

## Independent Day School Students Shine At Cultural Festival

For immediate release: November 8, 2007

Tampa, Fla.

Twenty-four students from Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) participated in the fourth annual Hispanic Cultural Festival held at Leto High School in Tampa on Saturday, Nov. 3. The event, which was sponsored by the Taller Inter-cultural Hispano-Americano (TICH) and the Hillsborough County School District, presented different aspects of the Hispanic culture to the community through exhibits, food, live performances and student contests.

After several months of preparation working with their Spanish teachers Odette Figueruelo, Liza Gonzalez and Sonia Morgan, the IDS-CC students presented a play and recited poetry in Spanish, exhibited artwork and participated in a Spanish spelling competition.

Twelve IDS-CC students in grades three through eight recited the play, "Los zapaticos de rosa" by José Martí. These students included: eighth graders **Krissia Marquez** and **Jordan Morgan**, seventh grader **Gabriella Shaikh**, sixth grader **Pedro Lima**, fifth grader **Pedro Escobar**, fourth graders **Quinn Ausburn**, **Juliana Do Prado**, and **Briana Mayberry Julia Peacock**, **Sami Reiss**, **Lumiere Rostick**, and third graders **Charles Gonzmart** and **Pablo Perez-Losada**.

Six students participated in the declamation category reciting poetry by various Latino poets: sixth grader **Pedro Lima**, fifth grader **Jenni Astell**, fourth graders **Quinn Ausburn** and **Lumiere Rostick**, first grader **Marcos Arias**, and kindergartener **Michael Peña**.

Several students created special artwork representing the flavor of Hispanic foods, which was displayed during the festival. These students included: seventh grader **Abigail Friedman**, sixth graders **Caroline LeeFlang** and **Suhani Patel**, fifth grader **David Friedman**, fourth graders **Chandni Patel** and **Lara Phillips-Wolf**, and third grader **Adam Shaikh**.

Sixth grader **Pedro Lima** and first grader **Marcos Arias** competed in the spelling contest with Pedro winning first place at the middle school level and Marcos tying for first in the elementary division.

"To see these students shine like they did was amazing," said Figueruelo, "especially since they all worked so hard to prepare for the festival, practicing after school, at lunch time, early in the morning, and anytime they could."

"What a pride filled day," added Morgan. "We were so proud of all the students' efforts to help each other prepare and of their amazing performances at the festival."

*Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County. The school serves 550 students in PreK3 through 8th grade and offers the International Baccalaureate program of study for all middle school students. 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 3,500 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers about the school's M.O.R.E. Approach to education. For more information about IDS visit [www.idsyas.com](http://www.idsyas.com).*

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