

# INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

Volume 02-11

Mar/Apr 2011

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## Upcoming FCIS Events

**May 12, 2011**  
Bill Krizner  
Legal Workshop  
Orlando

**June 13-15, 2011**  
Heads' Retreat  
The Colony  
Palm Beach

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

**November 17-18 2011**  
Convention  
Hyatt Regency  
Weston

## from the executive director...

**NAIS:** The NAIS Conference, entitled "Monumental Opportunities", was held in National Harbor, Maryland on February 23-25. The conference included many outstanding speakers, which included **Sheena Iyengar** who demonstrated the impact of choice upon our lives which she has captured in her new book, *The Art of Choosing*. Known as the co-author of *Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die*, **Dan Heath** captivated his audience with a presentation on his new book, *Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard*. **Salman Khan**, the founder of Khan Academy, provided a thought provoking presentation on his new educational venture, which includes 1400+ free educational videos on YouTube, calling educators to rethink the means through which education may be delivered to students today. The closing presentation by **Geoffrey Canada**, who is known for his work as president of Harlem Children's Zone and his appearance in **Waiting for Superman**, inspired a packed audience and challenged them to view educational reform through new perspectives.

Prior to the NAIS Conference, the NAIS **Commission on Accreditation** met in the same location. The Commission discussed the dissemination of its newly published resource for schools, *A Guide to Becoming a School of the Future*. This resource guide has been distributed via email to our FCIS school heads and may be accessed at <http://www.nais.org/files/PDFs/NAISCOASchools.pdf>. In addition, the Commission unanimously passed a new model core standard, **Criterion 14**, which requires "a school to demonstrate that its educational programs, instructional practices and instructional culture are informed by relevant research regarding how students learn and the knowledge and capacities they will need to lead purposeful and constructive lives".

**CAPE:** The Council for the American Private Education (CAPE) met in Washington, D.C. on March 13-15. Thirteen state representatives made reports on legislative advocacy within their states. Common themes included revision of childcare standards, the surge of new charter schools and the impact upon

smaller private schools, and school vouchers/scholarships.

In a landmark decision, the **U.S. Supreme Court** has dismissed a lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of an **Arizona statute** which gives **tax credit** to citizens who make contributions to "school tuition organizations". This case paves the way for other states to enact similar legislation.

**FHSAA:** The Florida High School Athletic Association met in Gainesville on April 17-18. Items for discussion included **House Bill 301**, which, if passed, will require FHSAA to adopt guidelines and procedures regarding concussion awareness, education, and treatment for student athletes. Another discussion centered around **Senate Bill 1000** which proposes allowing private school students to participate in interscholastic sports in their zoned public high school if no sports are offered at their school and the private school has **125 students or less**.

**Focusing on FCIS Families (F<sup>3</sup>):** FCIS has just kicked off a new program dedicated to supporting the spouses of our heads of school. The first meeting of F<sup>3</sup> will take place at our Heads Retreat at the **Colony Hotel in Palm Beach on June 13-15**. On June 14, a trip is planned for F<sup>3</sup> to visit the Flagler Museum followed by lunch. That evening, we are planning a barbecue where heads may sign up to bring their spouses and their children. On June 15, there will be a designated meeting space for the spouses to congregate and a panel discussion to follow.

**Heads' Retreat:** Don't miss out on joining your colleagues for the **2011 Heads' Retreat: 21st Century Schools**. The program promises to be dynamic and a lot of fun. **Will Richardson**, a nationally known author and speaker in the field of technology, will be our main speaker on June 15. On June 15, the program will center on change and innovation, **featuring several of our FCIS Heads**, as well as **Rob DiMartino**. An **Evaluation Academy** will follow the retreat beginning the afternoon of June 15 and ending around noon on June 16.

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

Setting High Standards for Independent Education for over 56 Years

## Legislative Update

### By Barbara Hodges, Ed.D.

**SB 2156: Reorganization of Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI)** transfers the Office of Early Learning to the Dept. of Education and creates a Division of Early Learning. The House Proposed Committee Bill / **PCB SCGR 11-03** requires the Auditor General to conduct an operational and performance audit of the Early Learning Coalitions. The audits reports are due before November 1, 2011. The PCB requires a joint review of the state and local governance structure of early learning programs by the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Families. The joint report is due November 30, 2011.

**SB 1696/CS/CS/HB 1255:** Nonpublic schools may administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

**SB 2120 K-12 Education Funding:** Increases the student to teacher ratio in private VPK classrooms, but not public VPK classrooms.

**CS/HB 1329/CS/SB 1656 McKay Scholarships/Students with Disabilities:** Makes scholarships available to students with disabilities who have 504 accommodation plan issued under federal law; allows parent to request and receive scholarship for student to enroll in and attend private school if student has 504 accommodation plan; provides that students with certain temporary 504 accommodation plans are ineligible for scholarship; provides that parent may choose to enroll student in public school in adjacent district under certain conditions; provides for scholarship amounts.

**HB 797/SB 1000 Interscholastic Extracurricular Bill for Private School Students:** Establishes a statewide program for middle and high school students attending non-FHSAA private schools which do not have an athletic program and have less than 125 students to participate in athletics at their zoned public school.

**SB 1140/HB 1131 Child Care Facilities:** Requires vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child care homes to be equipped with an alarm system that prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle. Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to adopt rules and maintain a list of approved alarm systems.

**SB 730/CS/CS/HB 301 Youth and Student Athletes:** Requires independent sanctioning authorities to adopt policies to inform youth athletes and their parents of the nature and risk of certain head injuries. Requires that a signed consent form be obtained before the youth participates in athletic practices or competitions. Requires that a youth athlete be immediately removed from an athletic activity following a suspected head injury. Requires written clearance from a medical professional before the youth resumes athletic activities.

**CS/HB 7197 Digital Learning:** requires school districts to establish virtual instruction options; authorizes establishment of virtual charter schools & provides requirements; authorizes blended learning courses; provides additional requirements for Florida Virtual School; requires full-time & part-time school district virtual instruction program options; provides funding & accountability requirements; requires online learning course for high school graduation.

**SB 1620 K-12 Educational Instruction:** Adds statewide virtual providers to the list of public school choices. Requires public school students to take one virtual course to graduate. Authorizes the creation of a virtual charter school. Requires the virtual charter school to contract with an approved statewide virtual provider. Provides for funding of the virtual charter school. Provides for a blended-learning charter school.

**CS/CS/HB 647/CS/CS/SB 930 Protection of Volunteers:** Clarifies that in order to fall under protection of Florida Volunteer Protection Act, person performing service for nonprofit organization may not receive compensation from nonprofit organization for that service, regardless of whether person is receiving compensation from another source; provides exception; provides immunity for source of any other such compensation; provides application of act.

**SB 1550/SB 1225 Educational Savings Account (ESA):** Provides that a parent may direct a financial institution trustee of his or her child's account to use the funds for specified costs of attending a private school or participating in a dual enrollment program or to make a contribution to the child's college savings plan or a payment to a contract under the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program. (Most likely will not pass).

**Budget:** Tracking funding for VPK scholarship and child care licensing.

**VPK and School Readiness Standards** are being revised by DOE. Public comment for the DRAFT standards closes on April 25, 2011. View and comment on standards at <http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/perform.asp>.

## School News

**Saint Paul's School** won 1st place in the Green Cup Challenge out of seven schools in the Gulf of Mexico region, by reducing the School's kWh usage 24.7%! The month-long challenge was created by the Green Schools Alliance. Eighteen Saint Paul's students were Post and/or District 9 winners in the VFW 2010 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest! Three Saint Paul's students were District winners. Liam Ryan took 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Jerry Ray Logemann - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place & Veer Choudhry - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place! Liam's essay will be forwarded to the Florida Dept. of Education!



Congratulations to **Berkeley Preparatory** debate team of Andrew Goldfield '13 and Yunhan Xu '13, who won the Florida Forensic League State Championships. The win marks the first state championship for Berkeley in debate, and it is the first time that a sophomore team has claimed the state title. Under the tutelage of Debate Coach Mike Speer and Assistant Debate Coach Kevin McCaffrey, the pair started specific preparations for the state tournament in December. The team of Jake Salzer '12 and Francis Migliore '13 finished in fourth place.

**Tampa Preparatory School's** Coach Joe Fenlon has been named 2011 2A Coach of the Year by the Florida Association of Basketball Coaches (FABC)! This award recognizes Coach Fenlon as the top coach in the state for teams in the 2A class. Coach Fenlon led this year's Terrapins to another Regional Title, its third consecutive state final four and an impressive 25-4 season.

**Pinewood Acres School** fifth grader, Kenan Parker, won Governor Scott's Black History Essay Contest, a

four-year scholarship and a trip to the Governor's Mansion for dinner.

**Carrollwood Day School** Head of School, Mary Kanter, has been appointed to a three-year term to the IB Americas Regional Council. Council membership includes 13 representatives from many countries. Congratulations Mary!

**Jacksonville Country Day School, St. Edward's School and St. Stephen's Episcopal School** in Bradenton were featured in a nation-wide broadcast of *The Profiles Series* on the Discovery Channel, April 5th and 7th. *The Profiles Series* focuses on independent schools across the nation and how they are preparing students for life in the 21st century.

**Community School of Naples'** Varsity Academic Team placed first again this year at the All County Scholar Bowl Tournament. Congratulations!

**Parkway Christian School** students are fighting hard to hold onto their #1 national rank in the monthly math championship managed by Mangahigh.com. Mangahigh, an online games-based teaching resource for K-12 math, announced April 4th that the Mangahigh.com service will henceforth be free for use in US schools. Good Luck Parkway Christian!

**Admiral Farragut Academy** students raised money to help provide Nepali students with lunches and school supplies. Students presented a check for over \$750 to Global Action Coalition.



**St. Mary's Episcopal School** was named No. 1 in the St. Petersburg Time's Tampa Bay's Top 70 Workplaces. This is their third number-one ranking in two years. Congratulations St. Mary's!

## Brain Research Workshop



FCIS had a great turnout to hear Dr. JoAnn Deak's presentation at Pine Crest School on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Over 80 teachers attended a very interesting and enlightening presentation given by one of the leading names in the field. Dr. Deak shared her hands-on knowledge, years of research and advice on dealing with ADD, ADHD, and adolescents. This lively conversation included questions and discussions on issues raised by the participants as well. Copies of her new book, *"Your Fantastic Elastic Brain"* sold out quickly!

Our thanks to Henry Battle, Pine Crest President, and to Lourdes Cowgill for all her time and effort in making the day such a success.



## Accreditation Corner

*By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation*

### **FCIS will offer two accreditation workshops this summer:**

1. Evaluation Academy 2011 - for Heads of School only
  - Following the Head's Retreat
  - June 15-16 at the Colony Hotel in Palm Beach
2. "Preparing Your School for an FCIS Evaluation" – for FCIS administrators and Steering Committee Chairs
  - During the Administrator's Retreat
  - July 31-August 2 at Jupiter Beach Resort in Jupiter

In addition, if you would like to schedule an on-campus session with Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation, please e-mail Karen at [kmathews@fcis.org](mailto:kmathews@fcis.org). (Travel expenses are paid by the school.)

### **Five Year Review Self-study Addendum**

The FCIS Board of Directors recently voted to add an analysis area on technology to the self-study for the Five Year Review. As many schools continue to expand programs, integrate technology into the classroom and embrace 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning and teaching techniques, it is essential that schools review these programs every five years to ensure continued success. This analysis section will be added to the on-line templates.



## Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

### **Standard Reminder!**

The FKC Professional Staff standard requiring teachers of PreKindergarten Four must hold a bachelor's degree and be teaching in field by the conclusion of the 2012-13 year.

**FKC 3.5.8 Grade Prekindergarten Four:** The teacher of the four-year-old program (teachers hired after January 1, 2007) shall have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. If the academic preparation is out of the field of early childhood education, a minimum of 12 relevant semester hours or their in-service equivalents shall be obtained. **Those teachers of the four-year-old program (hired before January 1, 2007) that are grandfathered in must have a bachelor's degree by the year 2012.**

**(Conclusion of the 2012-13 academic year)**

## Toyota International Teacher Program

The Toyota International Teacher Program is a **fully-funded** international professional development program for U.S. educators. Funded by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., and administered by the Institute of International Education, the program advances environmental stewardship and global connectedness in U.S. schools and communities. The **deadline to apply is May 4, 2011**. The inaugural Toyota International Teacher Program to South Africa will provide teachers first-hand exposure to the social and environmental complexity of South Africa, focusing on sustainable development and emphasizing the links between history, culture, power, and the environment.

The program will take place **November 19-December 3, 2011**. Full-time classroom teachers of all subjects and librarians, grades 7 - 12, are now invited to apply online.

For more information and an application go to [www.iie.org/toyota](http://www.iie.org/toyota).

## WORKSHOPS

### FCIS

Pat Bassett, Current Trends	May 9	Orlando
Bill Krizner, Legal Wksp	May 12	Orlando
Heads' Retreat	June 13-15	Palm Beach
Administrators' Retreat	July 31-Aug 2	Jupiter
New Teacher Institute	Oct 2-4	Oviedo
Convention 2011	Nov. 17-18	Weston

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

### ISM

Summer Institute	June 19-July 29	DE, CO, UT
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[www.isminc.com/si](http://www.isminc.com/si)

### NAIS

School Leadership Institute I	June 14-17	Alexandria
Summer Diversity Institute	June 24-29	Alexandria
Institute for New Heads	July 6-11	Atlanta
School Leadership Institute II	Aug 2-5	Alexandria

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

### NBOA

Business Officer Institute	June 19-23	San Diego
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[www.nboa.net](http://www.nboa.net)



### Your school may be a sitting target... Employment Law Today from an Independent School's Perspective



**Bill Krizner**

May 12, 2011—Lake Highland Preparatory, Orlando

This three-part training session will provide Heads of School, Division Directors, Business Managers, Directors of Human Services and Trustees with practical solutions to the looming challenges presented by record amounts of employment-based litigation and a dramatic rise in the number of governmental audits.

- The first session will review the litigation potential
- The second module will illuminate the myriad of newly passed employment laws and examine the most frequent governmental audits
- The final offering will examine the impact of emerging technology, such as social media

The presenter's style is highly energetic and we believe this educational offering for Heads of School and key human resource personnel cannot be missed.

**Time:** 10:30-2:30

**Cost:** \$95/person early bird special    \$115/person after April 21, 2011  
\$125/person—Nonmember Fee

**Deadline : May 6, 2011**

## Master Inservice Coordinator

All master inservice must be submitted by July 31, 2011

## Certification Renewal

Florida Professional Certificates  
expiring June 30, 2011

- Renew online at [www.fldoe.org/edcert](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert)
- Contact Keara Danger, [kdanger@fcis.org](mailto:kdanger@fcis.org), to submit your master inservice to the DOE on the CT-111.

## **Congratulations to our new 2010 -11 FCIS Accredited Schools**

### **The Paragon School**

Helen Leonard, Head of School  
Orlando, FL

### **Westlake Preparatory School**

Dr. William Pepitone, Headmaster  
Davie, FL

## **TEACHERS** Singapore Math Institute

What is the Singapore Math Institute? It is an institute, not a workshop, where teachers are taught how to teach math, learning the concrete-pictorial-abstract approach to teaching all mathematical concepts.

Where: The Bolles School  
7400 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville

When: June 20-24, 2011 (8am—4pm)

Institute Fee: \$795

For more information and an application go to [www.fcis.org](http://www.fcis.org), other workshops.

## **Winners of the 2011 DeWitt E. & Vera Hooker Fellowship Grant**

Catherine Koos of Holy Trinity Episcopal School  
\$500 for *FCIS Unconference*

Amy Cobb of Shorecrest Preparatory School  
\$1,000 for *The iPad In The English Classroom*

Rick Pucci of Westlake Christian School  
\$1,500 for A School-Based Teacher  
Development Program

## **Heads' Luncheon/Breakfast Hosts**

- Dr. John Davies - Miami
- Dr. Ann Marie Krejcarek – Boca Raton
- Bill Jablon - Tallahassee
- Bob Fine - Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota
- Cathy Hardage - Jacksonville
- Craig Maughan - Orlando

**Thank you for hosting the  
2011 Heads'  
Luncheon/Breakfast  
in your area**



## **FCIS News**

### **FCIS has a Facebook page!**

To become an FCIS Facebook fan, log on to your account and become a fan of "Florida Council of Independent Schools" where you will find articles of interest, links, FCIS photos and news and announcements!