

HEADS' LETTER

FEBRUARY 17, 2005



IDS TEACHERS and Students RECEIVE ACCOLADES FROM VISITING EDUCATORS



Approximately 450 educators visited our campus last Friday and Saturday. Some came only for the class visitations, some only for Saturday training with Dr. Spencer and Laurie Kagan, and most came for both days. Our own teachers (96%) attended the Saturday training either for Brain-Friendly Research Instruction or to review the Basics of Cooperative Learning.

Just imagine how stressful it could be for teachers to have colleagues, that are highly respected from local schools and from all over Florida and beyond, observe you teaching in your classrooms. Just imagine how **gratifying** it was to receive glowing accolades for each and every teacher from our visiting educators. The written and verbal comments were a tribute to the amazing talent of our faculty. Our students were great and very real. This was their opportunity to practice poise, respect and appreciation for giving to others, and speaking with confidence. What great gifts they gave and received while also learning their classroom lessons!!!!

Visiting educators, including principals, assistant principals, and classroom teachers from elementary through high schools clearly noticed the wealth of resources that we have for our students, as well as the many skills the teachers exhibited. We continue to emphasize that cooperative learning is just one of the many strategies that we use to increase time on task and achievement levels in a brain-friendly environment.

We explained to our guests that we are a model school, not because we think we are perfect, but because we are always studying, learning and dialoguing about ways to become better and better. We feel like an action think tank, working to bring joy to learning with the best results possible. It is clear that both adults and children are learning everyday. That makes sense since we are all in school at IDS.

WE WOULD NEED A BOOKLET TO WRITE ALL OF THE COMMENTS FROM THE 220 VISITORS ON FRIDAY...HERE IS A SAMPLING:

“Thank you for allowing us to get a glimpse into your everyday teaching lives. It was a privilege to be a part of such an incredible learning environment.”

“Keep up the great work! It’s great to see kids so excited to learn....”

“...because of you I will be changing things in my own classroom.”

“Teachers were awesome, they demonstrated cooperation as well as taught it. I was impressed. BRAVO!”

“We loved being in your classrooms! We got so many ideas. We would love to come back!”

“Thank you for allowing us to come in and for all you do with your students. You have inspired me!”

“I am so impressed with your professionalism, patience, warmth and welcoming us! Thank you - this is my 2nd year here & I will come as often as I can.”

*“Thanks so much for being our models. I will always remember your excellent teaching methods and the way students worked on their tasks. **OUTSTANDING!**”*