

## Young Authors Connect with International Perspectives

*2011 Young Authors Day at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus begins with an all-school videoconference with international author David Smith, as global themes are integrated into annual celebration of writing.*



*The entire IDS-CC school community gathered for a videoconference with author David Smith during which students had the opportunity to ask the author questions about his global research and the writing craft.*

**May 30, 2011 (TAMPA, Fla.)** – For students at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus, an International Baccalaureate school committed to the development of future citizens who are internationally minded, it really is a “small world.”

Through classroom technology, including ooVoo, Moodle and Skype, students collaborate regularly with sister schools in China and Sweden. Opportunities to study with peers in Spain and live with host families expose IDS students to a different culture and new perspectives. And service-oriented projects enable IDSers to connect from the heart with fellow students in need in places like Nepal and Afghanistan.

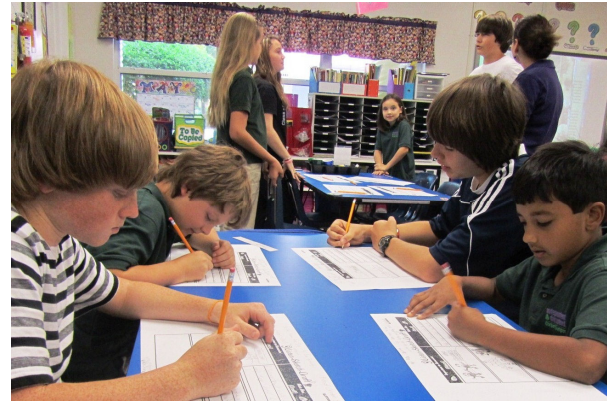
So, incorporating a global focus into the 2011 IDS Young Authors Day, called Young Authors Connect with International Perspectives, was a natural progression for the annual school tradition.

“To help prepare students for a global age of living and working together, curricular lessons at every grade level throughout the year include global perspectives,” said Betty George, middle school director. “So we decided that we wanted to incorporate that international focus into our school-wide Young Authors Day, as well.”

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### **Young Authors Connect with International Perspectives**



*Following the videoconference with David Smith, students worked together in teams of “bigs” and “littles” to discuss and analyze works of fiction with global themes.*

In planning the event, George, Linda Wenzel, director of studies, and Kim Fields, librarian and coordinator of global studies, selected the book, *If the World Were a Village* by David Smith, an international best-seller. Smith’s fact-filled book makes the idea of a world of 6.9 billion people more understandable by encouraging readers to imagine it as a village of just 100 people, with one person representing 69 million people in the real world.

“In addition to its global theme, we chose the book because its numerous statistics were an excellent way to get students thinking and asking questions,” said Fields. Students asked the author many of those questions when the entire school participated in a videoconference with Smith.

Following the school assembly, students in grades four through eight were paired with PreK4 through third graders in another IDS tradition of “bigs and littles” groupings. Older students acted as role models for younger ones, as teachers facilitated a classroom activity that included book sharing, discussion and note making. The session led to individual writing assignments later in the day.

“Students read a variety of books,” said Wenzel, “but all of the books had similar themes: becoming globally sensitive citizens with appreciation of others’ diversities and likeness; developing pride in our world community; creating a healthy, social and emotional understanding of the world.”

After reading the books, classroom discussion and brainstorming centered around questions such as, “How can the book’s message impact our lives and the world in a positive way?” and “What have I heard today that helps me know that people all over the world are like me and different from me?”

PreK4 student Elise Bertolino had the perfect answer to the second question.

Together, fourth graders and PreK4 students read and discussed Mem Fox’s book *Whoever You Are*, which highlights the human connections of joy, pain, love and laughter.

“The book says all of our hearts are the same,” teacher Ann Cashen told students. “But how can that be? How can our hearts be all the same?”

“Because,” said Elise, “our hearts all give the same love.”

*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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