

## IDS Students Connect to Peers in Nepal Through Art

*The first school to join the Global Action Coalition's Sister School Program, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus, is extending its international reach to the most remote regions of Nepal.*

**May 24, 2011 (TAMPA, Fla.)** – Think of Nepal, and the majesty and mystery of the Himalayas and Mount Everest come to mind.

While Nepal is rich in geography, it is also one of the poorest countries on earth. Half of its children are undernourished.



*While visiting the Bharse Valley in Nepal, Rob Rowen presented the children there with a mural created by PreK4 students at IDS.*

That's why Rob Rowen, executive director and founder of the nonprofit group Global Action Coalition (GAC), decided to carry out his organization's first humanitarian projects in Nepal.

As the first participant to join the GAC's Sister School Program, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is an integral partner with a vested interest in Rowen's global service efforts.

Earlier in the year, Rowen visited IDS to share with the school community the mission of the Global Action Coalition – to promote world peace through action. He spoke about the work the organization is doing in Nepal to enable children in poor and remote villages to attend school, and thereby, have a more promising future.

Rowen's talk and touching photos of the children and the conditions in which they attend school stirred the hearts of IDS students and teachers, inspiring them to reach out and offer assistance.

Thanks to IDS, when Rowen returned to Nepal on a humanitarian trip in March, he was armed with a suitcase of school and art supplies and \$750, which he used to set up a new lunch program in the remote Bharse Valley in Gulmi province.

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He also carried beautiful artwork created by IDS students to share with children in Nepal. The artwork represented students' desire to make a personal connection with peers a world away.



*Rowen divided the artwork created by IDS students among four schools he visited in Nepal's Bharse Valley. This tessellation art being presented to Nepalese children was created by IDS middle schoolers.*

“When I arrived in Bharse Valley, the teachers and principals were amazed that a school in the U.S.A. would be so generous,” said Rowen. “They all wanted some of the art, so I had to divide it among four schools.”

Using the supplies donated by IDS, the Nepalese children, in return, created art for IDS. According to Rowen, since most of the schools he visited did not have maps, “the children were somewhat mystified, but very excited, to know that their work was going to be shared with other children so far away.”

With the money from IDS, Rowen said he was able to start a lunch program in a new area. “One of the teachers said that the food program was going to be important because none of her students have breakfast, and very few bring food from home for lunch,” said Rowen. “Many hike at least an hour each way back and forth to school.”

Recently, Rowen returned to IDS to show his appreciation. At a Monday morning assembly, he presented the school with three, hand-crafted Nepalese puppets. Used in ceremonial and religious rituals, the porcelain puppets help the people to express their expectations, hopes, and fears.

Rowen said that since IDS joined the GAC Sister School Program, more schools in the Tampa Bay area have followed. “They were definitely influenced by the leadership IDS showed,” he said. “Together, we are making a huge impact on the lives of many children in Nepal.”

*Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, nonsectarian private school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County with over 500 students from PreK3 through 8th grade. At IDS, all children experience the International Baccalaureate Programme in a highly academic and nurturing environment focused on excellence and excitement in learning. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 6,500 visitors observing and learning from IDS-CC teachers. For more information, visit [www.idsyves.com](http://www.idsyves.com) or contact the Admissions Office at 813-961-3087 for a personal tour.*

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