

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

Volume 01-15

Jan/Feb 2015

Inside this issue

Page 1
Executive Director Letter

Page 2
FCIS Winter Symposium

Page 3
Academy 2015
Prospective Heads I&II
Teachers

Page 4
Corporate Sponsors
School News

Page 5
Heads' Luncheons
FCIS Events
Dictionary Daze

Page 6
Accreditation Corner
FCIS-VISNET

Upcoming FCIS Events

Heads' Retreat
June 15-17, 2015
South Seas Resort,
Captiva Island

Evaluation Academy
June 17-18, 2015
South Seas Resort,
Captiva Island

21st Century Learning Academy
June 24-26, 2015
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

from the executive director...

As the month of February closes and the month of March begins, many of our schools are looking to the beginning of the fourth quarter—one of the busiest times for all of us in the independent school world. We have just concluded our legal webinar series for 2014-15, the High Performing Educators Seminar, and the Winter Symposium. The next three months will be filled with five-year evaluation visits, but in the mean time, we are already beginning to plan the professional development calendar for the 2015-16 school year.

LEGAL WEBINAR SERIES. With the help of Suzanne Bogdan, Partner and Education Chair for Fisher and Phillips, our member schools have enjoyed another productive webinar series on issues facing independent schools today, concluding with the webinar “FHSAA Update: Understanding Operating Within the Guidelines”. All of the webinars are archived on the heads' portal. Suzanne and I are now collecting topics for the 2015-16 school year. Please send me suggestions for topics that will aid you in your work.

TALLAHASSEE. The 2015 Florida Legislative Session will open on March 3. A great deal of work has already been done in preparing for this session. Our lobbyist, Brenda Dickinson, has been attending committee meetings and following potential bills that may impact our independent schools. Once again, early childhood seems to be on the minds of our Florida legislators, with this issue already being discussed in committee meetings. Attention has also turned once again to the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). I will look forward to providing our schools with information on these topics, as well as others, as the 2015 Legislative Session progresses.

FHSAA. The FHSAA Task force on International Students, with special emphasis on Policy 17, met on February 12 in Gainesville. FCIS was asked to name representatives to the com-

mittee, which included individuals from our boarding and day schools, along with our FCIS lobbyist and a member of the FCIS staff. Public schools and other private schools were also represented. The task force met for four hours to offer recommendations and will be reconvening soon to continue to consider this important topic.

CAPE. According to the February issue of CAPE Outlook, the Secondary School Admission Test Board (SSATB) has released the results of their May-June 2014 survey of over 2,300 parents. The main reasons that parents gave for considering a private school were providing an education that will challenge their child (97%), helping their child develop/maintain a love of learning (96%), small class size and individual attention (84%), helping their child develop a strong moral character (82%), helping their child's emotional and social development (77%), and helping their child secure superior college placement (74%). Of the parents responding, 77% were mothers and 23% were fathers, suggesting that mothers play a pivotal role in the decision regarding private school selection.

UPCOMING FCIS EVENTS. On June 15 – 17, the FCIS Heads' Retreat will be held at the beautiful South Seas Resort, Captiva Island. Directly following the retreat will be the Evaluation Academy on June 17-18 in the same location. The FCIS 21st Century Learning Academy will be held at Corbett Preparatory of IDS on June 24-26 in Tampa. On July 23-25, FCIS will hold its third annual New Heads' Institute at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort and Spa, followed by the Administrators' Retreat on July 26-28 in the same location. The 2015 FCIS Convention will be held on November 5-6 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport Hotel; make plans now to close your school for Faculty Day on November 6.

Barbara H. Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

FCIS Winter Symposium February 3-4, 2015

FCIS welcomed approximately 40 participants to each of the workshops at this year's Winter Symposium that took place on the beautiful campus of Lake Highland Preparatory School in Orlando. We would like to thank Mr. Warren Hudson for opening his school to us; Ms. Kathy Taylor, Special Assistant to the President for Curriculum & Academics PK-12, for helping with planning and logistics; and Mr. Keith Bolstein for providing tech support throughout the event.

School leaders from 14 different schools attended the first one-day workshop, *Ensuring a School's Long-Term Viability: Communicating Value Proposition and Addressing Legal Issues*. In the morning, **Suzanne Bogdan** and **Candice Pinares-Baez**, Partner and Associate respectively with **Fisher & Phillips** in Fort Lauderdale, presented sessions on enrollment contracts and legal and practical issues related to the enrollment process. In the afternoon, Janice Crampton, Executive Director at The Association of Independent School Admission Professionals, presented sessions on recruitment and retention strategies and the importance of data and how to use it to achieve your goals and communicate your school's mission. These interactive sessions provided opportunities for participants to ask questions and seek out advice on these topics.

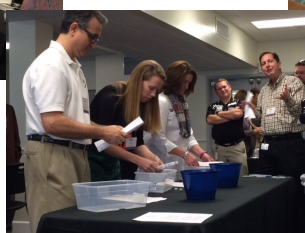
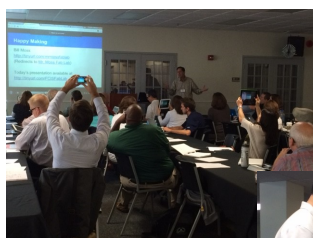


Suzanne Bogdan



Candice Pinares-Baez

Educators from 20 different schools attended the second one-day workshop, *Transforming Education: Using Technology to Engage Students and Facilitate Learning*. **Inge Wassman**, EdTech Facilitator at **St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School** in Coconut Grove, kicked off the technology workshop with her session, *Engagement, Empowerment, and Sharing with iPads Leads to Great Opportunities*. She shared her experiences working with students to research, organize, and create presentations for a targeted audience in order to address driving questions and problem-solve in groups. **William Moss**, Science and Digital Fabrication Teacher at **North Broward Preparatory School**, presented *Fab Labs, Makerspaces, Design and Tinkering in 8-to-3 School Day: Case Study and How to Design/Select Projects* and introduced Digital Fabrication (Fab Labs) and Maker Spaces. He outlined the course content, objectives, projects and assessments in his digital fabrication electives, demonstrated interactive projects for participants, and discussed the application of best practices from other Fab Lab experts. **James Riley**, Math Teacher at **Tampa Preparatory School**, presented *The Classroom of the Future: Technology, Infrastructure, and Pedagogy for 21st Century Learners*. He shared ideas and tools for how to integrate technology and rethink classroom space to change the way we teach and students learn. **Dr. Charles Gleek**, IB Global Politics Instructor at **North Broward Preparatory School**, presented *Feedback is Assessment: Exploring the Intersection of Learning and Technology* and explored the nexus of meaningful assessment of learning and technology. He discussed ways to personalize feedback for learners, using standards and benchmarks along with relevant technologies to enhance progress and achievement, and he shared practical technological tools to implement differentiated formative assessment. Participants enjoyed meeting colleagues from other FCIS schools and engaging in conversations about using technology to enhance teaching and learning.



Academy for High Performing Administrators and Teachers
Corbett Preparatory School of IDS, Tampa
January 25-27, 2014

FCIS and **Dr. Joyce Burick Swarzman** welcomed thirty participants to the Academy for High Performing Teachers and Administrators at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS in Tampa. Participants spent three energizing days with Dr. Swarzman while learning methods and strategies for tapping into the strengths, uniqueness and diverse learning styles of all students in order to create the most effective and supportive learning environment for student engagement. This intensive workshop provided opportunities to learn and model techniques using current brain research, positive phrasing, and multiple intelligences. Participants enjoyed spending time together, sharing ideas, and celebrating the education profession. In addition to earning 30 Master In-service points, all participants had the opportunity to earn 30 additional points by implementing and documenting these structures and strategies in their classrooms or schools. Dr. Swarzman has a gift for inspiring teachers and administrators and reaffirming the difference they are making in the lives of their students. Participants left the workshop raving about their experience, many noting that this was the single best professional development they had ever done!

FCIS Prospective Heads' Institute
Mission Hills Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills
January 14-15, 2014

The Prospective Heads' Institute welcomed twelve new candidates for the first year program and eight returning candidates for the second year program to the beautiful Mission Inn Resort, just north of Orlando. Several experienced heads from FCIS member schools served on the faculty and shared expertise, data and personal stories about the process and challenges of becoming a head. Candidates attended presentations and participated in discussions on the following topics: governance, communication, leadership, fundraising, building relationships and trust, time management, enrollment, and marketing. **Stephen DiCicco**, co-founder of *Educational Directions Inc.*, presented an overview of the head search process as well as sessions on leadership, expectations and opportunities for heads, and the board-head relationship. He also shared resources and facilitated workshops to review resumes, mock interviews, and case studies. Candidates had the chance to network with colleagues at peer schools and continue discussions throughout the two-day experience in classroom settings and informal conversations during meals. Many thanks to our outstanding FCIS panel: **Richard Gehman**, Head, Oak Hall School; **Kevin Plummer**, Head, Tampa Preparatory School; **Dr. Jan Pullen**, Head, St. Stephen's Episcopal School; **Joe Seivold**, Head, Berkeley Preparatory School; and FCIS Executive Director, **Dr. Barbara Hodges**.

Teachers

Foundation for Teaching Economics
June 16 – 19, 2015 - Pompano Beach

This four-day institute is designed to help middle and high school teachers and curriculum directors better understand environmental economics issues and to help them relate these issues to their students.

Participant Costs: \$100 application fee / transportation costs and some meals

Credits: 2 Graduate Credits from the University of Colorado

Contact Don Fell at Don.Fell@verizon.net for application and more information.

FCIS Corporate Sponsors

A Glance Software, Inc.
Carney, Sandoe & Associates
Cherry and Company
Dave V. John, LLC.
Dwight Darby and Company, CPA's
First Investors Corporation

InSource Insurance
Insuramerica of Florida
Metz Culinary Management
Rediker Software, Inc.
RenWeb School Management Software
Schultz Center

**Thank you to all the FCIS Corporate Sponsors.
We appreciate your support.**

School News

Brandon Academy is excited to announce the opening of their new high school in 2015-16. A new grade will be added each year until a full IB Diploma Program is in place. This will be the first private IB school in the Brandon area.



On Jan. 19th, **Jacksonville Country Day School** students eagerly shared their latest scientific findings during their STEM Fair. The fair featured booths with engineering challenges and interactive displays the students could explore. Picture: A sixth grade student demonstrating how his underwater submersible is controlled.

On December 13th, the **Community School of Naples'** Math Counts Team competed in the 9th Annual Collier County Invitational. CSN's 8th grade team took top honors in the team competition, taking first among the ten-team field. In the individual component of the competition, Blade Kalikow earned fourth place, Cameron Hochman earned third, and Bridget Denzer edged out the entire competition for first place among all the Math Counters.

Palm Beach Day Academy 7th grade student, Zane Ice, appeared on Jeopardy Kids Week, Dec. 4th. Congratulations, Zane!



Congratulations to **Tampa Preparatory School** on being designated an Apple Distinguished School. The Apple designation is reserved for schools that meet criteria for innovation, leadership and educational excellence and demonstrate Apple's vision of exemplary learning environments.



Saint Joseph's Episcopal School hosted its annual faculty versus students' soccer fundraising and community event. The student soccer team was led and coached by Tami Pleasanton, Head of School, and

the faculty team was led to victory by Coaches Widoeroff and Bosch, 5 to 3.

Carrollwood Day School's fourth grade student, Noah Pollack, is seeing his dream of a tree house on the Early Childhood Campus playground come true. It took six years for his vision to be completed, but on January 29th, CDS held a ribbon cutting ceremony. On March



12, CDS will host TEDxCarrollwoodDaySchool. The theme of the event is Passion Projects: Lifelong Learning. The goal of the event is twofold: to inspire all of our 9th graders for their 10th grade year completing the MYP with the Personal Project and to give some of our students a voice in the global community.

Three **San Jose Episcopal Day School** students were separated from the rest of their class due to the stringent security process for entering the White House. They were greeted by First Lady Michelle Obama and NBC News Correspondent Jenna Bush Hager while touring the recent renovation. While meeting the First Lady was definitely a highlight for the few lucky students, the tour itself was a memorable experience for all.



Admiral Farragut Academy had three students participate in the National Geographic Bee finals on January 30th. Seventh grader, Josh Graves, placed 1st. Turiya Moka, 6th grade, placed second and Helena Panuthos, 5th grade, placed third. Josh, along with school champions all over the country, will take a written test, and up to 100 of the top scorers in each state will then be eligible to compete in their State Bee on March 27th.



Heads' Luncheons

Save the date cards and/or invitations will be sent for the following area Heads' Luncheons. Please feel free to contact another "area host" if you are unable to attend your area luncheon.

Tuesday, April 7, 2015
Tallahassee Area
Hosted by: Peter Klekamp
Holy Comforter Episcopal School

Tuesday, April 21, 2015
Palm Beach Gardens Area
Hosted by: Dr. Denise Spirou
The Weiss School

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas
Hosted by: Dr. Dana Markham
Pine Crest School

Thursday, April 23, 2015
Miami Area
Hosted by: Dr. John Davies
Miami Country Day School

Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Orlando Area
Hosted by: Cindy Moon
Park Maitland School

Tuesday, May 5, 2015
Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/
Naples Areas
Hosted by: Dr. Joyce Swarzman
Corbett Preparatory School of IDS

Thursday, May 7, 2015
Jacksonville Area
Hosted by: Martha Milton
Beaches Episcopal School

FCIS Events

Heads' Retreat
June 15-17, 2015
South Seas Resort,
Captiva Island

Evaluation Academy
June 17-18, 2015
South Seas Resort,
Captiva Island

**21st Century Learning
Academy**
June 24-26, 2015
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

New Heads' Institute
July 23-25, 2015
Sanibel Harbour Marriott,
Fort Myers

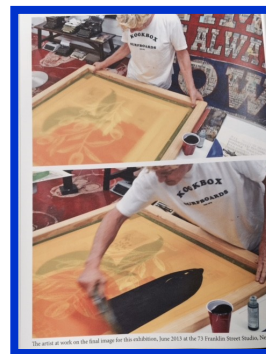
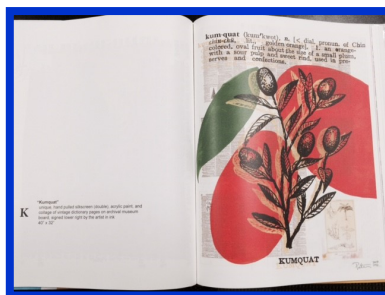
Administrators' Retreat
July 26-28, 2015
Sanibel Harbor Marriott,
Fort Myers

Dictionary Daze (An Exploration of the Lexicon) A to Z

Ashley Turchin, a graduate of Miami Country Day School, has introduced her alma mater, along with other south Florida FCIS schools, to the work of artist, Peter Tunney. Mr. Tunney's traveling tour exhibition is dedicated to students of all ages. The exhibition consists of 26 illustrations from the 1927 edition of Webster's International Dictionary. *Dictionary Daze* has been enriching the lives of the students, parents, families, and faculty from schools all across South Florida, including Gulliver Schools, Pine Crest School and Miami Country Day, since 2012.

- *No exhibition fee: School will hang/install the show and safely transport the return of the show.*
- *Show will print 20 books at no expense to the school, and each school is expected to contribute one comment to the published book.*

For further information about this exciting opportunity, please contact Ashley Turchin at ashleyturchin@gmail.com or [305-582-6890](tel:305-582-6890).



Accreditation Corner

By: Melissa Alton, Director of Accreditation

Workshops:

Summer Evaluation Academy: For Heads of School

- June 17-18, 2015, following the annual Heads' Retreat
- South Seas Resort, Captiva Island
- Training for Heads who wish to serve as an FCIS Accreditation Team Chair
- Cost: No additional cost for Heads' Retreat attendees

Preparing for an Evaluation: For Administrators and Steering Committee Chairs

- Monday, July 27, 2015, during the annual Administrators' Retreat
- Sanibel Harbour Marriott, Fort Myers
- Information for schools preparing for evaluations in 2015-2016 or 2016-2017
- Cost: Included in Administrators' Retreat registration fee

Standards Webinars – Heads of School who were unable to attend the live webinars on Financial Standards or Governance Standards will find viewable archived copies on the Head's Portal. Pertinent in-depth information was reviewed during these webinars. Contact Tam Nguyen for a Head's Portal password at tnguyen@fcis.org or by calling (813) 287-2820.

Accreditation reminders for schools with upcoming evaluations:

- Please send a copy of your school's completed self-study to the FCIS Office and your evaluation team at least two weeks prior to your visit. Remember to send financials to your team's Chair along with his/her copy of the self-study.
- When booking hotel rooms for the evaluation team, remember that proximity to school and comfort are of utmost importance. Book well in advance of the team's arrival.
- Please follow the self-study templates available on the FCIS website under "Accreditation Resources".



FCIS-VISNET

**Brought to you by FCIS, in partnership with the
North Carolina Association of Independent Schools**



FCIS is a partner with VISNET, a virtual school network created by the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS) with funds from the Edward E. Ford Foundation in 2009. Exclusive to FCIS accredited schools in the state of Florida, VISNET provides FCIS member schools with an array of professional development, online courses, blended learning resources and a rich content repository. After joining, VISNET schools will then have the opportunity to enhance 21st century learning resources – EPSCO, BrainPop, Middlebury Language Program, Haiku and many more at discounted prices. Some highlights include:

- Unique elective courses where a student is an "intern" in a Green Industry or studies video game design, cartoon animation or Gothic Literature
- Professional Development opportunities, including access to Campus Outreach Services webinar series with topics, such as Internet Safety, Mental Health & Stress, Body Image and Alcohol Risk
- EBSCO – library database and resources, already used in FL state universities
- Middlebury Language Institute competency and fluency programs, with native speakers in real-life situations
- Carone Fitness Program, where students can complete PE and health requirements in an innovative and stimulating program

VISNET membership guidelines for FCIS schools for the 2014-15 school year will remain the same. New members, go to fcis.vis-network.org/ or contact Tam at tnguyen@fcis.org for additional information.