

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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Weston

January 12, 2012
Evaluation Academy
@ Parkway Christian
Davie

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...

The fall is passing very quickly at the FCIS state office, and our FCIS staff has been quite busy. New this year, we have prepared the entire **2011-12 calendar of professional development** activities, found at www.fcis.org, so that our schools can plan ahead for the events that will most impact their schools. We have continued to develop the FCIS website; we now have **portals for Heads, College Counselors, and Upper School Directors**. If you haven't visited our website lately, take a look to be aware of new offerings. I have enjoyed traveling the state this fall and working with our schools. In addition, things are already beginning to buzz in Tallahassee as we prepare for an **early legislative session to begin in January**, so stay tuned in as we again advocate for our independent schools.

The fall has been filled with planning and various professional development opportunities. To date, we have offered an Administrators' Retreat, a New Teacher Institute, and two webinars on FCIS Financial Standards. In addition, we kicked off a **legal webinar series** on October 14 that will span the next four months, featuring labor attorney, **Suzanne Bogdan**, talking about key legal issues impacting our FCIS schools. The planning for our **annual convention**, which will be held November 17 and 18, is drawing to a close as we prepare to gather in Weston, Florida, for an outstanding conference. **Ian Jukes and Dr. Mark Milliron** are two of the featured keynote speakers.

CAPE - The results of a new study, *The High School Longitudinal Study of 2009* (HSL:09) by the National Center for Education Statistics, have just been released. This particular study examines 20,000 ninth graders in 944 public and private schools and describes characteristics of both groups in their base year of high school. The findings indicate that **59.2%** of the **private school** students scored in the top two quintiles on **achievement tests**, as compared to **38.5%** of **public school** students. The study also documents a variation in **experience of math teachers** between public and private schools; **48.5%** of **private school** teachers had more than **10 years experience**, as compared to **33.7%** among **public school** teachers. Research has indi-

cated that teacher attendance patterns may be one indicator of a teacher's commitment and dedication to the profession. When asked to what degree **teacher absenteeism** was a problem in the school, **1.1 %** of **private school** administrators said that it was a serious or moderate problem, as compared to **9.1%** of **public school** administrators.

On another subject, **SAT scores** were significantly higher in private schools as compared to public schools. In the area of **reading**, the national average SAT score in **public schools was 497**, as compared to **541 in private schools**. The average **math** score was **514 for public schools** and **579 in private schools**. In **writing**, the average score in **public schools was 489**, as compared to **550 for private schools**.

FCIS SAT SCORES 2010-11 - The average SAT score for FCIS students was **557 in reading**; the FCIS average **mathematics** score was **573**. In the area of **writing**, the average score for FCIS schools was **556**. FCIS scores increased in every area over the past school year.

NAIS - Pat Bassett has just produced a new presentation on "**Financial Sustainability: The New Normal**". In the presentation, Pat draws on statistics that indicate that the public demand for independent schools was down in 2009-10 with a rising attrition rate. The median NAIS school lost 4% of enrollment in the 2009-10 school year. Other statistics indicate that the admission funnels are narrower, and the financial aid applications are greater in number. At the same time, there is a growth in alternative means of education - public magnets and charters, along with home schooling. Pat has developed possible solutions to address these issues. In brief summarization, he says that these times require a "new discipline". Among his suggestions are budgeting for increased enrollment without increasing staff, rethinking class size, and devoting one-third of each fund-raising dollar to endowments. For those of you who have access to the NAIS website, this presentation is certainly worth your time and consideration.

Barbara H Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

New Teacher Institute October 2-4, 2011 Oviedo, FL

“Outstanding” might be the best word to describe the 2011 New Teacher Institute. Twenty-eight ‘new’ and ‘nearly new’ teachers met at the Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center in Oviedo from October 2nd through the 4th. In addition to these intelligent, caring and attentive new educators, we also had many new members of the NTI faculty. Led by Dr. Angél Kytile, Head of Saint Paul’s School, the faculty included Darcy Devrnja, Early Childhood Director at Saint Paul’s School, Cathy Koos, Lower School Head at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, Patty Keener, third grade teacher at Lake Highland Preparatory School, and Steve Krueger, English Department Chair at Trinity Preparatory School. Wendy Smith, an attorney who has worked with the NTI staff in past years, came to present current legal issues affecting teachers in independent schools.

Topics included lesson planning, personal and professional goal-setting, parent conferences, school politics, teaching and learning styles, classroom management and much more! The Institute provides time for large and small group discussions as well as time to share experiences in an informal setting.

We were also blessed with outstanding weather which enabled several of the instructional sessions to be held outdoors. Participants gathered on the outside deck for several meals during our 3 day stay at the Center.

We are proud to welcome these exceptional men and women to a rewarding career in education.



School News

Carrollwood Day School painted the campus pink with flowers, ribbons, and other decorations in the month of October to honor National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



The Village School was featured in naplesnews.com. They are using the multiple intelligences philosophy, developed by Howard Gardner in 1983. It focuses on “whole-brain” learning and divides students into eight types of learners.

Four **Bolles** seniors were recently announced as semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Congratulations to Shan Choudhri, Emily Keator, Quang Nguyen and Rachel Sorrells. Seventy-five current and former students at **The Bolles School** earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP Program Exams taken in 2011.



Benjamin School senior Christian Sendler was selected as one of the two delegates to represent the State of Florida at this year's Boys Nation, sponsored by the American Legion. Sendler was picked from more than 500 attendees. Congratulations!

St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School, Coconut Grove, was awarded “Most Outstanding” in the LEED for Schools category for 2011. St. Stephen's was nominated for its Main Highway Pavilion, a LEED® Gold Certified classroom building that opened in the fall of 2010.

Gulliver Prep's (Pinecrest) Mark Schusterman, athletic director and softball coach, has been named ESPN RISE National Softball Coach of the Year. ESPN RISE is a national magazine dedicated to covering high school sports with a monthly circulation of more than 1 million.

Maclay School has commenced its historic 44th year by welcoming 159 new students, including 20 international students, to the campus with the most advanced technology in school's history. This fall, they added nearly \$200,000 in SmartBoards and a new state-of-the-art pre-kindergarten facility.

Berkeley Preparatory School's Ryan Pickren '12 and Conor Murphy '12 raised \$8,000 for Eckerd College programs for disadvantaged children, while setting a world record in the process! Pickren and Murphy set a new world record for their weight and age group after spending 25-consecutive hours rowing on an indoor rowing machine.

Admiral Farragut Academy Elementary School is pleased to introduce the Engineering is Elementary® (EiE®) project to their 3rd, 4th and 5th grade curriculum. Admiral Farragut Academy, Science Teacher, Sari Deitche gave a virtual presentation at a professional development conference to educators from around the country and officials from NOAA and Raytheon about using “Second Life” (www.secondlife.com) technology in the classroom.

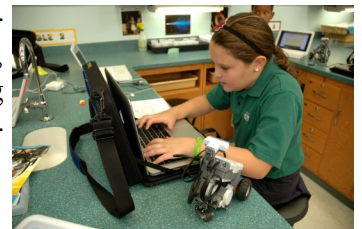


Congratulations to **Community School of Naples** six National Merit Semifinalists: Jonathan Bunce, Alexander Fogg, Nicholas LoCascio, Jeremy Price, Leigh Raskauskas and Natalie Van Brunt.

Tampa Preparatory School hosted Markus Zusak, award-winning author of *The Book Thief* and *I Am the Messenger* on October 13.

Congratulations to Weiss School student Maria Elena Grimmer, who has been named as a Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars) finalist. Minor Planet (27410), discovered by the Linear Project of MIT Lincoln Laboratory, was named **Grimmer** on October 4, 2011 after Maria Elena in recognition of her achievement as a finalist in the 2011 Broadcom MASTERS. Rebecca Weissman and Jennifer Secrest won Bronze at the 2011 US Junior Olympics (Taekwondo) in San Jose, CA on June 28-July 3, 2011.

Jacksonville Country Day School added new robotics laboratories to enhance their science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum.





Florida Kindergarten Council Corner

Standard clarification

At the October FKC Board meeting, standard 3.5.9 under 3.5 Professional Staff was clarified:

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 valid teaching certificate in early childhood or elementary education (minimum of 12 semester hours or its equivalent** in early childhood if the certificate is in elementary education)
- 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.)**
- An associate's degree with a valid Montessori teaching certificate.

*** 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 credit college course**



Accreditation Corner

By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation

FCIS Annual Convention – Hyatt Regency in Weston

November 17-18, 2011

The following accreditation sessions will be offered:

“Preparing Your school for an FCIS Full or FCIS Review Evaluation” - Session I

“FCIS/FKC-SACS or FCIS/FKC-SAIS: Joint Accreditation visit” - Session II

“Serving on an FCIS Evaluation team” - Session IV

If your school has an evaluation scheduled for 2011-12 or 2012-13, please plan to attend!

Additionally, Cushman School will be offering a session entitled “Creating the Self-Study on a Wiki” - Session III

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.

This session is open to Steering Committee Chairs and School Administrators who are directly involved with the Accreditation Process. The Academy will also be offered for Heads only at the conclusion of the Head's Retreat, June 21-22, if you prefer the more relaxed two-day session.

Cost: \$50 for materials and lunch *** Register: www.fcis.org, Workshops & Events

Accreditation Corner

*By Karen Mathews, Associate Director for Accreditation
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Introducing FCIS Portals

FCIS is pleased to introduce Administrator Portals on the FCIS website. The goal of the portal is to share information, articles and topics of interest with colleagues in a specific administrative position and to serve as a sounding board/discussion group. Each portal will be jointly maintained by the FCIS Office and an FCIS On-line Facilitator (FOF).

The initial portals being launched with their FOF are:

College Counselors – Donnamarie Hehn, The Canterbury School of FL, St. Petersburg - dhehn@canterbury-fl.org

Heads of School – Dr. Barbara Hodges, Executive Director, FCIS - bhodges@fcis.org

Upper School Directors – Dr. Randy Watts, Saint Stephen's School, Bradenton – rwatts@saintstephens.org

If you are a College Counselor, Head of School or Upper School Director and have not yet received your user name and password, please contact Karen at the FCIS Office or your FOF.

Additional portals will be launched as interest dictates!

Introducing our FCIS online Facilitators!

Donnamarie Hehn, College Counselors

As Director of College Guidance, Donnamarie Hehn has been English teacher, Services for Students with Disabilities and AP coordinator, and college counselor in her 22 years at The Canterbury School of Florida in St. Petersburg. Donnamarie has served as SACAC Conference Registration Chair, on the SACAC board as Membership Chair, NACAC Tampa Convention Planning Committee, and as a NACAC delegate. A writer for 283 Great Colleges (2008), Donnamarie currently is a contributing columnist on Unigo's "Ask the Experts" for college advice. Donnamarie has earned her Bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education and is currently enrolled in a pilot combined School Guidance/College Counseling Masters and Certification program through UCLA distance learning. Donnamarie is the mother of two CSF graduates; Nikki is a college junior and Katie is pursuing an internship in NYC in marketing.

Dr. Randy Watts, Upper School Directors

Dr. Randy Watts is in his seventh year at Saint Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton, Florida, a co-educational PreK - 12th school. He is currently the Upper School Director and has served as the Dean of Students for the prior three years. He has also served as the Director of Counseling at Episcopal High School, a co-ed boarding school in Alexandria, Virginia, and Director of College Counseling at Our Lady of Good Council, a co-ed day school in Wheaton, Maryland. His current projects include: fostering 21st Century education, developing programs for international students, and helping students with differing learning styles succeed. Randy received his Bachelor's from William & Mary, holds a Master's in Education from the University of Virginia and earned his Doctorate Degree in Counseling and Counselor Education from UNC-Greensboro. He is the father of two lower school boys and the husband of a teacher of English and journalism.

Creative Students Wanted to Help Promote Florida KidCare

The Florida KidCare Act-Out for Health Contest encourages students across the state to produce a 30-second video public service announcement (PSA), design a billboard advertisement, or write an essay describing the importance of eating and living well.

Go to www.actoutforhealth.net for more Information.

Deadline: Friday, Jan. 6, 2012

STATS ONLINE KEY DATES

Enter data by Oct. 21

Snapshot available Nov. 1

Final Survey Data Entry Deadline: Nov. 18

2012 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.

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

Convention 2011	Nov. 17-18	Weston
Evaluation Academy @ Parkway Christian	Jan. 12, 2012	Davie
Academy for High Performing Educators @ IDS	Jan. 29-31, 2012	Tampa
Bill Krizner/Social Media & Legal Implications @ Tampa Prep	Feb. 3, 2012	Tampa
Spring Symposium Technology with Nancy Wong	April 23, 2012	Orlando
Human Resource & Personnel with Suzanne Bogdan	April 24, 2012	Orlando
@ Lake Highland Prep		
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		

NAIS

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

Legal Webinars with Suzanne Bogdan

November 14, 2011

Coaching, Counseling and Documentation

December 1, 2011

Terminations/Non-Renewal and
Employment at Will

January 25, 2012

Creation and Enforcement of
Employment Contracts

February 16, 2012

FHSAA Issues

Time: 12:00 (noon) - 1:00pm

Cost: **Free** for Member Schools

Register at www.fcis.org, under
"workshops & events" tab