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the  
informational  
newsletter

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**Winifred Jenkins-Rice**  
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Director of Educational Programs

**Diana Paulson**  
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**Julie Switzer**  
Training Facilitator

**Cathy Campanile**  
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**Tanisha Denegaul**  
Operations Assistant

### CHILD district coordinators/ facilitators

**Lyn Channey**  
New Britain, CT

**Debbie Ecton**  
Bowling Green, KY

**Debbie Haan**  
Okaloosa County, FL

**Colleen Henderson**  
Imagine Schools, West FL Region

i m a i l

## ISI Recognizes CHILD Schools to Showcase Innovation in Action

Congratulations to the following schools that were selected as CHILD National Demonstration Schools and CHILD Exemplary Visitation Sites. These schools were selected based upon their adherence to full implementation of the CHILD® Twenty Essential Components, along with documented improvements in student achievement.

**National Demonstration Schools** are implementing Project CHILD throughout the entire school. **Exemplary Visitation Sites** are implementing in one or more clusters within the school. Please contact the school directly to arrange a visit.



Justin Matthews and Cher Gardner (left) welcome visitors from Idaho to their school.

### 2009-2010 CHILD National Demonstration Schools

#### Imagine Charter School at North Port (Sarasota County, Florida)

Justin Matthews, Principal • Lisa Sturz, Assistant Principal  
Phone: (941) 426-2050 • Email: Justin.matthews@imagineschools.com

#### South Heights Elementary School (Henderson, Kentucky)

Rob Carroll, Principal • Bridget Lutz, CHILD Coach  
Phone: (270) 831-5080 • Email: robin.carroll@henderson.kyschools.us

### 2009-2010 CHILD Exemplary Visitation Sites

#### Dishman-McGinnis Elementary School (Bowling Green, Kentucky)

Michael Wix, Principal • Deborah Ecton, CHILD Coordinator  
Phone: (270) 746-2250 • Email: Michael.wix@bgreen.kyschools.us

#### Glendale Elementary School (Vero Beach, Florida)

Mary Ellen Schneider, Principal  
Phone: (772) 978-8050 • Email: MaryEllen.schneider@indianriverschools.org

#### Imagine Charter School at Marietta (Marietta, Georgia)

Christy Tureta, Principal  
Phone: (770) 590-4430 • Email: Christy.Tureta@imagineschools.com

#### Sunnyside Elementary School (New Castle, Indiana)

Linda Kinnett, Principal • Cheri Estelle, CHILD Coach  
Phone: (765) 521-7213 • Email: kinnett@nccsc.k12.in.us

#### Treasure Coast Elementary School (Sebastian, Florida)

Mark Dugan, Principal • Trish Hunsecker, CHILD Contact  
Phone: (772) 978-8500 • Email: mark.dugan@indianriverschools.org



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Failure to connect the dots. That phrase has been in the news of late after an alienated young man ignited his underwear attempting to bring down an airplane on Christmas day. Thank heaven for the quick action of those sitting closest to him who averted disaster. Clearly all the data collected on this budding young terrorist was useless in this crisis.

mandates to collect more data? Are we simply creating even more alienated children ready to light a fuse or escape by dropping out?

What saved the plane from the terrorist attack was the good sense of the nearby passengers who saw what was happening and took action on the spot. Likewise it's time for those closest to the potential school dropouts to step up and take action. It's time to connect the dots and see that the current picture is not pretty.

In this newsletter you will read about teachers and school leaders who work with children every day to rescue them from boredom, frustration, and despair. They have connected the dots to create a more hopeful picture and change the standard teaching paradigm, beginning in the elementary school. I encourage political leaders and policy makers to visit these classrooms and pay attention to the teachers and principals who are in close proximity to the crisis, and who ultimately are the passengers who can save our schools from disaster.

—*Sally Butzin*

I see a parallel for education reform as policy makers are requiring more and more data collection on student achievement. Weekly benchmark testing now takes a day away from instruction to add to the weeks of state testing already in place. But who is connecting the dots? Who is looking inside the classrooms to see the glazed eyes of the children and frazzled teachers who are trying to comply with

## ISI Board and Staff Updates

The non-profit Institute for School Innovation is fortunate to have an outstanding volunteer Board of Directors who guide the Executive Director and staff in setting policy, strategic planning, and financial oversight. Several board members were founders of ISI in 1995 and have remained as committed volunteers. Many thanks to founders **Mary Gunter, Elaine Prine, Bob Reiser, Bob Harris, Diana Scott-Simmons,** and **Peter Butzin** for their loyal service and dedication to our mission through the years.

You can read the profiles of all board members on the ISI web site. We welcome more participation from leaders in education, business, and public service. Please contact a board member or Dr. Butzin if you would like to be considered for board membership.



ISI Board members take a break during the semi-annual meeting on January 15.

Front Row (l-r): Sally Butzin (ED), Bob Reiser, Mary Gunter, Curtis Richardson, Larry Sager

Back Row (l-r): Lainey Prine, Bill Krizner, Peter Butzin, Rich Kunkel

Not Pictured: Rob Carroll, Bob Harris, Altha Manning, Steve Rogers, Diana Scott-Simmons

## ★ ★ ISI Staff News ★ ★



Congratulations to Cathy Campanile who has been promoted to Director of Operations.



We also welcome Tanisha Denegaul to the staff as the Operations Assistant.

# CHILD

## *National Conference*

### *Innovation Generation: Creating 21st Century Thinkers*

*April 16 & 17, 2010*  
*Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay*  
*Tampa, FL*



## *Celebrate Innovation Generation!*

I cordially invite you to join us in Tampa as we celebrate the innovation generation. Project CHILD is helping create 21st century thinkers, and the attendees at this conference are on the leading edge of school innovation.

There will be lots to do. On Friday morning you can take a school bus tour to see CHILD in action. On Friday afternoon subject area teachers will gather for extended make and take sessions, while principals and administrators can attend a roundtable session to share ideas and solve problems. On Friday evening ISI will host the annual Leadership Dinner to honor school and district leaders who carry the torch for school innovation.

Saturday's conference starts early with an inspiring keynote address, followed by a full day of breakout sessions for learning and sharing. The Gala Awards Luncheon will recognize and honor CHILD educators who are making a difference. And of course the Marketplace and door prizes are fun for all.

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Together we will move into the future with joy and hope.

—Sally Butzin, Executive Director

## *Keynote Speaker*

Tim DiScipio is chairman and co-founder of ePALS Classroom Exchange, the leading provider of schoolsafe email, blogs, and eMentoring technology for the global K-12 market. ePALS also maintains the largest online classroom community, connecting 13 million students and teachers in 200 countries for online cross-cultural penpal exchanges, language learning, and classroom-to-classroom project sharing.

A true pioneer and industry leader in Internet media, social networking and K-12 education technology, Tim has visited hundreds of schools worldwide, is a frequent keynote speaker at international conferences and has given invited presentations and speeches to the Ministries of Education in China, Singapore and Kenya on education technology. Additionally, he has interviewed with major publications such as the The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and leading education trade magazines.

Tim recently briefed U.S. House and Senate members on the impact and challenges of broadband technology to 21st Century education, and contributed to a key 2009 FCC report on "Barriers To Broadband Adoption." He serves on several industry and education advisory boards including the National Middle Schools Association 21st Century Classroom Project.



**TO REGISTER ON LINE: [WWW.IFSI.ORG/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.IFSI.ORG/CONFERENCE)**

# Boys Need to Move!

**Dr. Sally Butzin** is scheduled to present a breakout session at the **22nd Annual At-Risk Youth Forum**, February 14-17 in Myrtle Beach, SC. The title of her session is “Going Beyond Seatwork...Boys Need to Move!”

“I have become more and more interested lately in what is happening to our young boys in public education,” said Dr. Butzin. “Boys are twice as likely to be suspended from school and comprise a majority of high school dropouts. They also are likely to be

the ones sitting in the office for discipline problems and attending remedial classes. I believe that Project CHILD can be an antidote for these problems by meeting the needs of boys to move and be actively involved in learning.”

The presentation will focus on strategies that all teachers can use to engage young boys in active learning. You can find a copy of the power point presentation slides on the ISI website at [www.ifs.org/projectchild/preslides](http://www.ifs.org/projectchild/preslides).



Technology is a great hook to engage boys in Project CHILD.



Finding “Battleship” math coordinates at a CHILD math station.



Tossing blocks and charting the results at the Exploration Station.

## ISI Poised to Compete for \$30M National “Invest in What Works” Grant



The Institute for School Innovation (ISI) has invited leaders in education and business to join in a partnership to compete for funds through the **Invest in What Works and Innovation Fund** grant program, also known as “i3.” The goal is to transform teaching and learning in America’s K-5 schools by establishing a national

network of **Project CHILD Lighthouse Schools** to demonstrate how to turn around low performing schools by attracting and keeping the best teachers to do the job.

The CHILD Lighthouse Schools will include state-of-the-art technology, with the pedagogy to match. There will be intensive teacher support and leadership coaching, along with growing our already established CHILD professional learning community of innovative educators. Our project is “shovel ready” and can be validated, articulated, and replicated across the country.

The i3 grant program has been established with federal ARRA stimulus dollars to “provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement, in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices that are demonstrated to have an impact on improving student achievement or student growth for high-need students, as well as

to promote school readiness, close achievement gaps, decrease dropout rates, increase high school graduation rates, and improve teacher and school leader effectiveness” (U.S. Department of Education). Project CHILD meets these criteria.

The project education partners to date include:

- Bowling Green (Kentucky) Public Schools
- Evansville Vanderburgh (Indiana) School Corporation
- Henderson (Kentucky) County Schools
- Imagine Charter Schools
- Indian River County (Florida) Public Schools
- International Alliance for Invitational Education
- New Britain (Connecticut) Public Schools
- Okaloosa County (Florida) Public Schools

The project business partners to date include:

- Apple Computer
- ePals, Inc.
- Lakeshore Learning
- Leapfrog School
- Logical Choice Technologies (Promethean)
- Pearson Digital

The Institute for School Innovation will provide project management and oversight. For more information, please contact Dr. Sally Butzin at [sbutzin@ifs.org](mailto:sbutzin@ifs.org).

# Spotlight On.....

Bluewater Elementary School • Niceville, Florida • Janet Norris, Principal



1. Learning at the Computer Station.
2. Fun at the Word Study Station.
3. Mary Sims' second graders.
4. Bluewater students working at learning stations.



**Bluewater Elementary School** is the longest established Project CHILD school in the country. The school opened in 1988 with Project CHILD being implemented in about half the classrooms. **Robert McEachern** was the first principal, and **Mary Sims** was one of the pioneering CHILD teachers. Over the years principals have come and gone, teachers have retired or moved, but Mary Sims is still going strong in the CHILD primary cluster.

Bluewater currently is implementing two CHILD modified clusters for Mathematics and Writing; one for primary grades and one for intermediate. The school has also adapted the CHILD model into a program for gifted and talented students they call **Team Quest**. Congratulations to Bluewater Elementary for continuing to innovate and stay connected to Project CHILD.

## Project TEAMS is Up and Running

We're excited to report that Project TEAMS for sixth grade is up and running this year at five charter schools. Project TEAMS is an extension of Project CHILD for middle school applications. It is similar in that students work at learning stations using technology and hands-on projects, in addition to text-related materials.



Visitors to the **Imagine Charter School at Palmer Ranch** in Sarasota, Florida were treated to classrooms with enthusiastic students and attentive teachers. For more information about the TEAMS model, go to [www.ifs.org/TEAMS](http://www.ifs.org/TEAMS). Materials for seventh grade are under development and will be ready for the 2010-2011 school year.



Imagine School at Palmer Ranch students.



TEAMS Social Studies teacher AJ Brown guides students during station time.



Sally Butzin with Connie Risser, Kyle Maschek, and Carmen Classen who were visiting Sarasota from Nampa, Idaho. They will be opening a new charter school next year using Project CHILD as their instructional model. The school will focus on students with learning disabilities.

# Kentucky Grannies Provide Extra Love in CHILD Classrooms

On a recent visit to **Bowling Green** and **Henderson**, I was touched by a volunteer program underway at several of their CHILD schools. The grannies (as shown in these photos) work in the classrooms to provide extra support for teachers, and hugs for the children. They listen to the children read, help them at stations, and offer support as needed.

One of the grannies told me it was a wonderful outlet for her, as she had been house-bound and very depressed after her husband had died. Coming to school on a regular basis gives her something important to do, and something to look forward to. What a great win-win situation.

— Sally Butzin



## Coming Soon – Project CHILD Parent Video

Watch the website for a new CHILD DVD just for parents. This 12-minute piece can be used for parent orientation meetings, or for recruiting interested parents who want to learn more. The video describes the CHILD model, has testimonials from other CHILD parents, and helps parents understand the purpose of the Passports and other unique features of Project CHILD. The video will be posted on the ISI website in early February. Contact ISI if you would like a DVD copy for your school.

# ISI Nominated for IT Florida Tech Award

The Institute for School Innovation was honored as a 2009 awards finalist by **ITFlorida** at the Awards Gala at the Disney Yacht Club Resort in Orlando on November 10th. ISI was selected for the category of **“Excellence in Bridging the Digital Divide.”** Other nominees were Angels Helping Hands Foundation, Florida A&M University, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The seventh annual ITFlorida Awards Program is a forum to showcase successful innovations and leadership in the information technology sectors. Congratulations to the Knight Foundation for being selected the winner.



# In their own words...

Project CHILD students learn to reflect upon their work and actions in order to gain insight into what works best to help them learn. CHILD students also learn to take responsibility and become self-regulated learners.

Here are some reflection “gems” submitted by **Jaime Petillo’s** intermediate math class at **Vance Village Elementary School** in New Britain, Connecticut.

“I learned that every time you go to a station and it’s a game, you’re not just having fun, you’re learning something. For example: when I was in 3rd grade, I had to do a game with fractions but I didn’t know how. Then everyone told me at my station; it all became simple.”

“I learned how to put numbers in order like 399, 400, 401. I didn’t get it right, so I fixed it so I could do it right at Construction Station.”

“I learned how to cooperate with my classmates by helping them complete their station work. Also, by not distracting them. I don’t yell. I don’t laugh. I don’t tap them on the shoulder.”

“I learned that it’s not about being perfect, it’s about doing your best. I learned this because when I was at the station some people were saying that’s not perfect, this is perfect and it’s not. It’s about doing your best.”

“Today I learned that if someone cheats it doesn’t really matter because it’s just going to ruin the fun of a game. And also just continue the board or outside game.”

“I learned since we are fourth graders we should pick who goes first without arguing. Just pick who goes and if they don’t cooperate, then tell the teacher.”  
(see Taking Turns below).



Dr. Butzin receives a book about Project CHILD written by students in Jennifer Willis’ primary cluster at Imagine Charter School at Palmer Ranch in Sarasota, Florida.



# WWW.IFSI.ORG



Be sure to visit the ISI website often for updated information, classroom tips, station task cards, and more!

You can also connect to Project CHILD on:



Please join us at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, April 16-17, for the CHILD National Conference.

On-line conference registration now available. Early Bird deadline is February 19.

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



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Institute for School Innovation, Inc.

P.O. Box 13296  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-3296  
850/671-3706  
800/940-6985  
850/671-5390 FAX  
www.ifsil.org

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