

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

Volume 02-15

Mar/Apr 2015

Inside this issue

Page 1

Executive Director Letter

Page 2

Certification Renewal
DeWitt E. Hooker Grant
Teachers
DASL
FKC Corner

Page 3

School News

Page 4

Heads' Luncheons
Professional Development
Calendar

Page 5

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...

Happy Spring to all of you! We are in the home stretch when school life gets even busier. While all of you are involved in the processes that take place at the end of the year, FCIS is busy monitoring the 2015 Florida Legislative Session.

Along with the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools (**FAANS**), for which I serve as President, we are closely watching four bills – **SB 874 / HB 713** which would restore dual enrollment access to private schools without the financial assessment, **SB 602** which would expand the Florida Personal Learning Scholarship Account (PLSA) Program to include students identified on the autistic spectrum, **SB 7006 / HB 7017** which would strengthen Health and Safety Checks for those schools receiving VPK and School Readiness dollars, and **SB 1480 / HB 7137** which would strengthen the appeals process and change the governing organization of FHSAA. Our lobbyist, Brenda Dickinson, is present in Tallahassee every day and keeps me informed of all issues related to our member schools. When prudent, I travel to Tallahassee and work alongside Brenda in the endeavor to protect the independence of our schools.

In addition to spending time at the Florida Legislative Session, I recently returned from the annual meeting of the Council of American Private Education (**CAPE**). Prior to the meeting of the full CAPE Board, representatives from 30 states met to discuss legislative issues within their states. From the State CAPE meeting, there emerged six themes – Educational Savings Accounts, School Choice, Immunizations, Financial Sustainability, Early Learning, and International Students within Athletics. Interestingly, those same themes resonate within our state. The CAPE Board has just completed a strategic plan, outlining four major initiatives – the need to collect better private school data, including outcome data, the need to launch a public relations campaign for private schools, the need to establish a national, user-friendly private school

portal, and the need to establish mini-coalitions to collaborate on projects on a national level.

Other News. David Coleman, President of the College Board, recently made a presentation to the CAPE Board at their March meeting in Washington, D.C. In his remarks, he noted that the new SAT will be administered for the first time in spring 2016. He indicated that changes include the vocabulary section, which he said would no longer include obscure words typically only encountered when preparing for the SAT, but a “rich analytic vocabulary” which students will be faced with in college and later in professional life. Also, he indicated that the mathematics portion would focus on concepts found in early college courses in mathematics. In addition, Coleman indicated that the College Board has joined forces with Khan Academy to provide online test preparation that will be free to everyone.

FCIS Upcoming Events. FCIS is busy preparing for summer professional development events and retreats. The Heads' Retreat will be held June 15-17 at the South Seas Resort on Captiva Island; guest speakers will include Dr. John Chubb, President of NAIS, and Allan Calarco, Global Solutions Faculty Member and Executive Coach with the Center for Creative Leadership. On June 24-26, FCIS will hold its 3rd Annual 21st Century Learning Academy in Tampa. The program is filled with speakers who will expose participants to various types of technology and tools to enable our schools to integrate 21st century curriculum and practices to better prepare our students for the future. The 3rd Annual New Heads' Institute will be held on July 23-25 at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott. This institute is open to all new heads with up to two years of experience in FCIS schools. The Fundraising Workshop will be held on July 25 in the same location and followed by the Administrators' Retreat on July 26-28.

Barbara H. Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Certification Renewal

**Florida Professional Certificates
expiring June 30, 2015**

- **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.**

Winners of the 2015 DeWitt E. & Vera M. Hooker Grant

**** \$3,750 Awarded ****

* \$2,500 to Jonathan Schoenwald
from Gulliver School for
*Embracing Diversity through
Sustained Dialogue*

* \$1,250 to Kelly Rose and
Glynis Miller from The Out-of-
Door Academy for *MITT @
Home*

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.

DASL

DASL is now open for generating reports. Having entered your data, you can now run reports. Please visit DASL (Webinars) to learn more about Comparison Groups, Custom Variables and Statistic Tables. For more information and questions, please contact Tam Nguyen at FCIS.

<http://dasl.nais.org/>



Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

Mark Your Calendars—FKC Convention 2016

Friday, February 5, 2016

6:30-8:00pm Meet and Greet

Complimentary Beverages and Hors D'oeuvres

Saturday, February 6, 2016

7:30am Registration and Continental Breakfast

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

The DoubleTree Sea World Orlando

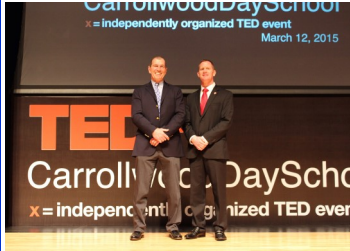
10100 International Drive

Orlando, FL—800-327-0363



School News

On March 12, **Carrollwood Day School's** Head of School, Ryan Kelly, welcomed Dr. John Chubb, President of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), for their inaugural TEDxCarrollwoodDaySchool event centered around the theme, "Passion Projects: Livelong Learning." Dr. Chubb was a featured speaker for this event, and the CDS community was honored to have him share his passion for "Independent Schools: A Growth Study." CDS is very excited to announce a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the school's first gymnasium. The event will take place on May 15.



Baldwin Wallace University honored three outstanding alumni working in the field of education with the 2015 Outstanding Educator Awards. **Community School of Naples'** Mark Danni '88 was among the three recipients. An accomplished director, music director and drummer who has worked on Broadway and beyond, Danni left the New York theatre scene to become the director of theatre at The Community School of Naples and the founder of TheatreZone. Congratulations, Mark!



Spring planting is in full gear at **San Jose Episcopal Day School**. In addition to the many ornamental gardens tucked among campus buildings, student gardens serve as authentic learning opportunities and extensions of the classroom.

Twelve Lower School students from **All Saints Academy** competed in the Polk Scholastic Chess Tournament, earning numerous recognitions and trophies. Five students competed in the Championship Section (the highest level), and Banks Rafool ranked as the top second grade player in the tournament. Congratulations to the All Saints Academy Spanish Language team on its 2nd place finish at the Florida State Spanish Conference.



Tampa Preparatory School hosted two teams competing in the NCAA Women's Final Four Tournament in Tampa on April 3rd. University of Connecticut and Notre Dame used their gym as practice space. It was a fun opportunity for students to watch these teams practice.



Community School of Naples held its first Programming Competition on March 28 thanks to two CSN juniors who took it upon themselves to create a local event that would foster computer science in Naples. Congratulations to CSN students who placed first and third.



Oak Hall School won in overtime over Buchholz to the boy's lacrosse district title. Congratulations, Oak Hall!

Admiral Farragut Academy senior, Sasha DeSilva '15, won a national gold medal for her novel, "When the Moon Isn't Watching," in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, which were created in 1923. The awards program has been administered by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers since 1994 as a way to ensure that literary and artistic talent is recognized in schools and communities throughout the United States. Other notable winners include Truman Capote, Stephen King and Sylvia Plath. Congratulations, Sasha!



Congratulations to **Holy Comforter Episcopal School's** Latin teams who competed in the State Forum on April 11. The teams placed 2nd in Creative and Ludi, 3rd in Academics and 4th Overall!



The Out-of-Door Academy's M'Balia Bangoura won the Class 1A State Women's Tennis Championship. M'Balia's victory marks the 5th state singles title for ODA in the last 8 years! Congratulations ODA.

Heads' Luncheons Hosts

Thank you for hosting the 2015 Heads' Luncheon in your area.

Tallahassee Area: Peter Klekamp,
Holy Comforter Episcopal School

Palm Beach Gardens Area: Dr. Denise Spirou,
The Weiss School

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas:
Dr. Dana Markham, Pine Crest School

Miami Area: Dr. John Davies,
Miami Country Day School

Orlando Area: Cindy Moon,
Park Maitland School

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas:
Dr. Joyce Swarzman, Corbett Preparatory School of
IDS

Jacksonville Area: Martha Milton,
Beaches Episcopal School

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming professional development opportunities.

2014-2015

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

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

**FCIS 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

Fundraising Workshop
July 25, 2015
Sanibel Harbour Marriott,
Fort Myers

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

2015-2016

New Teacher Institute
September 20-22, 2015
Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Governance Workshop
October 4-5, 2015
Hyatt Regency,
Orlando Airport

**FCIS Pre-Conference:
ISM**
November 4, 2015
Hyatt Regency,
Orlando Airport

FCIS Annual Convention
November 4-5, 2015
Hyatt Regency,
Orlando Airport

**Prospective Heads'
Institute I, II & III**
January 13-14, 2016
Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

**Academy for High
Performing Educators**
January 24-26, 2016
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

**Winter Symposium
Finance and Legal
Workshop**
February 2, 2016
Technology Workshop
February 3, 2016
Pine Crest, Ft Lauderdale

Evaluation Academy
February 17, 2016
Lake Highland Preparatory,
Orlando

Heads' Retreat
June 13-15, 2016
Naples Grande Beach
Resort, Naples

Evaluation Academy
June 15-16, 2016
Naples Grande Beach
Resort, Naples

**FCIS 21st Century
Learning Academy**
June 22-24, 2016
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

New Heads' Institute
July 21-23, 2016
Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa,
Jupiter

Administrators' Retreat
July 24-26, 2016
Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa,
Jupiter

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 2015-16 school year will remain the same. New members, go to fcis.vis-network.org/ or contact Tam at tnguyen@fcis.org for additional information.