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Winter Symposium:

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Upcoming FCIS Events

Heads' Retreat

June 13-15, 2016

Naples Grande Beach
Resort

21st Century

Learning Academy

June 22-24, 2016

Corbett Prep of IDS, TPA

New Heads' Institute

July 21-23, 2016

Jupiter Beach
Resort & Spa

Administrators' Retreat

July 24-26, 2016

Jupiter Beach
Resort & Spa

from the executive director...

It's hard to believe that spring is quickly approaching – one of the busiest times of the year for our schools and the FCIS Office. We have just concluded our sixth legal webinar for the year, along with the High Performing Educators' Academy and the two-day Winter Symposium. We are now on to finalizing plans for the Heads' Retreat and the 21st Century Learning Academy, which will both be held in June. Planning for the 2016 FCIS Annual Convention is in full swing for the fall. In addition, the next two months will be filled with the completion of the 2016 Florida Legislative Session, school evaluation visits, and the planning of a professional development calendar for the coming year.

LEGAL WEBINAR SERIES. On February 16, the FCIS Legal Webinar Series for 2015-16 concluded with the webinar "FHSA Update: Understanding and Operating within the Guidelines". Suzanne Bogdan, Partner and Chair of the Education Practice Group for Fisher and Phillips, has dialogued with me on six timely legal topics throughout this school year. Approximately 300 individuals from our member schools have participated in the series during this year alone. All of the webinars are archived on the heads' portal on the FCIS website. Suzanne and I are once again collecting topics for our 2016-17 series. Please don't hesitate to contact us and share topics that you would like to see covered.

TALLAHASSEE. The 2016 Florida Legislature opened in January this year. The Florida Constitution requires that the session start in March in odd-numbered years, but allows the Legislature to set the date in even-numbered years. This session has already seen the passing of a bill to permanently expand the Personal Learning Scholarship Account (PLSA) program to include the autistic spectrum and muscular dystrophy. With the help of our lobbyist Brenda Dickinson, FCIS has contributed to a bill that would allow private school students to participate in dual enrollment classes at no cost to the student or private school. FCIS has been working to solve this issue for our member schools since the funding was changed in budgetary compliance language back in June 2013. There are several bills, if passed, that would impact high

school athletics in Florida, and once again, we are following educational bills on early learning. I will look forward to providing information on the progression of these bills, as well as others, as the 2016 Legislative Session progresses.

CAPE. In January 2016, President Obama signed a new federal education law that replaced No Child Left Behind. Private schools taking federal dollars applauded the new federal legislation since it expanded federal money for professional development and the requirement that the states identify "an ombudsman for private schools" that would make sure that school districts were meeting the "letter and spirit of the law".

CONVENIENCE FEES. In November 2015, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the Florida Statute 501.0117 that prohibits businesses from imposing a surcharge for the use of credit cards, citing the First Amendment. A key part of the decision was the fact that businesses have been allowed to give discounts for paying cash, but not allowed to charge a fee for the use of credit cards. Judge Gerald Tjoflat stated that discounts and surcharges are just two sides of the "same coin". Up until this time, Florida was one of the few states left that made charging convenience fees for credit card use illegal. PK-12 private schools in the state have long been adversely impacted by this state statute, whereas colleges and universities have been allowed to charge convenience fees as a result of past lobbying and legislative action. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi appealed the ruling, but the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has recently denied the rehearing request. According to legal counsel, it is now legal for private schools to charge convenience fees if they choose.

HEADS' RETREAT. On June 13-15, the FCIS Heads' Retreat will be held at the Naples Grande Beach Resort. The featured speaker will be Dr. Yong Zhao, a favorite keynote speaker from the 2014 FCIS Annual Convention. Make plans to be a part of this exciting event; registration will open soon.

Barbara H. Hodges, Ed.D.
Executive Director

School News

Aucilla Christian Academy teacher, Amanda Sapp, took 11 students on a mission trip to Puerto Rico. She described the trip, in a recent article, as exciting and spirit-filled.



All Saints Academy recently teamed up with NuVu in Boston, MA and implemented an Innovation Studio program in their upper school. All Saints Academy was featured in an article written in the Lakeland Ledger, www.theledger.com, as a result of a free community outreach event that they sponsored for all educators in Polk County, FL. Tony Wagner introduced the film "Most Likely to Succeed" and participated in a question and answer session following the film. There were over 250 participants and lots of positive interactions among educators.

Community School of Naples celebrates Cory Hixson for earning a perfect score on the Advanced Placement Exam in spring 2015 when he was still a high school sophomore. Cory was one of only two students in the world to earn every point possible on the AP Statistics Exam. Congratulations Cory!



Tampa Preparatory School congratulates eighth grader, Ethan Yen, who won the USF Young Innovator Award on Feb. 11th. He took the top prize out of more than 700 local entries for his invention to recycle K-cup pods into a hydroponic garden.

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.

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Jacksonville Area
Hosted by: Palmer Bell
Riverside Presbyterian Day School

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Miami Area
Hosted by: Greg Blackburn
St. Philip's Episcopal School

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Sarasota/Naples Areas
Hosted by: Kevin Plummer
Tampa Preparatory School

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale Areas
Hosted by: Tane Bonham
Christ Church School

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Tallahassee/Panhandle Area
Hosted by: James Milford
Maclay School

Thursday, May 5, 2016

North Palm Beach Area
Hosted by: Bob Goldberg
The Benjamin School

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Orlando Area
Hosted by: Craig Maughan
Trinity Preparatory School

FCIS Professional Development Calendar

Heads' Retreat

June 13-15, 2016
Naples Grande Beach
Resort, Naples

**21st Century
Learning Academy**

June 22-24, 2016
Corbett Prep of IDS, TPA

New Heads' Institute

July 21-23, 2016
Jupiter Beach
Resort & Spa

Fundraising Workshop

July 23, 2016
Jupiter Beach
Resort & Spa

Administrators' Retreat

July 24-26, 2016
Jupiter Beach
Resort & Spa

Prospective Heads' Institute Mission Inn Resort January 13-14, 2016

The Prospective Heads' Institute had an overwhelming response this year and for the first time offered three distinct tracks for participants at different stages of their careers. FCIS welcomed twenty new candidates for the first year program, six returning candidates for the second year program, and three returning candidates for the third year program to the beautiful Mission Inn Resort, just north of Orlando. Several experienced heads from FCIS member schools served on the faculty and shared expertise, data and personal stories about the process and challenges of becoming a head. Candidates attended presentations and participated in discussions on the following topics: governance, communication, leadership, fundraising, building relationships and trust, time management, enrollment, finance and marketing. Ryan Kelly, Head of Carrollwood Day School, and Stephen Golden, CFO at Carrollwood Day School, presented a session together on financial and risk management. Stephen DiCicco, co-founder of Educational Directions Inc., presented an overview of the head search process as well as sessions on leadership, expectations and opportunities for heads, and the board-head relationship. He also shared resources and facilitated workshops to review resumes, the interview process, and case studies. Candidates had the chance to network with colleagues at peer schools and continue discussions throughout the two-day experience in classroom settings and informal conversations during meals. Many thanks to our outstanding FCIS panel: Richard Gehman, Head, Oak Hall School; James Milford, Head, Maclay School; Dr. Jan Pullen, Head, Saint Stephen's Episcopal School; Joe Seivold, Head, Berkeley Preparatory School; and FCIS Executive Director, Dr. Barbara Hodges.



Academy for High Performing Educators Corbett Preparatory School of IDS January 24-26, 2016



FCIS welcomed 35 participants to the Academy for High Performing Educators at Corbett Preparatory School of IDS in Tampa. Participants spent three energizing days with Dr. Joyce Swarzman while learning methods and strategies for tapping into the strengths, uniqueness and diverse learning styles of all students in order to create the most effective and supportive learning environment for student engagement, as well as leadership strategies to energize administrative teams. This intensive workshop provided opportunities to learn and model techniques using current brain research, positive phrasing, and multiple intelligences.

Participants enjoyed spending time together, sharing ideas, and celebrating the education profession. In addition to earning 30 Master In-service points, all participants had the opportunity to earn 30 additional points by implementing and documenting these structures and strategies in their classrooms or schools. Dr. Swarzman has a gift for inspiring teachers and administrators and reaffirming the difference they are making in the lives of their students. Participants left the workshop raving about their experience and excited to implement new teaching strategies to enhance the learning environment in their classrooms.



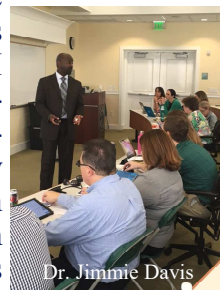
FCIS Winter Symposium Pine Crest School, Fort Lauderdale February 2-3, 2016

FCIS welcomed approximately 25 participants to the Financial and Legal Workshop and approximately 45 participants to the Technology Workshop at this year's Winter Symposium, that took place on the beautiful campus of Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale. We would like to thank Dr. Dana Markham for opening her school to us; Ms. Carol Rose, Executive Assistant to the President, for helping with planning and logistics; and Eric Olender, Director of Technology Operations, for providing tech support throughout the event.

School leaders from 16 different schools attended the first one-day workshop, *Legal and Financial Sustainability in an Age of Disruption*. In the morning, Marc Levinson, Executive Director at Mid-South Independent School Business Officers (MISBO), presented a session on the importance of preparing for an unknown future. Marc encouraged independent school leaders to embrace the changes in education and emphasized the importance of understanding their financial implications. In the afternoon, Suzanne Bogdan, Esq., Partner at Fisher & Phillips LLP in Fort Lauderdale, presented a session on the different strategies schools have implemented to respond to a decline in enrollment and the impact on independent and legal obligations. Suzanne also addressed the new and sometimes perceived legal obligations schools face that make operations and interactions with parents difficult and complicated. These interactive sessions provided opportunities for participants to ask questions and seek out advice on these topics.



Educators from 25 different schools attended the second one-day workshop, *Using Technology to Engage Students in Meaningful Learning*. Dr. Jimmie Davis, Senior Software System Engineer, The Mitre Corporation, and Chairman, STEMflorida, Inc., kicked off the technology workshop with his session, *Building a STEMPIRE*. Jimmie explored the pillars of a STEMPIRE, shared STEM activities and resources, and discussed the metrics for STEM effectiveness and student performance. In the afternoon, there were sessions targeted to specific divisions. For middle and upper school teachers, Dr. Joan McGettigan, Director of Educational & Information Technology at North Broward Preparatory School, presented *Top Ten Formative Assessment Tools*. Joan introduced formative assessment tools that provide critical feedback to teachers, helping them to monitor and modify their instruction methods and lesson plans, to meet individual student's needs, and to provide personalized and timely feedback. Following Joan's session, Jessie Metzger, Coordinator of Faculty and Student Communications at Pine Crest School, presented *Using Google Apps for Collaborative Classrooms*. Jessie explained how adopting Google Apps as part of instructional practice can transform a classroom into a truly collaborative environment—one that goes beyond the walls of a classroom. She introduced the basic capabilities of Google Apps and shared ways to increase productivity, to use multiple Google Apps, and to explore potential applications for Google Apps in multiple content areas and educational contexts. For lower and middle school teachers, Laura Fitzpatrick, First Grade Team Leader at North Broward Preparatory School, presented *The Magic of QR Codes*. Laura explored the world of QR codes, their functionality and their impact on literacy and math centers. She also outlined best practices and provided a variety of assignments and projects in the everyday classroom environment. Next, the Innovation Team at Pine Crest—Alexis Cobo, Lower School Computer Science Specialist; Keri Kolettis, Innovation Specialist for Lower School/Middle School; Michael Luetjen, Lower/Middle School Computer Science Specialist; Lisa Saunders, Middle School Computer Science Specialist; and Kris Swanson, Innovation Specialist for Lower School/Middle School—presented *Integrating Innovation and Computer Science into Core Curriculum*. This session highlighted the partnership between Innovation Specialists, Computer Science Specialists, and teachers. The Innovation Team discussed their collaborative planning process to guide students through inquiry-based knowledge development and thinking processes and to harness deeper learning with student-driven creativity and innovation.



Participants enjoyed meeting colleagues from other FCIS schools and engaging in conversations about using technology to enhance teaching and learning. Many thanks to all of our informative and innovative FCIS presenters.

FCIS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE!



After many months of design and planning, FCIS is proud to announce the completed redesign of its website. With a newly designed logo and look, as well as content, we hope that you will find this website to not only be user-friendly, but to contain the resources that you need at your finger tips as you strive to educate the students who have been entrusted to our fine schools. FCIS is committed to serving its member schools; please don't hesitate to share with us how we may help facilitate your important work.

www.fcis.org