



## HEADS' LETTER

OCTOBER 21, 2004

Dear IDS Families:

There is an abundance of wonderful "happenings" at IDS these days. I'd like to share why each is very special for all of us as part of the vibrant community that encompasses the world of IDS.

As this letter is being written, Pam Ripple (Associate Head), Betty George (Middle School Division Leader and Director of Studies), and Charmaine Jennings (Middle School Spanish Teacher) are headed for Houston, Texas for the **National Conference on Character Education**. At this Conference, they will accept a **Promising Practice Award for Character Education** on behalf of IDS. This was the award that we shared with you earlier that highlights the uniqueness and power of our Middle School Retreat at the beginning of each year. The Middle School Retreat, held in our Theatre/Training Center, sets guidelines for behavior and academic expectations. This is done in an environment that models the best of business training for professionals by combining the excitement of a group of people building a common language with a common goal of excellence that is founded on dignity and respect. When it comes to pre-teens, this is a worldwide constant dilemma based on physical and emotional developmental stages. Our success has been to build a foundation that **firmly and positively** guides students when and if they go "below the line," and they will! Our model builds encouragement and support for each other and the adults that guide them. This is our seventh year conducting the retreat. Each year, we learn more and get better and better.

In our fast-paced, technological world, this Saturday brings us a welcome change as we enjoy an old-fashioned family fun day at our **FALL FESTIVAL**. This is a day for Moms, Dads, Grandparents and IDSers to come together and enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers, class booths with creative games and activities, a moonwalk, and idle chatter with one another. The PFA RPCs are working hard to make it special for everyone. Please be sure to come, and also join the early morning **FUN RUN** for both adults and children. It is always a great way to exercise our bodies and fire those neurons in a healthy way. See all of the information inside this Heads' letter.

This week we have another great new opportunity, as we join with the **ISC (International School Connection)** to be the host school for 14 educators coming from **Sochi, Russia**. This is a city by the Baltic Sea that is known for being a leader in education in their country. The leaders of the ISC visited Sochi schools last year, and now they are coming here. They will arrive at IDS on Sunday for an opening workshop and will be here all day Monday and Friday. The rest of their visit will be at public schools in Pasco, Polk and Hillsborough Counties that have an interest in international studies. We have worked along with the leadership of the ISC and the other counties to prepare for this visit. We'll keep you posted in next week's newsletter to let you know what kind of sharing we are doing. Headmaster Alex Leck will introduce our visitors to the Monday morning assembly.

People are very excited to come to IDS and learn about our successes with students, how to bring joy to learning, how to help students exceed their ability, raise high expectations, and prepare highly skilled faculty. After the five schools visited last year from **Spain**, they contracted with us to present a seminar for their National Coalition of Private Schools Conference in Barcelona last summer. I also had the privilege of giving, 40 teachers and administrators from the five private schools that visited, a two-day workshop on the **M.O.R.E. Approach** in Castellon, Spain. They were so excited about what goes on at IDS that they are requesting a return visit to train all of the teachers in all five schools during this school year. We are building some great connections, while always remembering that while we are pleased to have a positive impact on the greater community...**OUR CHILDREN remain FIRST!!!**

Thanks for Catching the Spirit with IDS! Our enthusiasm for learning is contagious!

With appreciation, Joyce

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FORENSICS TEAM SOARS IN COMPETITION



The **FORENSICS TEAM** (an extension of the middle school drama elective) had their first meet of the year on October 13, 2004. At this competition, drama/forensics students who chose to be part of this elective competed against seven other public and private schools. Some students who had signed up for other electives also joined the team in competition because of their will and desire to compete on this level. "I am excited about this team. They have done so much in so little time. I am proud of their accomplishments," Mr. Vokoun, Forensics Advisor, explained.

"I am especially inspired that so many students outside of the drama elective worked hard on their own as well as with teachers to still perform well on the day of the meet," Ms. Watson, Co-Forensics Advisor, explained.

Both **Dylan Attal** and **Desiree Meyncke** tied for first place for their performances in *Oral Interpretation of Prose* and **Hannah Gamache** earned a second place trophy in this category. **Tori Godfrey** won first place in *Impromptu*, a very difficult category that requires students to create a three-minute speech from a choice of three topics in less than a minute, while **Alyssa Blumenthal** earned fourth place in the same category. In *Oral Interpretation of Poetry* **Amanda Buck** received third place, and **Elena Walker** earned fifth. **Alexis Dempsey** captured a third place trophy in *Oral Interpretation of Drama*. **Congratulations to the entire IDS Forensics Team! They really showed their talents in a big and impressive way.**

## TEACHERS PROUD OF STUDENTS: MIDDLE SCHOOL SPREADS SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE TAMPA BAY AREA

At last Wednesday afternoon's teacher in-service, we began with Middle School teachers taking turns describing to their colleagues what took place on **MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY**. They held our attention by proudly describing how impressive and giving our students were at each site. They described our IDSers' sensitivity with the elderly, gentleness and fun with small children, ability to organize goods and services for food banks, high energy clean up of areas and homes for those in need, and so much more. Next week, they will have writing opportunities to reflect on their service day to apply experience to the classroom.



Certainly our students are blessed with so many gifts from education to "stuff." But on Wednesday, they teamed up with their advisory groups to spread the gifts of giving with others. When you see an IDS middle schooler, let them know you're proud of their contributions.

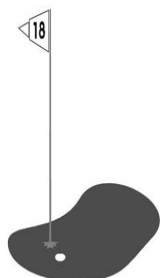
# PFA NEWS



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 – 8:30 A.M. PROMPTLY!** All runners the time is NOW! Get ready for the **ANNUAL IDS-CC FUN RUN** on the Buchanan Sports Field (IDS Soccer Field).

**FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL – THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23:** The festival takes place on the **EASTSIDE** with food, games, and fun, fun, fun from **10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.** Please return the enclosed form if you are interested in having lunch with us.

**SQUARE 1 ART – Preserve your child’s masterpiece!** Check your Thursday Folder for a free magnet with your child’s art. You can have it printed on a variety of items (see the enclosed catalog). These items make great gifts for the holidays! **Be sure to return your order form by Tuesday, November 2.** If you have any questions, please call Jenny Stiles at (813) 265-3514. **YOUR CHILD HAS CREATED MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME.**



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 - 10TH ANNUAL IDS KIDS CLASSIC GOLF BENEFIT:** Ready for a challenging, fun scramble on a beautiful course? Register now for the Golf Benefit at Tampa Palms Country Club. There are several great prizes and auction items available. Get your friends and family together and form your foursome now. Not a golfer? Not a problem. Everyone is invited to join us for the wonderful dinner and auction beginning at 5:00 p.m. The kids are invited, too. There is professional childcare right at the club! Invitations are available in the office and spots are filling fast! Contact Georgette Loeffler at (813) 910-8195 or Pam Barfield at (813) 961-3087.

## REMEMBER TO SHOP, SHOP, SHOP and RAISE MONEY for IDS BUY SCRIP

To facilitate ordering Scrip, you may now e-mail your Scrip order to Celeste Ross at [cross@idsyes.com](mailto:cross@idsyes.com) or give her a quick call at (813) 961-3087 Ext. 303.

Remember: The IDS Annual Fall Book Fair begins Sunday, November 14. Place your orders now for Scrip, so that your child can take convenient gift cards rather than cash.



**IDS HOSTS REFLECTIONS PLUS DINNER IN 10 DAYS  
PROFESSIONAL CONCERT SERIES  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**

Please complete and return the enclosed Ticket Order Form.

IT'S OUR TREAT! Everyone who attends the Reflections concert on October 31 will receive a FREE meal. Families that celebrate Halloween will easily be able to fit in both the concert and trick-or-treating afterward. The concert begins at 3:00 p.m., and will end with a costume parade for all the youngsters. Meals (including a hot dog, chips, an apple, and a bottle of water) will be available following the concert. You can eat at the IDS pavilion or take it home with you. Order your tickets today for a musical Halloween treat! (See your folder for an order form.)

**MR. ALEXANDER LECK**  
**Headmaster Of The Day**  
**Monday, October 25**

**IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS!**

**\*Thursday, November 11**

**Hurricane Make-Up Day – School In Session  
(Day 2 Make-Up)**

**Friday, November 12**

**Teacher FCIS Conference (Student Holiday)**

\*School will be open for Thursday, November 11. We will have a brief assembly in the morning to honor and celebrate Veteran's Day. The students will have a regular great day at IDS with a regular dismissal time. On Friday, November 12, school will be closed for teachers to attend the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) Conference in Orlando.

**Please RETURN your SCHOOL PICTURE PROOFS  
and ORDER FORMS by MONDAY, OCTOBER 25  
for DELIVERY by WINTER BREAK.  
(Please note extension of due date.)**

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Dempsey at (813) 994-0100.

**FLORIDA ENGLISH TEACHERS APPRECIATE  
OUR IDS COMMUNITY'S GENEROSITY**  
**Mr. Vokoun delivered 1,000 donated books to Orlando last weekend.**  
**THANK YOU, IDS!**

**COMMUNITY ADVERTISEMENT**

**THE PET SITTER**  
Zachary Goldsmith  
931-3218



If you are interested in running an advertisement in the *Heads' Letter*, please contact: Celeste Ross at (813) 961-3087.

¼ page \$50, ½ page \$75,  
full back page \$150,  
and flyer insert \$200.

*Advertisements run only when space is available.*