

PRESS RELEASE



Multiage “Bugs” Measure Up in a Big Way

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At Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC), the students in the primary multiage class love to refer to themselves as the “Brilliant Bugs.”

That’s why when the time came to learn about measurement as a unit of study in math, the multiage teaching team of Michele Carlo, Sammi Clark and Jen Jones offered their students the opportunity of a “Brilliant Bug” lifetime - the chance to dream up, a la children’s author Richard Scarry, the “Biggest Bug Ever!”

After receiving a sheet of paper long enough to meet the challenge, each team of students included the required insect body parts - head, thorax, abdomen and legs - as part of their giant creepy-crawly creation. Many, however, continued to add appendages such as wings, antennae, and stingers and, at least for one team, the imaginative and infamous “hot poison machine” body part.

Continuing to work in small teams, the student responsible for creating each body part then selected what type of measurement would be needed to measure the part he or she had drawn, and wrote a sentence explaining why. Cade Langston, for example, wrote that he would use feet to measure his bug’s thorax because, “It’s humongous!” Zealand Shannon chose centimeters to measure its abdomen because, “It’s ultra small.”

Then, with teacher encouragement to “get the most exact measurement that you can,” the students put their theories to the test. They carefully measured each head, thorax, abdomen and leg, sizing up wings, antennae, stingers, and the occasional “hot poison machine” body part, as well, for extra practice.

“As a precursor to Pond Day when students will be taking all sorts of measurements of the pond on campus, we wanted to offer them something fun to practice their measuring skills,” said teacher Jen Jones. “We came up with the “Biggest Bug Ever” idea, and then the activity evolved to include so much more - several multiple intelligences, cooperation and teamwork, communication and dialoging, writing, as well as art and math.”

Watching the “Brilliant Bugs” *buzz* about the classroom, and *crawl* around on the floor with their rulers, it was easy to see this was a lesson that truly “measured up” to even the highest of “Brilliant Bug” standards for student engagement and excitement.

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County. It serves 500 plus students in grades Pre-K through 8. At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 1,500 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers. For more information about IDS, visit <http://www.idsyest.com>

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