

## HEADS' LETTER

MARCH 17, 2005



## MAKES BIG EVENT HISTORY...

The Big Event yielded what we had hoped for – a spectacular night with fun and friendship in a fantastic environment. The evening also exceeded fundraising expectations – reaching over \$90,000 of generous giving from silent and live auction bidding, as well as TCOs and raffles. The middle school gym was transformed into a magical rainforest complete with waterfalls, lions, tigers, elephants, and delicious food from OUTBACK!!! Everyone was there to enjoy and have a great time, and we did!!!

We owe the success of the evening to so many, and so we send **deep, deeper and deepest gratitude** to:

- The many who contributed to the **class baskets** and supported the dedicated Room Parent Coordinators – RPCs. From Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade, each class basket was amazing!!! The creativity of each basket captured a lot of "Ooos and Ahs" and made bidding worthwhile and fun!
- The many who helped to design **Class Creations** that represented each child in that grade. Every item was priceless!
- The IDS Art Department who helped behind the scenes, wherever possible with children's work from the auction paddles to special creations!
- The many teachers who donated silent auction items, special parties and outings for kids and adults!
- The many who took the time to **secure** auction items from the community. There were so many in all price ranges. The variety was great!
- The many who so generously donated items for the **auction, both live and silent**, from condos and parties, to sports options. Even the auction book printing was donated and was filled with so many great things!
- The many committee chairs who organized every detail from registrations to decorations!
- The many volunteers who supported each of the Committee Chairpersons—all you did worked!!!
- The many who purchased TCOs (Tuition Credit Opportunities worth \$5000)... Every ticket was sold!
- The IDS Facilities Team and Office Team for going above and beyond to help insure that every volunteer need was met.
- The IDS students for encouraging their families to support the event **AND**,
- The many who bought tickets to the event and came to help insure an all-around wonderful and successful evening!

So many did so much and together everyone accomplished a great deal. The power, of positive contributions for a purpose, is a life's lesson to share with all of our children. To organize so many of us also takes a lot of special effort by some very special leaders. The PFA at IDS was truly blessed to have **Julie Salek** and **Kathy von Thaden** leading the way through the Rainforest as a dedicated and devoted leadership team for this Big Event. Each of them contributed so much. Behind the scenes, their hours and hours of planning time, patience, and calm made for a magical team. Since they are mothers of a Top Banana and a Brilliant Bug, we thank both Blake and Cassidy for sharing their moms with us, as well as their supportive spouses...we appreciate all your support.

### **BIG EVENT CHAIRS:**

*Co-chairs:* Julie Salek & Kathy von Thaden  
*Table Decorations:* Jenny Stiles  
*Auction Coordinator:* Pam Walker  
*Projection:* Paul & Jenny Stiles  
*PFA President:* Shannon Spagnuolo

*Set-up:* Gail Anderson, Susie Wilson  
*Signage:* Kim Cogar  
*Registration:* Marilyn Gatlin, Dana Hoffman  
*Thank You's:* Cheryl Forehand  
*Invitations & Catalog:* Kathy von Thaden

*Event Coordinator:* Julie Salek  
*Acquisitions:* Shari Stern  
*TCOs:* Sandy McCullin  
*Checkout:* Dewey Wong Jr.  
*RPC Coordinator:* Billie Valloreo

## **BIG EVENT DOLLARS GO DIRECTLY TO THE CLASSROOM: WIRELESS SMART CARTS and \$1000 to every grade level for non-consumable items!!!**

Our hope from the Big Event was to raise enough dollars to get another Smart Cart with wireless laptops to add to the three Smart Carts we have already. Well, thanks to the success of the Big Event both the Eastside and Westside will receive additional Smart Carts, adding to the speed and capability of our current labs and classroom technology. The wireless laptops add to the versatility of our program.

Each Smart Cart is on wheels and houses 24 wireless laptops. The more we use Internet sites for research and for instruction, as well as for learning software, the more valuable these laptops become in our work. For example, the middle school math program has researched excellent sites on the Internet that correlate to our standards and benchmarks for most skills. Some of these sites even grade the student work and return the results immediately to the teachers. The possibilities are endless. You might ask, well why isn't every child required to bring a laptop to school? The answer is simple—that would be just another thing to lose, drag around, break or keep tabs on, except even with bigger consequences since our level of laptops cost “four figures”. You should see our lost and found now; it is filled with clothing and other stuff—all nameless. Seriously, we prefer to build our own laptop capabilities and monitor what is on each of them. We have a terrific tech coordinator that does just that, as well as our computer teachers.

The \$10,000, remaining from the Big Event proceeds, will go to every grade level from Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. Teachers will be able to purchase big-ticket items for their classrooms or a number of dream items to enhance instruction. As decisions are made, we will share the excitement with you!!!

## **REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE GLITCH**

We have already started working on the plans for next year's Big Event, and number one on the list is fixing the computer checkout system at the end of the evening. Thanks to everyone who waited in line with empathy for the computer hang-ups. Some of us even made new friends. We are already working to insure that the glitch in retrieving the check out information is corrected and a more user-friendly system is created.

## **PFA NEWS**

**ParentNet Book Club: Summer Camp Discussion** - It's time to plan for summer! Join the discussion on **Summer Camps** at the ParentNet Book Club meeting at **8:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 31 in the Laney Library**. We will discuss:

As parents, how do we help children have a positive camp experience? How do we select an appropriate day camp or sleep away camp for kids? Come share and hear what others have to say. Optional reading/resources include:

- “Summer Fun, Parents’ Complete Guide to Day Camps, Sleep away Camps, and Teen Tours” by Marian Borden.
- “Parents’ and Kids’ Complete Guide for Summer Camp Fun” by Penny Warner.
- “Summer Camp Handbook” by Christopher Thurber.



**A huge thanks to the entire PFA** for a terrific year of organization, volunteer hours, and fundraising!!! Did you know that we needed \$56,000 to buy our new bus for field trips and other transportation needs? Did you know that thanks to the Golf Tournament (\$35,000) and the Gift Wrap Sales (\$21,000), we reached our goal right on target? WOW!! That is real synchronicity for a great cause...our kids!!!!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL POETRY COFFEE HOUSE

AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE - Theatre Training Center transforms into a Coffee House!



TONIGHT

7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> GRADES - 7:00 PM

6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE - THANKS FOR A GREAT JOB



## UPPER PRIMARY BAKE SALE

TO BENEFIT TSUNAMI VICTIMS

FRIDAY, MARCH 18



$\pi$

## PI DAY MEETS JULIUS CAESAR

$\pi$

The Annual Middle School Pi Day in celebration of Albert Einstein and the number Pi ( $\pi$ ), normally held on March 14, moved to the morning of the "Ides of March" due to last Monday's weather. The morning was filled with math and more math opportunities as the middle school came outside to work in different booths on many challenging concepts. Eighth grader, Trent Silver, and sixth grader, Bradley Tillotson, won the Pi memorization contest with the ability to memorize a long string of successive digits of  $\pi$ . As students successfully figured out complex problems related to  $\pi$ , they earned the right to "pie" math wiz and teacher, Mr. Bronson. The Middle School once again brought creativity and fun to serious learning. Way to Go!!!

**Due to Rain last Monday Pre-K through Fifth Grade Math Fest** is postponed until April 6 at 1:30 p.m., after we return from Spring Break. Thanks to all of the many volunteers and RPCs who flexed with us that day. We needed to let the weatherman in on our Math Fest plans...



## WELCOME BACK THIRD GRADE

The Third Grade returned from St. Augustine with smiles and stories about their trip to the oldest city in Florida. They hiked the lighthouse stairs, toured the oldest house in the city, visited the Castillo de San Marcos (the fort), and experienced life in the Spanish Quarter Village. Third grade studies all about Florida and regions in the US. Seeing an historic city and delving into our early history is all part of making "history come alive" and relevant. Lots of parent volunteers joined the overnight trip, which left early Monday and returned Tuesday night. Thanks to the third grade team of teachers, Kim Fowler, Jaelyn Kanarish, Jeanne Rivera and Judy Sobel for rearranging their personal lives in order to make this trip happen for our students. It is one thing to visit city, but it is a very exciting experience to do this with your classmates while applying what you have learned and gathering new information.

## OFF TO THE CAPITOL FOR FOURTH GRADE

The Fourth Grade left yesterday (Wednesday) for Tallahassee and sites along the way. They will return Friday evening just in time for their Spring Break. So, why Tallahassee?... Part of the fourth grade curriculum is to study government. State government is used as an example of how legislatures work. The students will be having many special opportunities to make this abstract concept come alive by visiting the Florida State Capitol. Field trips are a part of the learning opportunities provided by our teachers. The next Heads' letter will tell you more about their trip...!

## THURSDAY FOLDER ENCLOSURES

- Cheerleading clinic – The IDS Middle School cheerleaders would like to invite all **girls** PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in our 4<sup>th</sup> IDS Cheerleading Clinic, March 30-April 1 from 3:00-4:30, in Corbett Hall. They will learn the basics of cheerleading. See form in the folder.
- IDS Florida Keys Snorkel and Dive Trip – The summer trip is open to IDS students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and their parents. We leave by charter bus on Tuesday, June 21 at 8:00 a.m. and return Sunday, June 25 by 8:00 p.m. See form in folder.

**SPRING BREAK BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 21**

***STUDENTS RETURN TUESDAY, MARCH 29***

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND ENJOY YOUR FAMILY TIME!!!**



**AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES  
*BEGINNING TUESDAY, MARCH 29***



**A WIDE VARIETY OF AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO CHOOSE FROM.  
*HURRY* BEFORE YOUR SPOT IS TAKEN**

## IDS OFFERS:



## COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

*"Where Musicians Grow"*

Trimester 3 begins Monday, March 14



- ⌘ Children's Division (Ages 6 mos. – 4 yrs.)
- ⌘ Student Division (Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- ⌘ Adult Division
- ⌘ Reflections – Professional Chamber Music Series



## CAMP IDS 2005

We invite you to spend part of your summer at **CAMP IDS**, sponsored by Independent Day School's dynamic staff. Our staff will provide extraordinary experiences in sports, recreation and field trips! So reserve early to ensure a spot! Call us at (813) 961-3087 or visit us on the web at:

<http://www.idsyeyes.com/summer-camps.htm>



If you are interested in running an advertisement in the *Heads' Letter*, please contact: Celeste Ross at (813) 961-3087

¼ page \$50, ½ page \$75, full page \$150 and flyer insert \$200

*Advertisements run only when space is available.*