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the
informational
newsletter

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SEEING IS BELIEVING! Nine CHILD Schools Selected to Showcase Innovation in Action

The Institute for School Innovation announces the selection of **two National Demonstration Sites** and **seven Exemplary Visitation Sites** for the 2008-2009 school year. These sites will host visitors and showcase innovative methods for school improvement. Visit the ISI website for more information about these schools and how to contact them for a visit.

National Demonstration Sites comprise schools that have been successfully implementing the CHILD Essential Components for multiple years in at least 80% of the classrooms. Exemplary Visitation Sites have at least one year of successful implementation in at least one cluster (three classrooms). The selected schools had to meet multiple criteria, including:

- Documented academic success for students;
- Classrooms enhanced with technology and hands-on active learning;
- Professional leadership by CHILD certified teachers and administrators;
- Positive student behavior.

National Demonstration Sites

Partin Settlement Elementary School, Kissimmee, Florida

David Groover, Principal

South Heights Elementary School, Henderson, Kentucky

Rob Carroll, Principal

Exemplary Visitation Sites

Citrus Elementary School, Vero Beach, Florida

Jon Teske, Principal

Glendale Elementary School, Vero Beach, Florida

Mary Ellen Schneider, Principal

Reedy Creek Elementary School, Kissimmee, Florida

Diane Nichols, Principal

Sebastian Elementary School, Sebastian, Florida

Patricia Donovan, Principal

Sunnyside Elementary School, New Castle, Indiana

Linda Kinnett, Principal

Treasure Coast Elementary School, Sebastian, Florida

Mark Dugan, Principal

Vero Beach Elementary, Vero Beach, Florida

Bonnie Swanson, Principal



Visitors learning from the experts.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

HOPE. That word has appeared a lot in recent headlines. With the historic presidential election, more children can hope and dream that they too can reach the top regardless of race or gender. I was inspired by the surge of young people who took an active role in the election process and stood in long lines to vote. The American Dream is alive.

that will once again trust educators to do the right thing. We must get away from micromanaging classroom instruction, shaming teachers, embarrassing students, and destroying hope. Our new president must make education a priority and provide the necessary resources. We must recapture hope by investing in children.

This newsletter is filled with stories of CHILD educators who are going above and beyond to bring change and innovation into today's classrooms. They are bringing hope to children that others had written off as hopeless. They are investing their time and energy to create a brighter future for America. They give me hope for a better tomorrow.

—Sally Butzin

Despite a troubled economy, I continue to have hope in the future. I hope that education will get renewed attention from a government

upcoming events for 2008 - 2009

Nov. 21	CHILD Presentation at the Florida Charter School Conference, Orlando
Feb. 7-8	CHILD Consultant Training, Tampa
Apr. 17-18	CHILD National Conference, Kissimmee

DOING THE DATA Closing Achievement Gaps for Title One Students

The Institute for School Innovation will soon release the **2008 Project CHILD Evaluation Report** for data reported from 18 Florida schools. The report will be posted on the ISI web site and mailed to state and district leaders. Watch for information coming in December.

in their own schools and across the state. Looking at the percentage who passed the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) with scores of Level 3 and above, Project CHILD students beat or met the state average across the board in grades 3-5 for both reading and mathematics, including the subgroup of Title 1 students.

Preliminary analysis of the data shows that Project CHILD students continue to exceed expectations when compared to their peers with-

2008 FCAT Scores: Average Percent of Students Scoring Level 3 and Above

Mathematics	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
State - All students	76	71	61
Project CHILD - All students	84	76	72
Project CHILD - Title I students	86	71	73

Reading	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
State - All students	72	70	67
Project CHILD - All students	84	82	76
Project CHILD - Title I students	84	80	72

CHILD 2009 National Conference will be "Out of This World!"

The 2009 conference theme is "**CHILD: Out of This World!**" We're going back to Orlando to the Royal Plaza Hotel, a Downtown Disney Resort Area Hotel in Lake Buena Vista. The dates are April 17-18. Watch for registration information coming soon. Here's the tentative schedule:

Friday April 17

8:00 am – 1:30 am: Take a Bus Tour to Visit a CHILD Site

11:30 am – 1:00 pm: Box Lunch

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Subject-Focused Make & Take Workshops

7:00 pm: Leadership Dinner (by invitation)

Saturday April 18

8:00 am – 10:00 am: Continental Breakfast, General Session with Keynote Speaker

10:00 am – Noon: Breakout Sessions and Market Place

Noon – 1:30 pm: Gala Awards Luncheon and School Showcases

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm: Breakout Sessions and Market Place

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm: Door Prizes and Adjourn

Classroom Champion for Change Award Grows to \$1,000!

ISI announces that up to three Classroom Champion for Change Awards will be presented at the 2009 CHILD National Conference in the amount of \$1,000 each. The CCC award goes to CHILD teachers who have sustained CHILD in their classrooms for multiple years, have become certified CHILD consultants to mentor and coach new CHILD teachers, and have been advocates for change and innovation in their school and district. The award criteria and nomination forms will soon be sent to all CHILD schools and posted on the ISI web site. Please nominate a worthy cluster or individual teacher to receive the recognition that they deserve.



2008 Conference Memories



Gina Morrison, 2008 Classroom Champion for Change Winner



Kathey Norman, 2008 Classroom Champion for Change Winner

CHILD Coordinators Making a Difference

Several years ago ISI began investing in teachers by providing seed grants to fund a CHILD coordinator in districts with multiple CHILD sites. This investment has paid off many times over. The coordinators have become invaluable CHILD advocates and offer timely support to the CHILD teachers in their district. They visit the classrooms every week to mentor and coach new CHILD teachers. They offer encouragement and support, along with useful suggestions and resources. Here are profiles of the distinguished group of CHILD Coordinators.

Paula Cannon, CHILD District Coordinator- Marion County, FL



Paula holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the University of Florida, and Master of Education from Nova Southeastern University. She was a teacher in the primary grades for over 25 years. She was chosen to be a Golden Apple Teacher by the Marion County (Florida) Public Foundation in 2000. That same year she was inducted into the Golden Apple Academy. In 1996 Paula was a member of the pioneering CHILD cluster at Ocala Springs Elementary School, the first cluster to receive the coveted Classroom Champion for Change award in 2003.

Lyn Channey, CHILD Facilitator- New Britain, CT

Lyn has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics and Science Education and a Master of Science Degree in Mathematics from Central Connecticut State University. She is also a PIMMS Fellow (Project to Increase the Mastery of Mathematics and Science). Lyn was a middle school math and science teacher for 13 years and an Elementary Numeracy Resource Teacher for two years. Lyn was chosen Teacher of the Year for both Pulaski and Louis P. Slade Middle Schools and received a Science Teacher Award from the University of Connecticut. She has mentored several student teachers and first year teachers, and has served on several State of Connecticut panels for writing Connecticut Mastery Test items and the checklist for special education students.



Debbie Haan, CHILD District Coordinator- Okaloosa County, FL



Debbie is the product of, and a testament to, the educational system in Okaloosa County, Florida. She graduated from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. After teaching at Combs New Heights Elementary for nine years, she transferred to Walker Elementary, teaching grades one through five. Debbie was a CHILD Intermediate Writing teacher for five years at Walker before accepting her current position. She has been recognized as Teacher of the Year and has served as a mentor teacher each year for the past five years. Debbie is also a certified Six-Traits trainer, having received training at the Six Traits Institute in Portland, Oregon.

Colleen Henderson, CHILD Program Coordinator for Imagine Schools West Florida Region

Colleen has a Bachelor of Science Degree in English from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. She is currently working toward her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. Colleen taught Pre-K for ten years at Tyndall AFB and Keesler AFB. In 2005 she moved to Florida and taught fourth and fifth grade at a private school prior to becoming a CHILD Primary Writing teacher in 2006 at Imagine School at North Manatee, FL. There she was named Teacher of the Year for both the school and the Imagine Central and West Florida Regions.



Barbara Hett, CHLD District Coordinator- Indian River County, FL



Barbara holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She has been an educator for the past 25 years. After moving to Florida in 1980 she taught English and language arts at a middle school and then became a CHLD teacher at Glendale Elementary in Vero Beach. Glendale Elementary was the first and only CHLD school in the county for six years until five other schools came on board in the 2005-06 school year.

Katrina Sanders, CHLD District Coordinator- Osceola County, FL

Katrina holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of South Alabama, a Master's degree in Computer Education Curriculum and Instruction from the National-Louis University and a Specialists Degree in Educational Leadership. She has been an educator for over 12 years, teaching all those years in Osceola County from second grade to fifth grade. Katrina is ESOL endorsed, is a trainer for Thinking Maps, and is working toward her Reading Endorsement. She came to Project CHLD in 2002 as an intermediate writing specialist. She has also been a Literacy Coach, and serves on the SAC committee and PTO at her daughter's school.



Consultant Training Set for February 7-8, 2009 at Little Harbor Resort

Experienced CHLD educators are encouraged to apply to become a CHLD consultant for the 2009-2010 school year. This is a fantastic opportunity to mentor beginning CHLD teachers, visit some new and exciting places, and gain professional experience as a CHLD leader. Consultants receive \$325 per day plus travel expenses.



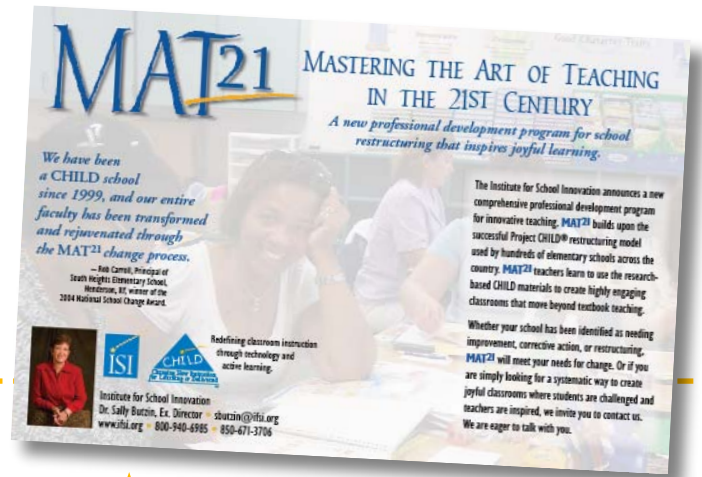
The 2009 Consultant Training Workshop takes place at the beautiful Resort and Club at Little Harbor in Ruskin, Florida (near Tampa). Applications are available on the ISI web site. The deadline to apply is January 9, 2009.



MAT²¹

GETTING NATIONAL ATTENTION

The November and February issues of **Educational Leadership** will feature an advertisement for ISI's new Mastering the Art of Teaching in the 21st Century (MAT²¹) professional development program. MAT²¹ makes Project CHILD's best practices more accessible to an entire faculty by offering a variety of implementation options. Contact ISI for information and pricing to get started in your school or district.



Project TEAMS Comes Out of Retirement



New materials ready for sixth grade Language Arts and Mathematics.

Several years ago in collaboration with **Professor Bob Reiser** at Florida State University's College of Education, ISI developed a middle school instructional model called Project TEAMS (Technology Enhancing Achievement in Middle School). Similar to Project CHILD, the TEAMS approach called for teacher teaming, technology integration, and hands-on active learning. It also encompassed interdisciplinary connections between the core subjects of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Despite successful implementations at three pilot schools, TEAMS never caught fire with middle school educators. And so it went into the ISI archives. However with the advent of K-8 charter schools that have chosen the CHILD model for grades K-5, there is renewed interest in having something similar for grades 6-8. So ISI has dusted off the materials and began updating them for 2009. **Diana Paulson**, ISI Senior Program Specialist, has taken the lead with support from **Dr. Sally Butzin**. New manuals and revised training will be ready for the 2009-2010 school year.

The plan is to begin with sixth grade and add seventh and eighth grades in the following years. Contact ISI for more information and fees for professional development.



TEAMS classroom scene.

★ ISI HOSTS DINNERS TO RECOGNIZE INNOVATIVE LEADERS

Superintendents, district administrators, and CHILD principals enjoyed fabulous food and fellowship at various Leadership Dinners hosted by ISI. **New Britain (CT)** leaders gathered at Angelico's on September 24. **Marion County (FL)** leaders dined at the Olive Garden in Ocala on October 6. **Osceola County (FL)** leaders enjoyed dinner at Mimi's Restaurant in Kissimmee on October 20. And **Okaloosa County (FL)** leaders dined at the The Wild Olive Restaurant in Crestview on October 28.

These events are a tribute and thank you to leaders who step out of the box to embrace change and innovation during these difficult times. With budget cuts and high stakes testing, it's easy to fall back on the traditional and comfortable. ISI salutes education leaders who take on new challenges and find creative ways to solve problems. Doing more of the same has never worked to bring different results. These leaders understand that lesson and are offering alternative ways of learning through Project CHILD.



Okaloosa County leaders

(left to right) Okaloosa Superintendent Dr. Alexis Tibbetts, ISI Board President Mary Gunter, and retired Okaloosa Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mabel Jean Morrison.



“kid quotes”

Today’s schools need to provide academic **rigor** and **relevance** for their students, but they also need to build positive **relationships**. Those are the 3 R’s of the 21st century. Students thrive in joyful schools where they know they are respected and loved.

During a recent visit to **South Heights Elementary School**, a CHILD National Demonstration Site in Henderson, Kentucky, **Winky Jenkins-Rice**, ISI Vice President and Director of Educational Programs, decided to go the source for information about what makes South Heights so special. Here are some quotes she collected from various students. You can see why this school has won national attention for being a former school in crisis that is now performing beyond expectations. Kudos to **Principal Rob Carroll** and the entire South Heights staff.



In 2004 South Heights won the National School Change Award.

“Last year I got in fights all the time at my other school. Kids here at South Heights are friendlier.”

“This is the best school I’ve been to. It’s not about competition between schools, it’s all about learning.”

“I don’t think there are any teachers here who don’t like us!”

“We’re South Heights!! Kids just get along. If you be nice to somebody they’ll be nice to you. We don’t have any of that fighting here.”

“Teachers are great examples. We have three great teachers in our cluster. I think that’s where we get our examples.”

“Our principal is so nice. He puts love into the school. He has nicknames for us. He’s just so loving! We have someone who understands us and he listens to us, too.”

“He comes to our rooms to greet us every day. That’s cool.”

VIOLET AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY • AVIVA KAFKA, PRINCIPAL



Photos by Sally Butzin



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Inspiring joyful learning by changing how
instruction for learning is delivered.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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