

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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Upcoming FCIS Events

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

New Heads' Institute
July 25-27, 2013
Clearwater

Fundraising in the 21st
Century
July 27, 2013
Clearwater

Administrators' Retreat
July 28-30, 2013
Clearwater

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

from the executive director...

It is hard to believe that we have completed yet another school year. The 2012-13 school year seemed to fly by faster than ever; possibly, because we have all been engaged in seeking new ways to provide programming to better serve our students. I am finishing three years as the FCIS Executive Director, and this past year has given me many more opportunities to work with our schools. Traveling around the state, I was able to welcome 20 news heads of school to FCIS, as I conducted FCIS Change of Head Evaluations. I have continued my work in independent school governance and was able to work with seven individual schools, as well as conducting webinars and workshops on the same topic. In addition, I have been able to celebrate with some of our schools their newest accomplishments and completion of building projects. With all of those activities, I have now had the pleasure of visiting 105 of our 158 schools. This work is invigorating, and I am inspired by the incredible things our schools are doing to serve children.

Once again, our FCIS Professional Development Calendar has expanded; our summer offerings are now more diverse, reaching a larger audience to serve our independent school needs. Those summer events now include our annual Heads' Retreat, the FCIS Evaluation Academy, the new 21st Century Teaching Academy, our first FCIS New Heads' Institute, a workshop "Fundraising in the 21st Century", and our annual Administrators' Retreat.

On June 10-12, 42 Heads gathered for the 21st Annual Heads' Retreat in Palm Coast. The theme was "Leadership for the Road Ahead". Featured speakers included Donna Orem, Chief Operating Officer for the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and Dr. Sanford Shugart, President of Valencia College. Both speakers were outstanding, the venue was beautiful, and the Heads seemed to especially enjoy their time with each other. It is not too early to mark your calendar for the 2014 Heads' Retreat on June 9-11, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Spa and Resort in Bonita Springs.

TALLAHASSEE. The 2013 Florida Legislative Session saw 42 bills related to schools, more than typical of past sessions. Through the help of our lobbyist, Brenda Dickinson, and your support, as well as my presence in Tallahassee, we were successful on several legislative fronts. Key bills impacting private schools that passed included CS/SB 284 Emergency Notification, CS/HB 7129 Residential Services for Children which impacts our boarding schools, CS/HB 7165 Early Learning, and SB 1076, which eliminates End of Course Exams (EOC's) for all private school students transferring into public schools, with the exception of Algebra I. In addition, HB1279/SB 1164 Extracurricular Activities and FHSAA did not pass.

CAPE. A study published in the *Peabody Journal* by William Jeynes, senior fellow at the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, New Jersey, and professor at California State University, Long Beach, indicates that students in religious schools score on standardized tests an average of 11 percentile points higher than public school students. In addition, charter school students score almost the same as other public school students. In addition, students in private schools outperformed public school students on the economic section of the 2012 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Sixty-two percent of private school students and 41 percent of public school students scored at or above the proficiency level.

FCIS. It is not too early to plan to attend the FCIS Annual Conference on November 6-8, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando Airport. Plan to bring your entire faculty for Faculty Day on November 8. The program promises to be exceptional.

NAIS. The 2014 NAIS Annual Conference will be held in Orlando at the Swan and Dolphin Resort on February 26 through 28. NAIS is offering a group rate of \$100 per teacher, when registering 10 or more, by the Early Bird Deadline, for the Friday only program.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Setting High Standards for Independent Education for over 58 Years

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

The Hammock Beach Resort played host to forty one FCIS school heads at this year's FCIS Heads' Retreat. Beautiful ocean-side scenery, delicious food, interesting speakers and the opportunity to spend time with colleagues, best describes our time together. Cathy Ford, retiring head of Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, was honored by the Board for her years of service at Holy Trinity and her leadership and dedication to FCIS.

Donna Orem, COO at NAIS shared valuable information and demographic statistics related to families' interest in, and ability to pay for independent education in various metropolitan areas of Florida. Dr. Sandy Shugart, President of Valencia College, drew parallels between independent education and higher learning institutions.

Spouses met poolside on Tuesday morning, and an ocean-side, family BBQ was enjoyed by all attendees that evening.

Join us at the Coconut Point Hyatt Resort & Spa next year! Mark your calendars for June 9-11, 2014!

**Congratulations to our
new FCIS 2012-2013**

Accredited Schools

Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf
Julie Rutenberg, Director
Clearwater

The First Academy
Dr. Steve Whitaker, Head of School
Orlando

Salah Tawfik Elementary and Middle School
Dr. Kem Hussain, Head of School
Sunrise

New School Candidate

The Mandelstam School
Dr. Patricia Booth, Head of School
South Miami

FCIS Heads' Retreat



Donna Orem
COO at NAIS



Sandy Shugart,
President of Valenica
Community College

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?** \$385, 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 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 Tam at tnguyen@fcis.org for additional information.



FCIS Workshops

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

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

Fundraising in the 21st Century
July 27, 2013
Sheraton Sand Key
Clearwater

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

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

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

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.**

Other Workshops

ISM Summer Institute
June 23-July 20 VT www.isminc.com/si

SSATB Annual Meeting
Sept. 18-22 PA www.admission.org

School News

The American Museum of Natural History in New York has selected Julia Canady, an 8th grader at **Lakeland Christian School**, as a recipient of the Young Naturalist Awards for 2013. Her essay on "Weed Warfare: Investigating Allelopathy" was one of two national winners for the eighth grade. Julia was flown to New York City for a ceremony and luncheon at the American Museum of Natural History on Friday, May 31 to receive her award along with 11 other student winners from across the country. She received a cash award and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum. Winning essays will be posted on the website: <http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/young-naturalist-awards>. Julia is a student in the RISE Institute at LCS. The program focuses on Research, Innovation, STEM learning and Entrepreneurship. She recently won Best of Show in Jr. Biological Sciences at the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair, in addition to first place in the Botany division.

On May 8, **Jacksonville Country Day School** held a dedication ceremony naming their Athletic Field after Louise Morrow. The JCDS Chorus and Band have once again proven to be advanced musicians. They received superior ratings, first places and



Mike and Louise Morrow



won the Grand Champion Award at the MusicUSA Festival in Orlando on April 5. Only five Grand Champion awards were given out at the festival, and JCDS won two of them!

Naples resident and **Community School of Naples** Board of Trustee, David Eklund, was honored for his efforts to get and keep homeless youth off the streets at a special Covenant House event on June 11th at Lincoln Center in New York City. Dave and his family are humbly walking among our homeless kids and making a real difference in their lives. FCIS thanks CSN's Board of Trustee, David Eklund, and his family on a worthy cause.

Tampa Preparatory School's Shaddy Douidar was awarded the 2013 Jose Alvarez award for the county's top male soccer player. This year, Shaddy led the Terrapins with 31 goals, and will be attending Indiana University in the fall. Congratulations, Shaddy!

Canterbury School of Florida won the 2A State Softball Championship. Congratulations!

Saint Joseph's Episcopal School won the 2013 Green School of Excellence for its second year and a \$500 Judges' award in the category of community impact. Congratulations!

Montverde Academy was awarded First Place for Most Outstanding High School General Magazine for 2012 from the American Scholastic Press Association in recognition of MVA's publication of The Tower magazine (spring 2012 issue).

Stan Daniel, Head of **Boca Prep International School**, recently spent spring break, along with two of his 11th grade IB students (Fernando Spada and Adam Sturm) at the United Nations in New York City. Mr. Daniel was recently asked by the ISA (International School Association) to become a representative to the UN. With



his new UN credentials, Mr. Daniel is hoping to offer more student opportunities in the future. If you would like to learn more about the conference and watch excerpts, please visit the event website at <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/youth2013/> Congratulations!

Berkeley Preparatory School has been named the overall FHSAA Academic Team Champion for Class 4A after four athletic teams earned individual Academic Team Champion honors throughout the 2012-13 year. This marks the third-consecutive year that Berkeley has achieved this honor. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Nikitha Chandra, 8th grader at **Brandon Academy**, on her 11th place finish (out of 281 spellers) at the Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 30th.

On April 29, **Park Maitland School** students and Feeding Children Everywhere partnered together to package 18,000 healthy meals for hungry kids. Thank You Park Maitland Students!

FHSAA named **Maclay School** as the winner of the Floyd E Lay Sunshine Cup All-Sports Award for the top 3A athletic program for private schools. This is the 9th time the school has earned this award. Congratulations!

Do You Have School News?

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



Accreditation Corner

Upcoming Events and Announcements from the FCIS Accreditation Office!

Workshops:

“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



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



We wish you a happy and safe summer!
From: The FCIS Office

