

HEADS' LETTER

JUNE 20, 2011

YES IDS! A SPECTACULAR ENDING RIGHT UP TO THE LAST MINUTE!

The last two weeks of school were packed full of learning that built upon events and activities that continued right up to the last minute of a full day of school. Our remarkable and creative teachers gathered together at in-service and planning times to design an environment for the ending of school that valued learning where every minute counts, while creating events to build memories that last a lifetime. Teachers in each division and across divisions shared their ideas, collaborated with specials, and brilliantly set out to facilitate meaningful lessons and events that also included time for reflection and celebration. Parents were also included wherever possible so that they could relish in the joy seen on the faces of our IDSers.



REMEMBERING SOME HIGHLIGHTS THAT HONOR TRADITIONS

PART I: THE ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION ASSEMBLY

was held on Monday morning, May 23. Many volunteers came to the assembly allowing our students the privilege of giving the gift of a "thank you." Of course, all of the classes and grades gave thanks in their own creative way as they each took turns standing from the bleachers and the floor making their presentations of gratitude. Their thank you's included signs, poems, songs, choral shout outs, etc. Most of all, it was fun and full of appreciation. When it was time for the parents to leave the assembly for their absolutely delicious Volunteer Breakfast, the 8th grade suddenly stood for a spontaneous standing ovation as the parents left Corbett Hall. The other grades followed their lead. It was a moment of pure joy to top off the first part of our assembly. At the breakfast, one new Pre-K3 parent reviewed the assembly and said, "After all of my years in sales, nothing was more rewarding than what I experienced today!" ~ J. Forde. One more thing, **PFA President, Heather Lee, came to the podium to thank all of her volunteers, chairpersons, and executive committee members, and was surprised with her own thank you. She was awarded her very own PFA President parking spot to honor the great responsibility that comes with leading our very active and supportive PFA!**



THE MAY 23 ASSEMBLY CONTINUED PART II:

After our volunteers left to their standing ovation, the assembly continued where we combined international awareness with an appreciation of the power of the written word. The title of the rest of the morning was "Young Authors Connect with International Perspectives: If the World were a Village." During the assembly, our tech team successfully brought well-known children's author David Smith into Corbett Hall through Skype! He shared with our entire student body from Pre-K3 through 8th grade about how authors formulate their ideas, publish their books, and how he chose to become an author that brings about global understanding and appreciation for people around the world. One of the best parts of the assembly was the question and answer session where each class formulated a question for our author. He responded to each question with great patience and wisdom. We were totally proud of how respectful and attentive our students were...even during a long assembly.



At the in-service training the Tuesday before May 23rd, all of the faculty met in cross grade level teams so that teachers of "BIGs (5th through 8th grade) and LITTLEs could create teams that would set up writing opportunities in classrooms throughout the eastside after the Skype assembly set the tone. In each room, a different book was read by various authors that wrote about different cultures from an international perspective. All of the students were then given an opportunity to write about the meaning of the book and how it relates to our lives locally and internationally. Building awareness, meaning and application to the real world was the topic for the writing assignment. The BIGS helped the LITTLES and also prepared to go back to their own classes to share their writings about what they derived from the experience and the book read in their own groups.



HIGHLIGHTS continued from Page 1

As always, before such an activity takes place, our BIGS went through a training to be reminded how we work successfully as leaders and role models for others, especially our younger students. Many people ask why our teachers smile so much. It's easy; days like this remind us of how amazing our students are. Together BIGS and LITTLES made magic, and teachers were all so proud to see the results of their work as well as the dignity and respect that they showed to each other. As we followed the BIGS on their way back to the Middle School to share their work with their peers, we asked, "How was it?" Each student immediately responded with their eyes lit up and a smile on their faces with comments like, "It was great." "Those kids are smart!" **It's so funny, but we were saying the same things about the BIGS! Hats off to the key planners for the day, librarian Ms. Fields and Directors of Studies Mrs. George and Mrs. Wenzel, for their initiative and leadership in making this a very special day.**

THE ANNUAL EIGHTH GRADE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY, held the morning of **June 2nd** in Corbett Hall, brought the realization to their families, teachers and friends that the end was approaching as they were preparing to move on to public and private high schools all around the Tampa Bay area and beyond. Each 8th grader presented his/her bequeath to students, the school, family members, and/or their teams. Some bequeaths brought tears, some laughter, some AHHHs and OOOOs and some were tongue 'n' cheek. All of the 8th graders successfully demonstrated their individuality, their appreciation, and dignity and respect through the thoughtful, dynamic and spirited manner in which they approached the microphone. They confidently presented to over 750 people that filled Corbett Hall. **BRAVO to the Class of 2011 who earned our respect!**



THE 15th ANNUAL MOVING-UP CEREMONY followed the Candlelight Ceremony. This symbolic rite of passage began **15 years ago** after the 8th grade candlelight ceremony when they left Corbett Hall at the end of their presentations. Suddenly, we looked up where 8th grade sits for all assemblies at the top of the bleachers and they were totally empty. It felt like a real void. So, we asked the 7th grade to move up to the top and fill their seats. Then their seats were empty, so we asked the 6th grade to move up to the 7th grade seats. That meant the 5th grade, who sat at the top of the west side bleachers, came down to the floor and ran across the gym to scramble into their places as Middle Schoolers. Thus the Moving-Up Ceremony was born as we continued the moving up and over all the way through Pre-Kindergarten. Now, we have music for each grade level to honor their turn. For the last 6 years, we have added Pre-K3 in the tradition, with some future Pre-K3ers arriving to steal the show...they are too adorable for words. As always, the Moving-Up Ceremony for 2011 captured the hearts of all of our parents with those wonderful huge smiles, laughter, and some nostalgic tears. Teachers, staff, and parents watched their children grow up right in front of their eyes and scramble to take their places for the future.



DR. ROBERT ANDERSON'S MEMORIAL GARDEN: After the Candlelight and before the Moving-up Ceremony, we announced that the new beautiful garden in front of the Farish Center in the circle drive is named the Dr. Robert Anderson Memorial Garden. Dr. Anderson was a pioneer in education since his days at Harvard and then Dean at Texas Tech University. Among many other areas, he was known for pioneering Team Teaching, Multi-Age instruction and a myriad of cutting edge strategies while publishing a wealth of books and articles throughout his career. He passed away in June 2010 at the young age of 92, and his memorial service was held right here in July at IDS-CC in the Farish Center. The garden was planted here because his family and fellow generous educators believed strongly that IDS represents a living example of his work to positively influence education and learners. The garden was donated by his beloved wife Dr. Karolyn Snyder, his children, and donations that arrived in his memory. Also included is a gift from Mid Sweden University where his extensive and priceless library was housed for the past 10 years. It is truly an honor to be the home of such an awesome tribute to a great educator that literally had a world-wide influence on education. Dr. Anderson was beloved, highly respected and one of a kind...



GRADUATION: THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE of MIXED EMOTIONS...

To say we were proud of our 8th graders is the ultimate understatement. While all of the other classes were out celebrating and enjoying a beautiful day of activities and bonding on June 3rd, the last day of school for the year, our Class of 2011 dove into rehearsal for graduation. They heard over and over, "*loudly, clearly and distinctly,*" as well as "*pause, punch and rhythm.*" They knew their job was to tell their stories that each had written and they all were determined to do it well. And they did! They exceeded expectations.

At 6:30 promptly, the processional began and from that moment on, for 80 minutes, the Class of 2011 took over. It's a graduation that honors their years, their stories, their beliefs and their future. It's their time to turn butterflies into poise, and presence as they spoke with conviction, humor, gratitude, and confidence. They amazed the audience of parents, grandparents, friends, students, and even a Pre-K4 teacher, Mrs. Michelle Robson, who returned to Tampa from Miami just to see her first class at IDS graduate! They deserved their standing ovation and praise by the President of the Board of Trustees Jim Conlin who challenged them to continue to forge ahead in all they do with excellence, just as they did that evening.

The ceremony continued with the official presentation of diplomas and medals, and ended when Ms. Ripple proclaimed, "*I proudly present to you the Independent Day School: Corbett Campus Class of 2011!*" Then came their recessional followed by their party at Emerald Greens! The parent planning committee went over the top in preparing an evening that was fit to honor an investment that paid off! Yes, it is all about mixed emotions; we are so proud of the 55 individuals and all of their accomplishments, but it's really tough to say goodbye.



IN THIS JUNE MAILING, YOU WILL FIND...

REPORT CARDS: Report cards are included in this final mailing and are for your records. Each report card has grades and comments from all trimesters. Another hard copy is kept in your child's school record file in addition to having an electronic record.



SAT TEST SCORES (for 2nd through 8th grades). We are pleased to announce that once again our **average school wide SAT 10 test scores** were in the **highest range with a 7 stanine!** Scores of 7, 8 and 9 stanines are ranked as above average. Scores that are 4's, 5's and 6's are in the mid range or on target for grade level. Each grade level's group report from the test described the "**typical IDS student**" as scoring overall in the highest range (stanines 7, 8, or 9).



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 more 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.

CAMP IDS 2011 UPDATE! CAMP IDS already has over 700 CAMPERs signed up for one or more weeks throughout the summer and we are just starting with six more weeks to go. An amazing phenomenon occurred...after this first week at camp, people learned that *At CAMP IDS Everyone Has a Great Time* and they were scrambling to sign up for more weeks. Do you know why? Well, here are some of the reasons...we have over 60 options, with our talented IDS teachers or highly skilled facilitators leading the camps and supported by over 120 of our Alums who return year after year to give back the smiles and joy that they experienced when they were here! By the way, all of our Alums must go through an intensive training in order to volunteer or work at IDS. The training is designed to prepare them for the "real world" and help them transition from "It's all about ME" to "It's All About Kids" and making a magical summer of learning and fun.

If you are interested in CAMP IDS 2011, please come by the office to sign up using our brochures or call the office to speak to our Directors, Garret Jagdmann, Stephen Shoe or Marie Massara at 813-961-3087. You can also find CAMP IDS on our website at www.idsyes.com.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS: SUMMER PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY:

It's a great time to begin to play an instrument or reinforce your ease and skill with great instructors that are passionate about learning music and care about their students. CSA is offering private and pair-lessons throughout the summer months for those wanting to take the opportunity to hone their skills in music, band, dance, art, and/or acting. Please e-mail Mr. McColley at tmccolley@idsyes.com for more information.



OVER 60 CAMPS · PreK3 · 12th Grade · Open to All

CAMP IDS 2010
WHERE EVERYONE HAS A GREAT TIME!

June 14 through July 30

Full & Half Day One Week Sessions
Transportation After Camp Care Available

Independent day school
Corbett Campus
12015 Orange Grove Drive

813-961-3087 www.idsyes.com

KEY REMINDERS TO START THE YEAR

- ★1. (For a full school calendar, please click on <http://www.idsyes.com/calendar.html> and just click on the month.
- ★2. For a preview of the school supply list, click on: <http://www.idsyes.com/heads-letter.html>)

- 3. **PARENT ORIENTATION NIGHT** for all parents of all new students: **THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 7:00 P.M.** in the Grand Room.
- 4. **SCHOOL OPENS** for students bright and early **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24.**
- 5. **DRESS CODE REMINDER:** Attached online is the dress code reminder as you are buying clothes for the start of the school year. Also found in the 2010-2011 Student/Parent Handbook on page 18.
- 6. **WELCOME BACK PARTY** for the entire IDS parent community, **FRIDAY, AUGUST 26 7:00 P.M.** in the Farish Center.
- 7. **THE IDS KIDS CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT** date will be announced by e-mail within the week. Look for the date for a *"Hole In One"* Great Golf Day!
- 8. **THE BIG EVENT:** Hold the date...**SATURDAY, MARCH 10.**

**Please see
"All School"
enclosures also
found in
Thursday Folder.**

Independent day school Corbett Campus School Calendar 2011 -2012

August

Mon. 15 – Tues. 23 Pre-Planning and Teacher In-Service
 Wed. 24 First Day of School (Noon Dismissal for Pre-K and Kindergarten Only)
 Thurs. 25 Noon Dismissal Pre-K and Kindergarten Only
 Fri. 26 Welcome Back Party Farish Center 7:00 pm



September

Mon. 5 Labor Day - School Holiday
 Tues. 6 Back to School Night East Side 6:30 pm
 Mon. 12 Back to School Night West Side 6:30 pm
 Wed. 14 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service



October

Mon. 3 IDS Kids Classic Golf Tournament
 Wed. 5 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service
 Thurs. 6 & Fri. 7 Parent Teacher Conference Days
 Thurs. 20 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service
 Fri. 21 Professional Study Day / Students Day Off



November

Wed. 2 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service
 Fri. 11 Veterans Day – School Holiday
 Wed. 23 Grandparents Day / Noon Dismissal
 Thurs. 24 & Fri. 25 Thanksgiving Holiday



December

Wed. 7 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service
 Thurs. 8 Fine Arts Night
 Fri. 16 Noon Dismissal / Teacher Meeting
 Mon. 19 Winter Break Begins



January

Mon. 2 Teacher In-Service
Tues. 3 Students Return from Winter Break
Mon. 16 Martin Luther King Day – School Holiday
Thurs. 26 Noon Dismissal / Parent Teacher Conference Day
Fri. 27 Parent Teacher Conference Day



February

Wed. 8 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service
Fri. 17 Student Holiday / Teacher In-Service
Mon. 20 School Holiday



March

Wed. 7 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service
Sat. 10 Big Event
Fri. 16 Teacher In-Service/Spring Break Begins for Students
Mon. 19 – Fri. 23 Spring Break
Mon. 26 Students Return from Spring Break



April

Fri. 6 School Holiday
Mon. 9 Teacher In-Service / Student Holiday
Tues. 10 School Resumes
Mon. 16 – Fri. 20 SAT Testing Week
Mon. 23 – Fri. 27 New Horizons Week for Middle School



May

Thurs. 10 & Fri. 11 Fine Arts Days
Wed. 16 Noon Dismissal / Teacher In-Service
Mon. 28 Memorial Day – School Holiday



June

Fri. 1 Last Day of School – Class Celebrations
8th Grade Graduation



Excerpt from 2010-2011 Student/Parent Handbook (page 18)

DRESS CODE - PRE-K THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE

School is the workplace for students until they are ready to go out on their own. This is their job and their work environment. Adhering to appropriate dress expectations prepares students for real life work expectations. In order to minimize teacher and administrative time in monitoring appropriate clothing, the dress code guidelines will be more specific. The criteria are designed to promote a positive self-image for the student and maintain proper decorum for a learning environment. All items should be clean, in good repair, represent modest dress, present a neat appearance, and be totally appropriate for a school setting. The guidelines below are to make it clear that articles of clothing that contain offensive or distracting messages and/or pictures are unacceptable. Since everyone's idea of unacceptable is often different, we seek to clarify the gray areas altogether.

Dress expectations for MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY are as follows:

1. Required options include: polo style, a buttoned-down collared or Oxford shirt, and/or crew neck tee shirt tops with sleeves.
2. All **shirts/pants/shorts** can be any solid color or pattern (i.e., paisley, plaid, stripes, polka dots), with or without a small logo displayed. (Use the IDS logo on field trip shirts as a guide.) Shirts/pants/shorts with **ANY** writing or **ANY** pictures are to be left for places other than school (except for Friday's theme days).
3. **All IDS tee shirts or polo shirts** are acceptable with or without writing. We encourage any IDS shirt to be worn to show pride in and appreciation for IDS – YES!
4. Shirts for both boys and girls are to be a length that can **easily** be tucked in.
5. Please note that skirts, shorts and skorts must be 3 inches above the knee or longer. Long pants are always an option. All pants must be in good condition and school appropriate. Pants with rips, holes or tears are definitely non-examples.
6. Boys' and girls' undergarments must be covered by shorts or pants.
7. Shoes must be closed-toed for safety at play and healthy outdoor activities. Athletic shoes (often called sneakers) are preferred daily and are **required** for all PE and intramural classes.

FRIDAY OPTIONS: The Middle School Student Council and the eastside Leadership Council will have the responsibility and opportunity to gather ideas from all students to make Fridays special theme days. Sports days, vacation tee-shirt days, cartoon character days, pajama pants days, spirit days, and other ideas for special clothing days will give the students ownership, leadership decision-making strategies, and latitude for options within reasonable boundaries. The themes will be announced in Monday Morning Meetings and posted on the IDS website monthly so that students can plan ahead.

NOTE 1: The field trip **polo** shirt is **required** for every field trip and most special events. The field trip shirt has helped to increase safety off campus, as well as build pride and spirit for our school.

NOTE 2: We will adhere to the above dress code policy; students needing shirt reminders will be charged for their choice of an IDS prism colored polo style or crew neck shirt with an IDS logo to be worn for the day. Students needing appropriate shorts or pants will be charged for IDS athletic shorts. Prism shirts and crew neck shirts are available in many colors from the IDS Spirit store.