

**HEADS' LETTER**

**JUNE 18, 2007**

## **A YEAR OF GRATITUDE**

- We are grateful for a year full of wonderful students, teachers and staff.
- We are grateful for a year of dedicated volunteers and caring and exemplary PFA Leadership.
- We are grateful for a parent body that is generous and supportive of their children's education.
- We are grateful for a mild season of weather, which supported all of our multitude of events.
- We are grateful for everyday at IDS!

## **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**Congratulations** to everyone for a great end of the year where learning and celebration were valued and lived to their fullest!

**Congratulations** to the 2007 Eighth Grade Graduates whose Candlelight Ceremony raised the bar for future graduates and whose graduation ceremony raised the roof in honor of their talents, memories, presentation and poise!

**Congratulations** to the parents of the 2007 Eighth Grade Graduates...you honored them with a great celebration party and lots of wonderful memories...We thank you all for the wonderful class gift of benches and seating for the Middle School gym--- what a great idea and very much needed.

**Congratulations** to those involved in the Yearbook, Musical Theatre, class plays, sports awards and honors, and all of the many culminating end of the year activities that excelled with product, performance, and a lot of heart and great spirit...

## **EDU-NEWS IN BRIEF: Something to Consider Over The Summer**

**It's everywhere now!** The visionaries are out in force in education, finance, business, and medicine working to predict the future and what will really be needed for the 21st century to survive and thrive. It is said that: **1. the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Agricultural Age** rewarded brawn, **2. the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Industrial Age** rewarded worker stamina and repetitive skills, **3. the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Information Age** rewarded knowledge and left brain order, analytic thinking, and logic, **4. and it is predicted that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conceptual Age** will reward creators, empathizers, and team players while capitalizing on right brain strengths...

As parents and educators, it is exciting and important to be aware of what is happening around us and what the expectations will be for our kids. **Our goal is to prepare them for both the world as it is and for the world that is evolving nationally, internationally and right here in our own communities.** After just returning from a terrific, informative and invigorating FCIS (Florida Council of Independent Schools), Heads' Retreat, where the visionary and dynamic President of NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools), was the keynote speaker, it became even more compelling that there is so much more to accomplish.

Books that can help keep parents and educators aware of possibilities and talking points are "A Whole New Mind" by Daniel Pink and "Five Minds for the Future" which is Howard Gardner's new book. Gardner is the originator of the Multiple Intelligences theory. And of course reading and rereading "The World is Flat" by Thomas Friedman is well worth an educated peek into how the past has quickly evolved into a future that is speeding up in expectations. The Vitamin C's of collaboration and connection become a huge part of now and the future, which highly supports our efforts to raise both independent students and for those who know how to cooperate in teams and work with others with dignity and respect...Oops...that is a dialogue for another time...

By the way, for those who really want more information, you can also Google *Tough Choices or Tough Times Report of the New Commission on The Skills of the American Workforce 2007: Nation@Risk2*

# TEACHER TEAMS FOR SUCCESS: GEARING UP FOR 2007 - 2008

We had a great team of teachers for this past year. We are proud to report that 100% of our faculty and staff worked with dedication and the intent to contribute to the success of our students. It is a great tribute to both our school and our faculty when devotion to its mission to serve our student population and their families is so strong and united.

Our goal for the 2007 - 2008 academic year is to continue to raise the bar for ourselves and our students and to continue to build strong cohesive teams that support the individual, the team and the greater good. Teacher teams are as follows:

## EARLY PRIMARY (GRADES PRE-K 3 through K)

**Pre-Kindergarten 3:** Lauren Bronson and Samantha Delestowicz will continue their partnership with the Pre-K 3 team. They will be joined by a Teacher Assistant. It is hard to believe that this will be the third year of our new Pre-K 3 team, which is thriving, and a joyful addition to IDS. Debbie Thompson, who helped to create our wonderful baby room and then moved as a support teacher to the upper primary and then to Pre-K 3, will be relocating with her family to the Denver, Colorado suburbs where she will be a special education teacher. We wish Debbie and her family much success as they head west.

**Pre-Kindergarten 4:** Rania ElChaar, Lori Hohmann, and Michelle Robson continue as the Pre-K 4 team. They will be joined by a Teacher Assistant. We wish Lizette Geisler a wonderful new journey as she enters the public school system where she will share the gifts that she has gained right here at IDS and through the experiences that she had teaching in Spain with our working partner schools.

**Kindergarten:** Jean Harrison and Jessica Moore welcome Marla Vildostegui to their kindergarten team, which is housed on the first floor of the new building. Prior to coming to IDS, Mrs. V. was a kindergarten teacher. She was recruited to IDS to launch our Pre-K 3 program, which she did successfully!! After returning from her maternity leave in May, she joined the kindergarten team to prepare to easily slide into Mrs. L's position. Roberta Lipschutz (Mrs. L.) will be retiring after 21 years of service at IDS as well as being a Mom of two IDS alums. We will honor Mrs. L. at the Welcome Back Party on Friday, August 24, as one of the first teachers to be honored on our IDS Teacher Wall of Fame for her long-time devoted service to IDS students and families.

## UPPER PRIMARY (FIRST, SECOND AND MULTI-AGE)

The Upper Primary teachers work as one big team in terms of how they plan together and work their program on a two-year cycle. However, in their classrooms, their teamwork is as follows:

**Multi-Age Brilliant Bugs:** Jennifer Jones and Sammi Borosh continue as the Brilliant Bugs Teacher Team.

**Multi-Age Cool Cats:** Ms. B. (Debi Brockmeyer) is joined by Elizabeth Kennedy as the Cool Cat Teacher Team. Elizabeth Kennedy has been a teacher in international schools in primary grades and returned to the US to get her Masters Degree at the University of Virginia where she has studied with Carol Ann Tomlinson, one of the major gurus on differentiated instruction, which is an area of focus for IDS at this time. She joined IDS at the beginning of May to prepare her for the transition into the Cool Cats.

**First and Second Grade Top Bananas:** Ande Felder and Teresa Waterman will be the new Top Banana Team. They have both been preparing for this opportunity studying, assisting and teaming within the Top Banana, Brilliant Bugs and Cool Cat classrooms for the past four to six months. Fran Ehrlich has long held the traditions of the Top Bananas and graciously shared her heart, soul, and traditions with our new team who will carry on the spirit of the Top Bananas. Mrs. Ehrlich retires after years of devotion to IDS, her students and her families. Her creativity and teacher wisdom will be honored along with Mrs. L. as we dedicate the Wall of Fame to these great teacher models at the Welcome Back Party on Friday, August 24.

Leaving our Upper Primary Team will be three terrific teachers who we are proud to say began their careers at IDS. All three teachers had their internships and residencies at IDS, and we wish each of them great success as they move on to their new journeys and begin to share the **M.O.R.E.** strategies with others. We take pride in all they have accomplished: 1. Diane Hansen, who has been a support teacher to the Upper Primary teachers, will be a third grade teacher at Academy at the Lakes, 2. Kristy Looker, first grade Top Banana teacher this past year, will be a first grade teacher at Berkeley Prep, and 3. Jaclyn Kanarish, Cool Cat teacher, will be moving to Washington, D.C.; she interviewed at five different schools and taught five different lessons and every school wanted her!!! Bravo to Jaclyn!

## INTERMEDIATE DIVISION (GRADES THREE, FOUR, and FIVE)

**Third Grade:** Ann Cashen, Jill Pomet and Judy Sobel welcome Tracey Price to our third grade team of teachers. Tracey Price joins us from St. Pete College where she studied with our teachers, participated in the POP seminars, and learned all about IDS. She also joined us for the last two weeks of school and post-planning. She fulfilled her dream to join IDS when her team chose her as their partner. After 10 years of devotion and hard work at IDS, Kim Fowler has been granted a year's leave of absence. We look forward to her returning next year.

**Fourth Grade:** Vickii Ausburn and Kim Rostick welcome Susan Carr to join their fourth grade team. Susan Carr attended private schools up north, earned a degree in elementary education, and has taught Math in middle school in Pinellas County. She has also been involved with curriculum writing and training of educational strategies. She loves to study and learn and sought out IDS to continue those opportunities.

We bid a fond farewell to Maureen Birmingham who moved here from New York last year and is returning to the North to be near her daughter due to the upcoming arrival of her first grandchildren.

**Fifth Grade:** Linda Wenzel (Director of Studies Pre-K3 thru Fifth), Michelle Hill (Division Leader), Amy Lewis, Holly Ralph, and Ted Richter remain the fifth grade team in the "fifth grade penthouse"!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION (GRADES SIX, SEVEN, and EIGHT)

**English:** The English team continues as Kat Quin (6<sup>th</sup>), Jenn Jagdmann (7<sup>th</sup>), and Michael Vokoun (8<sup>th</sup>). We are so excited to welcome back, from her year's leave of absence, Amy Ragg who will be rejoining her English team focusing on writing skills and student support services, yearbook and more...We bid a fond farewell to Ms. G. - Lynne Grigelevich - who has given five great years to IDS. She leaves behind a big fan club having contributed so much to so many.

**Math:** The Math team of Tom Bronson, Thelma Rosenberg, Jeanne Rivera, and Don Dewey welcome Mandy Cromer to IDS. She comes from a private school in Tampa with both a Psychology and Math background. She joined us for our post-planning week and jumped right in as an active, dynamic member of the middle school and Math team.

**Science:** Betty George (Middle School Division Leader), Gery Morey, and Heather Robinson remain the Science team for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Every summer, their attendance at new workshops brings back a boatload of excitement for the Science program. Tune in for next year!!!

**Social Science:** Barbara Soule (8<sup>th</sup>) Chris Thomas (7<sup>th</sup>) and Linda Boza (6<sup>th</sup> and Asst. Division Leader) remain the Social Science Team for Middle School working to bring "History Alive" in all they do!!

**Spanish:** Odette Figueruelo and Sonia Morgan remain as the sixth grade Spanish teachers, and they are very pleased to welcome Spanish teacher Liza Gonzalez to their team for seventh and eighth grades. Along with Charmaine Jennings, they have all been working on a new Spanish program, which combines text with technology and other perks for learning the language. The Spanish team is also connecting with our **M.O.R.E.** Schools in Spain to create two to three week student exchange programs in their schools for the upcoming year.

Charmaine Jennings is expecting her second child in October and has been granted a leave of absence for next year.

**Technology:** Jason Contino remains our Technology Teacher for Middle School and Director of Technology for IDS.

### SPECIALS DIVISION

**Art:** Amber Johnston (middle school and third thru fifth) and Debbie Kerr (K thru fifth) and Lisa Kelly (Pre-K 3 and 4) remain the Art Team.

**Music:** Michael LeBlanc (Specials Division Leader), Barbara McBride and Tom McColley remain the Music Team.

**Drama:** Seth Travaglino and Victoria Watson remain the Drama Team.

**Dance:** Lisa Kelly returns for her second year after enriching our Specials Program and Community School of the Arts with a vibrant and amazing dance program.

**Computer/Technology/Library/Media:** Matt Melnick and Bettyann Pitti are combining their work in new and different ways this year joining with teachers in classrooms and with each other as well as in their own domains...

**Spanish:** Eastside Spanish continues to be conducted by the team of Odette Figueruelo and Sonia Morgan.

**Physical Education:** We welcome back Renee Holden to IDS who has returned to coordinate our Physical Education Program. The Physical Education team will be Renee Holden, Kathy Folen, Rob Heller, Adam Chumbley, and David Starkey. They will be joined by Joe Taylor from Salisbury, Maryland. Joe joined us the last two weeks of school where he jumped right in and made an easy transition to be a part of the team. Rob Heller will remain as Sports Athletic Director with Adam Chumbley as Asst. Athletic Director. Amanda Jankowski, who has been a two-year resident with the PE Team, will be moving to Nashville, Tennessee where she secured a position as a PE teacher. She will be missed by her whole team!!

**WOW!!! What a line-up! We are looking forward to an extraordinary 2007 - 2008 year. Meanwhile enjoy your summer!! ☺**

# ENCLOSURES IN END OF SCHOOL YEAR MAILING

1. **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2007 - 2008** has the most current date! The official Student Handbook with dates will arrive within the first week of August in the **Back To School** mailing.
2. **ORDERING REQUIRED IDS-CC POLO SHIRTS and MIDDLE SCHOOL P.E. UNIFORMS:** Enclosed is the order form for the **required IDS polo shirts** for field trips and special events. **1.** Please fill out the form to be sure that your IDSer(s) get their shirts by the opening of school. **2.** When shopping for clothes, we are asking that you buy khaki or black pants, shorts or skirts with appropriate length to be worn with the IDS-CC polo shirts for all field trips and special events. **3.** We suggest that you purchase more than one because there are often events and trips back to back. **4. REQUIRED P.E. UNIFORMS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL** are also ordered on this same form enclosed in the mailing.
3. **REPORT CARDS:** Enclosed is your child's report card to keep for your records. Another copy is kept in your child's school record file. Any questions about report cards may be addressed to us this summer, and we will contact your teachers. Teachers return to IDS in mid-August.
4. **SAT TEST SCORES (for grades 2 through 8):** Even after embracing and paying for the new SAT 10 exam, we remain quite pleased with the results. Each grade level's group report from the test described the "typical IDS student" as scoring overall in the highest range (7, 8, or 9). This is delineated by Stanine exam scores, which range from 1 thru 9. Stanines 7, 8, & 9 reflect scores designated above average. Stanines 4, 5, & 6 reflect scores in the mid or average range.

We do want to emphasize strongly that this is just one assessment. Some students tend to vary from year to year depending on their reaction to a test. Scores can be inflated as well as unrelated to what the student can actually accomplish. Overall class performance on a day-to-day basis has equal significance when noting a child's potential. Test taking definitely comes easier to some than others, so we must have multiple ways to assess student progress. If you have any questions, please call and we will meet with you or arrange for the appropriate person(s) to answer your questions.

5. **ENFORCEMENT OF DRESS CODE!!! PLEASE READ ENCLOSURE BEFORE SHOPPING FOR SCHOOL CLOTHES!** Goodbye low cut, sleeveless and shirts with straps, torn jeans, short shorts, flip flops etc. Hello to only polo shirts and t-shirts with sleeves. Please read the enclosed to be in alignment with required school dress for Intermediate and Middle School divisions and recommended for all students.

**SAVE THE DATES!  
IDS KIDS GOLF CLASSIC  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007**



**BIG EVENT  
SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008**



**LOOK  
WATCH FOR...**



- **SCHOOL ORDER SUPPLY FORM FOR THIRD THRU EIGHTH GRADE**

and



- **LUNCH ORDER FORM (PK3 THRU EIGHTH GRADE)**

**IN MID-JULY 2007 MAILING**