

Field Day at Independent Day School Strengthens Fitness – and Character

Field Day at Independent Day School is an opportunity for students to exercise compassion and responsibility, as well as participate in more than 30 events focused on fitness and fun.



Field Day at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus showcases the wide variety of skills students work on throughout the year in P.E. classes.

March 2, 2011 (TAMPA, Fla.) – Abram Tay, a prekindergarten student at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus, climbed into a brilliant yellow sack and yanked the handles up to his chest. Easily twice his height, his Field Day buddy, eighth grader Reed Berlet, stepped into his orange sack and pulled the handles to just above his knees. On “go,” they hopped across the grass, tumbling across the finish line with laughs and high fives.

Across the field, another eighth grader, Caroline Pomet, and kindergartener Annie Sardouk sat on low, four-wheeled scooters, set to push themselves backwards in a relay race against sixth grader Camille Dodson and first grader Gabriela Caldeira.

Meanwhile, after a vigorous workout twirling hula hoops, sixth grader Avigayil Klein took first grader Satty Bennett by the hand. As they strolled across the grass, Avigayil asked Satty which activity she would like to do next.

Field Day at Independent Day School is a traditional rite of spring – an opportunity to showcase the wide variety of skills students work on throughout the year in P.E. class. It is planned by the IDS Physical Education Department and run with the help of the entire IDS community – teachers, staff, and parents.

“We emphasize the importance of lifelong physical fitness, while having fun playing games and doing things students really enjoy,” said Adam Chumbley, assistant athletic director and coach.

Please turn over for the rest of the article.

Field Day at Independent Day School Strengthens Fitness – and Character

The story is continued here.



Middle school students, called "bigs," take responsibility for primary and intermediate division students during Field Day, ensuring their "littles" have fun, while acting as role models of compassion, empathy and cooperation.

At the same time, Field Day at IDS does something more. By pairing older students in fifth through eighth grades – called “bigs” - with PreK-4 through fourth graders, or “littles,” for the event, it provides an opportunity for students to build character, as well as muscle, by being role models for their younger schoolmates.

“The bigs look out for the younger children and make sure they have fun” said Chumbley. “And I’m always so impressed by how they take ownership of the responsibility in such a sincere and mature way. It builds character for the bigs and also for the littles, who see them as role models.”

The traits middle schoolers exhibit by taking responsibility for their littles - including compassion, empathy and cooperation - exemplify those of a true IDS “Warrior,” the school’s mascot, according to Coach David Starkey.

Eighth grade students participating in their last IDS Field Day who were once littles themselves, agree.

“It helps the littles be more confident,” said Michael Murphy, who was paired up with Braden Perry from kindergarten.

“It gives the littles someone to look up to,” said Sean Murphy, as he and PreK-4 student Demetrius Morcos enjoyed ice pops together. “And it helps build relationships.”

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.idsys.com or contact the Admissions Office at 813-961-3087 for a personal tour.

**Contact: Dr. Jennifer Morrow, Director of Admissions Independent Day School-Corbett Campus
Telephone: (813) 961-3087 jmorrow@idsyes.com**