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the
informational
newsletter

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CHILD TAKES OFF ...in a BIG WAY!

Our **CHILD** continues to grow! As more and more children are falling through the cracks in standard classrooms, visionary leaders are seeking innovative ways to reach these students through Project **CHILD**. Others are seeing the **CHILD** model as a dynamic marketing tool to attract parents to schools of choice. Still others see that Project **CHILD** is just good teaching, embracing a solid collection of best practices anchored by a unique triangulated framework.

We're welcoming numerous new schools to our family this year, and several existing **CHILD** schools are adding more clusters. This year we'll be reaching nearly 16,000 students in 66 schools. How exciting!

We're especially encouraged to see Project **CHILD** classrooms springing up outside of Florida. Welcome to these newcomers from Connecticut, Kentucky, and New York...

Chamberlain Elementary, New Britain, CT; **Dishman-McGinnis Elementary**, Bowling Green, KY; **Gaffney Elementary**, New Britain, CT; **Jefferson Elementary**, New Britain, CT; **Lincoln Elementary**, New Britain, CT; **Parker-Bennett-Curry Elementary**, Bowling Green, KY; **Smalley Elementary**, New Britain, CT; **T.C. Cherry Elementary**, Bowling Green, KY; **Vance Village Elementary**, New Britain, CT; **Violet Avenue Elementary**, Poughkeepsie, NY

In Florida, Okaloosa County has added eight more schools to join their long-time exemplary **CHILD** implementation at Bluewater Elementary. The new **CHILD** clusters will provide a "school within a school" option for low performing students. These classrooms will become an oasis for third, fourth, and fifth graders who need a different way to learn in a challenging and nurturing environment. Welcome to...

Baker School, Baker, FL; **Bob Sikes Elementary**, Crestview, FL; **Edwins Elementary**, Ft. Walton Beach, FL; **Eglin Elementary**, Eglin AFB, FL; **Elliott Point Elementary**, Ft. Walton Beach, FL; **Mary Esther Elementary**, Mary Esther, FL; **Northwood Elementary**, Crestview, FL; **Walker Elementary**, Crestview, FL

Six new **CHILD** charter schools are opening throughout Florida under the umbrella of the Imagine Schools Corporation. They already have long waiting lists of students whose parents are choosing innovation for their children. Go to the ISI website for a link to enrollment information...

Imagine School of Broward, Coral Springs, FL; **Imagine School at Evening Rose**, Tallahassee, FL; **Imagine School at Lakewood Ranch**, Bradenton, FL; **Imagine School at Land O'Lakes**, Lutz, FL; **Imagine School at North Port**, North Port, FL; **Imagine School at St. Petersburg**, St. Petersburg, FL



Imagine School at Evening Rose under construction.



New Britain principals and district leaders attend the CHILD implementation workshop.



Okaloosa County gets ready for Project CHILD expansion.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Another one bites the dust. That's what I think as I read recent headlines from Education Week unmasking popular mandates and myths.

"Studies of Popular Reading Texts Don't Make the Grade" (Aug. 13, 2008); "Class-Size Reductions Seen of Limited Help on Achievement Gap" (Feb. 21, 2008); "Reading First Doesn't Help Pupils 'Get It'" (May 1, 2008).

As district requirements for textbook teaching, restrictive scheduling, and time constraints for "test-prep" drills have put a stranglehold

on innovation, our Project CHILD educators have maneuvered the minefield of No Child Left Behind in heroic fashion. They continue to get results for kids by maintaining high standards and focusing on the classroom.

After 20 years, Project CHILD educators continue to demonstrate that paying attention to what students are doing is what matters. Textbooks, computers, and "stuff" do not help children learn if they are disengaged and disinterested. Professional development is wasted on teachers who refuse to empower children to actively learn by making wise choices and helping one another.

This newsletter puts the spotlight on innovators who put children first. We are thrilled to welcome new CHILD educators from near and far who share our vision to "Inspire joyful learning by changing how instruction for learning is delivered." I hope everyone reading this has an inspired and joyful year.

—Sally Butzin

ISI Awards Three District Coordinator Grants

Congratulations to three districts that qualified to receive ISI District Coordinator Grants totaling \$155,000. The Institute for School Innovation (ISI) is committed to assuring quality large scale implementations. Districts qualify for partial grants when they implement at least 10 CHILD clusters within the district, and full grants for implementing 25 or more clusters.

Imagine Schools West Florida Region received a full grant, and Okaloosa County (FL) Schools and New Britain (CT) Schools received partial grants. Contact ISI for more information about this grant opportunity for your district.

Thanks to our Conference Sponsors & Vendors!



Libby Preble, Leapfrog National Director for Educational Partnerships supports CHILD educators.

Sponsors

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Peter and Sally Butzin

Vendors

Capella University
Frog Publications
Great Source
Insta-Learn by Step
Lakeshore Learning Materials
Learning Wheels
Linton Create-a-Book
Student Mate Laptop

upcoming events for 2008 - 2009

- September 20** Presentation by Dr. Sally Butzin at the International Alliance for Invitational Education World Conference, Chicago, IL
- February 7-8** CHILD Consultant Training, Tampa, FL
- April 17-18** 19th Annual CHILD Conference, Orlando, FL 

2009 Annual CHILD Conference

Hold the Date!

Don't miss the 19th Annual CHILD Conference scheduled for April 17-18 at the Royal Plaza, a Downtown Disney Resort Area Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Registration information will be mailed in January. Mark your calendars and save the date.

Special Award Winners



Above & Beyond Award – Gale Fulford (left), Principal, Cypress Trails Elementary School, Royal Palm Beach, FL, with Winky Jenkins-Rice.

Several educators received special awards at the **18th Annual CHILD Conference**, along with 149 CHILD Innovation Sustainers who were recognized for implementing CHILD for three years and beyond. Special recognition went to **Mary Sims**, one of the original 12 CHILD pilot teachers for being a 19-year sustainer. Go to the ISI website for a complete listing of the Innovation Sustainers.

René Clayton Principal of Pleasant Hill Elementary School in Kissimmee, FL was named CHILD First Steps Pioneer. **Beth Barnard**, CHILD Primary Writing Teacher at Partin Settlement Elementary School in Kissimmee was recognized as CHILD Consultant of the Year.



CHILD First Year Stars – Penny Antonnaci (right), Primary Writing; Bonnie Larsen (left), Primary Reading; Lindsay Marshall (not pictured), Primary Mathematics, Spencer Math and Science Academy, Chicago, IL, with Dr. Sally Butzin.



CHILD Cluster of the Year – (left to right) Christina Etts, Primary Math; Courtney Lewis, Primary Reading; Susan Townsend, Primary Mathematics, Dr. N.H. Jones Elementary School, Ocala, FL, with Winky Jenkins-Rice.

Staff Appreciation Award – Jan Gabhart, CHILD District Coordinator, Osceola County Schools, Kissimmee, FL.



Accolades

Bonnie Swanson, Principal at Vero Beach Elementary School in Indian River County, Florida, was selected as the 2008 District Principal of the Year. She now competes for the Florida Department of Education Principal Award for Outstanding Leadership. Vero Beach Elementary has four CHILD clusters and has earned an "A" designation for the past two years.

Dr. Sally Butzin, ISI President & Executive Director, has been chosen as the Florida State University College of Education's 2008 Distinguished Educator Alumna. The award will be presented at the FSU Homecoming celebration on November 15 in Tallahassee.

Congratulations to **Curtis Richardson** and **Larry Sager** who were elected to serve on the ISI Board of Directors. Mr. Richardson is returning to private life after years of distinguished service as a Florida legislator and former Leon County School Board member. Mr. Sager is a Tallahassee business owner, former executive with Wendy's Restaurants, and also a former school board member in Ohio.

The Institute for School Innovation hosted the 18th Annual CHILD Conference in West Palm Beach on May 2-3. Friday's events included a bus tour to two CHILD schools (Cypress Trails and Panther Run), make-and-take sessions, plus the annual Leadership Dinner at historic Testa's Restaurant.

Saturday was a day of celebration from start to finish! Internationally acclaimed **Keynote Speaker Gary Stager** challenged us with intriguing ideas for classroom technology possibilities. Over 35 breakout sessions engaged attendees throughout the day, providing new CHILD contacts, implementation ideas and renewed motivation. The exciting Market Place gave numerous vendors an opportunity to showcase their CHILD-friendly wares during refreshment breaks. The conference concluded with awards for outstanding school displays and oodles of door prizes. A great time was had by all.



300 attendees celebrate learning



Gala awards luncheon.



Breakout session.



Diana Paulson hands out door prizes.



Over 50 principals and district leaders attend the Leadership Dinner.



Keynote Speaker Gary Stager.



ing and connecting with others.



Make and take session.



Conference Marketplace.

Opening General Session.



Cypress Trails student guides ready for the bus tour guests.

MAT21

MASTERING THE ART OF TEACHING IN THE 21ST CENTURY A NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL RESTRUCTURING

The Institute for School Innovation is committed to providing comprehensive professional development to meet a growing demand for innovative teaching. Mastering the Art of Teaching in the 21st Century (MAT21) is ISI's new staff development program to take the success of Project CHILD to a wider audience. MAT21 teachers learn to use the research-based CHILD materials to create highly engaging classrooms where students are learning more, and are too busy to get into trouble.

The goal is to work with an entire faculty to move them beyond textbook teaching at a pace that works best for their comfort level, be it in a self-contained classroom, a grade level team, or a cross-grade cluster. Contact ISI for more information on how to develop a plan for your school. Various fee schedules apply, depending upon how many teachers will be participating within a school or district and whether there is a long-term commitment to change through a three-year transformational process.

107 Educators Attend the CHILD Summer Institute



Hands-on computer practice.



Hands-on Leap Pad practice.



The CHILD Summer Institute kicks off with a whole group meeting.

The CHILD Summer Institute gathered momentum in its second year. The Summer Institute is a joint endeavor between the Osceola County School District and the Institute for School Innovation to provide ongoing professional development for CHILD teachers. Participants came from across the street and across the nation – from Osceola County to Connecticut and Kentucky.

The event was held June 18-19 at Partin Settlement Elementary School in Kissimmee, FL. Organized by **Jan Gabhart**, Osceola's CHILD Coordinator, and **Diana Paulson**, Senior Program Specialist for ISI, each day included lots of sharing, hands-on practice, and make-and-take sessions.



MAJOR AWARD WINNERS!

Congratulations to the major award winners who were recognized at the CHILD Annual Conference. The Classroom Champion for Change (CCC) is ISI's most prestigious award, and includes a \$750 prize along with a framed plaque. Nomination forms for 2009 CCC awards with the criteria will be sent to all schools shortly. Be thinking of whom to nominate (or nominate yourself) because the prize this year will increase to \$1,000!



Innovation Pioneer – Mary Gunter (right), ISI Board Chairperson and Principal of Liza Jackson Preparatory School, Fort Walton Beach, FL, with Dr. Sally Butzin.



CHILD Innovation Coach of the Year - Laura Dyer, Reedy Creek Elementary School, Kissimmee, FL.



Classroom Champion for Change – Kathy Norman, CHILD Intermediate Reading Teacher, South Heights Elementary School, Henderson, KY.

CHILD Innovation Principal of the Year – David Groover, Partin Settlement Elementary School, Kissimmee, FL, with Dr. Sally Butzin.



CHILD Innovation Assistant Principal of the Year – Deb Berg, Treasure Coast Elementary School, Sebastian, FL.



Classroom Champion for Change – Gina Morrison, CHILD Primary Writing Teacher, Reedy Creek Elementary School, Kissimmee, FL.



CHILD Innovation District Administrator of the Year – Sue Curtis, Director of Elementary Education, Indian River County Schools, Vero Beach, FL.

CHILD Leadership Academy Puts Focus on Innovation



Winky Jenkins-Rice (bottom right) with Leadership Academy participants.



Rob Carroll offers insights from his award-winning school.



A working session for CHILD principals.

The CHILD Leadership Academy, held in conjunction with the CHILD Summer Institute, provided a forum for networking and problem solving. New CHILD leaders from Florida, Kentucky, and Connecticut heard from the veteran experts on lessons learned and effective leadership techniques for innovators. CHILD National Demonstration School principals **Rob Carroll** from South Heights Elementary in Henderson, KY and **David Groover**, host principal of Partin Settlement Elementary in Kissimmee, FL, provided expert advice and guidance. **Winky Jenkins-Rice**, ISI Director of Educational Programs, coordinated the event.

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



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