



the
informational
newsletter



39 Consultants Join the CHILD Leadership Team

institute staff

Dr. Sarah M. Butzin
President & Executive Director

Winifred Jenkins-Rice
Vice President &
Director of Educational Programs

Diana Paulson
Senior Program Specialist

Julie Switzer
Training Facilitator

Cathy Campanile
Operations Coordinator

Karen Yawn
Executive Assistant

Jordan Stowers
Administrative Assistant

**CHILD
district
coordinators/
facilitators**

Paula Cannon
Marion County, FL

Lyn Channey
New Britain, CT

Debbie Ecton
Bowling Green, KY

Debbie Haan
Okaloosa County, FL

Colleen Henderson
Imagine Schools, West FL Region

Barbara Hett
Indian River County, FL

Katrina Sanders
Osecola County, FL

The CHILD Consultant Training Workshop held February 7-8 in Tampa, Florida was a big success. Twenty-four new consultant trainees joined 15 veteran CHILD consultants, along with the ISI staff and district coordinators for a weekend retreat. The veterans stayed through Saturday to receive updated information, while the newcomers also attended on Sunday to give practice presentations and be critiqued by the staff.

We applaud the dedication and professionalism of these CHILD educators who gave up a weekend to learn how to mentor and coach new CHILD teachers next year. They are eager to get started, so contact ISI if you are ready to join the growing family of Project CHILD teachers.



2009 Project CHILD Certified Consultants are eager to train new teachers.

The ISI staff in Tampa:
(l-r) Julie Switzer,
Winky Jenkins-Rice,
Diana Paulson,
Sally Butzin.



A BIG SUCCESS



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Winston Churchill once said, "When you're going through Hell, just keep on going." That pretty much sums up the attitude of most educators these days. Despite budget cuts and more budget cuts, teachers and administrators keep showing up every day for the kids.

This newsletter chronicles school visits that our staff and I have made to various Project CHILD schools this winter. Without exception the classrooms remain a refuge from the turmoil going on outside. I am so proud of all the CHILD educators

who just dig a little deeper and remain positive for their students.

The release of our new Project CHILD overview video was an exciting event. There is a link on our website. Congratulations and thanks to the Indian River County (FL) School District for opening their classroom doors to showcase innovation throughout the district. It was an exciting two days as I traveled with the film crew to record Project CHILD in action.

Here at ISI we pledge to remain optimistic that bad times bring out the best in people. Our team remains committed to working hard to inspire joyful learning. In the words of my dear friend and mentor, Mabel Jean Morrison, we plan to "keep on keepin' on!"

—Sally Butzin

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

The CHILD National Conference is Almost Here!

It's not too late to register for the 2009 CHILD National Conference to be held April 17-18 at the Royal Plaza Hotel near Downtown Disney in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Friday's events include a bus tour to a CHILD school and make-and-take sessions for each subject area. Saturday's events include the opening general session with keynoter Betty Siegel, lots of breakout sessions, and the gala awards luncheon.

Go to www.ifsl.org for registration information. Hope to see you there!



Spotlight on Project CHILD in Bowling Green, KY

The weather outside was frightful, but inside the CHILD classrooms it was delightful when **Winky Jenkins-Rice**, ISI's Director of Educational Programs, visited Bowling Green, Kentucky. An ice storm hit just as Winky arrived, but after a day of school closings, she was able to tour the first-year CHILD clusters at **Dishman-McGinnis Elementary** and **Parker-Bennett-Curry Elementary**.

"These first year CHILD clusters really impressed me," she said. "The

district has been so supportive by providing additional inclusion staffing. The teachers are working hard to raise academic achievement for their students."

Associate Superintendent **Vicki Writsel** saw the potential of Project CHILD to become a restructuring model for helping schools meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) targets. If these photos are any indication, her vision is working to create joyful and productive classrooms.



A major ice storm hits Bowling Green, KY, but inside the classrooms there is plenty of warmth.



HAVE YOU SEEN IT YET?

Accolades for the New Project CHILD Video

The new CHILD overview video was released in early February to rave reviews. A link is posted on the ISI website, and a short version is also playing on *YouTube* and *Facebook*. Please open it up and pass it on. We want the world to see!

Thanks to the fabulous educators, students, and parents in **Indian River County, Florida** who allowed filming in their classrooms and sat for interviews. Special thanks to Superintendent **Harry LaCava**, Director of Core Curriculum **Sue Curtis**, and CHILD District Coordinator **Barbara Hett** for their support and cooperation. And congratulations to the following for being part of CHILD history:

- Citrus Elementary**
- Dodgertown Elementary**
- Glendale Elementary**
- Pelican Island Elementary**
- Sebastian Elementary**
- Treasure Coast Elementary**
- Vero Beach Elementary**



Barbara Hett, Indian River CHILD District Coordinator, is ready for her close up.



Barbara Hett with Lindsay Koppleman and Wes Moody, her former CHILD students who are now senior honor students at Vero Beach High School.

RAVE



Joel Silver and Jim Wacksman from Association Studios enjoy a school lunch during a break from filming.



Barbara Hett with Glendale Elementary student Makenzie Burton and her mother.



"We love Project CHILD!"



Filming the CHILD graduates.



Melly Docherty, CHILD Intermediate Math teacher and Certified CHILD Consultant, prepares for interview.



Bonnie Swanson, Principal of Vero Beach Elementary, explains the process at her Title I school.

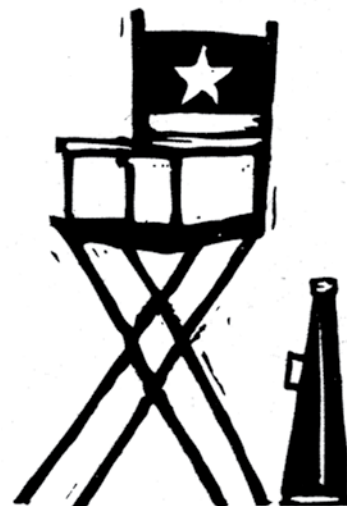
REVIEWS!!



Elementary CHILD student
with mother Kristen Burton.



Jim Wacksman films a station activity.



Okaloosa County Breaks New Ground to Raise Achievement for Struggling Students

Okaloosa County (FL) has always been ranked among the best in the state for student achievement. However, some students were still falling through the cracks. Superintendent **Alexis Tibbetts** and her leadership team created an innovative solution to use Project CHILD as a restructuring model for low achieving students in grades 3-5 at eight elementary schools.

"When I visited the CHILD classrooms in February, I was amazed at the progress they've made," said **Dr. Sally Butzin**, ISI Executive Director. "Students who formerly had behavior problems and learning difficulties, have truly become part of a cohesive team. I saw cooperation, courtesy, and pride in students who others had written off as doomed to failure."

A major factor in their success is the dedication of the CHILD cluster teachers who took on the challenge to work with the most difficult students. They also have embraced full inclusion so that the support teachers for ESE and Title I work alongside the CHILD teachers in the classrooms.

Preliminary data show remarkable growth in reading and mathematics achievement already. FCAT testing begins in March, so those data will be analyzed for growth. All students scored Level 1 or 2 last year (3 is passing), so we hope to see more students passing. The expectation is that by the time the current third graders reach fifth grade, they will all be on grade level. Stay tuned.



The Title I inclusion teacher helps students at a learning station.

Okaloosa County CHILD District Coordinator Debbie Haan with a student. ISI provided a grant to fund this position for extra teacher support and coaching.



The ESE inclusion teacher works with students in the reading classroom.



Another feather in Okaloosa's cap is that three of the county's Teacher of the Year honorees are Project CHILD teachers!

Teachers of the Year honored at gala banquet in Okaloosa County (l-r) Rebecca Desormeaux (CHILD Intermediate Math at Northwood Elementary), Susan Kishler (CHILD Intermediate Math at Edwins Elementary), Jeannette Robaldo (CHILD Primary Writing at Walker Elementary).



Susan Kishler (far right background), CHILD Intermediate Math teacher at Edwins Elementary works at the Teacher Station while the Title I inclusion teacher works at another station in the foreground.

OKALOOSA CHILD CLASSROOMS USE A FULL INCLUSION MODEL.

“kid quotes”

What do students have to say about Project CHILD? **Amanda Ward**'s second graders actually wrote a whole book on the subject. Amanda is a CHILD Primary Writing teacher at **Treasure Coast Elementary School** in Sebastian, FL. These second graders had completed the full cycle of Project CHILD within a K-2 primary cluster. Here are some excerpts from the book.



“Project CHILD is the best! It is better than my old class. Project CHILD has three teachers. One for writing, reading, and math. The teachers get to really know us. They care about us.” - Naomi

“It is so much fun when we switch classes. I hope I get put in Project CHILD again.” - Payton

“I love Reading class! Because it’s cool! I love to read. It’s the way I was born.” - Victoria

“Computer Station is cool! It is the best station in the world!” - Willis

“We have fun in Textbook Station. I read fish books and boy books. Textbook Station is cool. I can learn a lot!” - Sai

“My favorite site to go on is Poptroica. My teacher uses a big screen too! We work on it together. It helps us learn!” - Noah

“At Construction Station I get to make stuff like a skeleton. We use spaghetti noodles. But both sides have to be the same so if you put ears on one side you have to put ears on the other side. I love construction!” - Payton

“I love Challenge Station! I love it because we get to play games and activities.” - Willis

“Exploration Station has a lot of fun stuff to do and work is so challenging to me and I love it so much. I wish I had it at my house. That would be awesome!” - Bydenaj

“Thank you Project CHILD for this program! It’s the best! Thank you to special teachers for caring about us and supporting this program. It makes school cool!” - Coby

Imagine Charter Schools Founders Visit Project CHILD Schools

Dennis and Eileen Bakke, the founders of the growing national network of Imagine charter schools, visited Florida to participate in special events at several new Imagine Schools that utilize Project CHILD to deliver the Imagine curriculum. The day began with the grand opening celebration for the new **Imagine School at Lakewood Ranch** in Manatee County (FL), a visit to a reading fair at **Imagine School at North Port** in Sarasota, and ended with a groundbreaking ceremony for the new **Imagine School at Palmer Ranch** in Sarasota that will open next year. Imagine Schools is based in Arlington, Virginia. Learn more at www.imagineschools.com.



Dennis and Eileen Bakke with a student tour guide at Lakewood Ranch.

The proud Project CHILD “mother” gets ready for the Lakewood Ranch tour.



admires students' reading projects on display at Imagine School at North Port.

Fred Damianos, Imagine Schools West Florida Regional Vice President, who is the driving force behind the expansion of Project CHILD to six schools in his region,

inside

- Consultants Join CHILD Leadership Team.....1**
- Director's Message 2**
- National Conference Almost Here 2**
- Spotlight on Bowling Green, KY 3**
- Project CHILD Video 4**
- Okaloosa County Breaks Ground 6**
- Kid's Quotes 7**
- Imagine Charter Schools 8**

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Institute for School Innovation, Inc.

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

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #706
Tallahassee, FL