Reflecting on the ICGS Conference and the Importance of Strong Foundations

by Danielle Heard, President of the ICGS Governing Board and Head of Nashoba Brooks School

Thank you, Cleveland! From the warm welcome from Mayor Justin Bibb to the generous hospitality and delicious meals provided by local business owners to the exceptionally flexible back-up band that allowed previously unrecognized girls’ school talent to shine in the recording studio of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame to the beautiful water views from the Hilton, Cleveland provided an outstanding setting for ICGS delegates from around the world to REthink, REcharge, and REengage with timely and impactful issues in education at the 2023 ICGS Conference.

Coalition Governing Directors arrived a few days early and engaged in fiduciary, strategic, and generative discussions framed by an excerpt from Roman Krznaric’s *The Good Ancestor: A Radical Prescription for Long-Term Thinking*, published in 2020, in which he explores what he believes may be “the most important question of our time, and one that offers hope for the evolution of human civilization,” in the words of Jonas Salk, “Are we being good ancestors?”

As we gathered together as ICGS in 2023, there can be no doubt that a version of this question was asked by the founders of our individual schools and the founders of our Coalition more than 30 years ago. With each commitment to elevating education for girls, we have individually and collectively taken the long view, knowing that the foundations established by those who came before us have provided the vision and strength on which we continue to build. As we cherish these gifts from the past, we are also conscious of the new opportunities we build with each new lesson learned, each new critical question asked, and each piece of knowledge shared.
ICGS is embarking on a worldwide research study on well-being, engagement, and belonging of students in ICGS member schools. We invite you to sign up to participate in this no cost/free opportunity to include your students’ voices in this important research project.

Students at participating schools will take the 30- to 40-minute-long online survey during the school day that will gather student perspectives on, for example, academic engagement, belonging and support at school, health and stress, sleep, family expectations, homework, and extra-curricular provision.

Participating schools will receive a copy of the final report and can, for a fee, also access their own specific school data. Please note there are a limited number of school places on this research project, so it is best to sign up as soon as you can. The first survey period will be offered during September-November, with an accompanying webinar to walk your school through the process and answer any questions. The research project is being conducted by ICGS in partnership with Challenge Success, part of the Stanford Graduate School of Education.

Join us to Celebrate the Power of Girls and Girls’ Schools at the Educating Girls Symposium at Benenden School on September 29.

Participants will network with international thought leaders, school leaders, and educational experts. You will have the opportunity to hear from a range of keynote speakers and choose from an extensive variety of breakout sessions covering teaching and learning, student and staff wellbeing, leadership, information technology, global action research, high performance learning, and much more.

Nominations Being Accepted for ICGS Global Citizenship Grant

The Moulton Student Global Citizenship Grant helps engage girls in leadership, fortify their strategic
thinking, and enhance their global mindfulness by developing empathy and respect for others. Open to all ICGS member schools, this $1,000 USD grant is awarded each year to student teams (ages 14-15) who create educational opportunities to benefit underserved girls in developing countries. Nominations are being accepted now through October 13, 2023.

Guided by a faculty advisor, students will work on a project they propose that is directed at generating educational opportunities for underserved girls in developing countries.

The grant invites students to play a more active, community-wide role in exemplifying the Coalition's purpose and principles by:

- Building a community of students in girls' schools with an outward reach, broadened global mindfulness, and a gained awareness of their power to make a difference one cause at a time.
- Engaging the power of many voices to strengthen our communities and world and to generate positive change by contributing to girls and women around the globe in less advantaged settings.
- Inspiring the next generation to lead with courage, competence, and empathy through cultural understanding.
- Preparing girls for leadership and lives of commitment, confidence, contribution, and fulfillment through global citizenship and collaboration.

On Educating Girls Podcast - ChatGPT: Friend or Foe of Girls' Education?

How knowledgeable are you about ChatGPT? Do you know how knowledgeable your daughter is? There hasn't just been a buzz about this new application of artificial intelligence, there has been an unrelenting hailstorm of pros and cons from every imaginable reliable source. As a parent, should you embrace this new technology, or should you be concerned? This episode is for every parent who wants to be an informed participant in these emerging conversations. With explanations of what ChatGPT can do and language to frame guidelines for its productive use, this conversation will let you be a thoughtful co-pilot on your daughter's exploration of a tool that will be part of her world—now and well into the future.

Robert Dodds, the Head of Innovation at Methodist Ladies' College in Perth, Australia and a parent well-versed in ChatGPT, speaks with host Trudy Hall, taking a complex topic and parsing it into understandable chunks. With practical examples for how parents can learn and use the technology with their daughters, Robert also offers wise counsel to anchor decisions about the applications of A.I. in familiar parental values. He urges us all to be "moral optimists," seeing past the dark and mysterious questions to a future in which this tool can help girls be both innovative and better prepared for life in school and beyond.
Items of Interest

Impactful and Inclusive Communication
Psychology Today

Revealed: The full details of Labour's education 'mission'
Schools Week UK

The Deprivation of Women's Education in Afghanistan
International Policy Digest

A Fresh Take on Confidence Beyond Gendered Expectations
Forbes

16-year-old me had no idea: Malala documents fight for girls' education
The Express Tribune

HerAtlas: UNESCO's interactive tool helping advance girls' right to education
UNESCO

Do You See Yourself?
Check out this great video recap of our action-packed three-day gathering in Cleveland, Ohio, last month for the 2023 ICGS Conference.

It was a pleasure to be in community with more than 550 girls' school educators, advocates, and allies from 15 countries, networking, sharing best practices, and enjoying the camaraderie that comes from being united in our efforts to educate and empower girls.

We'll do it all again next year, too. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for the 2024 ICGS Conference, to be held June 24-26 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Discover Career Opportunities at Girls' Schools
www.girlsschools.org