

# INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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## Upcoming FCIS Events

Sept. 12-14, 2010

New Teacher  
Institute, Oviedo

Oct. 3-5, 2010

Academy For High  
Performing Teachers  
Independent Day  
School, Tampa

Nov. 11-12, 2010

Convention 2010  
Hyatt, Jacksonville

## from the executive director...

Now, with almost two months behind me as FCIS Executive Director, I am feeling totally immersed in my new role and am seeing so many exciting possibilities for the future of our organization. I am finding that the FCIS office staff is a talented group of people, always ready to do what it takes to support our schools. Over the past two months, the FCIS team has worked on several initiatives to better meet the needs of our member schools.

One of the areas of most significant change is the FCIS website:

- New to the website is “**Dr. Hodges’ Blogging Corner**”, which will provide updates on FCIS events and opportunities, legislative news, and timely topics relevant to “independent education today”.
- Listed under “Events”, **webinars** are another addition to our website. New webinar topics should appear on a monthly basis.
- Under “In the News” on the FCIS homepage, “**Timely Tips**” have been added with hyperlinks to educational and funding opportunities for our schools.
- As another mode of communication, FCIS has created a **Facebook** page, where our member schools can get up-to-date information on FCIS events and opportunities.

The FCIS office is committed to exploring new ways to better serve our member schools.

## News

**Tallahassee. The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTCS)** bill that became law on July 1, 2010 was a tremendous victory for schools and students utilizing this type of scholarship, better known as *Step Up for Students*. This is a scholarship aimed at students whose household income does not exceed 200 % of poverty. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the poverty level for a family of four in 2009-10 was \$22,050 and below. Using these guidelines, a child from a **family of four** with a household income of **\$44,100** or less would be eligible to apply for this

scholarship. The maximum scholarship award, at \$3,950 for the 2009-10 school year, will increase to **\$4,106** for **2010-11**. The maximum scholarship award will eventually reach 80 % of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) operating formula. This will be phased in over at least a six year period. For example, if the FEFP grows at a 3 % rate over the next five years with the current year remaining flat, the FTCS would be able to fund \$6,162 as a maximum award. Students who are renewing their scholarships will no longer be automatically dropped if their household income exceeds 200 % of the poverty level. If the household income is at least 200 %, but not more than 215 %, a 75 percent scholarship may be awarded. In addition, if the family income is at least 215 %, but not more than 230 %, the renewing student would be eligible for a 50 percent scholarship. Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, any school that receives at least \$250,000 in scholarship funds must file a report completed by an outside certified public accountant with the scholarship organization. The first report will be due on September 15, 2011.

**NAIS.** The NAIS Commission on Accreditation has created a new criterion, Criterion 13, for independent school associations recognized by the Commission, which includes FCIS. Criterion 13 reads as follows: *The standards require a school to provide evidence of a thoughtful process, respectful of its mission, for the collection and use in school decision-making of data (both internal and external) about student learning.*

**FCIS:** Welcome to our 11 new FCIS Heads. I know our FCIS Heads will be there to support them in their new positions. Mark your calendar for the FCIS Convention in Jacksonville, November 11 and 12. The convention boasts nationally known speakers and *New York Times* best selling authors, Michael Gurian of the Gurian Institute and Don Yaeger, long-time associate editor of *Sports Illustrated*.

*Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.*  
Executive Director

# Administrators' Retreat July 25-27, 2010 Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, Naples

Naples was a beautiful setting for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Administrators' Retreat. Over fifty administrators, representing 28 FCIS schools gathered at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club from July 25 – 27<sup>th</sup>.



Sunday afternoon, JoAnn Deak presented the latest information on brain research and ways to use the research to increase learning and improve teaching. Most of the group felt that this three hour presentation was so interesting and relevant that we need to

have JoAnn return very soon to do a more extensive workshop. JoAnn is an author, consultant, speaker and preventative psychologist.

Monday morning, Byron Sabol shared his expertise on ways to find success when dealing with difficult people. Byron is a consultant and the author of *"Taming the Beast: Success with Difficult People"*. His clients range from individual professionals to large international firms.

Karen Mathews, the FCIS Associate Director for Accreditation, led an afternoon workshop for individuals interested in preparing their schools for an upcoming accreditation visit. Karen reviewed the standards and shared helpful information for a successful visit. If you are interested in serving on an FCIS team, be sure to attend Karen's session at the November conference in Jacksonville.

Our retreat concluded with an exciting presentation by Nancy Wong from The School at Columbia University in New York. Nancy demonstrated a variety of Google Apps which enhance planning, teaching, assessment and communication.

Our thanks go out to all who attended! Your questions, lively discussions and general camaraderie help to make this a very successful event! Mark your calendar for next year's retreat: July 31 – August 2, 2011.



# School News

**The Weiss School** taekwondo team competed at the 2010 US National & Junior Olympic Taekwondo Championships which were held in Orlando, June 29-July 3. Nine (9) Weiss School students placed among the top-3 at the National level. Congratulations!

*Jennifer Secrest Gold Olympic Medalist*



Former **Pine Crest Preparatory School** guard, Brandon Knight, was honored as national high school athlete of the year at the ESPY Awards in Los Angeles on July 14th. Knight averaged 31.9 points, 8.6 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 2.5 steals while shooting 82 percent from the free throw line last season for Pine Crest. He led the Panthers to the state Class 3A state title game as a senior and had a 4.0 GPA.

**Berkeley Preparatory School** earned 11 Academic Team Champion Awards from FHSAA during the 2009-10 school year. The boys cross country team, the boys and girls swimming and diving teams, the girls volleyball team, the boys and girls basketball teams, the boys track and field team, the boys soccer team, and the wrestling, baseball and softball teams all earned the highest cumulative GPA in their sport and classification.

**The Bolles School's** baseball player Austin Slater '11 is one of 38 players from throughout the nation to be named to the 2010 Aflac All-American Baseball Classic roster, released in early July. The game was played August 15 on nationally televised FOX Sports Net.

**Trinity Preparatory School's** Chloe Grandin '11 took the second place prize for the Youth Division in the City of Orlando Art's Week show. Mayor Buddy Dyer awarded Chloe her prize.

At the close of the 2009-2010 school year, **Admiral Farragut Academy** Middle School Science Department received a grant from the Florida Association for Water Quality Control (FAWQC) to help students continue their studies in water quality issues.

**Lake Highland Preparatory School's** Debate team won both debate and overall program sweepstakes awards at the Catholic National Championships. The Debate team is recognized as one of the top 5 debate programs in the nation.

The Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts and **Tampa Preparatory School** have formed a partnership that will benefit students and community members alike. The Patel Conservatory will offer classes on campus at Tampa Prep. Selected classes will be available to the public.

## New Heads of School 2010-11

Arthur I Meyer Academy  
Nehemia Ichilov

Coral Springs Christian Academy  
Tony Bryan

Creative Learning Academy  
Laura Thompson

Fisher Island Day School  
Raymond Roy, Interim

Grace Episcopal School  
Dr. Daniel Patton

Unity School  
Margo Cohen

Holy Comforter Episcopal School  
Nancy Wood, Interim

Martin J. Gottlieb Day School  
Jon Mitzmacher

Robert F. Munroe Day School  
Suzanne Johnson, Interim

St. James Episcopal School  
Michelle Leek

San Jose Episcopal School  
Lori Menger

**Welcome new FCIS Head of Schools!**

## WORKSHOPS

### FCIS

New Teacher Institute	Sept 12—14	Oviedo
Academy 2010	Oct 3–5	Tampa
Annual Convention 2010	Nov. 11–12	Jacksonville

[www.fcis.org](http://www.fcis.org)

### NAES

Biennial Conference 2010	Nov 18-20	San Antonio
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[www.episcopalschools.org](http://www.episcopalschools.org)

### NAIS

Leadership Through Partnership	Oct 8-10	Dallas
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[www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org)

### NBOA

Institute for Advanced Financial Management	Sept 26-28	St. Louis
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### SSATB

Annual Meeting	Sept 29 - Oct 2	Boston
Admission Training Institute	Sept 28 - 29	Boston

[www.ssat.org](http://www.ssat.org)

## Thank you

### Thanks to the following schools for donating art work to the FCIS Office!

Berkeley Preparatory School  
Canterbury School of Florida  
Glades Day School  
Gulliver School  
Lake Highland Preparatory School  
Leaders Preparatory School  
St. Barnabas Episcopal School  
San Jose Episcopal School  
Tampa Day School  
Tampa Preparatory School

## 2010-11 Stats Online Key Dates

**Enter data by Sept 10**  
**Snapshot available Sept 17**

**Enter data by Oct 8**  
**Snapshot available Oct. 15**

**Enter data by Nov. 12**  
**Snapshot available Nov. 19**

## Accreditation Corner

*By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation*

### FCIS Annual Convention – Accreditation workshops offered:

Thursday, Nov. 11 – “Chairing an Evaluation Visit” (for FCIS Chairs only)

Friday, Nov. 12: “Serving on an FCIS Team” and “Preparing Your School for an Evaluation – Five year or Five year review” and “FCIS/FKC – SACS/SAIS Joint Accreditation Visits”

### FCIS 2010 Standards and Bylaws

At the June board meeting, the FCIS Board of Directors approved the following addition to the FCIS Standards: **3.3.10 E-Learning and Distance Education Programs**

To ensure both quality and independence, FCIS schools incorporating asynchronous and synchronous learning opportunities (*enabled by the internet, audio, video, or other means*) must demonstrate compliance with all FCIS standards. Special exception may be made regarding facility, physical space, and school sessions if students do not attend a school campus. E-learning offerings must be either:

- a. Developed and controlled by the FCIS school and/or
- b. **Supplemental** programs (those not developed and controlled by the FCIS school, such as FLVS), must:
  - i. Be accredited by a regional accrediting agency AND\
  - ii. Must not exceed **25%** of a student’s course of study

### FKC Convention Session

For FCIS-FKC or FKC only schools with an evaluation in the 2010-11 or 2011-12 school year, we will offer the following session on Saturday, Oct. 23rd at the FKC Convention: "Preparing for a Five Year or Five Year Review Evaluation"

**FKC Annual Conference**  
**"Keeping the Young Brain at Heart"**  
For Educators of Children Age 3 - Grade 3  
Sonesta Hotel—Downtown Orlando

**Friday, October 22, 2010**

6:30-8:00 Meet and Greet

**Saturday, October 23, 2010**

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. General Meeting/Sessions/Lunch

**Marilee Sprenger**

**Luncheon Keynote Speaker**

Marilee Sprenger is considered an expert in education on the brain, learning and memory, and differentiation.

**Cost: \$75.00 per person**

**Deadline: September 17, 2010**

For more information and registration go to  
**[www.fkconline.org](http://www.fkconline.org)**, workshops and events

**Fisher Island Day School**  
**Head of School, Fisher Island**  
**July 2011**

Fisher Island Day School seeks Head of School to lead a community of 75 PreK through fifth grade students and 16 faculty members. This person is charged with ensuring that continuing excellence of all aspects of the School's operation in the context of the School's Mission Statement.

**Experience, Skills and Qualities:**

- \*Passion for the education of young children
- \*Must Enjoy challenges
- \*Significant independent school experience, including early childhood education
- \*Must have had a very successful past work trajectory
- \*Successful administrative experience in schools
- \*Financial savvy and experience in budgeting and school business matters
- \*Fundraising skills and comfort
- \*Effective interpersonal skills to connect personally and dynamically with constituencies from many different cultures and backgrounds
- \*Ability to speak and understand Spanish in highly desirable
- \*An advanced degree

**Candidates should submit electronically:**

A cover letter expressing interest, current resume, a statement of educational philosophy and the names, addresses and phone numbers of 5 references to  
**[fids@carneysandoe.com](mailto:fids@carneysandoe.com)**

**Holy Comforter Episcopal School**  
**Head of School, Tallahassee**  
**July 2011**

Our mission is to nourish the spirit, challenge the mind, and strengthen the body in a Christian environment, encouraging each child to achieve his or her maximum potential as a contributing member of society.

**Challenges & Opportunities for the Next Head of School:**

- \*To act as the chief role model for this dynamic values-based community — in all facets and aspects of school life
- \*To continue to provide highly visible, approachable and collaborative leadership for a school which sees its Head of School as the leader of its extended family community
- \*To act as the school's ambassador both internally and externally
- \*To work symbiotically with the Board of Trustees to shape and implement the vision for the future

**HCES seeks a leader who can and will:**

- \*Be a committed, practicing Christian who is comfortable in his or her faith
- \*Bring a truly personal approach to school leadership, including a close and personal knowledge of the students and their families
- \*Have experience with independent elementary and or middle school educational schooling, and understand the practical and theoretical trends in pedagogy, technology and student development
- \*Become involved and immersed in the local community

For further details, please contact:  
Mr. Stephen G. DiCicco, President  
Educational Directions Incorporated  
[sdicicco@edu-directions.com](mailto:sdicicco@edu-directions.com)  
TEL: 800/647-2794, extension2

**TEACHERS**

**Curriculum for the Gifted Course**

Where: The Weiss School, 4176 Burns Road  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

When: October 9-11, 2010 and  
November 5-7, 2010

Contact: Dr. Spirou at [dspirou@weisschool.org](mailto:dspirou@weisschool.org)  
for registration information