

# INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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## Upcoming FCIS Events

### 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 Harbour Marriott,  
Fort Myers

### ISM Enrollment Workshop

July 28, 2015  
Sanibel Harbour Marriott,  
Fort Myers

## from the executive director...

The close of a school year always brings the opportunities to reflect on the past year and to look forward to the upcoming year. The 2014-15 school year has been a good year for FCIS. We were fortunate in bringing onboard two new staff members, Melissa Alton and Alison Carlson, and I believe that their work has richly benefited our member schools, along with the work of Keara and Tam who have been in the FCIS Office for quite a few years.

This past year brought new resources to our member schools. First, our Master-Inservice Program went online, facilitating the documentation of faculty inservice points directly impacting teacher certification. Second, in partnership with NAIS, the FCIS annual report was collected through DASL (Data Analysis for School Leadership). As a result, all FCIS schools, not just NAIS members, are able to access data, giving schools the opportunity to make informed decisions to promote school sustainability. In addition, FCIS continued to deliver professional development programs to foster the growth of administrators, faculty, and staff. The 2014 FCIS Convention drew a record number of participants, with glowing evaluations of the impact of the keynote speakers and sessions, not to mention the many institutes, workshops, and webinars offered throughout the year.

The 2015-16 school year looks just as promising. First, FCIS has spent the past year studying trends in accreditation and standards among the 19 accrediting associations that make up the NAIS Commission on Accreditation. This research will allow FCIS to move forward in the coming year with revising standards and the accreditation process, paying close attention to the opportunity for the accreditation process to drive school improvement. Next, FCIS is looking toward additional means of using technology to serve our member schools. We are in the process of redesigning the FCIS website with enhanced capabilities; our new website should be ready in the early Fall. Also, our staff is in the design phase of creating a mobile app, which will be debuted during the annual convention. To continue that theme, FCIS is exploring new means of using technology to facilitate the accreditation process. In the area of professional development, we will continue to develop the Leadership Institute in

an effort to train leaders for the future of our schools, as well as preparing experienced leaders to face the challenges ahead. In all of our endeavors, FCIS will continue to strive to meet its mission of "promoting the highest standards for PK-12 education through its accreditation process, professional development programming, and advocacy efforts".

**CAPE.** The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) has released a revised version of the 2013 *Parent and Family Involvement in Education* report. The findings support that a family's option to choose their child's school results in higher satisfaction than parents whose children are assigned to a public school. In a survey conducted in 2011-12, 81 percent of private school parents reported being "very satisfied", as compared with 56 percent of public school parents and 62 percent of parents with children going to a public school of choice, such as a charter or magnet school.

### Tallahassee.

The 2015 Florida Legislative Session was dominated by the issues of Medicaid expansion, water conservation, and land acquisition. During the last week of Session, the House and Senate were \$4 billion apart on the health care budget; negotiations came to a halt, and the House adjourned early leaving the Senate in Session. This early adjournment of the House impacted the passage of several bills being followed by FCIS. SB 874 - Dual Enrollment, which would have clarified that private schools should not be assessed when their students take dual enrollment courses, died on the calendar. SB 1480 - FHSAA bill, which would have impacted their governance, died in Committee. SB 7006 - Early Learning, which would have addressed health, safety, and sanitation, died in Committee.

**FCIS.** It is not too early to plan to attend the FCIS Annual Convention on November 4-6, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport. Plan to bring your entire faculty for Faculty Day on November 6. As you have seen in the flyers, the line-up of speakers is outstanding! For more information, go to [www.fcis.org](http://www.fcis.org).

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

## Certification Renewal

### Florida Professional Certificates expiring June 30, 2015

- 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  
Summer Institute  
June 21-July 22, 2015  
Wilmington, DE  
[www.isminc.com](http://www.isminc.com)

SSATB  
Annual Meeting  
Sept. 16-19, 2015  
Red Rock Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, NV  
[www.admission.org](http://www.admission.org)

NAIS  
Annual Conference  
February 26-28, 2016  
San Francisco, CA  
[www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org)

## Facebook & Twitter

Like us on Facebook.

Follow us on Twitter @FCISnews.

## What's Happening at Your School?

Send your school news to Keara Danger, [kdanger@fcis.org](mailto:kdanger@fcis.org). FCIS would like to feature your school in the bi-monthly newsletter, on Facebook or on Twitter.

## DASL

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



# FCIS Heads' Retreat

## June 14-16, 2015

### South Seas Island Resort, Captiva Island

In June, we welcomed 54 Heads of School to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heads' Retreat on Captiva Island. At the Welcome Reception, Tony Paulus was recognized for his years of service to FCIS. Tony was the Head at Canterbury School for seven years and served on the FCIS Board of Directors for five years, including positions as Vice President and former chairman of the FCIS Accreditation Commission. Best wishes to Tony for many years of joyful retirement!

At this year's retreat, the theme was *Leading into the Future with Strategy and Influence*. Featured speakers were Donna Orem, Chief Operating Officer, National Association for Independent Schools (NAIS), and Allan Calarco, Global Solutions Faculty Member and Executive Coach, Center for Creative Leadership. In her session *Building and Nurturing the Board Your School Needs in a Time of Change*, Donna Orem outlined the characteristics of high-performing boards and offered a roadmap for driving a board to peak performance. She also shared some case studies of real-life governance conundrums and examined some new models for governance that have great potential for building more effective boards. The following day, Allan Calarco presented his session, *The Art of Leading Change: Influencing through the Dotted Line*, in which he discussed the challenges of leadership in the context of the current rate of change. He emphasized how important it is for leaders to understand how to engage their team, lead the "business", influence/persuade others, and understand the barriers that block change and the boundaries they must span in order to become successful in change processes. Heads found the workshops relevant, engaging and thought-provoking.

Heads seemed energized by their time spent examining leadership topics and networking with each other. On Tuesday, spouses were invited to a poolside chat to share conversation and enjoy the beautiful resort facilities. On Tuesday evening, there was a great turnout at the family barbecue, and with so many kids the playful atmosphere provided lots of entertainment.

Special thanks to the South Seas Island Resort for their outstanding service and delicious food.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 2016 Heads' Retreat on June 13-15, 2016, at the Naples Grande Beach Resort!



Allan Calarco



Donna Orem



FCIS Family Barbeque



# School News

On May 4, Hollywood legend LeVar Burton visited **Brandon Academy**. Mr. Burton of *Roots*, Reading Rainbow and *Star Trek* read to elementary students through the Reading Rainbow program and spoke to middle school students about their studies of slavery and the Civil War in relation to his historic role in "Roots".



**Carrollwood Day School** broke ground on the school's first gymnasium on May 15. The new 25,000 square foot gymnasium will include two full size basketball courts, three volleyball courts, and a state-of-the-art weight room. CDS athletes earned first place academic team honors for every athletic season this year, and CDS was named the 2014/2015 Overall FHSAA Class 3A Academic Team Champions.



**Saint Joseph's Episcopal School's** Academy of the Arts presented "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," directed by Becky Cleveland, to area schools and the community, April 29-May 1.

Throughout the school year **Jacksonville Country Day School** (JCDS) raised over \$1000 to benefit local and national charities through a faculty ran Jeans For Charity campaign, along with involvement in the Ronald McDonald House donation. Congratulations!

Congratulations to **All Saints Academy** students, P. Pala, K. Jones, C. Curran, A. Kirkpatrick and R. Padgett (alternate), for breaking the school record in the 4x100 relay! The girls set the new record at 55.58.



**Community School of Naples'** Director of Athletic Operations, Col. Bart W. Weiss, is one of only six 2015 inductees to the United States Air Force Academy Hall of Fame. Col. Weiss graduated from the Academy in 1986, and was the conference football offensive player of the year in 1985 as well as a first-team all-conference selection.

CSN's T. Chur (9th) and R. DeVito (10th), spent the better part of this semester collecting all kinds of used sports equipment. They called their campaign Rerun Sports. The donated equipment will be given over the summer to a variety of organizations in Collier County. A CSN Middle School team, composed of 6th graders, J. Hochman and C. Askar, submitted the most efficient bridge design in the nation in the Middle School division of the Engineering Encounter's Bridge Design Contest. Their bridge design, developed from an assignment in their technology class, was the best bridge submitted by the 1,933 middle school teams registered on the contest web site (<https://bridgecontest.org/>).



## Congratulations to Our New FCIS 2014-2015 Accredited Schools

**Academy Prep Center of Tampa**  
Tampa

Head of School: Lincoln Tamayo

**Calvary Christian High School**  
Clearwater

Head of School: David Kilgore

**The Master's Academy**  
Oviedo

Head of School: Dr. William Harris

**Temple Beth Am Day School**  
Pinecrest

Head of School: Dr. Deborah Starr

# FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming professional development opportunities.

## 2015-2016

<p><b>New Heads' Institute</b> July 23-25, 2015 Sanibel Harbour Marriott, Fort Myers</p> <p><b>Fundraising Workshop</b> July 25, 2015 Sanibel Harbour Marriott, Fort Myers</p> <p><b>Administrators' Retreat</b> July 26-28, 2015 Sanibel Harbor Marriott, Fort Myers</p> <p><b>ISM Enrollment</b> July 28, 2015 Sanibel Harbour Marriott, Fort Myers</p> <p><b>New Teacher Institute</b> September 20-22, 2015 Mission Inn Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills</p>	<p><b>Governance Workshop</b> October 4-5, 2015 Hyatt Orlando Airport</p> <p><b>FCIS Pre-Conference: ISM</b> November 4, 2015 Hyatt Orlando Airport</p> <p><b>FCIS Annual Convention</b> November 4-6, 2015 Hyatt Orlando Airport</p> <p><b>FCIS Post-Conference: Christian Long, WONDER (by Design)</b> November 4, 2015 Hyatt Orlando Airport</p> <p><b>Prospective Heads' Institute I, II &amp; III</b> January 13-14, 2016 Mission Inn Resort, Howey-in-the-Hills</p>	<p><b>Academy for High Performing Educators</b> January 24-26, 2016 Corbett Prep at IDS, Tampa</p> <p><b>Winter Symposium: Finance and Legal Workshop</b> February 2, 2016 <b>Technology Workshop</b> February 3, 2016 Pine Crest, Ft Lauderdale</p> <p><b>Evaluation Academy</b> February 17, 2016 Lake Highland Preparatory, Orlando</p> <p><b>Heads' Retreat</b> June 13-15, 2016 Naples Grande Beach Resort, Naples</p>	<p><b>Evaluation Academy</b> June 15-16, 2016 Naples Grande Beach Resort, Naples</p> <p><b>FCIS 21st Century Learning Academy</b> June 22-24, 2016 Corbett Prep at IDS, Tampa</p> <p><b>New Heads' Institute</b> July 21-23, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort &amp; Spa</p> <p><b>Fundraising Workshop</b> July 23, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort &amp; Spa</p> <p><b>Administrators' Retreat</b> July 24-26, 2016 Jupiter Beach Resort &amp; Spa</p>
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## Accreditation Corner

*By: Melissa Alton, Director of Accreditation*

**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](mailto:tnguyen@fcis.org) or by calling (813) 287-2820.

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*If your school has an evaluation in school year 2015-2016:*

- All schools have been assigned a chairperson for their upcoming 2015-2016 evaluation. If you did not receive a letter disclosing the name of your Chair, contact the FCIS Office.
- Please be sure to schedule your evaluation dates with your assigned chairperson, if you have not already done so. Once the dates are set, please notify Melissa Alton ([malton@fcis.org](mailto:malton@fcis.org)).
- Do not hesitate to contact the FCIS Office with any questions about your upcoming evaluation, required documents, preparing your self-study, etc. We are here to help!