

# INDEPENDENTS

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## Upcoming FCIS Events

### FCIS Annual Convention

November 4-6, 2015  
Hyatt Orlando Airport

### Prospective Heads' Institute I, II & III

January 13-14, 2016  
Mission Inn Resort,  
Howey-in-the-Hills

### Academy for High Performing Educators

January 24-26, 2016  
Corbett Prep at IDS,  
Tampa

### Winter Symposium: Finance and Legal

February 2, 2016

### Technology Workshop

February 3, 2016  
Pine Crest, Ft Lauderdale

## from the executive director...

Fall has officially arrived in Florida, and there is even a softness in the air as the summer heat retreats. All of our schools and FCIS are fully engaged, and I am struck by the innovative and ambitious plans for the future being made by FCIS and member schools. More and more of our schools are rebounding from the recession with approximately 60% of our schools growing in enrollment and surpassing enrollments prior to 2010. The aggregate enrollment in our FCIS schools now exceeds the enrollment prior to the recession at 73,447. The greatest growth continues to be in middle and upper school grades, although grades 3 and above are reflecting enrollment higher than pre-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 2015-16 Professional Development Calendar on the website and in the brochure mailed to each member school. To date, we have completed the 2015 New Heads' Institute, 2015 Administrators' Retreat, the New Teacher Institute, FCIS Leadership Partners 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. New this year, the Prospective Heads' Institute has three tracks, allowing participants to stay in the program for three years with a focus on finances and human resources, along with a new head's entry plan, in the third track.

**FCIS Annual Convention** – I hope you are making plans to attend the 2015 FCIS Annual Convention on **November 5-6 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport**. Special thanks go to Cindy Moon, Head of School of Park Maitland School; Dr. Mike Sligh, Headmaster of Lakeland Christian School; and all of the Orlando area FCIS

schools for chairing and hosting this important event. Thursday keynote speakers include **Dr. Tony Wagner**, Expert in Residence, Harvard Innovation Lab and author of newly released book, *Most Likely to Succeed*, and **Dr. Sandy Shugart**, President of Valencia College and author of *Leadership in the Crucible of Work: Discovering the Life of an Authentic Leader*. On Friday, Christian Long, Founding Partner of Wonder (by Design), will kick off the faculty day with an inspiring luncheon keynote being given by Nishant Mehta, Head of School of The Children's School, Atlanta, Georgia. This convention is not to be missed.

**CAPE** – The SAT mean scores for **2015** graduates from independent schools exceeded the previously set College and Career Readiness Benchmark of 1550. The mean combined score for **independent school seniors** was **1649**, up 99 points over the benchmark, as compared to **public school seniors** with a mean combined score of **1462**, 88 points below the standard. On the **2014-15 SAT National Scores**, the mean score for writing was 538 for independent schools, 527 for religious schools, and 475 for public schools. The reading mean score was 532 for independent schools, 533 for religious schools, and 489 for public schools; the math mean score was 579 for independent schools, 536 for religious schools, and 498 for public schools.

**FCIS SAT SCORES 2014-15** – The mean combined score for **FCIS seniors** was 1673, which is 123 points over the college readiness benchmark and 24 points over the independent school mean. The mean score for **FCIS schools in writing** was **551**, surpassing the national average for independent schools, as compared to **468** for the state of **Florida**. The **reading** mean score for **FCIS schools** was **554**, again surpassing the national average for independent schools, as compared to **486** for all **Florida** schools. The **math** mean score for **FCIS schools** was **568**, as compared to 579 nationally for independent schools, and **480** for all Florida schools.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

# School News

**Community School of Naples** has announced that three seniors have qualified as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: R. Clinton, R. Jaffe and F. Spinelli.

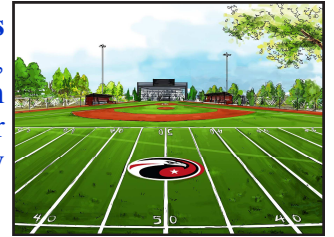


Community School of Naples inducted 59 new members into the CSN honor societies, which recognize students for their dedication and scholarship in four distinct areas, Science, French, Latin, and Spanish.

For the first time in **The Pine School's** history all grades (Kindergarten through Grade 12) are joined on one campus in Hobe Sound. Head of School, Phyllis Parker, would like to thank the Board of Trustees and the uKnight Committee for their tireless efforts to support the joining of the two campuses.



**Carrollwood Day School's** Head of School, Ryan Kelly, announced a \$1 million match gift award to kick off their campaign to build CDS a new athletic field complex.



**Brandon Academy** is happy to announce they officially opened their High School with 9th grade students and plans to add a grade level each year. Construction on the new classroom building is complete. The building houses 4th and 5th graders, as well as a new teacher work area.

**All Saints Academy** has made history. For the first time, 100% of their parents, Board of Trustees, and faculty united in support of All Saints Academy by making their best gift to the Halo Fund.



## 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 12, 2016**

Jacksonville Area

Hosted by: Palmer Bell

Riverside Presbyterian Day School

**Thursday, April 21, 2016**

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas

Hosted by: Kevin Plummer

Tampa Preparatory School

**Thursday, April 28, 2016**

Tallahassee/Panhandle Area

Hosted by: James Milford

Maclay School

**Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

Miami Area

Hosted by: Greg Blackburn

St. Philip's Episcopal School

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas

Hosted by: Tane Bonham

Christ Church School

**Thursday, May 5, 2016**

North Palm Beach Area

Hosted by: Bob Goldberg

The Benjamin School

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

Orlando Area

Hosted by: Craig Maughan

Trinity Preparatory School

## Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance October 4-5

On October 4-5, a group of Heads and Board Chairs met at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport 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. Sessions included: *The Relationship Needed for Good Leadership*, *Leadership and Effective Communication*, *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.



## FCIS New Teacher Institute 2015 September 20-22

The New Teacher Institute welcomed 53 enthusiastic, new and nearly new independent school 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, parents as partners, classroom and time management, lesson planning and assessment, technology and innovation, thinking routines, mentoring, and bringing joy into the classroom. Lori Smith, an Orlando attorney, presented a session on professionalism, 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 educators from peer schools and enjoyed learning from each other and building the foundation for professional learning networks for ongoing collegial support.

Special thanks to our dedicated teaching faculty: Mike Jakubisin, Director of Upper School, Lake Highland Preparatory School; Donna Tobey, Head of Lower School, Palm Beach Day Academy; Dr. Luci Higgins, Director of Curriculum and Middle School Principal, The First Academy; Dr. Joyce Burick Swartzman, Head of School, Corbett Preparatory School of IDS; Pat Mulloy, Director of Curriculum, Trinity Preparatory School; and John Weaver, 8th Grade Math Teacher, Lake Highland Preparatory School.





## ***Prospective Heads' Institute I , Institute II & Institute III*** ***Have you ever thought about becoming a head of school?***

This program provides an opportunity to learn about the personal and professional qualities needed to lead effectively in the 21st century. If you are currently serving in an administrative role and you have given any thought to becoming a head of school or learning more about the responsibilities of a head of school, come and explore the many facets, challenges and rewards involved in a headship.

### **Multi-part program which includes:**

*Opening Webinar:* September 24, 2015

*Webinars:* Legal, Financial and Governance

*Gathering:* FCIS Convention, November 5, 2015

*Seminar:* Mission Inn Resort & Club, January 13-14, 2016

*Closing Webinar:* March 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

**Cost: \$375** (includes webinars and two-day seminar at Mission Inn)

**Mission Inn Resort Hotel Room: \$119**

Register at [www.fcis.org](http://www.fcis.org), workshop and events

## **Accreditation Corner** **By: Melissa Alton, Director of Accreditation**

### **Workshop: Refresher Session for FCIS Evaluation Chairs**

**Date:** Thursday, November 5 at the FCIS Convention, Orlando

**Who should attend?** Current FCIS Evaluation Chairs should attend this session to review procedures, best practices, templates and forms, and more. Heads of School interested in learning more about the chairing process are also welcome.

### **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 6 at the FCIS Convention, Orlando

**Who should attend?** Any employee of an FCIS member school is welcome. These workshops are strongly recommended for schools who have evaluations scheduled in 2015-2016 or 2016-2017.

### **Workshop: FCIS Evaluation Academy for Schools**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 17 at Lake Highland Preparatory School, Orlando

**Who should attend?** This workshop will be most helpful for schools who are undergoing an evaluation in 2016-2017 or 2017-2018. Heads of School, Steering Committee Chairs, or any other faculty/staff member leading the accreditation process will benefit from this event.

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**Interested in serving on an FCIS Evaluation Team during the 2015-2016 school year?** We are always on the lookout for educators who want to help other schools grow and improve by serving on an evaluation team. For information on how to sign up, please contact Director of Accreditation, Melissa Alton, at [malton@fcis.org](mailto:malton@fcis.org).

**Your school's self-study: Write it right!** Make sure your steering committee is using the correct template for the type of visit your school will undergo. Templates are available at [www.fcis.org](http://www.fcis.org) under "Info for School." If you are not sure which template to use, do not hesitate to contact the FCIS office for clarification.

**Making a change?** FCIS Bylaws require member schools to inform FCIS when they have a Change of Head, Change of Program, Change of Location, or Change of Ownership. Please inform the FCIS office of any upcoming changes in writing, either via e-mail or regular post. Need more information about what constitutes a change? Contact FCIS at (813) 287-2820 for assistance.





## Regional Caucuses

The first annual FKC Regional Caucuses that were just held throughout the state of Florida were a HUGE success! Over 150 PK through Grade 3 educators came together for a great sharing opportunity. Thanks to all of the host cities of Miami, Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, West Palm Beach, and FKC Board facilitators for making this a terrific way to make new connections and establish new friendships that will hopefully carry on in the future.

Make plans now to meet up again at the FKC Convention on February 6<sup>th</sup> in Orlando! We even have a special breakfast planned for all caucus attendees to rekindle acquaintances and to mesh minds with attendees from other regions. See you there!



## Florida Kindergarten Council Annual Conference *The Art of Tinkering*

**Keynote Speaker—Tom Pilecki**

Tom Pilecki, MA is an Education Specialist for AlphaBEST, a leading provider of extended day programs around the country. Tom co-authored the best-selling book *From STEM to STEAM* with internationally acclaimed author David Sousa and conducts STEAM professional development workshops for universities, schools and school districts. His 40 plus years include being founder and principal of St. Augustine School of the Arts in the South Bronx, New York, the subject of the Sundance award-winning documentary “Something Within Me” (available on Netflix and OnDemand) as well as feature segments on 60 Minutes, World News Tonight and the McNeil-Lehrer report.

**Friday, February 5, 2016**

6:30-8:00pm Meet and Greet

Complimentary Beverages and Hors D’oeuvres

**Saturday, February 6, 2016**

7:30am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 3:30pm General Meeting/Sessions/Lunch

**The DoubleTree Sea World Orlando**

10100 International Drive

Orlando, FL

800-327-0363

