

# INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

Volume 02-14

Mar/April 2014

## Inside this issue

**Page 1**  
Executive Director Letter

**Page 2**  
Exec. Dir. Letter, con't  
Teachers

**Page 3**  
Certification/MIP  
Other Workshops  
FCIS Heads' Luncheons

**Page 4**  
Accreditation Corner  
FKC Corner

**Page 5**  
School News

**Page 6**  
VISNET  
Grant Winners

## Upcoming FCIS Events

**Heads' Retreat**  
June 9-11, 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

## from the executive director...

**NAIS:** The 2014 NAIS Annual Conference was held on February 26 through February 28 in Orlando, Florida. The theme was "Dare to Explore and Discover", connecting to the essence of Florida, a state founded by those who took risks to explore and discover new possibilities and a tradition that continues today as our Florida independent schools are always seeking new ways to prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The NAIS Conference began with a welcome reception at Epcot, with the evening being capped off by a fireworks show "IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth", again in keeping with the Conference theme. Having the NAIS Conference in Florida allowed several of our schools to be showcased. Student performances by Lake Highland Preparatory School, Oak Hall School, Saint Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton, and Berkeley Preparatory School opened each of the general sessions. Just prior to the introduction of the three speakers of the session Independent Matters, participants were treated to a "Virtual Welcome to Florida", featuring several of our schools. Special thanks go to Joanne Barrett of The Out-of-Door Academy, who coordinated this project.

The Conference included several outstanding presenters. The NAIS Independent Matters General Session featured Dr. Mae Jemison, a medical doctor, engineer, entrepreneur, college professor, author, and astronaut; Steve Pemberton, Chief Diversity Officer/Divisional Vice President for Walgreens and the author of *A Chance in the World*; and Jay Shuster, Production Designer at Pixar Animation Studios, best known for his work in 2011 *Cars 2*. Dr. Jemison has taken her many accomplishments and channeled her energies into exciting students about science. She is a living example of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) initiative. Steve Pemberton illustrated for the audience the need for educators and adults within a school to know their students and to be mindful of the signs of child abuse. Having lived in foster care from 3 years of age, he endured many years of physical abuse until the age of 17 when he took actions into his own hands to escape the system. Sadly, his teachers did not recognize the signs of that abuse, and he gives great credit to his surviving to an elderly neighbor

who befriended him and tried to help. Today, Steve Pemberton is a strong child advocate and motivational speaker. Jay Shuster gave the audience a peek into the life of a Pixar creator and what happens behind the scenes of award-winning animation productions. Jay gives credence to the rise of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), in our independent schools.

**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 state testing programs, impact of charter schools on independent schools, high school athletics, choice initiatives, dual enrollment, tax dollars being spent for capital improvements in private schools, and early education. All representatives agreed upon the importance of advocacy to protect private and independent schools from state regulation; all concluded that it is the responsibility of each individual school to take a part in advocacy.

**FAANS:** The Florida Association of Academic Non-public Schools met on March 18 to review current Florida legislation being considered in the Florida House and Senate. In the waning days of the 2013 Legislative Session, the burden for funding dual enrollment courses shifted from colleges and universities to public school districts and even private schools. SB 924/HB 981 could help restore dual enrollment access to all students without the heavy financial burden. HB 7069 proposes to strengthen health and safety checks for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Programs (VPK). This bill would require that providers allow basic health and safety inspections by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). FAANS representatives discussed SB 1620/HB 7099, the initiative to expand the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship. There has been discussion in the Legislature to require state standardized testing of those schools receiving those scholarships. FAANS representatives voted to present a position statement opposing state standardized testing to the Legislature. All representatives with the exception of one, who chose to abstain, voted to support that position; the position statement was hand delivered to the Legislature.

## *from the executive director...con't*

June 11

Another key legislative item discussed at FAANS was one of the amendments passed by the 2013 Florida Legislature in Senate Bill 1108 making changes to the process for the renewal of professional teaching certificates. Beginning July 1, 2014, any teacher renewing a professional certificate must earn at least one college credit or 20 inservice points in teaching students with disabilities. The number of college credits hours (6) or inservice points (120) to renew a certificate remains unchanged.

**Heads' Retreat:** Please plan to join us for the 2014 Heads' Retreat on June 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs. Due to his outstanding reviews at the 2013 FCIS Annual Convention, Richard Honach will be joining us on

as the keynote speaker for that day. The retreat will not only provide great professional development, but also an opportunity to network and to spend time with colleagues.

**New Heads' Institute:** For any newly appointed head or any head new to Florida, this is an event not to be missed! The 2014 New Heads' Institute, a part of the Dale D. Regan Leadership Institute, will be held on July 24-26 at the Marriott Hotel on Hutchison Island. Come and make new connections as speakers from Florida and across the United States explore the topics that support healthy schools in Florida— admissions, financial sustainability, legal issues, Florida athletics, Florida legislature, marketing and fundraising.

*Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.*  
Executive Director

## 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](http://www.brockport.edu/rocreformtrail)

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**The FCR-STEM Conference 2014** — Florida's premier event for K-12 science and math teachers, school administrators and university faculty — is now accepting registrations for this year's gathering, **May 28-30 in Fort Lauderdale.**

Learn more about the FCR-STEM Conference — the largest of its kind in Florida — and register at <http://conference.fcstem.org/>.

The FCR-STEM Conference offers more than 60 unique sessions to stimulate thinking across a broad range of subject areas and grade levels:

- Learn about teaching tools and free resources with practical application in the classroom.
- Enhance your knowledge of STEM-related topics.
- Learn the lessons of Lesson Study.
- Meet top experts producing cutting-edge discoveries and research findings.

Space is limited — sign up now to save \$75 with Early Bird Registration (**\$395**, plus \$7.75 if paying by credit card). Rates go up after April 15.

## Certification Renewal

### Florida Professional Certificates expiring June 30, 2014

- Renew online at [www.fldoe.org/edcert](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert)
- Contact Keara Danger, [kdanger@fcis.org](mailto:kdanger@fcis.org), to submit your master inservice to the DOE on the CT-116.

## Other Workshops

ISM  
[www.ismine.com/si](http://www.ismine.com/si) — Summer Institute  
June 23-July 20, Utah

MISBO  
[www.m360.misbo.com](http://www.m360.misbo.com)—Business Officers Conference  
May 4-5, The Pine School in Stuart

SSATB  
[www.admission.org](http://www.admission.org) — Annual Meeting  
Sept. 17-20, Orlando

## New Florida State Certification Requirement

The Department of Education has issued a new rule for ALL those renewing or reinstating a Florida Professional Certificate.

Here is an outline of the renewal and reinstatement requirements.

- Anyone renewing a state professional certificate after July 1, 2014, will be required to obtain one college credit or 20 in-service points in the area of teaching students with disabilities (SWD). This will not add to total already required (six semester hours/120 in-service points). Example: 100 master in-service points and 20 SWD master in-service points
- No one is exempt from meeting the requirement. It does not matter what you are certified in, whether or not you are teaching, what subject you are teaching, or what your degree major is in.
- A National Board certificate in Exceptional Needs Specialist - Early Childhood through Young Adult can be used to satisfy the requirement.
- A passing score on the Florida Subject Area Exam in Exceptional Student Education, Hearing Impairment, Visually Impaired, or Speech-Language Impaired can be used provided it was taken during the validity period of the professional certificate being renewed.
- If your certificate expires on June 30, 2014, or June 30, 2105, you will NOT need to meet the new requirement during this renewal period provided the renewal application and fee are submitted by June 30, 2014, and provided you have met renewal requirements by June 30, 2014. You can not submit your application and fee to renew unless all points are posted or you have your official transcript showing the completed college credit.

## Heads' Luncheon Hosts

Thank you for hosting the 2014 Heads' Luncheon in your area.

**Tallahassee Area:** Bill Jablon  
Maclay School

**Miami Area:** Sr. Suzanne Cooke  
Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart

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

**West Palm Beach:** Nammie Ichilov  
Arthur I Meyer Jewish Academy

**Jacksonville Area:** Cathy Hardage  
St. Mark's Episcopal School

**Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas:** Bob Fine  
Admiral Farragut Academy

## ***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

On April 8th, **Oak Hall School** welcomed a delegation of eleven students and adults from Qalqilya, a Palestinian city in the West Bank. The students enjoyed home stays with some of their families and took part in school activities. This relationship with educators in Israel and Palestine took fourteen years of effort. Congratulations Oak Hall!



On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, twenty-five 7th and 8th graders from **St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School** headed to Orlando to compete in the Florida Junior Classical League and Classical Association of Florida's State Latin Forum. The students were eager to defend their title and bring home the championship for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, especially since they had successfully defended their regional title for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row in February.



“We are elated to win the state championship for the fourth year in a row,” said Headmaster Gordon Rode.

**Community School of Naples** students have qualified as Finalists for the 2014 National Merit Scholarship. Congratulations to Dylan Curvey, Pierce Gleeson, Zita Prutos and Cianan Roden-Corrent. CSN's sophomore Ivan Wang has qualified to take the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME). A successful score on the AIME leads to participation in the USA Mathematical Olympiad. Ivan was also awarded a Certificate of Achievement as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader because he qualified by taking the AMC-12



(American Math Contest for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders).

**St. Joseph's Episcopal School's** middle school students' celebrate National Pi Day.



**Palm Beach Day Academy** has earned national certification as a Nature Explore Classroom from Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and the Arbor Day Foundation. This allows PBDA to network with other organizations and institutions that have created effective nature-based outdoor learning environments for children.

**All Saints' Academy** Boys' Tennis Team won Districts in a straight sweep of the tournament! Both singles and doubles players walked away with wins, most ending with a score of 6-0. Congratulations to Nelson Hughes, Miguel Negre, Holleman Hughes, Aldo Gomez, and Tyler Pate (Bright House Sports Network Athlete of the Week) for their valiant effort on the court this season.

**Glades Day School** welcomed their FCIS/FKC Five-Year Evaluation team, March 2-4, 2014.



## NAIS Annual Conference, Orlando Feb. 26-28, 2014



Saint Stephen's Episcopal School, Bradenton



Dr. Barbara Hodges and Steve Pemberton, author of *A Chance in the World*



Diane Jones from St. Andrews at the NAIS Disney Program of Global Citizenship



Berkeley Preparatory School, Tampa



**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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/](http://fcis.vis-network.org/) or contact Tam at [tnguyen@fcis.org](mailto:tnguyen@fcis.org) for additional information.

## 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

## Winners of the 2014 DeWitt E. & Vera M. Hooker Grant \$4,900 Awarded!

\$1,000 to Terry Kent and Debbie Rogers from  
Riverside Presbyterian Day School for  
*Got Code? Powerful Curriculum to Fuel  
the Future!*

\$1,200 to Amy Brill from Shorecrest Preparatory  
School for *iPad Digital Storytelling  
with Stop Motion Animation*

\$1,200 to Christina Liu from Lake Mary  
Preparatory for *Think Tank: A STEAM  
Innovation and Creativity*

\$1,500 to Lori Maschke and Matt Jansen from  
Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart for  
*Tinkering Towards Growth*