

# INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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## Upcoming FCIS Events

**Administrators' Retreat**  
July 29-31, 2012  
Hyatt, Bonita Springs

**Federal Reserve Bank of  
Atlanta-Miami Branch**  
Sept. 20-21, 2012  
Miami

**New Teacher Institute**  
Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2012  
Canterbury Retreat, Oviedo

**Convention 2012**  
Nov. 7-9, 2012  
Hyatt Regency, Orlando

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

## from the executive director...

How quickly the 2011-12 school year has passed! I know we all agree that this has been a very busy year! Traveling across our state, I was able to welcome 18 new heads of school to FCIS, as I conducted the FCIS Change of Heads' Evaluation visits. I am thankful for the new talent that is being drawn to this important work in our state. I have continued my work with member school boards of trustees and have had the opportunity to work with boards of six different schools in various workshops. I have found being the FCIS Executive Director exhilarating, and I am already dreaming of new ways to help our schools in the future.

Our FCIS Professional Development Calendar has expanded significantly over the past year. I hope that your school has been able to take advantage of some of the opportunities offered. In addition to all of our face to face workshops, this year we added webinars, which drew large numbers of our member schools. Suzanne Bogdan, a labor attorney with Fisher and Phillips, was the featured speaker during our webinar series on five legal topics identified by our members as their top concerns. During the webinars, Suzanne and I dialogued on selected legal topics and the impact on our schools; it definitely kept me on my toes. I am so appreciative to Suzanne for donating her time and resources to present this series at no charge to our member schools. If you missed any of the webinars, they are recorded and stored on the heads' portal on the FCIS website. In addition, the FCIS Office produced webinars on financial standards and on governance standards. Along with our Heads' Retreat, Administrators' Retreat, New Teacher Institute, and Annual Convention, FCIS presented workshops on social media, google apps, flipping the classroom, use of mobile devices in the classroom, human resource issues, crisis management and security, and the use of iPads.

Last week, we hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Heads' Retreat in Naples. The theme was "The Head as a Change Agent" and featured speakers, Pat Bassett, the President of NAIS, and Dr. Anabel Jensen, President and Co-Founder of Six Seconds, The Emotional Intelligence Network and a full professor and department

chair at Notre Dame de Namur University. Mark your calendar now for the next Heads' Retreat which will be held June 10-12, 2013 at the Hammock Beach Resort in Palm Coast.

**TALLAHASSEE.** HB 1403 was signed into law in April by Governor Rick Scott. The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) met on June 11 and 12 for their regularly scheduled board meeting and addressed some of the changes that this particular law will require. Bylaw revisions, as required by the new law and approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors, may be found on the FHSAA website.

**CAPE.** During this past legislative season, several states have expanded their school choice programs. Some of the significant changes have occurred in Louisiana, Arizona, Mississippi, and New Hampshire. Louisiana approved providing vouchers to students in schools that received a letter grade of C, D, or F. In addition, the Louisiana State Legislature approved a bill that would give tax rebates to individuals and corporations who donated to school tuition organizations. In Arizona, the legislature approved a bill that would expand the practice of the state making contributions to an account that could be accessed by parents of disabled students to include the same benefits to parents with students in low performing schools to attend their school of choice. Mississippi signed legislation that would expand educational options for dyslexic students, while New Hampshire increased the cap on corporate tax contributions that could be made to organizations granting student scholarships.

**NAIS.** The *Stats Online Survey* to input school data will officially open on August 20. In order for FCIS to have the most accurate data and statistics, it is very important for all of our schools to complete this survey, so please start planning ahead.

**FCIS.** Mark your calendars now:

**August 6-10:** Brian Based Communications & Questioning Strategies

**September 15, 2012:** Annual Reports Due to the FCIS Office.

**September 30 – October 2:** New Teacher Institute

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

# School News

Congratulations to **Maclay School's** Jasper Brey for being a 2012 recipient of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program's Teacher Recognition Award. The Maclay Senior TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science) team took first place in the Big Bend /North Florida Regional JETS/TEAMS Competition. This is our third year in a row to come in first and the 6th time in 7 years.

On May 17th, **Park Maitland School** held an assembly where they were recognized as the first "Healthy 100" school in Orange County and one of the first "Fit & Friendly" school in the nation. At the assembly Tania Chouljian, school nurse, was presented the inaugural Magnus Health ASHE Award for Achievement in School Health Excellence. Congratulations Tania!

Congratulations to **Gulliver School's** engineering students. They were invited by the State Department to represent the United States in Brazil at the United Nations clean water and air convention.

**The Cushman School** hosted Chinese students in April as part of an ongoing exchange program. Tang Sizhuo, a student at The Affiliated Elementary School of Hunan University, Changsha, Hunan, China, performed a dance with very long sleeves, at the Cushman School.



**St. Mary's Episcopal Day School** was recently named Tampa Bay's Top Work Place 2012 by the Tampa Bay Times. This is the third consecutive year St. Mary's was recognized as Tampa Bay's Top Workplace. Employees nominated their employers and were surveyed about several topics, including practices and policies that make these companies the top places to work. The companies were ranked based on leadership, compensation and training, workplace flexibility, and diversity.

Congratulations to **The Bolles School** seniors, Emily Keator and Shan Choudhri who have been awarded scholarships in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Bolles School swept the Class 4A Private School classification in the final 2011-12 Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup All-Sports Awards point standings, finishing atop the overall, boys, and girls categories. This marks the 17th year Bolles has won the Sunshine Cup, earning the award for 11 consecutive years from 1995-2005 and again from 2007-12. Congratulations!

**St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School**, Tampa, won the State Latin Forum for the second year in a row. Congratulations to teachers D.J. Holt, Rob Conn and twenty-five St. John's 7th and 8th graders!



Congratulations to **Tampa Preparatory School's** Rebecca Jacobsen, who was recognized as a National Merit Finalist this year.

**Hendricks Day School** of Jacksonville has announced Dr. Linda Johnson as Head of School effective July 1, 2012. Congratulations Linda!

Congratulations to Brittany Wenger, 10th grader at **The Out-of-Door Academy** who has been selected as one of 15 finalists in the Google Science Fair. After being selected as one of the 90 regional finalists, Brittany's project was chosen out of all the age categories from around the world as top 15! Brittany created a computer program that detects breast cancer.

**Montverde Academy** 9th grader Ciara "Pepper" Hopkins won the 15-19 year old Female division St. Anthony's Triathlon in St. Petersburg, April 29. Ciara set a new course record by 10 seconds and qualified for the U.S. Olympic Distance Championship. MVA students, parents, faculty, and staff donated secondhand eyeglasses to help the mission of local ophthalmological practice Hunter Vision and TIME Ministries in acquiring donated glasses for individuals in need currently living in developing countries.



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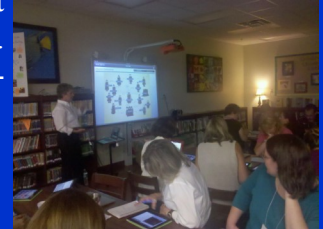
**The Village School** would like to produce an internet choir of FCIS students singing a patriotic song for Memorial Day, 2013. This exciting venture will have all students combined in a mass choir singing under the conductor, Linda Swears. Each participating school will receive a CD and the music of the selected song in September. The plan is that the students will learn the song and record it at their school while watching our conductor online. Then the IT department will combine the recordings of the schools into one choir and post to the internet. The Village School would like FCIS schools to join in this fun way of celebrating America. Information will be mailed to your school or please contact Debbie Martin at The Village School.

## Apple Workshop

May 3, 2012—Pine Crest, Ft. Lauderdale

May 11, 2012—All Saints' Academy, Winter Haven

We want to thank Pine Crest School in Ft. Lauderdale and All Saints' Academy in Winter Haven for hosting a series of workshops on classroom use of the newest iPad apps. Twenty-four schools were represented at the 4 training sessions, which provided hands-on experiences with the latest technology. Apps for kindergarten through upper school were demonstrated and used by all who attended. Subject areas included language arts, math, biology, social studies, art and general science. We hope to continue our partnership with Apple and bring more of these workshops to other parts of the state.



## Coming in the Fall!

### FCIS and The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta — Miami Branch Present Two Information Workshops!

FCIS and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Miami Branch, located in Doral will partner to present two informative, relevant and very affordable workshops – one for elementary teachers and one for middle and high school teachers. Teaching students to survive and thrive in the challenging economy that faces them is more important today than ever before. They live in a culture that advertises \$275 sneakers, \$300 jeans, Smart phones, skiing trips and vacation homes! As adults, they will also face rising prices, mortgage payments, credit ratings and a challenging job market. Establishing sensible goals and learning to make informed decisions will give them a definite advantage as adults.

The program for elementary teachers will include: “The Kids Guide to Money”, how to make choices when resources are limited, supply and demand, learning to budget, the importance of saving, using money for ‘needs’, ‘wants’ and understanding the difference. There will be free resources, information, activities and lesson plans for kindergarten through grade 5.

The program for middle and high school teachers will cover: savings, investments, living on a budget, economic indicators, obtaining credit, identity theft, goal setting, checking & savings accounts and other personal finance concepts.

Both programs will provide lesson plans and free resources. A presentation on the structure and functions of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta with a guided tour of the cash department promises you to “Show you the money”. This workshop will include a light breakfast and lunch at the bank.

#### **Elementary Teachers**

Thursday, September 20, 2012

9:15am to 2:15pm

9100 NW 36th, Miami, FL 33178

\$30.00 Registration Fee

#### **Middle and High School Teachers**

Friday, September 21

9:15am to 2:15pm

9100 NW 36th, Miami, FL 33178

\$30.00 Registration Fee

## Heads' Retreat June 19-21, 2012 Waldorf Astoria, Naples

The beautiful Waldorf Astoria Naples was the setting for this year's Heads' Retreat. Forty-nine Heads and 17 spouses were there for a few days of relaxation, professional development, camaraderie, and great food! New and "nearly new" heads were recognized at the opening dinner on Tuesday night. Later in the evening, three distinguished and well-loved retiring heads, Dr. John Trainer, Sally Lott and Dr. Joan Lutton, were honored for their long time service to their schools and to FCIS.

Wednesday morning, Pat Bassett, President of NAIS, gave a thought-provoking presentation entitled "Change Agency Leadership". Throughout the morning, there was an interesting exchange of questions, ideas, and opinions. During this time, a group of spouses met to share their stories and experiences from the past school year. In the afternoon, several heads and spouses played golf, others went to the pool or the beach, and some chose to continue the conversations that began in the workshop.

Thursday morning, Dr. Anabel Jensen, President and CEO of "Six Seconds, The Emotional Intelligence Network" continued the discussion on 'Change'. This hands-on session focused on the importance of passion, commitment, enthusiasm and courage as leaders model the behaviors we hope to encourage. Using humor, life experience, and research, Dr. Jensen shared her vision for enacting change.

Mark your calendars for next summer's Heads' Retreat: June 10-12, 2012 at the beautiful Hammock Beach Resort in Palm Coast, just south of St. Augustine.



Congratulations to Jim Hoye, Good Shepherd Episcopal. Jim was presented the FCIS Golf Trophy by Dr. Hodges and Jim Young.



### Accreditation Corner

*By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation*

#### Accreditation Workshop

If your school is scheduled for an accreditation visit in 2012-13 or 2013-14, FCIS recommends that an administrator attend the Administrator's Retreat.

**What?** A session entitled, "Preparing Your School for an FCIS Evaluation"

**When?** Monday afternoon during the Administrator's Retreat - July 29-31

**Where?** Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs

In addition, if you would like to schedule an on-campus session with Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation, please e-mail Karen at [kmathews@fcis.org](mailto:kmathews@fcis.org). (Travel expenses are paid by the school.)

**Please check the FCIS web site in July for up to date  
self-study templates and forms.  
[www.fcis.org](http://www.fcis.org), accreditation**



# Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

## FKC Convention 2012

Friday, October 12, 2012  
6:30pm-8:00pm Meet and Greet

Saturday, October 13, 2012  
8:00am -3:30pm Convention



Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Orlando  
60 South Ivanhoe Blvd



**Guest Speaker: Bena Kallick, Habits of Mind**

Bena Kallick is well known for her work in curriculum, instruction and assessment with an organizational focus on change. Her publications with a focus on thinking and the habits of mind include: Assessment in the Learning Organization, Assessment Strategies for Self-Directed Learning, Learning and Leading with Habits of Mind, and Habits of Mind Across the Curriculum (all co-authored with Art Costa).

For the new **FKC Health and Safety Standards** go to  
[www.fkconline.org](http://www.fkconline.org) after July 1st.

### Congratulations to our new FKC Schools

**Coconut Grove Montessori School**  
Damaris Velarde and Maria Arenchibia  
Co-Headmistresses, Coconut Grove

**Trinity Christian School**  
Dennis Redstone, Head of School  
Lighthouse Point

### Congratulations to our new FCIS Schools

Accredited Schools  
**Miami Shores Presbyterian Church School**  
Karen Boyd, Head of School  
Miami Shores

**Pinnacle Academy**  
Kirstina Ordetx, Director  
Bradenton

New School Candidate  
**Oxbridge Academy**  
Robert Parsons, CEO  
West Palm Beaches

## WORKSHOPS

### FCIS

Administrators' Retreat	July 29 - 31	Bonita Springs
Preparing Your School for a FCIS Evaluation	July 30	Bonita Springs
New Teacher Institute	Sept 30 - Oct 2	Oviedo
Convention 2012	Nov. 7 - 9	Orlando

[www.fcis.org](http://www.fcis.org)

### FHSAA Compliance Summer Workshops

West Broward High School	Aug. 9	Pembroke Pines
Winter Spring High School	Aug. 10	Winter Springs

[www.fhsaa.org](http://www.fhsaa.org)

### NAIS

Annual Conference 2013	Feb. 27 - Mar. 1	Philadelphia
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[www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org)

### SSATB

Annual Meeting	Sept. 19 - 22	Chicago
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[www.admission.org](http://www.admission.org)

### SSS By NAIS

Financial Aid Conference	Nov. 13-14	Baltimore
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[www.sss.nais.org](http://www.sss.nais.org)

### Master Inservice Coordinator

**All master inservice must be Submitted by July 31, 2012**