

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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Upcoming FCIS Events

Heads' Retreat
June 10-12, 2013
Hammock Beach

Evaluation Academy
June 12-13, 2013
Hammock Beach

**21st Century Teaching
Academy**
July 17-19, 2013
Winter Haven

New Heads' Institute
July 25-27, 2013
Clearwater

Administrators' Retreat
July 28-30, 2013
Clearwater

from the executive director...

NAIS: The 2013 NAIS Annual Conference was held on February 28 through March 1 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The theme was *revolutionary TRADITIONS: think BIG, think GREAT*. The conference featured several outstanding presenters, with the opening keynote being delivered by **Jim Collins**, probably best known for his book *Good to Great*. Jim Collins chose this time to expound upon his basic premises presented in *Good to Great*. Collins described the leadership differences between those who prevail and those who don't; the three differences he emphasized were fanatic discipline, creativity, and productive paranoia. He applied those differences to the early Antarctic expeditions of Roald Amundsen and Robert Scott. Both Amundsen and Scott were innovators, but Amundsen was very disciplined. The logs of those two expeditions indicate that Amundsen led his men forward 20 miles every day, even in the midst of blizzard conditions. Scott, on the other hand, allowed those adverse conditions to halt his progress on certain days. Amundsen was successful in completing the expedition; Scott and his men did not survive. Collins remarked that creativity is natural, but discipline is not; creativity with discipline is a dynamic combination for leaders who wish to succeed. In closing, Jim Collins made a powerful point: If you want to build something great, the real wellspring is love, work done with people with love for people we love, knowing that you have had a hand at creating something with intrinsic worth. Isn't that the formula that compels all of us to move forward?

Another compelling speaker was Tererai Trent, who was raised in a small village in Zimbabwe with no electricity and no running water. Her greatest desire from an early age was to have an education in an environment where only boys were educated and girls ages 7 to 13 were forced into marriage daily. Tererai was sold into marriage at an early age by her father, but later found her way to the United States through the help of Heifer International. Today, she has earned a doctorate degree and, with the help of Oprah Winfrey, has started a school for girls in her home village. Tererai stated that "little hunger wants food for the belly", and "great hunger is the hunger for a meaningful life".

CAPE: The State CAPE Board met on March 10, and the full CAPE Board met on March 11. Topics for the State CAPE Board included the impact of charter

schools on independent schools, high school athletics, choice initiatives, and school safety. There was additional conversation on President Obama's recently released program on Early Learning. On March 25, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) hosted a conference call in which educational leaders from across the United States were presented information on the new program and allowed to ask questions. At this point, many of the details on this new initiative are not worked out, but USDOE said that the program will focus on young children in families with income less than 200% of the poverty level. USDOE plans to work with Local Education Agencies (LEA's) and their partners to deliver the programs. It is not clear at this point whether any of the funding will be extended to private providers or schools.

FAANS: The Florida Association of Academic Non-public Schools met on March 19 to review current Florida legislation being considered in the Florida House and Senate. At the time of the meeting, there were 42 bills that might have some impact upon our independent schools. On the same day, the Florida State Board of Education was holding its meetings. FAANS has been actively working with Dr. Tony Bennett, the Commissioner of Education on the End of Course Exams (EOC's) that are being required of students entering their freshman year in 2012 in a public school. This applies to students who have completed credits in Algebra I, Biology, or Geometry in a private school and then transfer to a public school. Dr. Bennett has heard our concerns and is already providing means for private school students to take these assessments prior to attending the public schools. One alternative is the Post-secondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) which is available at local community colleges for a small fee. FLDOE will be establishing a passing score necessary on the P.E.R.T. to gain credit for these high school courses. In addition, Commissioner Bennett has contacted public schools and asked them to allow private school students to test before making the transfer to public schools.

Heads' Retreat: Please plan to join us for the 2013 Heads' Retreat on June 10-12 at the Hammock Beach Resort in Palm Coast. The program promises to be outstanding, and the retreat will provide a great time to network and to spend time with colleagues.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Setting High Standards for Independent Education for over 58 Years

Spring Symposium

Leadership Challenges April 22, 2013

In a continuing effort to provide FCIS schools with-up-to-date, relevant legal information and answers to those challenges facing our schools today, FCIS has offered several workshops and webinars this year. Chuck Loring, CFRE, MBA, Senior Partner for Loring, Sternberg & Associate and Senior Governance Associate for BoardSource, provided a program of valuable information to school heads, trustees, development directors and administrators. The morning program covered *Purposeful Boards - Powerful Fundraising* and *Strategic Thinking & Planning For Nonprofit Boards*.



The afternoon session was presented by Suzanne Bodgan, a partner with Fisher & Phillips law firm. Suzanne covered *Legal Issues: Claims filed by former students, "Truth in Lending Law"* and its impact on schools enrollment contracts.

Technology Workshop April 23, 2013

April 23 was an exciting day for 44 participants who attended an all-day technology workshop at Tampa Preparatory School. Felix Jacomino, Director of Technology at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Coconut Grove welcomed the group before dividing into different sessions which included:

Felix Jacomino, Director of Technology
St. Stephen's Episcopal School
Above and Beyond the 21st Century

Bryan Miller, Director of Educational Technology
Pine Crest School in Ft. Lauderdale
Nearpod'ize Your Classroom

James Riley, Math Instructor at Tampa Preparatory School
Flipping Your Classroom

Dr. Cindy Wilson-Hyde, IT Supervisor
Gulliver Schools
Every Picture Tells a Story: Using Digital Images in the Classroom

Special thanks to Kevin Plummer, Head of School, of Tampa Preparatory School for making his school available as a site for two days of professional development. We want to also thank Jillian Stanton, Assistant to Head of School, for coordinating all the arrangements for space and catering.

Heads' Luncheon Hosts

Thank you for hosting the
2013 Heads' Luncheon in your area.

- Tampa/St. Pete: Kevin Plummer, Tampa Preparatory School
- Orlando: Cindy Moon, Park Maitland School
- Jacksonville: Cathy Hardage, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School
- Tallahassee: Peter Klekamp, Holy Comforter Episcopal School
- Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale: Karen Feller, Donna Klein Jewish Academy
- Miami/Coral Gables: Greg Blackburn, Saint Philip's Episcopal School

Congratulations to our new FCIS
2012-2013
New School Candidate

The Mandelstam School
Dr. Patricia Booth
South Miami, FL

Certification Renewal

Florida Professional Certificates
expiring June 30, 2013

- 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.

Master Inservice Coordinator

All master inservice must be
Submitted by July 31, 2013

Please send all FCIS Certificate
of Completions to Keara Danger by US mail,
Fax, 813-286-3025 or email, kdanger@fcis.org.

Introducing - FCIS 21st Century Academy!

- **What?** 21st Century Teaching Academy—explores the question...how are we reaching students in today's classrooms?
- **When?** Wednesday, July 17, 9:00 a.m. —Friday, July 19, noon
- **Where?** All Saint's Academy, Winter Haven; room block at Hampton Inn of Winter Haven
- **Who?** Speakers include Saeed Arida, Felix Jacomino, Emmanuel Schanzer, CWRA, Susan Bearden, Alysa Nolen, Fielding Architects and more!
- **Cost?** Before May 15—\$355; hotel additional cost
- **Topics to include:** "How to teach creativity?", assessment methods for today's students, technology integration, use of classroom space for effective classroom collaboration and more!
- Details and registration information are now available on the web site!

VISNET—Re-enrollment for 2013-14

- VISNET membership fee for FCIS schools for the 2013-14 school year will remain the same! If you are a current VISNET member, details will be sent out soon.
- New members, go to fcis.vis-network.org/ or contact Karen at kmathews@fcis.org for additional information.



FCIS Workshops

Heads' Retreat
June 10-12, 2013
Hammock Beach Resort
Hammock Beach

Evaluation Academy
June 12-13, 2013
Hammock Beach Resort
Hammock Beach

**21st Century Teaching
Academy**
July 17-19, 2013
All Saints' Academy
Winter Haven

New Heads' Institute
July 25-27, 2013
Sheraton Sand Key
Clearwater

**Preparing for a Successful
Campaign**
July 27, 2013
Sheraton Sand Key
Clearwater

Administrators' Retreat
July 28-30, 2013
Sheraton Sand Key
Clearwater

2013 Convention
November 7-8, 2013
Hyatt Regency Airport
Orlando

New Teacher Institute
September 22-24, 2013
Mission Inn Resort
Howey-in-the-Hills

Winners of the 2013 DeWitt E. & Vera M. Hooker Grant \$5,000 Awarded!

At their April meeting, the FCIS Board of Directors voted to **increase** the Dewitt E. & Vera M. Hooker Grant amount from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

The \$5,000 was awarded to:

\$1,500 to Georgia Parker, Rita Kienle and Rylan Smith from Trinity Preparatory School for *Summer Learning Institute*
Workshop Dates: June 20-21, 2013
Trinity Preparatory School, Winter Park

\$2,500 to Courtney Walker from Shorecrest Preparatory School for *Makerspaces Make Innovative Schools and Students*

\$1,000 to Valerie Bostick from Gulliver Schools for *Crowding Out Stress: An E-book Study*

Other Workshops

FISBO/MISBO Annual Conference		
May 5-6	FL	www.m360.misbo.com
ISM Summer Institute		
June 23-July 20	VT	www.isminc.com/si
SSATB Annual Meeting		
Sept. 18-22	PA	www.admission.org

School News

Montverde Academy's Michael Megler, 8th grader, was named Florida National Geographic Bee Semifinalist. Congratulations! MVA's Upper/Middle School Computer Science instructor Matthew Parets was awarded the 2012-13 Florida High School Programming Series Coach of the Year. MVA's Upper School is excelling in Mathematics competitions. They are currently tied for 1st place in the nation in the Senior Division (Grades 9-12).



Michael Megler

On March 23, **Tampa Preparatory School's** Science Olympiad team competed in the State championship at UCF in Orlando. Tampa Prep competed in 23 academic events against forty-two teams from across the state. Prep placed second and earned a spot at Nationals. In February, the Tampa Prep Terrapin Red Robotics teams received the Excellence Award. The Excellence Award qualifies Tampa Prep for the VEX World Championships in Anaheim, California, in April.



Brian Reinhart, a 7th grader at **The Weiss School** in Palm Beach Gardens, won the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Over 130 finalists from area schools competed at St. Andrew's in Boca Raton. Brian won the bee after 19 rounds. The winning word was "agoraphobia". In May, Brian will be competing at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D. C.



Westminster Christian School student scientists have made school history by being the largest group of students to advance to the State Science Fair, from the eleven who competed at the Regional level, at one time. They are sophomores Gaby Argimon, Clint Chilson, and Christian Goodin; and freshmen Ashley Diaz and Tiana Fernandez. Congratulations!

On April 10, **Park Maitland School** celebrated Earth Day 2013 with a special garden-to-table program led by former graduate, Mindy Kobrin.



St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School won the Regional Latin Forum for the ninth year. Both individually and as a team, St. John's students excelled in competitions including sculpture, pottery, and mosaic, and academics such as geography, mythology, and grammar. Congratulations to St. John's Episcopal for earning 2nd place in the 2013 "Tampa Bay's Top Workplace" Competition!



Berkeley Preparatory School senior, Yunhan Xu '13, has been named one of approximately 550 semifinalists in the 2013 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The semifinalists were selected from more than 3,900 candidates on the basis of superior achievements, leadership qualities, personal character, and involvement in community and school activities.



The Out-of-Door Academy Lakewood Ranch senior, Brittany Wenger, has won a \$50,000 scholarship, a trip to the Galapagos Islands and an internship at a top company as the grand prize winner in Google's 2012 science fair. On April 21, Brittany was among 100 students from more than 40 states at the 2013 White House Science Fair, emceed by President Barack Obama. She was picked from among 5,000 students from more than 100 countries in the Google competition. Wenger created an artificial intelligence computer program that could potentially provide a cheaper and less invasive method to detect malignant breast tumors.



Bayshore Christian School honored Gee Gee Erickson who touched the lives of countless students over her 47 years of academic serve. Thank you Gee Gee and enjoy your retirement!

Do You Have School News?

Please send school news to Keara Danger at kdanger@fcis.org.



Accreditation Corner

By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation

Upcoming Events and Announcements from the FCIS Accreditation Office!

Workshops:

Summer Evaluation Academy for Heads of School

- June 12-13, 2013, following Annual Heads' Retreat
- Hammock Beach, Palm Coast
- Training for Heads who wish to serve as a Chair of an FCIS Accreditation team
- Contact Karen – kmathews@fcis.org for additional information

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

- Administrator's Retreat - July 28-30
- In-depth session available Monday afternoon
- Sand Key, Clearwater

November 2013—FCIS Convention

- Three sessions on “Preparing for an evaluation” and “Serving on a Team”

2013-14 Accreditation visits

- FCIS and FKC Chair information has been sent to Heads of School
- Please contact Chairs directly to schedule dates for evaluation
- **FCIS/FKC Review** evaluations—must be held between Sept. 30—Jan. 15, 2014
- It is **strongly** recommended that an administrator/Steering Committee Chair attend one of the above sessions as you prepare for your Five Year Evaluation
- Contact Karen at kmathews@fcis.org with any and all questions



Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

Mark Your Calendars-FKC Convention 2013

The World Is Our Playground

The Doubletree by Hilton @ SeaWorld
10100 International Drive, Orlando

Friday, October 11, 2013

6:30-8:00 Meet and Greet

Complimentary Beverages and Hors D'oeuvres

Saturday, October 12, 2013

7:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. General Meeting

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Sessions/Lunch