

# INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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## *Upcoming FCIS Events*

**June 14 -16, 2010**

Heads' Retreat  
Don Cesar, St. Pete  
Beach

**July 25 - 27, 2010**

Administrators'  
Retreat, Naples  
Beach Club

**Sept. 12-14, 2010**

New Teacher  
Institute, Oviedo

**Oct. 3-5, 2010**

Academy 2010  
Tampa

## *from the executive director...*

**NAIS** – The NAIS Annual Conference in San Francisco, Feb. 24–26, was an opportunity for the NAIS Commission on Accreditation and the Member Associations under the banner of ISANET to meet and discuss issues of importance to independent schools and our associations. Dr. Barbara Hodges, Executive Director Elect, represented FCIS on the Accreditation Commission. A principal topic of discussion was the appearance and influence of AdvancED and the concept of a national accreditation organization. This organization is a result of a merger by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). AdvancED has also been in discussion with other regional accrediting associations and is seeking recognition in individual state legislation. Members of the NAIS Accreditation Commission expressed concern that this move could signal the establishing of a process of national accreditation of schools and put our independent, mission-driven process of peer review at a disadvantage. The NAIS Commission agreed to send a representative to a meeting of a loosely organized “accreditation alliance” made up of those accreditors who are concerned that mission-driven accreditation could be at risk.

**CAPE** – The Council on American Private Education held the annual meeting of the State CAPE's and its Spring Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. March 14-16. Dr. Barbara Hodges represented Florida (both FCIS and FAANS) at that meeting. Interestingly enough, concerns at the national level mirrored concerns in Florida, specifically the growing influence of AdvancED in school accreditation and the influence of state athletic associations and onerous rules on private school student-athletes and schools.

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Legislature regularly takes twists and turns to get through a session and this year was no exception. Governor Charlie Crist surprised many with his shift from the Republican Party to run as a non-party candidate for the U.S. Senate. He further confounded fellow Republican legislators by vetoing the education reform bill SB 6. This bill would have made continued public school

teacher tenure dependent on student performance. This was seen by some as trying to curry favor with the teacher unions for support in his run for the Senate. In spite of all the political drama with the Governor, the legislature did make some progress on legislation important to nonpublic schools. SB 2126, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program bill, was passed by both houses and was signed into law by the Governor. This bill increases the value of the scholarship over the next four years to 80% of the State FTE. This would effectively raise the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship to \$5,500 a year. SB 2014, an early learning bill filed by Senator Wise from Orange Park, clarifies the rules of the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), the Department of Children and Families, and the early learning coalitions around the state. It brings consistency and guidance to schools with preschools. Directors of preschool programs should be alerted that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be aggressively enforcing rules on background screening of employees and training requirements for preschool teachers.

**FHSAA** - At their spring meeting, the Board of Directors received a report on the hearings held by the "Urban/Rural Committee". After holding meetings all over the state, the committee came up with four recommendations: 1) Creation of a Division II Classification 2) Recruiting Violation Penalties 3) Limitation on International Students 4) Reclassification and Redistricting processes. For detail information about each recommendation go to [http://www.fhsaa.org/gov/board/2009\\_10/Agenda/april/x.pdf](http://www.fhsaa.org/gov/board/2009_10/Agenda/april/x.pdf).

**CONGRATULATIONS** – Southern Teachers Agency has announced the winners of its first annual STA Art Contest. Julia Rogers of Episcopal High School in Jacksonville was one of thirteen winners. Jennifer White, a student at Trinity Preparatory School, received an Honorable Mention in the contest.

*C. Skardon Bliss*  
Executive Director

## WORKSHOPS

### FCIS

Heads' Retreat 2010	June 14 - 16	St. Petersburg
Administrators' Retreat 2010	July 25 - 27	Naples
New Teacher Institute Academy 2010	Sept 12—14	Oviedo
Annual Convention 2010	Oct 3-5	Tampa
	Nov. 11-12	Jacksonville

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

### ISM

Summer Institute	June 20-July 24	DE, PA, UT
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[www.isminc.com/si](http://www.isminc.com/si)

### NAES

Biennial Conference 2010	Nov 18-20	San Antonio
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[www.episcopalschools.org](http://www.episcopalschools.org)

### NAIS

Summer Diversity Institute	June 23-28	Virginia
Institute for New Heads	July 6-12	Atlanta
School Leadership Institute	Aug 3-6	Virginia

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

### NBOA

Summer Institute	June 14 - 18	Easthampton
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[www.nboa.org](http://www.nboa.org)

### SSATB

Annual Meeting	Sept 29 - Oct 2	Boston
Admission Training Institute	Sept 28 - 29	Boston

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

## National Standards News

On March 10, The National Governors' Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers announced that the draft standards are available for public comment at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). Amy Sechler, NAIS Director of Legislative Affairs writes: "Could state lawmakers dictate curricula for all schools, public and private? Could the program influence the accreditation process? Without more information from the states, it's too early to tell. One thing that is likely if public schools become more unified in their curricular offerings, is that parents will seek additional ways to compare the performance of independent schools with their public counterparts."

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SSATB, *memberanda*

## Winners of the 2010 DeWitt E. & Vera Hooker Fellowship Grant

Sally Tappert, Delia Zepeda and Felix Jacomino of St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School \*\* \$500.00 for "*What's All the Buzz About Family Math, Science & Technology Night?*"

Robert Egley, Ph.D., Marion Primmer and Jim Teets of Glades Day School \*\* \$2,500.00 for "*Synchronous Distance Learning for Independent Schools*"

## Heads' Luncheon Hosts

- Dr. John Davies - Miami
- Nikki Koski - Ft. Lauderdale
- Dr. Barbara Hodges - Tallahassee
- Maria Barber - Palm Beach
- Dr. Joyce Swarzman - Tampa/St. Petersburg
- David Mahler - Sarasota
- Palmer Bell - Jacksonville
- Mike Sligh - Orlando

**Thank you for hosting the 2010 Heads' Luncheon in your area**

## Department of Children and Families

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) sent out the following materials.

- \* Florida's Early Learning and Development Standards flier
- \* Environmental Control of Norovirus flier
- \* Enhancing Our Minds...in 2010 (FFCCHA 18th Annual Conference/Sheraton Sand Key Resort, June 22-27, 2010)

If your school did not receive these materials or you would like more information please contact the FCIS Office, [fcisoffice@aol.com](mailto:fcisoffice@aol.com).

## MISC

It seems as though everyone is going “green”. NAES announced that beginning with the August 2010 issue, *Network* will be published electronically as a blast e-newsletter.

According to *Secondary School Admission Test Board* (SSATB) the number of foreign students in U.S. colleges and universities hit an all-time high. 62% of all foreign college students in the U.S. hail from Asia.

The *Advisor Outlook 2010* by Merrill Lynch reports in last year’s stock market fall, corporate bond yields soared, putting bonds in the unusual position of outperforming equities. In 2010, as markets stabilize, yields should return to normal, but bonds will remain a lower-risk complement to equities.

The SSAT Board of Directors founded the Admission Leadership Council (ALC). In its first official act, the ALC invites you to attend a regional luncheon in your area to offer your input and perspectives on the work of the ALC-what value it adds and what its priority issues should be. Florida luncheon: St. Andrew’s School, Boca Raton on May 12th.

*Ideas & Perspectives*, Vol. 35 No.4, reports as ISM data have shown for years, safety, academics, and faculty and staff knowing and valuing their child as an individual are primary drivers for parents in re-enrolling their children.

The *National Business Officers Association* (NBOA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey N. Shields, CAE as Executive Director.

*The Head’s Letter*, April 2010, published an article “*Doing Your Homework*”. The co-author of the book *Nurture Shock*, Po Bronson, reports what research says about the effectiveness of homework: “To vastly over-simplify the homework debate, just for a moment, the evidence suggests high schoolers’ school performance goes up a lot when they have to do homework. Middle school children, though, only get minor benefits from homework, and elementary school kids get no benefit.” Christopher Marblo, Head at The Town School states, “we have made changes to our homework policy because we

thought it was the right thing to do for our students.”

*Private Education Law Report*, May 2010, reports that the Florida appellate court reiterated the state’s rule that a school’s duty to supervise ends when students leave campus at the end of the day and are “no longer involved in school-related activities.” This decision reversed a nearly \$13 million jury verdict against the school.

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## VPK

The Florida Department of Education Office of Early Learning published a flier, “*What’s happening in VPK?*”, March 2010.

- News: Important VPK Provider Readiness Rate Update ... On March 5th, final readiness rates were made available to providers, early learning coalitions, and school districts through the readiness rate website. Final readiness rates were made available to the public on March 10th through the readiness rate website, [www.vpk.fldoe.org](http://www.vpk.fldoe.org).
- DOE Certificate of Completion Update... The Department of Education’s VPK Regional Facilitators are currently accepting the submission of Certificate of Completion for DOE-approved trainings completed during the period of 10/15/05—3/24/09.
- VPK Standards Training Update...Effective May 1, 2010, there will be a \$10 registration fee for participants who register for the following DOE-approved Instructor-Led courses: 1) VPK Education Standards Training 2) What’s New FL VPK Education Standards 2008
- For more information about VPK please go to [www.fldoe.org/earlylearning](http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning).



# School News

**Trinity Preparatory School's** Jade Daher placed second in the County Spelling Bee on Feb. 16th. Trinity's Andrew Parker '13 participated in the Florida FIRST Robotics Competition March 11-13 at the University of Central Florida, with Team 1902-4 H Exploding Bacon Robotics. Andrew's team received the Florida Regional Chairman's Award which honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate. The team is invited to the World Championships in Atlanta. Great Job! Ten students from Trinity have qualified for the NFL Nationals this June in Kansas City. Samuel Rang is among 24 statewide student-athletes named to the FHSAA academic all-state team. Samuel has a 4.0 GPA and he earned three varsity letters in cross country and two in lacrosse.



Robotics Team

Beckner. The team was presented with a proclamation in acknowledgement of their achievements. On March 9, the team stood down the third base line at George Steinbrenner Field and received medals from Yankee great Ron Guidry during a New York Yankees Spring training pre-game ceremony. This is the volleyball program's 13<sup>th</sup> State Championship.

The Mu Alpha Theta Team from **Community School of Naples** took 1<sup>st</sup> place again. They competed against more than 430 students representing 28 southwest Florida middle and high schools in a Mu Alpha Theta Invitational mathematics tournament hosted by Cape Coral High School.



Scholar Bowl Varsity Team

Community School of Naples' Scholar Bowl Varsity Team (formerly Academic Team) finished 1<sup>st</sup> at the Collier County Tournament! Juniors Jiaqi Li and Lucky Hedin finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the National Semifinals West Point Bridge Contest. The purpose of the contest is to provide middle and high school students with a realistic, engaging introduction to the field of engineering. Congratulations!



Jiaqi Li and Lucky Hedin

Approximately sixty students from **Admiral Farragut Academy** created custom designed bears at Build-a-Bear on April 9th. The students donated their bears to The Haven, a shelter for battered women in Clearwater for kids affected by domestic violence.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Day School** in Jacksonville celebrates 40 years. Congratulations to Scott Laird and the faculty and staff of **St. Mary's Episcopal Day School** in Tampa for earning 1st Place in the St. Petersburg Times 2010 "Top Places to Work"!

**Saint Paul's School** eighth grader and GEO Bee winner, Matthew Fulton, has qualified and will attend the State Competition, in Jacksonville, FL. Congratulations Matthew! Saint Paul's Lower School Student Council held a "PJ" day to raise money for Haiti. The students raised over \$2,300! Saint Paul's held a Relay for Life Walk-a-thon April 16-17 on the SPS campus. They raised over \$11,500 for the American Cancer Society. Many students walked more than 25 miles.



Grant Lawrence & Siena Wise

**Weiss School's** Grant Lawrence and Siena Wise participated at the Palm Beach County Scripps Spelling Bee held at Saint Andrew's School in Boca Raton. Grant qualified for the second round and came in 6<sup>th</sup> out of 26 finalists. Congratulations to Maria Elena Grimmert, 6th grade student at The

Weiss School. She designed and performed a water purification experiment during the summer break last year and submitted her research to the Palm Beach County Science Fair. Maria Elena was awarded 1st place in the Junior Division Environmental Science Category for Palm Beach County and 3rd place in the State of Florida.



Maria Elena Grimmert

**Canterbury School of Florida's** multi-sport star Andrea Ritch is among 24 statewide student-athletes named to the FHSAA academic all-state team. Andrea is headed to the California Institute of Technology with a 4.0 GPA. She lettered four years in cross country and tennis, and a year each in basketball and track.

**Berkeley Preparatory School's** Varsity Girls Volleyball State Champion team was recently honored by Hillsborough County Commissioner Kevin Beckner and the New York Yankees. Players and coaches alike gathered during a recent Board of County Commissioners Meeting to be recognized by Commissioner

## Grace School, Ocala Head of School

The ideal candidate for Headmaster will further the school's mission: *To prepare our children for life, to honor and glorify God, in a Christ-centered environment of academic excellence.*

The Headmaster is the managing director of the school who provides spiritual, educational, and administrative leadership to the school. Applicant must have the ability to maintain continuity with the past by maintaining the traditions of Grace School. He/she must be an active, visible part of the school.

The ideal candidate is a leader who will bring a best practices approach and apply it to an organization comprised of a capable and motivated faculty, staff, and Board. Candidates must possess a Master's degree or higher in education as well as a strong academic and administrative background including a minimum of five years educational leadership experience, preferably as the Head of an accredited independent Christian school.

Please send cover page and resume to Michael Miller at [grace.search11@gmail.com](mailto:grace.search11@gmail.com)

## Post a Job [www.fcis.org](http://www.fcis.org)

**Do you have a position that needs to be posted on the FCIS web site? Email Tam at [tnguyen@fcis.org](mailto:tnguyen@fcis.org) to get the password to complete the job posting form.**

## Master Inservice Coordinator

**All master inservice must be submitted by July 31, 2009**

## Accreditation Corner

### *Preparing Your School for a FCIS Evaluation*

The workshop for schools undergoing accreditation visits next year will be held on Monday afternoon at the Administrators' Retreat.

**Naples Beach Club  
July 26, 2010**

Come with questions regarding reaccreditation and 5 year review.

## Holy Comforter Episcopal School Head of School, Tallahassee July 2011

*Holy Comforter Episcopal School believes that each child is a unique creation of God. Our mission is to nourish the spirit, challenge the mind, and strengthen the body in a Christian environment, encouraging each child to achieve his or her maximum potential as a contributing member of society.*

### Challenges & Opportunities for the Next Head of School

\*To act as the chief role model for this dynamic values-based community — in all facets and aspects of school life

\*To continue to provide highly visible, approachable and collaborative leadership for a school which sees its Head of School as the leader of its extended family community

\*Utilizing appropriate shared decision-making, to work with a committed group of educators towards the further growth and development of the school

\*To strengthen and increase all forms of diversity in the school

\*To maintain and enhance the positive roles, relationships and involvement of the parent body

\*To assess and enhance the enrollment management programs toward the fruitful achievement the school's goals including the growth of the Middle School

\*To act as the school's ambassador both internally and externally

\*To work symbiotically with the Board of Trustees to shape and implement the vision for the future

### HCES seeks a leader who can and will:

\*Be a committed, practicing Christian who is comfortable in his or her faith

\*View the position as Head of HCES almost as a calling rather than a vocation

\*Bring a truly personal approach to school leadership, including a close and personal knowledge of the students and their families

\*Have experience with independent elementary and or middle school educational schooling, and understand the practical and theoretical trends in pedagogy, technology and student development

\*Exude the joy of leading a glorious school

\*Work professionally and collegially with the leadership of the Parish and its congregation

\*Have an appropriate sense of self including a sense of humor

\*Become involved and immersed in the local community

In order for an application to be complete, the following is needed:

- Cover letter explaining interest in the position
- Resume
- Statement of educational philosophy / leadership
- Three written letters of reference
- A list of 6-8 other references with affiliation, email addresses and telephone numbers.

Send to: Mr. Stephen G. DiCicco, President  
Educational Directions Incorporated, PO Box 768, Portsmouth, RI, 02871 or EMAIL: [sdicicco@edu-directions.com](mailto:sdicicco@edu-directions.com) (Preferred Electronically)  
TEL: 800/647-2794, extension2  
See the programs and details of the school at its website  
<http://www.holycomforter.org>