

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

Volume 01-12

Jan/Feb 2012

Inside this issue

Page 1

Executive Director Letter

Page 2

Legislative Update

Page 3

School News

Page 4

Academy 2012
Social Media Workshop

Page 5

Accreditation Corner
FKC Corner

Page 6

Ads

Upcoming FCIS Events

Governance Webinar
February 24, 2012
www.fcis.org

Spring Symposium
April 23, 2012
Technology with
Nancy Wong
April 24, 2012
Human Resource &
Personnel with Suzanne
Bogdan
@ Lake Highland Prep
Orlando

Apple Workshop
May 3, 2012
Pine Crest School
Ft. Lauderdale

Heads' Retreat
June 19-21, 2012
Waldorf Astoria, Naples

from the executive director...

For most of our independent schools, this is one of the busiest seasons of the year with re-enrollment and enrollment for the 2012-13 school year. It is this time of the year when we all consider the value of our institutions and what we have to offer to our communities. The same is true for our state association, FCIS. I hope that you have been aware of our expanded services during this year. If you take a trip to our website, you will notice the addition of various resources, including a robust offering of professional development. For heads of school, the heads' portal continues to grow with power point presentations and the recordings of the five legal webinars featuring Suzanne Bogdan. The legal webinars were new additions this year, and Suzanne and I are already looking to the year ahead for new offerings. If you have participated in these webinars, look for a survey in the near future and an opportunity to suggest new topics for 2012-13. In addition on the heads' portal, you will find the video recording of Ian Jukes' keynote presentation at the 2011 FCIS Convention. The development of portals and resources has been just another way that FCIS attempts to meet the varied needs of member schools. If you haven't used the portals and have misplaced your password, don't hesitate to call our office for log-in instructions.

TALLAHASSEE. The legislative session is in full swing, and FCIS is following several bills on a daily basis. I am working closely with our lobbyist, Brenda Dickinson, and I can not stress enough how important the voices of each of our schools are in this legislative process. Reading the history of our association this past week as I was preparing for the orientation session for new directors of the FCIS Board, I was struck by the words that were written as a reason for founding our association in 1954. The history, as recorded in a doctoral dissertation by Dr. William R. Johnson, stated that the association was formed over concerns of "threats of state legislation and regulation", and those same concerns are still real today. Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find the latest legislative report. Please take a moment to make phone calls or write emails and/or letters to your state representatives and senators.

WASHINGTON. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) recently published the "Top Private Education Events of 2011". First in January 2011, Speaker John Boehner and Senator Joe Lieberman supported an effort to reauthorize the Opportunity Scholarship for students in the District of Columbia. Their efforts were successful, and President Obama signed the bill in April. Also, in April 2011, the United States Supreme Court gave a landmark decision that allowed the scholarship tax credit program in Arizona to continue. This allows tax payers in that state to take a dollar for dollar tax credit for up to \$500 per individual annually for contributions made to school tuition organizations. In the state of Indiana, legislation has established a \$1,000 tax deduction for parents who have incurred costs for private schools or home schooling. In addition, the expansion of the McKay Scholarship in Florida was noted as a significant event.

FCIS. The Council is in the midst of evaluation season. During this year, we will conduct 37 five-year evaluations/reviews, 18 changes of head evaluations, and 4 change of program/location evaluations. In addition to the completion of the legal webinar series and the upcoming governance webinar, FCIS is completing preparations for the Spring Symposium on April 23 and 24 at Lake Highland Preparatory; this promises to be two days of rich professional development on the topics of technology and personnel and human resources. Apple has approached the Council about conducting one-day workshops this spring. Although the timing is late, we feel this is not an opportunity to be missed. We will be posting more information about these workshops, as soon as it is available. It is not too early to start making plans for the Heads' Retreat on June 19-21, 2012 at the Waldorf Astoria in Naples and the Administrators' Retreat at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs on July 29-31. The annual convention will be held on November 7-9, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando Airport; make plans to close your school for Faculty Day on November 9.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

from the president...

Dear FCIS Heads,

Just like all of you, my school is in the midst of re-enrollment and new student enrollment for the 2012-13 school year, which also includes that time of the year when we are all projecting a budget for the coming year. To aid you in your budget planning, I wanted to take a moment to remind you that at the FCIS Annual Business meeting in November, we discussed a **projected 3.75% FCIS dues increase** for the coming school year. Later in the spring, you will receive information regarding an opportunity to vote on the dues increase. I wish all of you well as this school year is rapidly moving toward the fourth quarter.

Best regards,

Dale Regan

President of the FCIS Board of Directors



Legislative Update By Barbara Hodges, Ed. D.

There are several important bills which are making their way through the legislative process.

HB 859 and SB 962 revise the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program by increasing the cap on the amount of tax credits available to the program. HB 859 also removes the requirement for prior public school enrollment for students in grades 2 – 5. The provision that creates concern is allowing private schools to administer the FCAT. The FCAT is a criterion referenced assessment and is tied to the public school curriculum. While it is voluntary in the bill, once the language is in statute, it will be very easy for future Legislatures to change the “may” to “shall.” Only private schools which participate in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program will be allowed to administer the FCAT at the school.

HB 1403 and SB 1704 revise High School Athletics. SB 1704 creates the Sunshine Independent Athletic Association for private schools in statute. It also prohibits the FHSAA from denying or discouraging interscholastic competition between the two associations. HB 1403 has been amended and does not include the SIAA language at this time. However, the Session is not over and both bills are still moving through the process.

HB 7119, HB 7085, HB 5103 all deal with some aspect of VPK, School Readiness, Office of Early Learning (OEL) and the Early Learning Coalitions. These bills address issues raised in the audit released December 2011 by the Auditor General in which the OEL is designated as a high risk agency. These House bills are more prescriptive while the only Senate bill, **SB 1974**, basically directs the OEL to correct the issues addressed in the audit. Both bills require a statewide standardized contract and monitoring tool. The Senate bill and HB 5103 are conforming bills to the budget and will go to conference beginning the last weekend in February. It is unclear what will emerge as a final product of the conference.

HB 293 allows private schools to request notification from the emergency response agencies that are responsible for notifying public schools when an event that threatens student safety occurs.

SB 494 also amends current statutes to authorize private schools to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors in a locked, secure location for students authorized to self-administer epinephrine.

School News

Congratulations to **Canterbury School of FL** (2A private), **Maclay School** (3A private) and **Bolles School** (4A private) on winning the 2011-12 FHSAA Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup All-Sports competition!



Kevin Plummer and his daughter, Galen

Tampa Prep Terrapins defeated **Berkeley Prep** in the 9th annual Headmasters' Challenge on Jan. 7th with an overall score of 13.5 to 6.5.



Joe Fenlon, Photo by Chris Urso, Tampa Tribune

Congratulations to Coach Joe Fenlon on his 600th win! Kim Jago, History teacher at Tampa Prep, was

appointed to the College Board's AP European History Curriculum Development and Assessment Committee. She is one of two secondary school members of the 7-member committee. Congratulations!

Pierre-Yves Cousteau, son of legendary ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, announced that **Canterbury School of Florida** will be the *first*

Cousteau Divers school in the *world*. Cousteau Divers is an international not-for-profit organization fostering scientific programs that monitor and conserve marine biodiversity around the world. Canterbury will now be part of this global program.

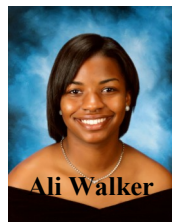


Carrollwood Day School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 6th. They have developed a Master Plan designed to provide the facilities and environment essential to support the academic, athletic, and artistic experiences CDS needs to offer in the 21st century.

Montverde Academy students volunteered their time and skills to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties. The main goal of this philanthropic ensemble has been to travel three times a week to offer academic tutoring and peer mentoring. MVA Lower School students raised \$1,613.62 during the Change Challenge. Money collected will fund the Faith Neighborhood Center of Groveland. MVA programming students traveled to Stetson University and participated in a programming competition. They placed twice as high as they did in 2010 and won \$72,000 in student scholarships. Congratulations!



The Bolles School senior Alexandra Walker has been named a National Achievement Scholarship Finalist. Congratulations Alexandra! All four of the Bolles students who were named Semifinalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship have been named Finalists. Congratulations to Shan Choudhri, Emily Keator, Quang Nguyen and Rachel



Sorrells.

Oak Hall School sophomore, Brittney Olinger, takes home the Sun's Cross Country Runner of the Year Award for an impressive fourth consecutive season. Congratulations Brittney!

Congratulations to **Palmer Trinity School** in Palmetto Bay! They were named one of two schools in the USA to receive the Global Classroom Award from the Council on Student Educational Travel.

Academy for High Performing Educators January 29-31, 2012 Independent Day School, Tampa

Our thanks to all the schools that sent their outstanding faculty members to this year's Academy for High Performing Educators. Forty-two educators attended this three-day, innovative, interesting and highly intensive workshop that provided each person with strategies, insights and motivational ideas and ways to gain a better understanding of teaching and learning styles. Led by Dr. Joyce Swarzman, Head of Independent Day School of Tampa, the attendees discussed, assimilated, asked questions and modeled the variety of brain-based teaching strategies that were presented. The 2012 Academy was a huge success for all involved.



**Social Media & Legal Implications Workshop with Bill Krizner
February 3, 2012
Tampa Preparatory School, Tampa**



On Friday, February 3, over 30 FCIS Heads & Administrators met at Tampa Prep to hear how the use of social media can affect students, teachers, parents and schools. The use of social media as a tool in the areas of marketing, communication with alumni, and admission can have many powerful and positive results. The objective of this workshop was to raise awareness on how it can also be problematic when used for inappropriate purposes. The discussion focused on the use of social media from employee to employee, student to student, faculty to parents and faculty to student. Bill emphasized education for all constituencies, formally establishing prohibition in some areas, using specific language in faculty and student handbooks and reporting mechanisms. Bill also reviewed areas of employment law including interviewing, hiring, and granting family and personal leave.

Bill Krizner is the owner and operating partner of The Krizner Group, a law firm based in Tallahassee, FL.

**Spring Symposium
April 23 and/or April 24**

Mark your calendars for this great one or two-day opportunity!

**April 23, 2012
Technology Workshop with Nancy Wong**

Teachers! Technology Integrators! Technology Directors! Administrators!

You'll want to sign up early (seating is limited!) for an FCIS Technology Workshop on April 23, 2012 at Lake Highland Preparatory School. The day's offerings will include a hands-on session on Google Apps for beginners (and those considering its use) and a hands-on session for experienced Google Apps users. Other presentations will include some of the latest ideas in technology integration: "Flipping the Classroom" and "PDA's in the Classroom". Nancy Wong, from The School at Columbia University will be the keynote speaker and facilitate the Google sessions. **Location: Lake Highland Preparatory School, Orlando, FL. Lunch included.**



**April 24, 2012
Human Resource and Personnel with Suzanne Bogdan
Heads! HR Directors! Business Managers! Administrators!**

Independent Schools across the nation continue to be involved in a variety of lawsuits that could easily be avoided. The most common areas that lead to these lawsuits are: "Wage & Hour Requirements", "Student and Adult Boundaries" and "Disability Issues Regarding Employees and Students". Sign up for the latest FCIS legal workshop and learn the facts about these important topics. Suzanne Bogdan and Candice Pinares-Baez, attorneys from the Ft. Lauderdale office of Fisher & Phillips, LLP, will share their expertise and answer your questions on these and other related topics. **Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Location: Lake Highland Preparatory School, Orlando, FL. 9:00-2:45. Lunch included.**



Detailed information and registration forms will be available on the FCIS website.
www.fcis.org



Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

FKC Corner

Standard 3.5.9 Clarification Update

At their February FKC Board meeting, standard 3.5.9 was updated to include the following language.

_____ 3.5.9 18 months through Prekindergarten Three: Instructional personnel of the 18 month, two and three year-old children will comply with ONE (1) of the following:

- A bachelor's degree; if the degree is not in Early Childhood education, 12 semester hours and/or its equivalent** in early childhood education must be obtained.
- *An associate's degree in early childhood/child development or at least a CDA credential. (By July 1, 2014, a CDA credential will no longer meet the standard; a minimum of an associate's degree in early childhood will be required.)
- NOTE: CDA certified faculty members hired prior to the 2011-12 year will be grandfathered in; all faculty members hired after 2011-2012 must meet this standard.

** Equivalent is the following ratio: 20 inservice or workshop hours = one college credit hour

FKC facebook Page

To become an FKC facebook fan, log on to your account and become a fan of "Florida Kindergarten Council" where you will find articles of interest, links, FKC news and announcements!

FKC Convention 2012

Friday, October 12, 2012
6:30pm-8:00pm Meet and Greet

Saturday, October 13, 2012
8:00am -3:30pm Convention

Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Orlando
60 South Ivanhoe Blvd



Accreditation Corner

By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation

FCIS will offer two accreditation workshops this summer:

1. Evaluation Academy 2012 - for Heads of School only
 - *Following the Head's Retreat
 - *June 21-22 at the Waldorf Astoria, Naples
2. "Preparing Your School for an FCIS Evaluation" – for FCIS administrators and Steering Committee Chairs
 - *During the Administrator's Retreat
 - *July 29-31 at The Hyatt Regency, Bonita Springs

Apple Workshop Mark Your Calendars!

May 3, 2012

**Pine Crest School
Ft. Lauderdale**

More Details Coming Soon!

2012 Heads' Luncheons

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.

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Area
Hosted by: Dr. Joyce Swarzman,
Independent Day School, Tampa

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Orlando Area
Hosted by: Craig Maughan,
Trinity Preparatory School

Friday, March 30, 2012

Jacksonville Area
Hosted by: Dr. John Trainer
The Bolles School

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Tallahassee Area
Hosted by: Bill Jablon
Maclay School

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale/Coral Springs Area
Hosted by: Dr. Anthony Bryan,
Coral Springs Christian, Coral Springs

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Miami Area
Hosted by: Suzanne Cooke, RSCJ,
Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart

WORKSHOPS

FCIS

FCIS Governance Webinar	Feb. 24, 2012	Webinar
Spring Symposium		
Technology with Nancy Wong	April 23, 2012	Orlando
Human Resource & Personnel		
with Suzanne Bogdan	April 24, 2012	Orlando
@ Lake Highland Prep		
Apple Workshop @ Pine Crest	May 3, 2012	Ft. Lauderdale
Heads' Retreat	June 19-21, 2012	Naples
Administrators' Retreat	July 29-31, 2012	Bonita Springs
New Teacher Institute	Sept 30-Oct 2, 2012	Oviedo
Convention 2012	Nov. 7-9, 2012	Orlando

www.fcis.org

FHSAA Compliance Summer Workshops

West Broward High School	Aug. 9, 2012	Pembroke Pines
Winter Spring High School	Aug. 10, 2012	Winter Springs

www.fhsaa.org

NAIS

Annual Conference 2012	Feb. 29-Mar. 2	Seattle
Annual Conference 2013	Feb. 27-Mar. 1	Philadelphia

www.nais.org

SSATB

Annual Meeting	Sept. 19-22, 2012	Chicago
----------------	-------------------	---------

www.admission.org



It's time to apply for the 2012 DeWitt E. & Vera Hooker Grant

The purpose of the award is to encourage the development of projects which will benefit the council's member schools, in particular, and private schools, in general.

- Valued at \$3,000
- Entry open to faculty, staff and administration of Florida Council of Independent Schools member schools.
- No limit to number of applications per school
- Applications due by March 9, 2012

For more information and an application go to www.fcis.org, "school resources". Contact Keara Danger at kdanger@fcis.org for password.