

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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Inside this issue

Page 1
Executive Director
Letter

Page 2
VISNET
Prospective Heads
2013 Heads' Luncheons

Page 3
Accreditation Corner
S. Bogdan Legal Webinar
Other Workshops

Page 4
School News

Page 5
Apple Workshop
New Teacher Workshop
Reserve Bank Workshop

Page 6
FKC Corner/Convention

Upcoming FCIS Events

**FCIS/VISNET
Information Session**
Dec. 3, 2012
Episcopal School of
Jacksonville

**Prospective Heads'
Institute**
Jan. 16-17, 2013
Mission Hill Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills/Orlando

Evaluation Academy
Jan. 24, 2013
Lake Mary Prep, Lake Mary

David Sousa
Jan. 27, 2013
Corbett Preparatory School of IDS,
Tampa

from the executive director...

It is hard to believe that most of our FCIS schools have finished the first two months of the 2012-13 school year. Our schools have gotten off to a good start, and the summer is a faded memory. The FCIS state office is in full swing; in fact, the office tells me we are always in full swing. I take that as a positive sign that we are being more diligent in our efforts to meet the needs of our member schools.

FCIS Professional Development -By now, all of you should have received the FCIS Professional Development Calendar 2012-13 in a tri-fold that may be tacked to your bulletin/information board. Of course, that document can be found online at www.fcis.org. To date, we have already completed the 2012 Administrator's Retreat, the New Teacher Institute, two technology workshops, two economic/financial workshops, a VISNET informational workshop, and six webinars on various topics. Our legal webinar series with Suzanne Bogdan began on September 14 and will continue through February; those webinars are already providing timely legal information to our schools. FCIS webinars continue to be archived on the heads' portal.

The Dale Regan Leadership Institute - In September, we kicked off the first of three leadership institutes, **The Prospective Heads' Institute (PHI)**, funded in part by the **\$50,000 matching grant** that we received from the **Edward E. Ford Foundation**. PHI has 22 participants stretching across the state of Florida. Participants have already engaged in an introductory webinar, featuring a panel of five heads of school at varying stages in their careers. In addition, the participants are participating in webinars on legal issues, governance, and finance. In January, they will all come together for a two-day event at The Mission Inn. Plans are already underway for the **inaugural FCIS New Heads' Institute** which will be held on **July 25 through 27, 2013** at the Sheraton Sand Key Hotel in Clearwater. In 2013-14, FCIS will introduce the **Experienced Heads' Institute**. FCIS is still receiving donations to support these three institutes in memory of our colleague and friend, Dale Regan; to date, \$50,919.42 has been given to this worthwhile endeavor.

FCIS Annual Convention - I hope you are making plans to attend the 2012 FCIS Annual Convention on **November 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency Airport Hotel**. Special thanks go to Warren Hudson, President of Lake Highland Preparatory; Craig Maughan, Headmaster of Trinity Preparatory; and all of the Orlando area FCIS schools for hosting this important event. Featured speakers include **Barbara Kellerman** from **Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government**, a **Disney Institute Facilitator**, **Dr. Michael Thompson**, a renowned psychologist and author, and **Lonnie Moore**, Educator and FranklinCovey Consultant.

CAPE - The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Writing 2011 report indicates that 92% of private school students and 79% of public school students scored at the basic or higher level on the writing proficiency exam. Those students scoring at or above the proficiency level included 41% of private school students and 26% public school students. On the **2011-12 SAT National Scores**, the mean score for writing was 548 for independent schools, 529 for religious schools, and 481 for public schools. The reading mean score was 539 for independent schools, 531 for religious schools, and 491 for public schools; the math mean score was 580 for independent schools, 534 for religious schools, and 505 for public schools.

FCIS SAT SCORES 2011-12 -The mean score for FCIS schools in **writing** was **551**, surpassing the national average for independent schools, as compared to **476** for the state of **Florida**. The **reading** mean score for FCIS schools was **550**, again surpassing the national average for independent schools, as compared to **492** for all **Florida** schools. The **math** mean score for FCIS schools was **571**, as compared to 580 nationally for independent schools, and **492** for all Florida schools.

NAIS - The *2012-13 Trendbook* has been released by the National Association of Independent Schools. It contains a wealth of information and is well worth reading.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Setting High Standards for Independent Education for over 57 Years

FCIS-VISNET News

The opening of the 2012 school year has also launched our relationship with VISNET, a Virtual Independent School Network. FCIS entered into a partnership with VISNET in July and since our initial announcement, FCIS has hosted a webinar and information sessions with the sole purpose of introducing our schools to the consortium of resources available. As of October 1, eight FCIS schools are members of FCIS-VISNET with many others in the joining stages!

Upcoming VISNET events for all FCIS schools:

- Friday, November 9 at FCIS Convention – Session by Linda Nelson, Executive Director of NCAIS and founder of VISNET
- Monday, December 3 – Information Session at Episcopal School of Jacksonville
- Webinar Wednesdays – Hosted by VISNET; highlighting a different provider each month
 - December 5 – Aventa Learning and Campus Outreach Services
 - January 16 – Casenex and Epsilon
 - January 30 – Ed2Net and Haiku
- VISNET Book Club; hosted by Carol Keenan, VISNET Director
 - *The Connected Educator* by Sheryl Nussbaum-Beach
 - Four online meetings beginning January 10, 2013



For additional information as well as pricing and registration information, go to <http://fcis.vis-network.org/>. Contact Karen at kmathews@fcis.org for additional information.

Prospective Heads Institute Have you ever thought about becoming a head of school?

Excellent opportunity for any Division Head, Assistant/Associate Head or Administrator to explore the challenges and rewards involved in a headship.

Future events include:

*Session at FCIS Convention, November 8
Seminar, Jan. 16-17, 2013 - Mission Inn*

Resort & Club

Webinar, March 8, 2013 at 10 a.m.

Cost: \$275 includes webinars, seminar/meals at Mission Inn and seminar materials - Register now at www.fcis.org.

2013 Heads' Luncheons

Save the date cards and/or invitations will be sent for the following area Heads' Luncheons. Please feel free to contact another "area host", if you are unable to attend your area luncheon.

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Tallahassee Area

Hosted by: Peter Klekamp, Holy Comforter Episcopal School

Friday, April 26, 2013

Orlando Area

Hosted by: Cindy Moon, Park Maitland School

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas

Hosted by: Kevin Plummer, Tampa Preparatory School

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale/Coral Springs Areas

Hosted by: Karen Feller, Donna Klein Jewish Academy

Friday, May 3, 2013

Miami Area

Hosted by: Dr. Gregory Blackburn, St. Philip's Episcopal School

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Jacksonville Area

Hosted by: Cathy Hardage, St. Mark's Episcopal School



Accreditation Corner

By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation

Upcoming Events from the FCIS Accreditation Office!

Webinar:

“Understanding FCIS Governance Standards”
Wednesday, November 28, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Workshops/Seminars:

FCIS Annual Convention Friday, November 9
(If 2012-13 or 2013-4 is your accreditation year, please plan on attending one of the “Preparing” sessions.)
“Preparing for an FCIS Evaluation”
“Preparing for a joint FCIS-SACS Evaluation”
“Serving on an FCIS Evaluation Team”

Evaluation Academy – For Heads of School and Steering Committee Chairs
Thursday, January 24, 2013; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lake Mary Preparatory School, Orlando area
Cost: \$50

Announcement for 2013-14 Review schools:

The FCIS Board has determined that schools that qualify for the Five Year Review must hold their evaluation visit between **September 15, 2013 and January 30, 2014**. As you begin planning for the accreditation visit, please begin with an evaluation visit date in mind. Qualifying schools were notified in July 2012. Please contact Karen at kmathews@fcis.org with any questions.

Legal Webinars with Suzanne Bogdan

Thurs, Nov. 15, 2012—Handling the Crisis
Thurs, Dec. 13, 2012—Child Abuse
Wed, Jan. 9, 2013—Criminal Background
Checks
Tues Feb. 12, 2013—FHSAA

**

Time: 12:00 (noon) - 1:00pm

Other Workshops

NAIS
Annual Conference 2013, Feb. 27 - Mar. 1 PA
www.nais.org
SSS By NAIS
Financial Aid Conference Nov. 13-14 Baltimore
www.sss.nais.org

School News

Holy Comforter Episcopal School dedicated the resource-rich science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) facility, the Knight STEM Building on Sept. 10. The building features two fully equipped science labs, lower school STEM classroom for grades K-5 and an interactive energy monitoring system.



Parkway Christian School's Kaylee Bragg, 5th grade, won the regional and state Annual Florida Law Enforcement essay competition on internet safety. She was given the opportunity to read her essay in Tallahassee and was presented an award from the Governor.

Carrollwood Day School senior, Jake Gersten, contacted and convinced Sirdeaner Walker to visit the school on Sept. 21. Walker promoted a strong anti-bullying message. CDS brought a texting-driving awareness simulator to the school on Sept. 28. This technology allowed students to sit in a real car that is suspended and monitored with sensors to simulate real driving. CDS announced new Head of School Ryan Kelly, effective July 1, 2013. Congratulations Ryan!

Jacksonville Country Day School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to reveal its new Smith Center on Oct. 12. The Smith Center includes basketball court, dance studio, an aerobic/karate studio, language arts classroom, conference rooms and four study rooms.



Episcopal Day School in Pensacola celebrated new Head of School, Judy Shelton, in a ceremony filled with beautiful hymns, symbolic gifts, and thoughtful prayer. Congratulations Judy!



The Bolles School is assisting an initiative of the Florida Office of the Attorney General to promote cyber safety. Bolles is the first school in the state to be part of the student advisory board and work with the Attorney General's office in this manner. Bolles is first in Florida to use Accelerated Integrated Methodology (AIM) approach in Lower School Language. Ninety-two current and former students at Bolles earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board.

Oak Hall School's girls cross country team placed second at the 24th Mountain Dew Invitational at UF's Mark Bostick Golf Course. On Aug. 29, Oak Hall held the grand opening of the Dr. Mohammad Faisal Family Media Center.



Admiral Farragut Academy PreK Teacher, Susan Morris, was selected by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) as part of the annual Teachers of the Future program. Congratulations Susan on being one of only 20 teachers selected nationwide!

The Weiss School's 2012 graduate, Maria Elena Grimmett, was awarded an "Honorable Mention" in the Davidson Fellows Scholarship Competition, one of the top 7 prestigious scholarships named in U.S. News and World Report. Congratulations Maria!



Lakeland Christian School's Mrs. Jennifer Canady, a middle school science teacher and director of the RISE Institute, has been awarded the national Master's and Specialist's Award for Exceptional Contributions to Gifted and Talented Education. The award is presented by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC).

St. Mark's Episcopal School in Jacksonville closed on Sept. 21st for the annual faculty and staff retreat day. The goal of the day was to have the entire staff together off-campus for learning, team building, and rejuvenation. The group participated in a river clean-up along the St. Johns River.

Mother Stefanie Taylor, **St. John's Episcopal Parish School's**, Tampa, Assistant Chaplain and Church Curate, has been asked to participate in the 7th annual USF Women in Leadership & Philanthropy Symposium.

On October 9, more than, six-hundred **Park Maitland School** students participated in a school-wide assembly to celebrate the story of Izzy Hidala. Izzy is a local student who wrote *The First Day Speech*, celebrating differences and gratitude. The day taught gratitude and leadership through powerful real life story.

FCIS Hooker Grant winner, **Creative Learning Academy**, launched its sixth-grade "Hooked on Nooks" program with age-appropriate books.

The Out-of-Door Academy's Brittany Wenger '13 won the Grand Prize at the Google Science Fair in Palo Alto, California. Brittany wrote a computer program featuring artificial intelligence technology that detects breast cancer at a rate of 99% with a non-invasive aspiration biopsy. Congratulations Brittany on your outstanding achievement!



On Oct. 27th, **Montverde Academy** celebrated its 100 year anniversary. Congratulations on 100 years!



Rethinking Learning: Engage, Create, Deliver!



A series of workshops, featuring Dr. Kate Kemker, an Apple curriculum specialist, was held on September 13 and 14 in Tallahassee and Jacksonville, respectively. Holy Comforter Episcopal School hosted a morning and afternoon session designed to demonstrate new ways of introducing skills, collaborative projects and self-designed course work. After a welcome from Peter Klekamp, Head of School, each 3-hour session allowed participants to explore new apps on iPads provided by Apple.

The following day, Charley Zimmer, Acting Head at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, welcomed the attendees to another day of exploration, discovery and sharing. Both workshops demonstrated apps that can be used in elementary, middle and upper school in language arts, science, math, history, social studies and art. In addition to classroom applications, the technology directors in attendance also discussed strategies for initial installation and infrastructure that would support a 1:1 iPad program.

We want to thank Betsy Marshall, Business Development Executive at Apple, for providing these workshops to FCIS.

New Teacher Institute September 30—October 2

New and ‘nearly new’ FCIS teachers spent three days at the Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo. Whole group and grade level group activities allowed participants to share their successes, challenges and learn practical strategies to become successful educators. Topics included lesson planning, parent conferences, professionalism, legal issues relating to social media, classroom management, assessment, technology, school culture, time management and a professional growth plan. It was a privilege for the FCIS teaching staff, Dr. Angél Kytile, Head; Darcy Devrnja, Early Childhood/Lower School Director at Saint Paul’s School; and Cathy Koos, Lower School Head at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, to work with such intelligent, enthusiastic, and caring new teachers. We hope to see this group, and any other new teachers at a follow up session, led by Dr. Joyce Swarzman, Head of Corbett Preparatory School of IDS, at the FCIS Convention in November!

September Workshops at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta- Miami Branch

FCIS teachers had a rare opportunity to spend a day at the Federal Reserve Bank in Miami. Lower School teachers attended on September 20th. In addition to hands-on activities, student booklets, and worksheets, each teacher received a flash drive containing hundreds of age-appropriate, free resources for teaching money, savings, making choices, budgeting, and understanding the difference between “needs” and “wants”. The following day, September 21st, middle and upper school teachers participated in activities that were appropriate for their students and also were given flash drives containing free resources for their students which included: establishing credit, investing, saving, living on a budget, building wealth, credit cards, identify theft and the functions of the Federal Reserve. All attendees were taken on a tour of the “money room” and given information about bringing their students on a field trip to the Reserve.

This workshop was filled with excellent teaching strategies and activities for educators working with children of all ages. We hope to continue this partnership and provide additional workshops in the future.



Florida Kindergarten Council Convention October 13, 2012 *Passion with a Purpose*

Thank you to everyone who attended the Florida Kindergarten Council's 2012 *Passion with a Purpose* convention in Orlando. We welcomed 273 attendees from 80 schools around the state. It was an exciting and informative program, and it would not have been possible without the time, effort, and talents of many people. We are particularly appreciative of our FKC board members/convention committee Arvi Balseiro, Michele Proctor, Anita Fine, Donna Tobey, Ana Ibanez and Cathy Koos. Thank you to these volunteers for helping to make this event such a success.

Aristotle said "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." Friday began with a focus on excellence. Our featured keynote speaker, well-known author, Bena Kallick, Ph.D, invited us to explore the Habits of Mind. Dr. Kallick presented methods, tools, and ideas that enhance Value, Inclination, Sensitivity, Capability, and Commitment. She revealed how habits such as persisting, listening, thinking, questioning, communicating, and innovating can be nurtured and taught from a young age.

Eighteen break-out sessions, from Wonderful Worms to Twitter for Teachers, helped participants expand their skill set in the classroom. Throughout the convention, attendees were able to follow tweets about ongoing collaborations and reflections at #FKCchat. Some of the tweets included:

- "Dr. Bena Kallick – think 'globally' improves understanding by seeing both the large context of the world as well as our own backyard" @JackieReneeW
- "Thinking maps, great presentation, learned so many great ideas to help students learn to 'think'" @ColleenBonanza
- "Bridging the gap in communication between parents, teacher and child...learning about classroom blogs from LCC educators!" @karenmathews

We applaud all of our presenters for sharing their exemplary early childhood teaching techniques with our attendees.

Again, thank you to our wonderful member schools for attending. The Florida Kindergarten Council will continue to provide leadership, accreditation, and professional services to our member schools. We look forward to seeing you next year! Save the date-October 12, 2013!

