

Winter, Summer, Spring, And Fall – IDS-CC Students Experience Them All

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As the young students walked into their kindergarten classroom, the television—which was tuned to The Weather Channel—showed a national weather map with a big sun shining over the state of Florida and snowflakes falling on other parts of the map. The unsuspecting early primary students were about to find out how quickly weather conditions could change in the span of fifteen minutes!

To begin their study of the weather and the four seasons, IDS-CC Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Marla Vildostegui began reading an IDS original work, *The Story of Weather*, with her best animated and engaging voice. The story though, quickly became an engaging live performance by the early primary teachers, with a clever combination of creative costumes and easily accessible special effects.



From the back of the classroom, the “Sun” (Mrs. Jessica Moore) came waltzing into the beautiful room, but was soon joined by two fluffy white “Clouds” (Mrs. Holly Ralph and Mrs. Teresa Krig), that quickly made for an overcast day. These same “Clouds” then ‘danced around’ to show their dark and stormy side.

In a moment came thunder (one very loud, pot-clanging teacher, Mrs. Rania ElChaar), and then, of course, the “Lightning” (teacher assistant Ms. Ana

Gil) and the blowing, howling wind (several very large, loud fans), which brought rain showers (all the teachers squirting water-misting bottles, led by Mrs. Lori Hohmann) down onto the heads of the young crowd.

The students huddled closer together, squealing with delight and surprise, as they took cover from the mist by trying to duck under each other.

Finally, the “storm” subsided and a beautiful “Rainbow” (Mrs. Alejandra Izquierdo) appeared. Within minutes, the teachers’ had given these youngsters an eye-opening dose of changeable weather conditions.

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It was clear the children would all have their own ideas about what it was they were about to study. Using Kagan Cooperative Learning techniques, students knew how to take turns sharing ideas with a partner and complementing each other for their efforts. “This skill allows all students the opportunity to express their thoughts and feel like they have been heard and appreciated for their comments,” said Mrs. ElChaar.



And then the “Sun” (Mrs. Moore) returned and the lesson continued, featuring a focus on auditory, verbal and kinesthetic skills, with students singing a song about the seasons, as they acted out the letter sounds of each.

Mrs. Vildostegui explained, “Classroom activities for the next four weeks will reflect

the conditions associated with the four seasons, using measuring tools, making charts and graphs, creating original art and writing poems—all inspired by the collected data.”

“In all kinds of weather,” the early primary students at IDS-CC had the chance to feel the importance of their contributions to the learning process.

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County. The school serves over 500 students in PreK3 through 8th grade and offers the International Baccalaureate program of study for all middle school students. IDS-CC balances a nurturing learning environment with high standards and high expectations.

Read our book: *It's All About Kids: Every Child Deserves A Teacher Of The Year*

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