

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

Volume 01-14

Jan/Feb 2014

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In Memoriam

from the executive director...

For most people, the month of February brings thoughts of Ground Hog Day or Valentines' Day, but in the independent school world, our thoughts turn to re-enrollment and plans for the coming school year. At FCIS, February initiates one of our busiest accreditation season. During the second semester of this school year, there will be 45 evaluation visits conducted before the close of the school year.

Life for all of us within FCIS will be busy until school closes. In addition to accreditation, FCIS has been busy with the High Performing Educators' Academy, the Prospective Heads Institute, the Winter Symposium, and the final legal webinars for this year. We are in the process of completing our search for the next Director of Accreditation with the help of Educational Directions Incorporated. The search has drawn candidates from across the nation and internationally. FCIS hopes to announce the name of the new Director of Accreditation in the near future; that individual will join our office on July 1.

During this time, I want to take the opportunity to honor our FCIS Director of Professional Development, Carol Lee Curtis, who will be retiring on June 30. Carol Lee has dedicated 15 years of her life to this position and has taken our professional development program to great new heights. I know all of you will join me in wishing Carol Lee well as she moves into this next phase of her life. After dedicating so much of her life to the service of others, she is ready to spend more time with family. Carol Lee will be sorely missed; it has been a true pleasure for me to work so closely with her these past four years.

TALLAHASSEE. The 2014 Florida Legislative Session will open on March 4. A great deal of work has been done in these last two months preparing for that session. Our lobbyist, Brenda Dick-

inson, has been attending committee meetings and following potential bills that may impact our independent schools. Early childhood seems to be on the minds of our Florida legislators, along with other legislators across the United States. I will look forward to providing our schools with more information as the session progresses.

CAPE. A new study released by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) indicates that there is a significant difference in job satisfaction between public and private school teachers, along with a perceived difference in working conditions. Private school teachers cited more recognition and support, less stress than teachers in public schools, and fewer problematic students. They reported greater job satisfaction even though private school teachers were sometimes paid lower salaries than their counterparts in the public schools. Eighty-five percent of private school teachers stated that they received a great deal of support from parents, as compared to 59 percent of teachers in the public schools.

UPCOMING FCIS EVENTS. On June 9 – 11, the **FCIS Heads' Retreat** will be held at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort in Bonita Springs, a favorite retreat spot for our Florida heads. Directly following the retreat will be the **Evaluation Academy** on **June 11-12** in the same location. The **FCIS 21st Century Learning Academy** will be held at **Corbett Preparatory of IDS** on **June 18-20** in **Tampa**. On July 24-26, FCIS will hold its second **New Heads' Institute** at the Marriott Hotel, **Hutchinson Island**, followed by the **Administrators' Retreat** on **July 27-29** in the same location. The **2014 FCIS Convention** will be held on November 20-21 at the **Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel**; make plans now to close your school for Faculty Day on November 21.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Upcoming FCIS Events

Heads' Retreat

June 9-11, 2014
Hyatt, Coconut Point,
Bonita Springs

Evaluation Academy

June 11-12, 2014
Hyatt Coconut Point,
Bonita Springs

FCIS 21st Century Learning Academy

June 18-20, 2014
Corbett Preparatory @
IDS, Tampa

**FCIS Prospective Heads' Institute
Mission Hills Resort-Howey-in-the-Hills
January 15-16, 2014**

As the second year of the FCIS Prospective Heads Institute began, we welcomed fourteen new candidates and eight returning for the second year follow up. Stephen DiCicco, co-founder of Educational Directions Inc., and a team of FCIS Heads provided a variety of informative and relevant presentations. Participants had opportunities to question and discuss topics such as interviewing, fundraising, time management, board/head relationships, budgeting, enrollment management and communication. These discussions continued throughout the two day experience in classroom settings, as well as informal discussions during meals at the beautiful Mission Inn located in Central Florida. Many thanks go out to our outstanding FCIS panel: Cathy Ford, Retired Head, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy; Richard Gehman, Head, Oak Hall School; Kevin Plummer, Head, Tampa Preparatory School; Joe Seivold, Head, Berkeley Preparatory School, and our Executive Director, Dr. Barbara Hodges.

**Academy for High Performing Administrators and Teachers
Corbett Preparatory School of IDS, Tampa
January 26-28, 2014**

After fifteen years, the Academy for High Performing Educators continues to be one of the highest rated workshops on the FCIS calendar! Thirty-three enthusiastic and dedicated educators met at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS and spent three days with Dr. Joyce Burick Swartzman, learning a variety of ways to tap into the strengths and learning styles of all students. This intensive workshop provides opportunities to learn, and model structures using the latest brain research, positive phrasing, multiple intelligences and time management. Dr. Swartzman also modeled ways to incorporate the use of movement and music into the learning process. One of the goals of this workshop is to learn ways to tap into the uniqueness of each student to achieve success. At the conclusion of this experience, all participants understood the concepts of "Sharpening the Saw" and having an "Olympic Mentality" in their classrooms. In addition to earning 30 Master Plan Points, all attendees have the opportunity to earn 30 additional points by implementing and documenting these structures and strategies in their classrooms.

**Changing the Way We Learn
Pine Crest School, Ft. Lauderdale
February 18, 2014**

Pine Crest School was the site of this year's symposium. We want to thank Dr. Dana Markham and her special assistant, Carol Rose for the warm welcome and help in making the necessary arrangements. On Tuesday, February 18, fifteen schools sent representatives to hear a variety of ways that technology is "Changing the Way We Learn". Fifty-three participants attended and had their choice of sessions on programming, blogging, blended learning, iPortfolios, communication, and innovative homework ideas. A special thank you to all the speakers who enthusiastically shared their knowledge, research and enthusiasm: Emmanuel Schanzer, Founder, Bootstrap.org; Dr. Joan McGettigan, North Broward Preparatory School; Mike Speer, Berkeley Preparatory School; Lali DeRosier, Trinity Preparatory School; Ashley McCombes, Montverde Academy and Sean McDonald, The Out-of-Door Academy.



Emmanuel Schanzer,
Bootstrap



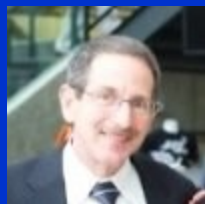
Lali DeRosier,
Trinity Preparatory
School

Charting the Right Course in 2014 A Financial and Legal Workshop Pine Crest School, Ft. Lauderdale February 18, 2014

On Wednesday, February 19, twenty-one school leaders came to hear Marc Levinson, Executive Director, MISBO, and Suzanne Bogdan, Partner at Fisher & Phillips law firm. Financial topics included shifting demographics, marketing, organizational management, sustainability, and risk management. Legal issues discussed included new regulations affecting independent schools and trends in potential areas of liability.



Suzanne Bogdan



Marc Levinson

TEACHERS

Exciting new professional development opportunity for K-12 teachers: The Rochester Reform Trail is a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop for K-12 School Teachers, hosted by the College at Brockport, State University of New York, and the State University of New York Research Foundation. They are hosting two week-long workshops in July of 2014 exploring the antebellum reform movement. Landmark visits include an Erie Canal packet-boat cruise; field trips to Seneca Falls Women's Rights Historic National Park, the Susan B. Anthony House and Museum, and local sites associated with long-time Rochester resident Frederick Douglass (including Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony's gravesites at Mt. Hope Cemetery). NEH summer scholars receive a stipend to offset travel and accommodation expenses. Please see the website below for more information. Hope you will join us!

See our webpage: www.brockport.edu/rocreformtrail

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterReformTrail>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RochesterReform>

Other Workshops

NBOA— www.nboa.net Annual Meeting	March 2-5,	Orlando
ISM— www.isminc.com/si Summer Institute	June 23-July 20	Utah
SSATB— www.admission.org Annual Meeting	Sept. 17-20	Orlando

FCIS Workshops

Heads' Retreat
June 9-11, 2014
Hyatt, Bonita Springs

Evaluation Academy
June 11-12, 2014
Hyatt Coconut Point,
Bonita Springs

**FCIS 21st Century
Learning Academy**
June 18-20, 2014
Corbett Preparatory @ IDS,
Tampa

New Heads' Institute
July 24-26, 2014
Marriott Resort, Hutchinson
Island

Administrators' Retreat
July 27-29, 2014
Marriott Resort, Hutchinson
Island

New Teacher Institute
September 21-23, 2014
Mission Hills Resort
Howey-in-the-Hills

2014 Convention
November 20-21, 2014
Hyatt Regency Riverfront
Jacksonville

Certification Renewal

**Florida Professional Certificates
expiring June 30, 2014**

- Renew online at www.fldoe.org/edcert
- Contact Keara Danger, kdanger@fcis.org, to submit your master inservice to the DOE on the CT-116.

FCIS Accreditation Corner

Upcoming Events and Announcements from the FCIS Accreditation Office!

Workshops:

Summer Evaluation Academy for Heads of School

- June 11-12, 2014, following the Annual Heads' Retreat
- Hyatt Coconut Point, Bonita Springs
- Training for Heads who wish to serve as a Chair of an FCIS Accreditation team
- Contact Keara—kdanger@fcis.org for additional information

“Preparing for an Evaluation” – for Administrators and Steering Committee Chairs

- Administrators' Retreat - July 27-29, 2014
- In-depth session available Monday afternoon
- Marriott Resort, Hutchinson Island

Standards Webinars - If your Head of School was unable to attend the live webinars on Financial Standards or Governance Standards, archived copies are available on the Head's Portal. Pertinent in-depth information was reviewed during these webinars. Contact Tam Nguyen for password, tnguyen@fcis.org.

Accreditation Reminders

- Please send a hard copy of the completed self-study to the FCIS Office and financials to the chair at least two weeks prior to your visit.
- When booking hotel rooms for the evaluation team, remember that proximity to school and comfort are of utmost importance! Please book well in advance of the team's arrival.
- Please follow the self-study templates available on the FCIS Accreditation resources website. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Keara.

Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

Mark Your Calendars—FKC Convention 2015

Friday, January 30, 2015

6:30-8:00pm Meet and Greet

Complimentary Beverages and Hors D'oeuvres

Saturday, January 31, 2015

7:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

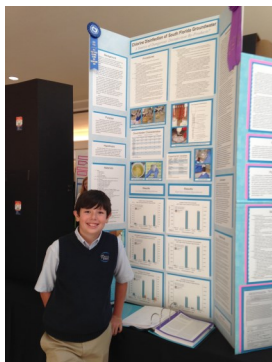
8:00am - 3:30pm General Meeting/Sessions/Lunch



**The DoubleTree SeaWorld Orlando
10100 International Drive
Orlando, FL
800-327-0363**

School News

Congratulations to **The Weiss School's** Glenn Grimmer (6th grader), who participated in the Junior Division at the 57th annual Palm Beach Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Glenn won First Place in Environmental Science, Best in Show, and received a perfect score of 100 – only the second time that's happened in the fair's 57 year history. As the Junior Division Environmental Science champion, Glenn will represent Palm Beach County at the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair on April 9, 2014 in Lakeland.



The arts, math and science programs at **Berkeley Preparatory School** took a giant step forward on January 31, thanks to two significant donations (Bob Gries, Jr and Dan Doyle, Jr and family) that have helped launch a campaign to construct an innovative and spectacular Arts and Sciences center. When the center opens, students will engage in a project-based curriculum supported by multimedia spaces using the latest technology.

The students at **Saint Joseph's Episcopal School** partnered with WPTV News Channel 5 and the Food Pantry of Holy Redeemer Episcopal Church to support their annual food collection drives for needy families in preparation of



the Thanksgiving holiday facilitated by the school's Student Council.

Gulf Stream School is celebrating 75 years of existence throughout this year. In December, Gulf Stream had over 350 past and present school members attend a 75th Gala and dedicated three new classrooms and a renovated pavilion and kitchen. These additions will make space available for a learning specialist to be hired for next year. To view the 75th anniversary video go to www.gulfstreamschool.org and click on the 75th anniversary logo. Congratulations!

All Saints' Academy fourth grader, Mia Sessums, earned the title of Geography Bee Champion. Along

with her title, Mia received the opportunity to take a written test that will be submitted for scoring against other Florida winners. The top 100 scoring students will compete to represent Florida at the National Geographic Bee in Washington D.C. Congratulations to Kay Senn and Julia Preziosi. They were named National Merit finalists.



In December, **Montverde Academy's** Middle-school National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) sponsored a philanthropic project labeled the "Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive". According to Sara Parets, M.S. 6th grade teacher, "... between December 3rd and December 11th, the Middle School students donated 270 sets of Peanut Butter & Jelly! That's 540 jars!" The jars were donated and will provide at least 2,070 meals for local students. Congratulations!

On January 18, over 600 students representing 32 Florida middle and high schools participated in a regional Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics competition. **Community School of Naples**, captured third place in the overall sweepstakes by placing teams in the top five in three of four scoring divisions. Ninth grader Cory Hixson had the best individual finish among local students as he took home top honors in the Algebra II division, while 8th grader Jack Ciabaton was runner-up in Algebra I. Congratulations CSN! Community School of Naples has announced Mr. Eric Miles as new Head of the Upper School, effective July 1, 2014.

The **Tampa Preparatory School's** Varsity Girls Soccer Team (16-5-2) won its 5th consecutive 2A-9 District Championship! Congratulations to Tampa Prep's Varsity Boys Basketball team on winning their 9th consecutive District Title! Congratulations to Coach



Joe Fenlon for winning the Top Varsity Basketball Coach in Florida!



2014 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 22, 2014
Tallahassee Area
Hosted by: Bill Jablon, Maclay School

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Miami Area
Hosted by: Sr. Suzanne Cooke,
Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart

Thursday, May 1, 2014
Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale
Hosted by: Dr. Dana Markham, Pine Crest School

Monday, May 12, 2014
Orlando Area
Hosted by: Craig Maughan, Trinity Preparatory School

Friday, May 2, 2014
West Palm Beach
Hosted by: Nammie Ichilov,
Arthur I Meyer Jewish Academy

Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Jacksonville Area
Hosted by: Cathy Hardage, St. Mark's Episcopal School

Thursday, May 8, 2014
Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas
Hosted by: Bob Fine, Admiral Farragut Academy

FCIS Corporate Sponsors

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Ray Dass Test Prep
RenWeb School Management Software
Sonshine Educational Tours
Three - W International

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



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 a summer conference for 21st Century Teachers and 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 2013-14 school year will remain the same! New members, go to fcis.vis-network.org/ or contact Tam at tnguyen@fcis.org for additional information.

In Memoriam
William “Bill” J. McMillian
Former Pine Crest School President and FCIS Honorary Lifetime
Director

Mr. McMillan was an extremely proud alumnus and leader of Pine Crest School, and the students, faculty and staff were very special to him. He served as a teacher and administrator before being named President of Pine Crest in 1966. During his 43-year professional career, he led the expansion of the Fort Lauderdale campus from an independent day and boarding school, primarily serving children of winter visitors, to a full-time college preparatory school. In 1987, Mr. McMillan accomplished a merger of Pine Crest with Boca Raton Academy creating Pine Crest School at Boca Raton, which was later named the William J. McMillan Campus in his honor.

During his career, Mr. McMillan planted the seed for Pine Crest’s renowned reputation in Florida and throughout the U.S. He served as President of the Florida Council of Independent Schools from 1974-1976, Southern Association of Independent Schools, and Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools. Mr. McMillan was the first independent school head from Florida to be elected to the Board of the National Association of Independent Schools.

On March 9, 2014, 3:00 p.m., a Celebration of Life memorial service in his honor will be held at Pine Crest School’s Stacy Auditorium, 1501 NE 62nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33334. In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a memorial contribution to either The Endowed William J. McMillan Scholarship Fund at Pine Crest School or your charity of choice.