." Other options for parents include: parent-teacher conferences, coffee talks, Parentnet, Back to School Night and both classroom-based and school-wide parent education nights.

"Dr. Swarzman is a master at pulling principles from other disciplines such as business and using these precepts in a vehicle such as an Edu-Talk as yet another way to reach students, teachers, and parents alike," said middle schooler Lauren Scallon's father Tom Scallon. "After all, it's all about relationships and being engaged in learning, which is something that affects all of us."

"I always hear something in these sessions that makes me think and that I can apply to my life and my daughter's education," said Teia Krogman, parent of kindergartener Nicole. "I always leave an Edu-Talk recharged."

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County with 550 students from PreK3 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 3,000 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers. For more information about IDS visit www.idsy.com.

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