

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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Inside this issue

Page 1

Executive Director Letter

Page 2

New Heads' Institute
Governance Workshop

Page 3

VISNET
Prospective Heads Program
FCIS Webinars
FCIS/Other Workshops

Page 4

PHI I and II
Accreditation Corner

Page 5

School News
FCIS Heads' Luncheons

Page 6

FKC Corner

Upcoming FCIS Events

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

**Prospective Heads' Institute
I and II**
January 15-16, 2014
Howey-in-the-Hills

Evaluation Academy
January 22, 2013
Lake Highland Prep
Orlando

**Academy for High Performing
Educators 2014**
January 26-28, 2014
Corbett Preparatory @ IDS Tam-
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from the executive director...

Happy fall to all of our member schools! It is this time of year when we are past the orientations and open houses for our enrolled families, and we are truly into the full swing of the year. All of the FCIS Annual Reports are in, and FCIS schools in most geographic areas appear to be recovering from the economic recession. The FCIS aggregate enrollment for 2013-14 is **70,442** students, as compared to **68,330** students in 2009-10 following the economic events of fall 2008. I will be going into greater detail about FCIS statistics at the FCIS Annual Convention in Orlando on November 7 when I present "The State of Our Association" at the 3pm General Session.

FCIS Professional Development -By now, all of you should have received in the mail the FCIS Professional Development Calendar 2013-14 in a tri-fold that may be tacked to your bulletin/information board. As always, that document can be found online at www.fcis.org. To date, we have already completed the 21st Century Teaching Academy; 2013 New Heads' Institute; 2013 Administrators' Retreat; the New Teacher Institute, which was held at a new venue – The Mission Inn at Howey-in-the-Hills; FCIS Leadership Partnership; 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.

The Dale D. Regan Leadership Institute – During the 2012-13 school year, FCIS launched the first leadership institute, the Prospective Heads Institute (PHI). The Institute consisted of webinars, a session at the Annual Convention, and a two-day seminar. PHI was so well received that participants asked to continue in the program. This year, we are offering two tracks for PHI. Initiating the 2013-14 school year, the second institute, the FCIS New Heads' Institute, was held on July 24-27, 2013, scheduled the three days before the Administrators' Retreat. Eleven heads gathered for the event; participants benefitted from the resources and information, along with forming new relationships with other heads. On October 6-7, FCIS debuted the first workshop of the Experienced Heads' Institute – FCIS Leadership Partnership through Principles of Good Governance.

Twenty-six heads and board chairs gathered in Coral Gables for this event. Evaluations indicate that this two-day event was beneficial to our schools in strengthening the governance in those schools represented.

FCIS Annual Convention - I hope you are making plans to attend the 2013 FCIS Annual Convention on **November 7-8 at the Hyatt Regency Airport Hotel**. Special thanks go to David Mahler, Head of School of The Out-of-Door Academy; Kevin Plummer, Head of School of Tampa Preparatory; and all of the Tampa Bay area FCIS schools for hosting this important event. Featured speakers include **Richard Honack** from **Kellogg Center for Non-Profit Management, Northwestern University**; **Dr. Larry Thompson** from **Ringling College of Art and Design**; **Dr. Eric Mazur** from **Harvard University**; and **Author and Consultant, Rick Lavoie**.

CAPE – The SAT mean scores for 2013 graduates from independent schools exceeded the previously set College and Career Readiness Benchmark of a combined score of **1550**. The mean combined score for **independent school seniors** was **1662**, exceeding the benchmark by 112 points, as compared to **public school seniors** with a mean combined score of **1474**, 76 points below the standard. On the **2012-13 SAT National Scores**, the mean score for writing was 545 for independent schools, 528 for religious schools, and 480 for public schools. The reading mean score was 536 for independent schools, 531 for religious schools, and 491 for public schools; the math mean score was 581 for independent schools, 536 for religious schools, and 503 for public schools.

FCIS SAT SCORES 2011-12 –The mean score for FCIS schools in **writing** was **546**, surpassing the national average for independent schools, as compared to **475** for the state of **Florida**. The **reading** mean score for FCIS schools was **548**, again surpassing the national average for independent schools, as compared to **492** for all **Florida** schools. The **math** mean score for FCIS schools was **567**, as compared to 581 nationally for independent schools, and **490** for all Florida schools.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

New Teacher Institute September 22-24, 2013

“New” was definitely the key word at this year’s New Teacher Institute! We welcomed 35 *new* and enthusiastic teachers to a beautiful *new* location with several *new* teaching faculty members! The Institute began on Sunday afternoon at the Mission Inn, just north of Orlando. New teachers, representing seventeen FCIS schools spent the following days (and nights!) participating in workshops designed to strengthen and enhance their knowledge of classroom management, lesson planning, differentiated instruction, time management and professionalism. Workshops also focused on parental relationships, collegiality and positive phrasing. Lori Smith, an Orlando attorney presented a session on the appropriate and inappropriate use of social media, as well as the importance of supervision of students in the classroom, and on field trips, and other important legal issues relating to independent schools.



Special thanks to our outstanding teaching faculty: Director, Cathy Ford, Retired Head, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy; Dr. Joyce Swarzman, Head of School at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS; Cathy Koos, Lower School Director, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy; Mike Jakubisin, Upper School Head, Lake Highland Preparatory School; and Suzanne Otero, Lower School Director, The Weiss School.



Leadership Partners Through Principles of Good Governance October 6-7, 2013

A group of 26 Heads, Board Chairs and Rectors met at the Coral Gables Hyatt Regency Hotel in south Florida on October 6 and 7th for the first FCIS “Leadership Partners through Principles of Good Governance” workshop. Topics included: The Relationship Needed for Good Leadership, Effective Communication at the Top, Issues Facing Independent Schools Today, Strategic Planning and Board Expectations, The Role of the Board/Role of the Head, The Importance of a Good Partnership and for the Episcopal schools, a session on the Relationship of the Head and Rector.

Each topic led to many informal discussions which carried over into Sunday evening’s dinner and Monday’s lunch. Our feedback indicates extremely high satisfaction with this workshop. Time was allocated for questions, candid observations and brainstorming. Dr. Barbara Hodges was the workshop leader, with assistance from Dr. Jan Pullen, Head of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Day School in Bradenton, and Greg Blackburn, Head of St. Philip’s Episcopal School in Coral Gables.





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 a summer conference for 21st Century Teachers and 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 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 nguyen@fcis.org for additional information.

FCIS Workshops

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

**Prospective Heads’
 Institute I and II**
 January 15-16, 2014
 Mission Hills Resort,
 Howey-in-the-Hills

Evaluation Academy
 January 22, 2013
 Lake Highland Prep,
 Orlando

**Academy for High Per-
 forming Educators 2014**
 January 26-28, 2014
 Corbett Preparatory @ IDS,
 Tampa

Legal Webinars with FCIS and Suzanne Bogdan

Tuesday, November 12
 Voluntary Retirement
 Plans: Encouraging Appropriate Turnover Within Your School

Thursday, December 12
 Investigations of Student and Employee Issues: Avoiding Traps for the Unwary

Friday, January 10
 Skeletons in the Closet: Risks and Guidance for Managing Claims (Ancient or Current)

Thursday, February 13
 FHSAA Update: Understanding and Operating Within the Guidelines

Time: 12:00 (noon) - 1:00pm
 Cost: **Free** for member schools
www.fcis.org

Other Workshops

NAIS Annual Conference
 Feb 26-28, 2014 FL www.nais.org

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.

Program consists of:

Gathering, FCIS Convention, November 7

Seminar, Jan. 15-16, 2014 - Mission Inn Resort & Club, Howey-in-the-Hills

Webinar, March 13, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Cost: \$295 includes webinars, seminar/meals at Mission Inn and seminar materials
Mission Inn Resort Hotel Room: \$109

Register at www.fcis.org, workshop and events

FCIS Accreditation Corner

Upcoming Events and Announcements from the FCIS Accreditation Office!

Workshops: November 7-8, 2013—Hyatt Regency Airport Orlando—FCIS Convention
Three accreditation sessions will be offered:

- 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

If your school has an evaluation scheduled for 2013-14 or 2014-15, please plan to attend!

Evaluation Academy: For Heads of School and Steering Committee Chairs

- Wednesday, January 22, 2014; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Lake Highland Preparatory School, Orlando area
- Cost: \$50

Webinars:

“Understanding FCIS Governance Standards”

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

“Serving on an FCIS Evaluation Team”

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

3:30 p.m.— 4:30 p.m.



School News

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On Sept. 9, **Saint Stephen's Episcopal School**, Bradenton, welcomed former college basketball star and promising NBA rookie (1999), Chris Herren to speak to the entire Upper School student body. Mr. Herren, the co-author of *Basketball Junkie* and founder of the "Go Purple Project" provided a riveting account of his fourteen year rise and fall due to addition issues and poor self-image. Mr. Herren was the first speaker this year in Saint Stephen's Speaker Series known as S4.

Congratulations to **Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Academy** and **First Academy Middle School**. They have been awarded National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2013.

On Oct. 17, **Park Maitland School** came together to take a stand against all cancers at an assembly organized by students. They shared video, music and other activities how cancer has impacted their lives. Congratulations to the students of Park Maitland.

Ten **Trinity Preparatory** Seniors have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as semifinalist in the 59th National Merit Scholarship Program. The Lausanne Learning Institute, an international conference and think tank for schools utilizing laptop or tablet computers as tools for learning, has selected Trinity Prep as its 2014 Spotlight School.



Joseph's Episcopal School enjoyed their Annual Back to School Barbeque. Children competed in the QR Code Scavenger Hunt with iPads and iPhones in hand. The event raised over \$2,300 in support of the Annual Fund campaign.



On Oct. 5, **Montverde Academy** Upper School STEM group attended the Second Annual "Orlando Makers Faire". The annual event centers around promoting do-it-yourself ethic with respect to technology. On Oct. 2, Montverde Academy SAC (Study Area Concentration) Global Perspectives (GP) Diploma Program students travelled to Rollins College to attend a lecture presented by Arun Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi – the anti-war spiritual leader and political promoter of peaceful civil disobedience who led India in their independence and social rights crusade against British authorities and was assassinated in 1948.

American Youth Academy was recognized by Governor Scott with his Shine Award. AYA was selected because of their outstanding commitment to the importance of school-parent partnerships as demonstrated through their work with *Success Partners*.

Community School of Naples celebrates Moon Festival (Chinese Thanksgiving).



2014 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 22, 2014
Tallahassee Area
Hosted by: Bill Jablon, Maclay School

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Miami Area
Hosted by: Sr. Suzanne Cooke,
Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart

Thursday, May 1, 2014
Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale
Hosted by: Dr. Dana Markham, Pine Crest School

Friday, May 2, 2014
West Palm Beach
Hosted by: Nammie Ichilov,
Arthur I Meyer Jewish Academy

Tuesday, May 6, 2014
Jacksonville Area
Hosted by: Cathy Hardage, St. Mark's Episcopal School

Thursday, May 8, 2014
Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas
Hosted by: Bob Fine, Admiral Farragut Academy

Monday, May 12, 2014
Orlando Area
Hosted by: Craig Maughan, Trinity Preparatory School



Florida Kindergarten Council Convention
October 12th, 2013
The World is Our Playground

Early Childhood Education stimulates the development of cognitive, social, and self awareness skills in children so as to furnish society with innovative and productive men and women. This is the consummate ideology that the Florida Kindergarten Council continues to promulgate during its annual convention.

The World is Our Playground, the theme of the Florida Kindergarten Council's 2013 Convention, upheld this conversation among the 55 schools and about 204 attendees.



Jack Hartman

The meeting of various experienced and eager minds enlivened the sixteen engaging sessions, including *The World, Word, and Wisdom*; *Rockin' to the Core: Meet Your Common Core Standards with Music and Movement Fun*; and *Beyond the Pretty Costumes: Educating for Global Competence*. They all ran the gamut of dovetailing learning with fun inside and outside the classroom, while ensuring that cross-discipline connections, critical thinking, and creativity were quotidian practices.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Sharon Shaffer, a leading expert in the field of early learning, who works with schools and museums nationally and internationally, declaimed the benefits of Object-based Learning. She emphasized the prodigious influence of introducing objects to students as a basis of "hands-on" learning, where by identifying and describing characteristics, age, origin, use, and purpose to spark expression and critical thinking in students.



Dr. Sharon Shaffer,

These enlightening teaching techniques and strategies from Dr. Shaffer and the dedicated presenters are examples of teachers' continuous efforts to make the learning experience for our young leaders exciting and insightful.

We are especially appreciative to our FKC board members particularly Arvi Balseiro, Anita Fine, Catherine Moss, Bill Stewart, Donna Tobey, and Kavita Vasil. Also, kudos should be extended to our volunteers and attendees for pointedly making this year's convention another successful one.



We will meet again next year to continue our work towards excellence. See you then!



Joanne Moore,
former FKC Board
Member with Rubi-
na Tariq, FKC
Board Member