

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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Inside this issue

Page 1

Executive Director Letter

Page 2

FCIS Workshops

Other Workshops

Legal Webinars

FCIS Webinars

Teachers

Page 3

Prospective Heads I & II

New Teacher Institute

Leadership/Governance

Page 4

Heads' Luncheons

DASL/Annual Report

FKC Corner

Page 5

Accreditation Corner

VISNET

Page 6

School News

Upcoming FCIS Events

2014 Convention

November 20-21, 2014
Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
Jacksonville

Prospective Heads'

Institute I and II

January 14-15, 2015

Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

Academy for High Performing Teachers and Administrators

January 25-27, 2015

Corbett Prep at IDS

from the executive director...

Fall has officially arrived, and it is that time of year when we are able to move past orientations of new faculty and students and settle in to the work that distinguishes our schools. As I am visiting with member schools and staffs around the state, I am struck by the engagement of teachers and students, along with ambitious plans for the future of our independent schools. Although the impacts of the economic recession are still being felt in parts of our state, the aggregate enrollment in our FCIS schools now surpasses the enrollment prior to the recession at 71,397. The greatest growth continues to be in middle and upper schools, although PK3 enrollment is now higher than before the recession. All of these are healthy indicators for our Florida independent schools.

FCIS Professional Development – FCIS has planned another robust professional development program for our member schools as indicated in our 2014-15 Professional Development Calendar on the website and in the brochure mailed to each member school. To date, we have completed the 2014 New Heads' Institute, 2014 Administrators' Retreat, the New Teacher Institute, FCIS Leadership Partnership for Heads and Board Chairs, Prospective Heads' Introductory Webinar, a training webinar for serving on an FCIS evaluation team, a webinar on FCIS Financial Standards, and two legal webinars. FCIS webinars, with the exception of the Prospective Heads' webinar, continue to be archived on the heads' portal; there is an additional portal dedicated to participants in the Prospective Heads' program.

FCIS Annual Convention – I hope you are making plans to attend the 2014 FCIS Annual Convention on **November 20-21 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront**. Special thanks go to Palmer Bell, Head of School of Riverside Presbyterian Day School; Martha Milton, Head of School of Beaches Episcopal School; Cathy Hardage, retired Head of School of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School; and all of the North Florida FCIS schools for hosting this important event. Featured speakers include **Dr. Yong Zhao**, Presidential Chair and

Director of the Institute of Global and Online Education in the College of Education, **University of Oregon**; **Donna Orem**, Chief Operating Officer, **National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)**; **John Hunter**, Filmmaker, Author, **Inventor of the World Peace Game**; and **Dr. Grant Lichtman**, Educator and **Author of #EdJourney: A Roadmap to the Future of Education**.

CAPE – The SAT mean scores for 2014 graduates from independent schools exceeded the previously set College and Career Readiness Benchmark of 1550. The mean combined score for **independent school seniors** was **1657**, up 107 points over the benchmark, as compared to **public school seniors** with a mean combined score of **1471**, 79 points below the standard. On the **2013-14 SAT National Scores**, the mean score for writing was 542 for independent schools, 527 for religious schools, and 478 for public schools. The reading mean score was 535 for independent schools, 533 for religious schools, and 492 for public schools; the math mean score was 580 for independent schools, 537 for religious schools, and 501 for public schools.

FCIS SAT SCORES 2013-14 – The mean combined score for **FCIS seniors** was 1674, 124 points over the college readiness benchmark and 17 points over the independent school mean. The mean score for **FCIS schools in writing** was **550**, surpassing the national average for independent schools, as compared to **472** for the state of **Florida**. The **reading** mean score for **FCIS schools** was **552**, again surpassing the national average for independent schools, as compared to **491** for all **Florida schools**. The **math** mean score for **FCIS schools** was **572**, as compared to 580 nationally for independent schools, and **485** for all Florida schools.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

FCIS Workshops

**ISM Pre-Convention
Workshop
*Schools That Win***
November 19, 2014
Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
Jacksonville

2014 Convention
November 20-21, 2014
Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
Jacksonville

**Prospective Heads'
Institute I and II**
January 14-15, 2015
Mission Inn Resort,
Howey-in-the-Hills

**Academy for High
Performing Teachers
and Administrators**
January 25-27, 2015
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

Evaluation Academy
February 11, 2015
Lake Highland Prep,
Orlando

Heads' Retreat
June 15-17, 2015
South Seas Resort,
Captive Island

Evaluation Academy
June 17-18 2015
South Seas Resort,
Captive Island

**21st Century Learning
Academy**
June 24-26, 2015
Corbett Prep at IDS,
Tampa

New Heads' Institute
July 23-25, 2015
Sanibel Harbor Marriott,
Fort Myers

Administrators' Retreat
July 26-28, 2015
Sanibel Harbor Marriott,
Fort Myers

Legal Webinars

Presented by FCIS and Suzanne Bogdan

Fri, Nov. 7, 2014
Supervisor Bootcamp:
Drill Down on Coaching,
Counseling, and Appropriate
Documentation to Encourage
Employee Improvement and
Reduce Liability for
Non-Renewals and
Separations

Tues, Dec. 16, 2014
Five Things Your
School is Probably Do-
ing that May Be Illegal

Wed, Jan. 7, 2015
Americans With Disa-
bilities Act: Learn the
Roadmap for Working
through ADA
Issues with Students
and Employees

Thurs, Feb. 12, 2015
FHSAA Update:
Understanding and
Operating Within the
Guidelines

Time: 12:00p.m. - 1:00p.m.
Cost: Free for member
schools
www.fcis.org

FCIS Webinars

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014
Understanding FCIS
Governance Standards
10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Friday, Jan. 9, 2015
Serving on an FCIS
Evaluation Team
3:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Other Workshops

2015 NAIS Annual Conference
www.nais.org
February 25-27, 2015
Boston, MA

Teachers

2015 NCHE Conference
National Council for History Education
"Encounters in History"
Flagler College, St. Augustine
March 19-21, 2015
more information can be found at:
www.nche.net/conference

Prospective Heads' Institute I and Institute II ***Have you ever thought about becoming a head of school?***

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

Four part program consists of:

Webinar, September 24 at 10:00 a.m. (Previously Recorded)

Gathering, FCIS Convention, November 20

Seminar, January 14-15, 2015 - Mission Inn Resort & Club, Howey-in-the-Hills

Webinar, March 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$345 (includes webinars, seminar/meals at Mission Inn and seminar materials)

Mission Inn Resort Hotel Room: \$104

Register at www.fcis.org, workshop and events

Deadline: Wednesday, December 15, 2014

FCIS New Teacher Institute 2014 **September 21-23**

The *New Teacher Institute* welcomed 54 enthusiastic, new and nearly new teachers at the beautiful Mission Inn, just north of Orlando. On Sunday teachers from over 20 different FCIS schools gathered to spend almost two full days (and nights!) together. They participated in a wide variety of workshops designed to strengthen and enhance their teaching and learning. Topics included: independent school culture and tradition, communication with parents, classroom and time management, lesson planning and assessment, technology and innovation, mentoring, and bringing joy into the classroom. Lori Smith, an Orlando attorney, presented a session on the appropriate and inappropriate use of social media, how to be an asset, not a liability, to your school, and other important legal issues relating to independent schools. After spending several weeks in the classroom, new teachers were eager to reflect on their experiences so far, to ask questions, and to discuss and expand their knowledge of best practices. They also took full advantage of connecting with their colleagues from peer schools and enjoyed learning from each other and building the foundation for professional learning networks for on-going collegial support.



Special thanks to our dedicated teaching faculty: Mike Jakubisin, Director of Upper School, Lake Highland Preparatory School; Suzanne Otero, Lower School Director, The Weiss School; Dr. Luci Higgins, Middle School Principal, The First Academy; Dr. Joyce Swarzman, Head of School, Corbett Preparatory School of IDS; Steve Krueger, Trinity Preparatory School; and John Weaver, Lake Highland Preparatory School.

Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance **October 5-6, 2014**

A group of 36 Heads and Board Chairs met at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport on October 5-6 for the *FCIS Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance* workshop. Dr. Barbara Hodges and Dr. Jan Pullen, Head of St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School in Bradenton, teamed up to design the program and lead each of the sessions. The workshop offered strategies for strengthening the partnership, support and collaboration between Heads and Board Chairs. Topics included: *The Relationship Needed for Good Leadership*, *Effective Communication at the Top*, *Issues Facing Independent Schools Today*, *Strategic Planning and Board Expectations*, and *Effective Governance*. Each topic led to many informal discussions that carried over into Sunday evening's dinner and Monday's lunch. Time was also allocated for questions, candid observations and brainstorming. A major factor in a school's success is a healthy Head-Board Chair relationship, and participants took full advantage of their time together to share goals and challenges facing their individual schools as well as the broader independent school community.

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 7, 2015
Tallahassee Area
Hosted by: Peter Klekamp
Holy Comforter Episcopal School

Thursday, April 23, 2015
Miami Area
Hosted by: Dr. John Davies
Miami Country Day School

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas
Hosted by: Dr. Dana Markham
Pine Crest School

Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Orlando Area
Hosted by: Cindy Moon
Park Maitland School

Tuesday, April 21, 2015
Palm Beach Gardens Area
Hosted by: Dr. Denise Spirou
The Weiss School

Thursday, May 7, 2015
Jacksonville Area
Hosted by: Martha Milton
Beaches Episcopal School

Tuesday, May 5, 2015
Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas
Hosted by: Dr. Joyce Swarzman
Corbett Preparatory School of IDS

DASL/FCIS Annual Report

FCIS Schools now submit through DASL their annual reports, as required in FCIS Bylaw, Article 3, Section 3 (e): "Complete yearly report including required statistical information". This new resource will allow FCIS schools to make comparisons with other FCIS schools, as well as with schools from other associations of which they are members. For more information go to www.fcis.org, "news". [Click here for more information.](#)

Deadline: October 25, 2014

Florida Kindergarten Council Corner



Mark Your Calendars – FKC Convention 2015

Friday, January 30, 2015
6:30pm - 8:00pm Meet and Greet
Complimentary Beverages and Hors D'oeuvres

Saturday, January 31, 2015
7:30am—Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:00am—3:30pm General Meeting/Sessions/Lunch

The DoubleTree SeaWorld Orlando
10100 International Drive
Orlando, FL
800-327-0363

**FKC Convention Speaker Proposal
Form is Now Available!**

www.fkconline.org, events & workshops

Deadline: November 4, 2014

**FKC Convention Logo Competition
Form is Now Available!**

www.fkconline.org, events & workshops

Deadline: November 10, 2014

FCIS Accreditation Corner

Upcoming Events and Announcements from the FCIS Accreditation Office

Webinar: Understanding FCIS Governance Standards

Date: November 13, 2014 at 10:00 AM

Presented by: Dr. Barbara Hodges, Executive Director

Description: This webinar reviews standards 3.1 - 3.2.10 in detail for FCIS schools that are preparing for an FCIS evaluation or that wish to gain greater insight into FCIS governance. Learn how your school can ensure compliance.

Who should attend? FCIS member schools' Heads of School, Trustees and Prospective Heads.

Workshop: Chairing an FCIS Evaluation Team

Date: Thursday, November 20 at the FCIS Convention, Jacksonville

Who should attend? Heads of School interested in becoming leaders in FCIS accreditation efforts. Also recommended for Heads whose schools are being evaluated in 2014-2015 or 2015-2016.

Workshops:

• **Preparing Your School for an FCIS Full or FCIS Review Evaluation**

• **Serving on an FCIS Evaluation team**

• **FCIS/FKC-SACS or FCIS/FKC-SAIS: Joint Accreditation Visit**

Date: Friday, November 21 at the FCIS Convention, Jacksonville

Who should attend? Any employee of an FCIS member school is welcome. These workshops are strongly recommended for schools who have evaluations scheduled in 2014-2015 or 2015-2016.

Evaluation Academy: For Heads of School and Steering Committee Chairs

- Wednesday, February 11, 2015; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Lake Highland Preparatory School, Orlando
- Cost: \$50

Schools with Evaluation Visits in 2014-2015:

All Heads of School were mailed letters at the start of August confirming the name(s) of your evaluation team Chair(s). Please contact your Chair(s) to confirm dates, schedules, and other details for your evaluation visit. Questions? Contact Melissa Alton, Director of Accreditation at malton@fcis.org



FCIS-VISNET

Brought to you by FCIS, in partnership with the
North Carolina Association of Independent Schools



FCIS is a partner with VISNET, a virtual school network created by the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS) with funds from the Edward E. Ford Foundation in 2009. Exclusive to FCIS accredited schools in the state of Florida, VISNET provides FCIS member schools with an array of professional development, online courses, blended learning resources and a rich content repository. After joining, VISNET schools will then have the opportunity to enhance 21st century learning resources – EPSCO, BrainPop, Middlebury Language Program, Haiku and many more at discounted prices!

Some highlights include:

- Unique elective courses where a student is an “intern” in a Green Industry or studies video game design, cartoon animation or Gothic Literature
- Professional Development opportunities, including access to Campus Outreach Services webinar series with topics, such as Internet Safety, Mental Health & Stress, Body Image and Alcohol Risk
- EBSCO – library database and resources, already used in FL state universities
- Middlebury Language Institute competency and fluency programs, with native speakers in real-life situations
- Carone Fitness Program, where students can complete PE and health requirements in an innovative and stimulating program

VISNET membership guidelines for FCIS schools for the 2014-15 school year will remain the same! New members, go to fcis.vis-network.org/ or contact Tam at tnguyen@fcis.org for additional information.

School News

Congratulations to **Westminster Academy** on being awarded as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2014.

The National Merit Scholarship Program has announced that five members of **Community School of Naples'** senior class have qualified as Semifinalists for 2015. They are Samantha Korn, Nicholas Lewis, Yonaton Melnick, Bryce Morrow and Steven Wulber.



On October 13, seven members of the senior class at Community School of Naples began construction on "Project Playhouse", building a child's playhouse from scratch to give students the opportunity to contribute to the school's Angel Ball Live Auction.

All Saints Academy's Lady Saints volleyball team defeated McKell in three straight sets at their home opener and a school record was broken. Carolina Martinez produced her 812th assist, breaking the school's all-time assist record previously set at 794. Congratulations!

On September 5, **The Weiss School** celebrated a commitment to gifted education and the generosity of the Cross Family, Tillson Family and the 8th grade class of 2014. The Weiss School officially opened the new science center and technology and robotics center.



The **Out-of-Door Academy** broke ground on the Dick Vitale Family Student Center and Dart Foundation STEM Center on September 2, 2014.



Palmer Trinity School welcomed Dr. Manjula Salomon as Global Scholar in Residence for the 2014-15 academic year. Dr. Salomon will evaluate Palmer Trinity's global education programs to ensure compliance with Global Education Benchmark Group's (GEBG) Global Education Standards, a set of nationwide guidelines intended as a tool for program design and the development of risk-management policies.

The Barrett Family Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the Excellence in Math and Science Teaching Awards. The winners are **Thomas Ma of Admiral of Admiral Farragut** and **Eugene R. Jalbert of Tampa Preparatory**. They will all be receiving a cash award of \$10,000 each from The Barrett Family Foundation for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Our awards ceremony will be held at the Chart House Restaurant on Saturday November 29th at 4:30 PM.

Congratulations to **American Youth Academy** on becoming an IB World School offering the Diploma Years Programme.