

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Wednesday, November 02, 2011 1:44:30 PM  
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**Subject:** FW: 11/1/11 Education Round-Up

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FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Higgins, Deborah  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 02, 2011 10:28 AM  
**Subject:** 11/1/11 Education Round-Up

 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** 



[Is School Board Reform Coming to You?](#)  
(American School Board Journal © 11/02/2011)

It's time to kill all the school boards, proposed a 2008 article in The Atlantic, which claimed that local control has become a disaster for our schools. School boards are a governance system that is too often ineffective, if not dysfunctional, suggested a 2009 Education Week special report. And local control needs a makeover, concluded the Fordham Institute earlier t...

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[Colleges inspire K-12 students to choose STEM careers](#)  
(CommunityCollegeTimes © 11/02/2011)

Community colleges are hosting summer camps, training teachers, organizing science fairs and sponsoring internships—all focused on inspiring K-12 students to consider careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). STEM education is crucial to the nation's economy and global competitiveness. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 15 of the 20 fastest-growing occu...

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### [Standards: A Critical Need for K-16 Collaboration](#)

(Education Week © 11/02/2011)

By Brad C. Phillips and Bruce Vandal The time for the Common Core State Standards is now. With U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's recent announcement that the federal Department of Education will relax enforcement of the No Child Left Behind Act in states in exchange for the adoption of rigorous college and career standards, it is safe to say that many states will simply formalize...

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### [Study: Pre-K Crucial to Best 3rd Grade Reading Outcomes](#)

(Education Week/Curriculum Matters © 11/02/2011)

By Catherine Gewertz on November 1, 2011 4:17 PM | 1 Comment | Recommend In the face of state cutbacks to early-childhood programs, school districts might find themselves wondering whether to invest their own scarce funds in preschool or in full-day kindergarten. A study out today has a clear message: If you want to maximize the chances of strong 3rd grade reading results, preschool programs in...

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### [Florida legislators skeptical of spending more for reading coaches 1](#)

(FL Times-Union © 11/02/2011)

By Matt Dixon jacksonville.com Copyright 2011 The Florida Times-Union. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. November 1, 2011 - 06:08pm Florida legislators skeptical of spending more for reading coaches TALLAHASSEE - A panel of lawmakers met a request for an additional \$40 million for 600 reading coaches with skepticism Tuesday, sayin...

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### [Board votes to close BofA Center](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/02/2011)

By Topher Sanders topher.sanders@jacksonville.com The Duval County School Board voted unanimously Tuesday night to close the exclusive Bank of America Learning Academy, after a 3-3 vote on the same issue in May. Many parents and others were present in support of the school, which the district wanted to close to save about \$309,000 a year. Frank Lopez, parent of a fifth-grader at the school...

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### [Political districts, they are a changin](#)

(Hernando Today © 11/02/2011)

BROOKSVILLE – It might only be a slight tremor instead of a seismic shift. But the geographical and political landscape will soon change in Hernando County. But the only ones who will feel it will be politicians whose district living requirements may be tweaked to accommodate the population upheaval. County commissioners are required by law to reside in the district they represen...

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### [Officials Again Call for USF Poly Audit](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/02/2011)

LAKELAND | State Senators Paula Dockery and Mike Fasano on Tuesday called a second time for an audit of the way University of South Florida Polytechnic has spent money. The Republican senators wrote USF Poly Regional Chancellor Marshall Goodman, saying they want detailed information and that they want it no matter what happens in a meeting next we...

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### [Why the Rush to Push USF Polytechnic Separation Issue?](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/02/2011)

I was among the first to buy into the vision of a polytechnic campus in our community. While serving on the Lakeland City Commission, we proudly voted to invest \$5 million in public funds with the University of South Florida Foundation because we believed in the vision that USF President Judy Genshaft had articulated for USF's eastern most regional campus. In retrospect, one has to wonder if Lakel...

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### [School District Earns National Distinction](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/02/2011)

The Polk County School District has been named the National Advanced Placement District of the Year by the College Board. The district received the news of the award this week, said Sherrie Nickell, the district's superintendent. The district will learn all of the details about the award this morning during a conference call with the College Board...

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### [Student Arrested After Gun Found](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/02/2011)

Palm Beach County school officials said a 16-year-old student at Dwyer High School has been arrested after another student tipped them off about a gun on campus. The Palm Beach Post reported the teen voluntarily handed over the gun when approached by administrators at the Palm Beach Gardens school Tuesday. Officials said the 11th-grade boy also h...

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### [New evaluation system for teachers](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/02/2011)

BARTOW - After months of planning, the Polk County School District has a new evaluation system for teachers that requires school administrators to spend more time in the classroom. Legislation passed this spring requires each school district to develop a program based on pay for performance. "This has been a project on steroids," said Superintenden...

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### [Board Denies 2 Charter School Applications](#)

(Land O Lakes Patch.com © 11/02/2011)

As supporters of two proposed charter schools head back to the drawing board, Pasco County School District officials plan to give the application process a closer look. The school board denied charter school applications for The Center for Independence Inc. in New Port Richey and Freedom Academy Elementary in Zephyrhills during its Nov. 1 meeting. Both applications, district officials said,...

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### [Why Bullying Investigations Must Get Better](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/02/2011)

By Rande W. Matteson | Guest columnist November 2, 2011 Advertisement The FBI has recently released crime statistics that show violent crime, property crime, robberies, rapes and murders all decreased in 2010. If crime is falling, which the FBI says it is, why aren't police agencies able to do more when it comes to school and workplace bullying investigations? One cannot open the...

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### [AP success: Seminole, Polk and Catholic diocese make national honor roll](#)

(Orlando Sentinel The School Zone Blog 11/1/11)

Advanced Placement, Leslie Postal, Polk County, Seminole County schools, Uncategorized — posted by lesliepostal on November, 1 2011 11:59 AM

Discuss This: Comments(2) | Add to del.icio.us | Digg it The Polk and Seminole county school districts, along with the Catholic Diocese of Orlando, have won spots on the College Board's AP District Honor Roll. Districts win a place on this honor roll if their schools increase access to AP courses to a "broader number of students" while they also maintain or increase the percentage of their students earning 3's or better on AP exams. Students typically need a 3 on the 5-level exams to get college credit. Polk,

Seminole and the local Catholic school group were the only districts in Florida to make it to the national AP honor roll. Nationwide, 367 districts won.

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#### [State retirement fund dips](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 11/02/2011)

The balance in the Florida Retirement System of \$121 billion is a 1.2 percent increase since Jan. 1, but about \$7 billion lower than \$128 billion that represented the high point of the fund year-to-date. Volatility in the European market, including uncertainty over the success of austerity measures in Greece, has made the market extremely volatile, said Ash Williams, executive director of the F...

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#### [Boys' families consider suing hypnosis principal](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 11/02/2011)

SARASOTA COUNTY - The families of at least two boys who died shortly after being hypnotized by North Port High School Principal George Kenney are considering lawsuits against the Sarasota County School District. The family of Marcus Freeman — an upbeat 16-year-old quarterback who died in March when his truck left Interstate 75 and hit a tree...

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#### [Broward School Board decries plan to build \\$25,000 administrator office](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/02/2011)

Broward School District officials agreed to spend \$25,000 to build an office for a top administrator, despite a financial crisis that has delayed repairs and renovations at schools. The office hasn't been built yet. But it was intended for Chief Building Official Robert Hamberger, who works at the Rock Island Professional Development Center in Fort Lauderdale, officials said Tuesday. Constructio...

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#### [Poor attendance a growing problem in Pasco schools](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/02/2011)

As she talked to students who routinely missed school, Schrader Elementary principal Tammy Berryhill kept hearing stories about parents not waking their kids on time. So she dipped into school ABC funds to buy alarm clocks for those children. "Typical things that middle class families probably do with their kids weren't being done," Berryhill said, explaining that she and her staff teach the c...

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#### [Pasco teacher on leave after second breakdown at school](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/02/2011)

WESLEY CHAPEL — Patti Withers, the teacher who became the subject of intense debate after attempting to kill herself at a school in 2006, was taken into protective custody last week after attempting to hurt herself again, authorities said. The latest incident also happened at a school. Withers, 53, punched herself, threw herself to the ground and banged her head on the concrete block wall la...

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#### [After decade of gains, Florida students stall on national reading, math tests](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/02/2011)

Florida's decade-long climb out of the national cellar in education has hit a snag. For the second testing cycle in a row, the state's scores on a closely watched national test mostly stalled in reading and math, according to results released Tuesday. The data "shows performance has plateaued," former Gov. Jeb Bush, who heads two education foundations, said in a written statement. "Really disap...

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### [Hernando County leaders want to shrink or erase impact fees](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/02/2011)

BROOKSVILLE — With the local economy at a standstill, the Hernando County Commission on Tuesday decided that a further reduction in impact fees is needed to jump-start construction activity. Commissioners decided by consensus to roll back fees to 1999 levels and drop the fee for remodeling nonresidential buildings that are more than 5 years old. Formal action on the fees, which would remai...

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### [New role for universities: Luring jobs to Florida](#)

(Sun-Sentinel © 11/02/2011)

Call it the little economic engine that could. While the schools in Florida's state university system have traditionally studied business, some are now taking it further — luring industries to the state and even hiring business recruiters to assist in the effort. "When you're in tough economic times, it's important for us to step up to the challenge and help re-create a vibrant economy,"...

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### [3-year-old autistic boy walks away from elementary school unsupervised](#)

(Tampa Bay News 9 © 11/02/2011)

PORT ORANGE — Parents of a 3-year-old who walked away from a Port Orange elementary school unsupervised to a major road want answers. John Locklear Jr. is autistic and one of four special needs students in a Spruce Creek Elementary School classroom. The classroom has a teacher and a teacher's aide. Somehow the 3-year-old walked awa...

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### [No leadership on shortfall](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 11/02/2011)

Once again, Florida state government is facing a major budget deficit — as much as \$2 billion next year. And once again, the Republican majority in Tallahassee — Senate President Mike Haridopolos especially — is showing little leadership in solving the fiscal crisis. While there is no avoiding painful budget cuts, no effort is being made to also find reasonable revenue sources without punishin...

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### [SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE: Vote in on Closing Southside School](#)

(WJXX ABC 25 Duval County © 11/02/2011)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Layoffs, a school closure and raises were all on the table at Tuesday night's Duval County School Board meeting. Bank of America Academy Just before 11 p.m. the board voted 6-0 to close Bank of America Academy. Representative Martha Barrett recused herself from the vote because she is a Bank of America employee. The Superintendent recommended closing the semi-privat...

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### [Is praying around a flag pole unconstitutional?](#)

(WOKV Jacksonville © 11/02/2011)

For over two decades, people have been allowed to pray around a flag pole. But that could soon be changing for Clay County Schools. Pastor Ron Baker has been leading weekly prayer outside Clay Hill Elementary for years. "I don't think prayer is an evil thing. I don't think it's an unnecessary or an unnatural thing. I think most of the families and most of the students wou...

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### [More than \\$1 million saved through cuts by Duval School Board](#)

The Duval County School Board voting to close down the Bank of America Learning Academy and voting to cut 14 teaching positions, two decisions that save the school district more than \$1 million. A vote on whether or not to close the learning academy had already been made, it was a tie 3-3 but a state law actually required the board to side with the chairman's vote in a tie which would have ...

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[Florida math, reading scores remain flat](#)

(Associated Press © 11/01/2011)

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO and BILL KACZOR Associated Press Fewer than 40 percent of Florida's fourth- and eighth-grade students have scored at the proficient or advanced levels in math and reading, according to a national assessment released Tuesday. Also known as the Nation's Report Card, it shows Florida's scores in both subjects have remained flat since the last National Assessment of Educa...

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[Nation's report card shows Florida students doing better in reading and math](#)

(FL Times-Union/PolitiJax Blog © 11/01/2011)

The nation's report card released today shows Florida students continue making achievement gains in reading and math. State Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson announced Florida's results on the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress reading and mathematics assessments. In reading, Florida fourth-graders posted an average scale score of 225 compared to 220 nationwide. The state'...

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[Florida's NAEP scores fall short of Race to the Top goals](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/01/2011)

Still ahead of nation in 4th-grade reading By Leslie Postal, Orlando Sentinel 11:58 AM EDT, November 1, 2011 Advertisement Florida made no gains on the latest round of national math and reading tests and, therefore, little progress toward its goal of being among top state performers by 2015, according to exam scores released this morning. On the National Assessment of Educational...

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[Palm Beach Post investigation: Magnets unleash high school free agency in Palm Beach County](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/01/2011)

High school 'free agency' is rampant in Palm Beach County, as detailed in a Palm Beach Post investigation. Here are all the stories in a three-part series by Post reporters Matt Porter, Jeff Greer, Charles Elmore and Joel Engelhardt. \*\*\* DAY 1 ACADEMIC MAGNET PROGRAMS UNLEASH HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS 'FREE AGENCY' The high school playing fields of Palm Beach County are...

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[After a decade of gains, Florida students stall on national reading, math tests](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/01/2011)

Florida's decade-long climb out of the national cellar in education has hit a snag. For the second testing cycle in a row, the state's scores on a closely watched national test mostly stalled in reading and math, according to results released Tuesday. The National Assessment of Educational Progress, often called "the nation's report card," is given every two years to a representative samp...

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Have a stellar day! Please see the articles below.

*Deborah*





**Tallahassee Democrat**

**Editorial**

**Session priorities**

**Children's Movement tries a few small steps**

**7:29 PM, Nov. 1, 2011**

Perhaps it will be the year of the child, after all — even if that means being satisfied, even celebratory, over succeeding by reducing expectations.

In terms of Legislative largesse, however, the approach of child advocates this year may be better than asking for the moon and going away empty handed.

The Children's Movement on Monday launched a pragmatic 2012 legislative agenda. The nonprofit's focus is a 5-point, \$30 million investment in the health and education of very young children, perchance to improve the futures of older children — and ultimately that much-talked-about educated "workforce" that will carry Florida into prosperity.

Also known as the Milk Party for its milk-and-cookies events statewide, the Children's Movement is on the same chapter, though perhaps on different pages than the nonprofit Children's Campaign coalition. In August, it set out goals for public policy supporting pre-natal infant and child health care and high quality child care.

We have no shortage of child advocates. Florida has created a Children's Cabinet to share information with other agencies about child welfare. Here in Leon County, Whole Child Leon is a wonderful program to connect parents with information and services for children, but it's local in scope.

Yet despite these and other champions of children — and despite political rhetoric that unflinchingly favors children — our state is guilty of chronic child neglect.

Florida ranks 47th among the states and the District of Columbia in the access of children to affordable and preventative health care.

Some 800,000 Florida children from infancy to age 18 are without health insurance.

During the economic downturn, even some children who had been covered by family insurance lost it when parents lost their jobs.

To that end, one of the five points of the Children's Movement is to do a much better job of getting the word out to families about KidCare through school-based and community outreach efforts. Florida's low-cost insurance program for very low-income parents, KidCare has never been the success story it should have been because of complex application processes and low public awareness that it even exists.

The Movement is seeking \$5 million to develop an online screening and diagnosis and treatment for children with special needs. It's seeking \$4.2 million to do a better job of assessing how children are doing in the state's voluntary pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds, and \$8.7 million to require an evidence-based curriculum for VPK. This kindergarten program was never intended to be child care alone.

Finally, the Children's Movement is after \$10 million to build a parental skill-building system so parents can do a better job with the fundamentals.

The roughly \$30 million that Children's Movement Founder Dave Lawrence says these incremental improvements would cost sounds like very little in the state's \$69 billion budget. Yet on Tuesday Senate President Mike Haridopolos made it perfectly clear that tradeoffs will have to be made — and for him the \$22 million in savings from prison privatization would be an excellent place to find the bucks, at least a portion of them.

The Legislature convenes on Jan. 10 and the games will begin. For children's advocates, positive pragmatism is what they're bringing to the arena, hoping to win a berth in this year's Priorities Championships.

We hold out modest hope that not too many more generations will come of age before children-and-families campaign rhetoric turns to reality.

**Tallahassee Democrat**

**MADISON COUNTY**

**Elections, school officials arrested**

**November 2, 2011**

Eight Madison county residents, including the supervisor of elections and the District 1 school board member, have been arrested in connection with voter fraud in the 2010 Madison County school board race.

The arrests resulted from an investigation launched after the Florida Department of Law Enforcement was contacted by the Department of State's Division of Elections regarding possible fraud in the school board race, said Heather Smith, FDLE spokeswoman. The investigation revealed that the winner for District 1, Abra Johnson, had unlawfully used absentee ballots.

Johnson and her husband, Ernest Johnson, got voters to agree to vote and sign an absentee ballot request form, Smith said. Without the voters' knowledge, a different address was written on the form, and the ballots sent to a third party, Smith said. The Johnsons then retrieved the ballots, brought them to the voter and waited for them to vote, Smith said. They then returned the ballots to the supervisor of elections.

Several other individuals assisted the Johnsons in obtaining the ballots by fraudulently requesting absentee ballots for voters. Those arrested include Johnson's husband, Ernest Johnson, and Jada Williams, Madison County supervisor of elections. Williams is charged with neglect of duty and corrupt practices, Smith said, and Johnson has been charged with fraud and voting violations.

Five other Madison County residents have also been arrested on charges of fraud. The investigation is pending, Smith said, and more arrests are possible.

**Tallahassee Democrat**

**FSU College of Medicine receives \$232K**

**12:56 AM, Nov. 2, 2011**

**By Kimberly Dantica**

Florida State University's medical school has cashed in once again, thanks to the university's annual Dance Marathon.

The Dance Marathon and Children's Miracle Network at Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida on Tuesday presented a check for \$232,630 to FSU's College of Medicine.

Rick Bucciarelli, health affairs associate vice president for government relations at UF and FSU's Dance Marathon's leadership team, gave the check to Dr. John Fogarty, dean of the medical school.

"Since 2003, Dance Marathon has committed over \$1.4 million to Florida State's College of Medicine," Bucciarelli said.

Dance Marathon is one of the largest student-run philanthropy efforts at FSU and one of five founding Dance Marathons in the nation.

"We raised almost half a million dollars last year at Dance Marathon 2011," said Meagan Flint, director of FSU's Dance Marathon. "So far we've been on track with all our fundraising efforts."

Half of the money goes to the Children's Miracle Network at Shands Children's Hospital, and the other half to FSU's 10-year-old medical school.

"It's been wonderful for us," Bucciarelli said. "Many of us on the committee in Gainesville have seen the fruits of (Dance Marathon's) labor."

Dance Marathon raises funds all year long, but its major event will be held the weekend of Feb. 17-19.

"Our students are making a firm commitment not only in their training, but also in their community outreach to make sure that we make a difference," said Wayne Munson, assistant dean for development for FSU's College of Medicine.

