

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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Upcoming FCIS Events

October 2-4, 2011
New Teacher Institute
Canterbury Retreat
Oviedo

October 6 & 13, 2011
Financial Standards
Webinar

November 17-18 2011
Convention
Hyatt Regency
Weston

January 29-31, 2012
Academy for High
Performing Educators
@ IDS, Tampa

February 3, 2012
Bill Krizner/Social Me-
dia & Legal Implications
@ Tampa Prep, Tampa

from the executive director...

It's amazing how quickly the summer has passed; I hope that everyone has gotten a chance to get away for a time of relaxation and rejuvenation. Life has scarcely slowed down in the FCIS office. The two FCIS summer events, the Heads' Retreat in June and the Administrators' Retreat in late July, drew large audiences and challenged participants to consider key elements in 21st century independent schools. Plans are already underway for the 2012 retreats. More information will be available soon, so stay tuned.

The FCIS Office has been busy planning a professional calendar for the 2011-12 school year, along with exploring new means to enhance our website to provide more resources and communication among our schools. Last spring, we opened a heads' portal, and we are in the process of developing other portals to serve the other divisions within our schools. This year, we will be offering more webinars; among the topics will be accreditation standards and prominent legal issues. Information about these opportunities will appear on our website, as well as on facebook and twitter. If you are not one of our facebook friends or are not following FCIS on twitter, please consider doing so.

News

Tallahassee. House Bill 1329, expanding eligibility for the **McKay Scholarship**, was signed by Governor Scott on June 2 and became law on July 1, 2011. This new law allows a public school student with a 504 Accommodation Plan to be eligible for a McKay Scholarship to attend a private school or another public school.

Beginning July 1, the Child Care Program Office will process **Religious Exemption from Licensure** Annual Statements and will use a new electronic procedure for the submission of required documentation. To access this information, go to www.myflorida.com/childcare and click the "Religious Exemptions" link.

For those schools accepting **VPK** funding, the **new ratios** require an instructor with approved credentials for each class of 11 children or fewer. The VPK class must be composed of at least 4 students, but may not exceed 20 students. Funding for the 2011-12 school year program is \$2,383 per student.

Washington, D.C. The new **Clean Air Act** has regulations for institutions using boilers burning coal, oil, biomass, or non-waste material. For more information, go to www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance/index.html.

NAIS. The **NAIS StatsOnline** surveys opened on **July 1, 2011**. These surveys are an effective means for FCIS to gather data on all of our schools. If your school is a member of NAIS, you may have already received a reminder. For those who have not, you may access the surveys in the following manner:

- Go to www.nais.org.
- Under "Quick Tasks", choose "ACCESS STATSONLINE".
- Next, click on "Surveys" which will ask for a log in.
- If you have participated in the surveys previously, you will have a log in username and password.
- For first time users, click "register now".
- Complete surveys and submit.

NAIS collects statistics on our association, along with other independent associations. **Access to the FCIS statistics' page is available to all FCIS schools, not just NAIS schools.** These statistics are only valid if we have a high rate of participation from our member schools. All data must be entered by **November 18, 2011** with statistical tables available in mid-December 2011.

FCIS. I would like to extend a special welcome to our 16 new FCIS Heads. I am sure that our new Heads will quickly learn what a supportive association of heads we have in the state of Florida. In addition, if you have not done so already, please mark **November 17 and 18** on your calendar for the **2011 FCIS Annual Convention** which will be held at the Hyatt in Weston this year. Among the speakers will be **Ian Jukes**, the author of twelve books including *Teaching the Digital Generation*. This is a convention not to be missed!

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Administrators' Retreat July 31 - August 2, 2011 Jupiter Beach Resort, Jupiter

Our thanks to the 63 administrators who made this year's retreat such a tremendous success! Twenty-eight schools were represented at the Jupiter Beach Resort for the 11th Annual Administrators' Retreat.

Sunday afternoon Katie Koestner raised everyone's awareness about the positive and negative information that resides on the Internet. Katie is the program director and founder of Campus Outreach Services, a national organization dedicated to providing educational programs for schools on student risk issues. Katie supports the use of technology as it provides excellent teaching and learning opportunities for students and teachers, but she also gave us good reasons to "build a fence" to protect our students from some of the less desirable features that are often too easy to access.

Monday morning Silvia Tolisano presented an interactive session on teaching tools for the 21st Century Classroom. Silvia is a technology integration facilitator, a 21st Century Learning Specialist, the author of "Digital Storytelling Tools for Educators" and the founder of the "Around the World with 80 Schools" project. You can download her "Guide to 21st Century Skills, Literacy, Fluency" flyer by visiting her blogsite at www.langwitches.org/blog. Look under "Professional Development" and click on the flyer.

Monday afternoon, Karen Mathews, the FCIS Associate Director for Accreditation, met with more than 30 administrators to facilitate their learning about preparing their schools for an accreditation visit. Those attending this optional session found it tremendously helpful and left with answers to all their questions.

Tuesday, the focus was on the Autism spectrum of disorders. Ali Cunningham, a graduate of The Benjamin School and now working on her Ph. D., is the assistant director of the CARD Center at Florida Atlantic University (Center for Autism and Related Disorders). Ali gave an excellent overview of the observable symptoms of autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and PDD-NOS (pervasive developmental disorder- not otherwise specified) as well as suggestions for supporting these students in a classroom setting. Many of our schools are already working with students who have Asperger's Syndrome and this information was tremendously useful. CARD Centers are found in nearly every Florida university. They offer training and support to parents, teachers and students. If you are interested in having your teachers learn more about this, call your nearest university. Training is available at no cost.

Special thanks to Michelle Lambert from St. John's Episcopal School, Steve Garrett and Peter Shepley from Tampa Prep for eleven years of "perfect attendance" at this event! **Mark your calendars! Next years retreat will be July 29-31, 2012 at the Hyatt Bonita Springs. We look forward to seeing you!**



School News

Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy would like to extend an invitation for you to attend EdCamp Space Coast on Friday, Oct. 14. Edcamp is a FREE “unconference” for teachers in any setting. Lead a session or come to listen and share. The rule of an unconference is to “vote with your feet”. If a session doesn’t meet your needs, simply get up and move to another room. For more information go to <http://edcamp.wikispaces.com/edcamp+Space+Coast>.

Tampa Day School’s Principal, Jim Larkin, was featured in *Focus South Tampa, August*. The article featured Jim’s passion for education, the child’s mind and Tampa Day School. Check out the article at www.focussouthtampa.com/category/interviews. Congratulations Jim!

Congratulations to Robby Polidoro, **The Out-of-Door Academy**, and Sarah Peyton, **The Bolles School**. Both students were winners in the 2nd Annual Southern Teachers Agency Student Art Contest.

Congratulations to the members of the 17th Annual **FHSAA Academic All-State Team**.

Girls

- Rebecca Chandler, **The Bolles School**, Jacksonville
- Lindsey Hahn, **Academy of the Holy Names**, Tampa
- Ashley Hatcher, **Miami Country Day**, Miami
- Kaitlin Jackson, **Aucilla Christian**, Monticello

Boys

- Christian Lake, **Mandarin Christian**, Jacksonville
- Zachary Berger, **Miami Country Day**, Miami
- Whitner Chase, **Trinity Preparatory**, Winter Park
- Dinesh McCoy, **University School of Nova SE University**, Ft. Lauderdale

In July, **Saint Paul’s School** seventh grader, Matthew H, broke several U.S. NAG swimming records in the *FL Age Group Long Course Championships* in Orlando. SPS is happy to announce Colleen Smith will be the Director of Admissions. Colleen joins with a wealth of experience with independent schools, both personally and professionally.

New Heads of School 2011-12

Academy of Ocean Reef
Scott Schereschewsky

Academy of Holy Names
Arthur Raimo

All Saints’ Academy
Carolyn Baldwin, Interim

Amelia Island Montessori
Christina Germano, Interim

Berkeley Preparatory School
Joe Seivold

Christ’s Church Academy/Mandarin Christian
Dr. Stephen Blinder

Fisher Island Day School
Roy Vermillion

Holy Comforter Episcopal School
Peter Klekamp

Holy Nativity Episcopal School
Judy Hughes

Hochberg Preparatory School
Dr. Linda Marks

St. Andrew's Episcopal Academy
Michael Wyman

St. Christopher’s by-the-sea Montessori School
Laura Miller

St. Johns Country Day School
Edward Ellison

St. Mark's Episcopal School
Fr. Robert Trache

St. Philip's Episcopal School
Dr. Gregory Blackburn

Weiss School
Dr. Denise Spirou



Accreditation Corner

By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation

The deadline for completing the Annual Report is **September 15, 2011**. Please remember to note any Changes (Change of Head, Change of Program, Change of Location) which would require a one day visit.

Workshops Offered:

FCIS Financial Standards– A one hour webinar on 3.8 Business and Finance
October 6 and 13, 2011

Why: To review in detail standards 3.8.1 - 3.8.11 for FCIS schools that are preparing for an FCIS evaluation or wish to gain greater insight into the financial standards; how can schools ensure compliance?

Who: Dr. Barbara Hodges, Executive Director and Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation

For Whom: FCIS Business managers, CFO's, Heads of School, Board of Directors Treasurer/ President

FCIS Annual Convention – Hyatt Regency in Weston November 17-18, 2011

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 2011-12 or 2012-13, please plan to attend!

Evaluation Academy – Parkway Christian School, Davie January 12, 2012

FCIS will once again offer a one-day session for Heads of School with the joint purpose of preparing heads to serve as a Chair for an Accreditation team as well as informing heads in greater detail about the overall accreditation process.



TEACHERS

Special Populations for the Gifted

When: September 16-18 and October 7-9

Where: The Weiss School
4176 Burns Road * Palm Beach Gardens

Contact: Dr. Spirou at dspirou@weisssschool.org
for registration information

STATS ONLINE KEY DATES

All Surveys Open July 1, 2011

Enter data by Aug. 25
Snapshot available Sept. 1

Enter data by Sept. 23
Snapshot available Oct. 3

Enter data by Oct. 21
Snapshot available Nov. 1

Final Survey Data Entry Deadline: Nov. 18

WORKSHOPS

FCIS

New Teacher Institute	Oct. 2-4	Oviedo
Finance Standards Webinar	Oct. 6	Online
Finance Standards Webinar	Oct. 13	Online
Convention 2011	Nov. 17-18	Weston
Evaluation Academy	Jan. 12, 2012	Davie
@ Parkway Christian		
Academy for High Performing	Jan. 29-31, 2012	Tampa
Educators @ IDS		
Bill Krizner/Social Media & Legal	Feb. 3, 2012	Tampa
Implications @Tampa Prep		
Heads' Retreat	June 19-21, 2012	Naples
Administrators' Retreat	July 29-31, 2012	Bonita Springs
www.fcis.org		

NAIS

Annual Conference	Feb. 29-Mar. 2	Seattle
www.nais.org		

SSATB

Annual Meeting	Sept. 21-24	Phoenix
www.ssatb.org		



FKC Convention 2011

Friday, October 21, 2011
6:30pm-8:00pm Meet and Greet

Saturday, October 22, 2011
8:00am –3:30pm General
Meeting/Sessions/Lunch

Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Orlando

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Debby Mitchell
President and Founder, Geo Motion Group

Cost: \$100.00 per person
Deadline: September 19, 2011

For more information and registration go to
www.fkconline.org, workshop and events