



May 6, 2004

**IDS TO BUILD A NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITY
TO REPLACE THE TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS**

WHY? The two Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms at the end of the east side playing field have served us well for the past seven years as a temporary facility during our growth spurt. Our current numbers, need for space, and determination to provide quality facilities throughout the school are driving this bold new move to build a permanent structure. We are moving ahead at this time so that the project will take place over one school year period only. The facility will open summer 2005.

WHAT? The new facility will be two stories. There will be three classrooms on the first floor, along with a great space for a kitchen area to serve for a myriad of developmental activities for our young IDSers. On Wednesday (yesterday), the architect worked with the seven-member Pre-K/K team to work together on making a design for the first floor. The teachers' ideas were spectacular, always keeping our children as their first focus in design. The second floor will provide their dream for an Early Childhood Resource Room that will both house their many books, materials and thematic tubs as well as provide much needed planning and meeting space. This will really showcase an exceptional Early Childhood team in action!!! The second floor will also house three classroom size rooms that can open up or close for both adult and student use for special activities, PFA meeting space, and a potential for some office space in the area. The second floor large spaces will be flexible based on our future needs. The building will be built so at some later date it would be possible to add a second floor to the Pavilion to connect to the new facility...

WHO? The current plan for August 2005 is for the three kindergartens to move into the new facility, leaving the four classrooms, which now house Pre-K and K, to serve Pre-K students and a three-year-old program. With the success of our baby room for our teachers' children, we have had numerous requests from parents and the community for a three-year-old program, which could offer both full day and half-day classrooms. With increased space, we have more options to serve our community and give parents and children the opportunity to share their early learning days with the skilled and nurturing guidance of an IDS education.

WHAT NOW FOR 2004? As soon as the permitting process begins, we will set a date to remove the temporary classroom building. Construction should begin by October and be completed before the end of the school year. We are making arrangements to have as little disruption as possible during the building phase. We are working with DeLotto and Sons who have been our builders on each phase of construction that you see on this campus for the last 15 years. They know our traffic system and our campus working needs; each phase of this project will take that into consideration.

WHERE WILL OUR STUDENTS BE in August 2004? Mrs. Robson (Pre-K) will move her class in with Ms. Schew and Ms. Euliano to share the current Pre-K space. The classes will be limited in size. There are four tables in each classroom allowing for four teams of four students in each of the two rooms. The three Pre-K classes will be limited to approximately 30 students, which limits the amount of Pre-K students accepted for the coming year. The goal for Pre-K next year is a ratio of approximately 1-10. Our fabulous Pre K team is truly delighted to team with each other. Mrs. Robson is excited to have the team experience that Ms. Euliano and Ms. Schew have enjoyed this year. They are already making plans.

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Harrison's Kindergarten class, now housed in the temporary classroom, will move to a new location until the facility is built. We have a number of options for her class that we are considering. Because of the size of the Kindergarten, she will need her own space with her students.

FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT: We are very pleased that the very first priority of the Board of Trustees is to keep our current campus first rate. The long-range plan is to update our facility over a period of years so that our school remains the gem of Tampa Bay area and a beacon for a model education program. It takes tuition to fund the daily and yearly operations, and it takes a Capital Campaign to insure a continued bright future. During this academic year, over 450 educators visited IDS to learn from our teachers and see current practices modeled. Our students get the benefits of this quality education every day. This place is well worth all of the support we can possibly give it. All of our children are blessed with a once in a lifetime opportunity, and parents, you made it happen. Thanks for investing everyday in your child's education.

QUESTIONS: Call us directly or come to a Coffee Talk to answer questions about next year and the future on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at 8:00 A.M. right after drop off...or see us personally...

PFA-RPCS AND CLASSROOM FAMILIES:

Your generosity during Teacher Appreciation Week is overwhelming and goes straight to the hearts and pride of our dedicated faculty.

The Brilliant Bugs (Primary Multiage) are selling...

Squirmy Wormy  **Dirt Delights**

*For Community Service.
Look for the order form!!!*

ENCLOSURES IN THURSDAY FOLDERS INCLUDE:

1. **Summer Work Materials** order form – *last day to order is Friday, May 14, 2004.*
2. **Summer Basketball** flyer enclosed. Please fill out this form if your 5th, 6th or 7th grade daughter is interested in playing basketball this summer.
3. **Sports Awards Night** Information for 2003 - 2004 Athletes and Families.
4. Read all about the Book Fair, Sunday, May 9 through Saturday, May 15, in the enclosed **Library School-Wide Newsletter**.
5. Enclosed is a **SCRIP** form to use for the Book Fair. IDS will receive up to 20% of all SCRIPS purchased. IDS will also receive an additional 9% for Barnes and Noble gift cards.
6. **Brilliant Bug** order form is enclosed to order a delicious *Squirmy Wormy Dirt Delight*.

**EXTENDED DAY OFFERED FOR EARLY DISMISSAL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12th**

Please note that **WEDNESDAY, MAY 12th IS EARLY DISMISSAL. EXTENDED DAY** will be offered from 12:00 to 6:00 P.M., the cost will be \$15.00. Please send your child's lunch with them; fresh fruit and snacks will be provided. *Sign up in the main office with Marie Massara at (813) 961-3087, by Monday, May 10th to reserve your space.* Please be prompt. Teachers begin the PFA luncheon at 12:15 P.M. followed by a Teacher In-Service Seminar.

PFA NEWS

Message from Jenny Stiles, PFA President

UPDATE ON PFA POSITIONS FOR NEXT YEAR:

I am so excited by the number of people who have stepped forward to take a leadership role next year. Three weeks ago, we had approximately 90 chair positions to fill for next year and now most of those positions have been filled!

We are, however, in need of two people to co-chair the lunch program to step forward before the school year ends. This was a very large fundraiser this year, and we would like it to continue that way. The lunches will be served by the individual lunch chairs. We already have 20 lunch chairs for next year (we still have 10 positions available). The lunch program co-chairs will set the lunch menu, send out the order forms (via Thursday folders), process the orders, compile lists for the lunch chairs, order the lunches with the vendors, and assist when needed. If you are organized, computer literate, and willing to give time to a great cause, then this position is for you! If you are interested in being an individual lunch chair or a lunch program co-chair, please call Jenny Stiles at 265-3514 today!

WOW! Thanks to all the wonderful parents at IDS, the PFA activities have resulted in a net income of approximately \$188,000 this school year!! Volunteers really DO make a difference.

ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL GAME:

Our next Adult Co-Ed Volleyball Game will be held on Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 P.M. in Corbett Hall. Come on out for a great night of fun. For more information, please call Kim Fowler at (813) 966-8564.

PROUD MOMENTS SOAR

When the **Brilliant Bugs (Primary Multi-age class)** submitted their class entries into a contest to design a book cover and title for a book in Mary Pope Osborne's book series *Magic Tree House*, they hoped to be recognized for their participation. We reported to you in an earlier Heads' Letter that Brilliant Bug **Caroline Miller** (daughter of Abigail and Jack Miller) won, producing the best cover out of 16,000 entries. You can see her featured in the World of Westchase News Magazine under Westchase Kudos! (<http://www.westchasesow.com>) Congratulations Caroline!

Derek Schocken helps lead the way as the youngest legislative lobbyist for the American Heart Association. He has just returned from National Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. where he helped train 500 American Heart Association delegates on how to lobby on behalf of the Heart Association. He has been asked by Congressman Mike Bilirakis to testify at the Congressional Hearing on the National Institute of Health (NIH) funding. Read about Derek on line at <http://www.researchsavealives.org> Derek, we are so very proud of your accomplishments and impact on the world.

Mercy Anderson (First Grade Cool Cat) was featured as the Star of the Week on WIDS today, May 6th. Congratulations to Mercy whose parents Reid and Gail Anderson won this opportunity for her at the IDS Big Event Auction held March 2004. The whole school shared her star-filled moment! Bravo!



ICE CREAM SALE
Monday, May 10th
\$1.00



Organized by the 8th Grade Graduation Fundraising Committee

NEXT TWO WEEKS FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

1. **TONIGHT, MAY 6th: LAST CHANCE** to see the musical, *Once on This Island* performed by the **Warriors' Pride Chorus** (60 talented fourth and fifth graders). Performance begins at 7:00 P.M. Tickets are available at the door for \$5.00. The music, dancing, and costumes are amazing.
2. **MAY 9th BEGINS THE IDS-CC BOOK FAIR AT BARNES & NOBLE.** **Warriors' Pride Chorus will sing at Barnes and Noble on Wednesday, May 12th at 6:30 P.M.**
3. **MAY 10th, MONDAY MORNING MEETING** filled with honors and recognition: **The USF President, Vice President and Dean of the College of Education will present a certificate of award to all 7th graders for participating in the art and science DNA Project at USF this year; **the Spring Sports athletes will be recognized, ** the Academic Awards for Duke Tip participants will be presented; **April and May Birthdays will be celebrated, **Presentations from the Middle School reporting on their New Horizons trips to Pathfinders, Wolfcreek, and Washington and Williamsburg, **Teachers will be recognized for Teacher Appreciation. The assembly begins promptly at 8:05. It will be an all school celebration for the last Monday Morning Assembly of the school year.
4. **MAY 13th, SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT** for all 2003 - 2004 athletes. We will recognize and honor over 175 IDS athletes for a very successful year of teamwork and skill building plus more!!! The program begins at 6:30 P.M. in Corbett Hall and is followed by a dessert reception.
5. **MAY 20th, SPRING FINE ARTS NIGHT** features the entire school through the visual and performing arts...The program begins at 6:30 P.M. with the Art Show in the Theatre Training Center and at 7:00 P.M. the school wide performances begins in Corbett Hall.

Suzanne Willette is
an IDS parent!
Bravo Suzanne!

PAIN

SO FUNNY IT HURTS

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your Mom?
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If you are interested in running an advertisement in the *Heads' Letter*, please contact: *Celeste Ross* at (813) 961-3087.
Advertisements run only when space is available.