

PAIS CONNECTIONS

Good Morning,

Garry Ridge, former CEO of WD-40, reminds us that "Every room is full of lived experience you cannot see. Different roads. Different weather. Different bruises. Same destination: wanting to matter."

As school leaders and teachers, we matter profoundly in a child's life. But in February, that sense of purpose can get buried under the ice and snow of the season.

So instead of letting winter wear us down, what if we pause to reflect on how much we truly matter in other lives? How might that awareness shift the way we listen?

The way we open ourselves to learning something new?

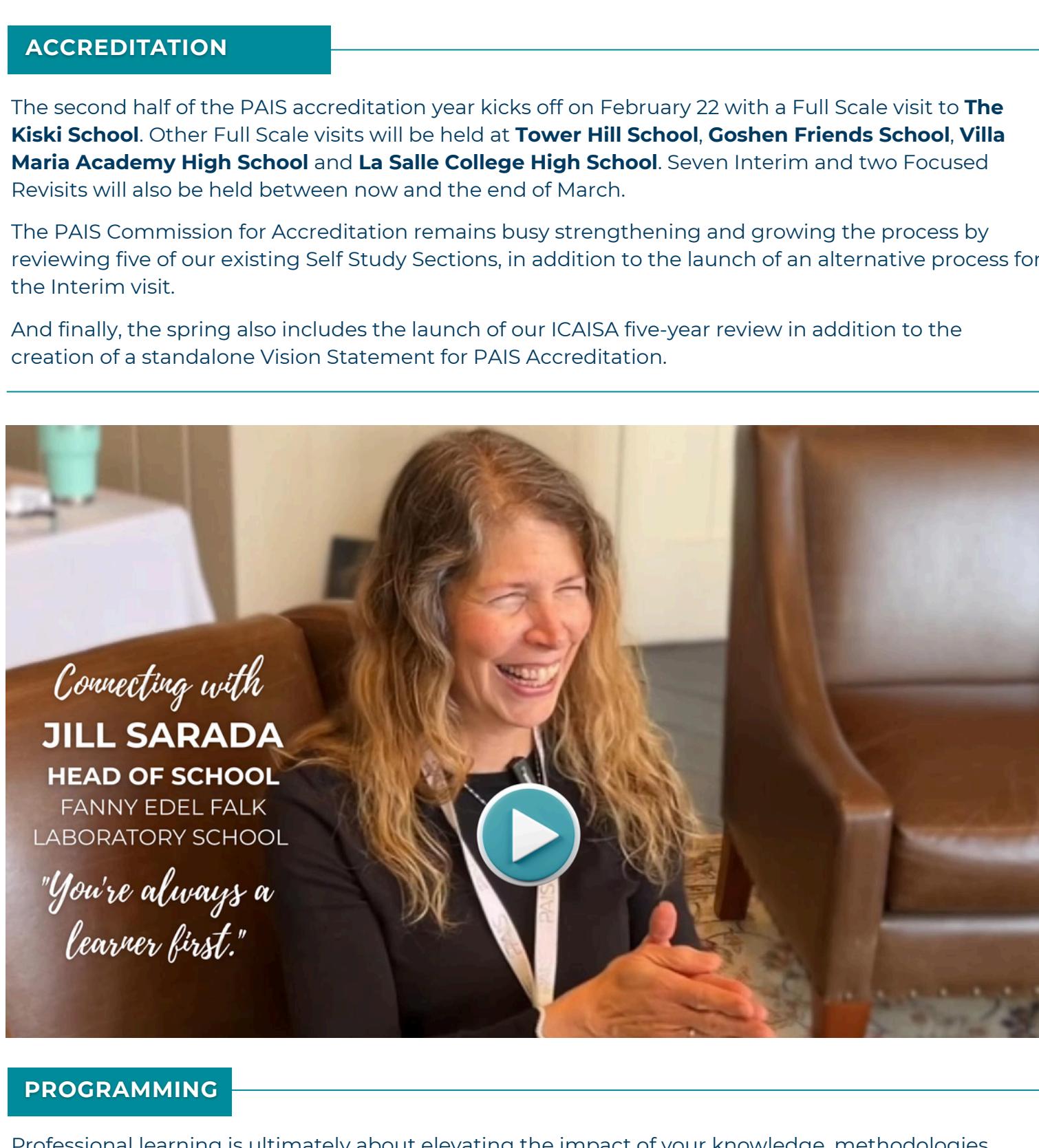
That last question makes me wonder. Who is that parent, alum, or community member you could learn from, and in doing so, offer them the chance to matter in the life of a child?

Share a name or two with me please. We'd love to invite them into our conversations to learn from them. Email me at lhofreuter@paispa.org.

Happy Groundhog Day, a beloved Pennsylvania tradition and a hopeful sign of spring.



Liz Hofreuter, Executive Director

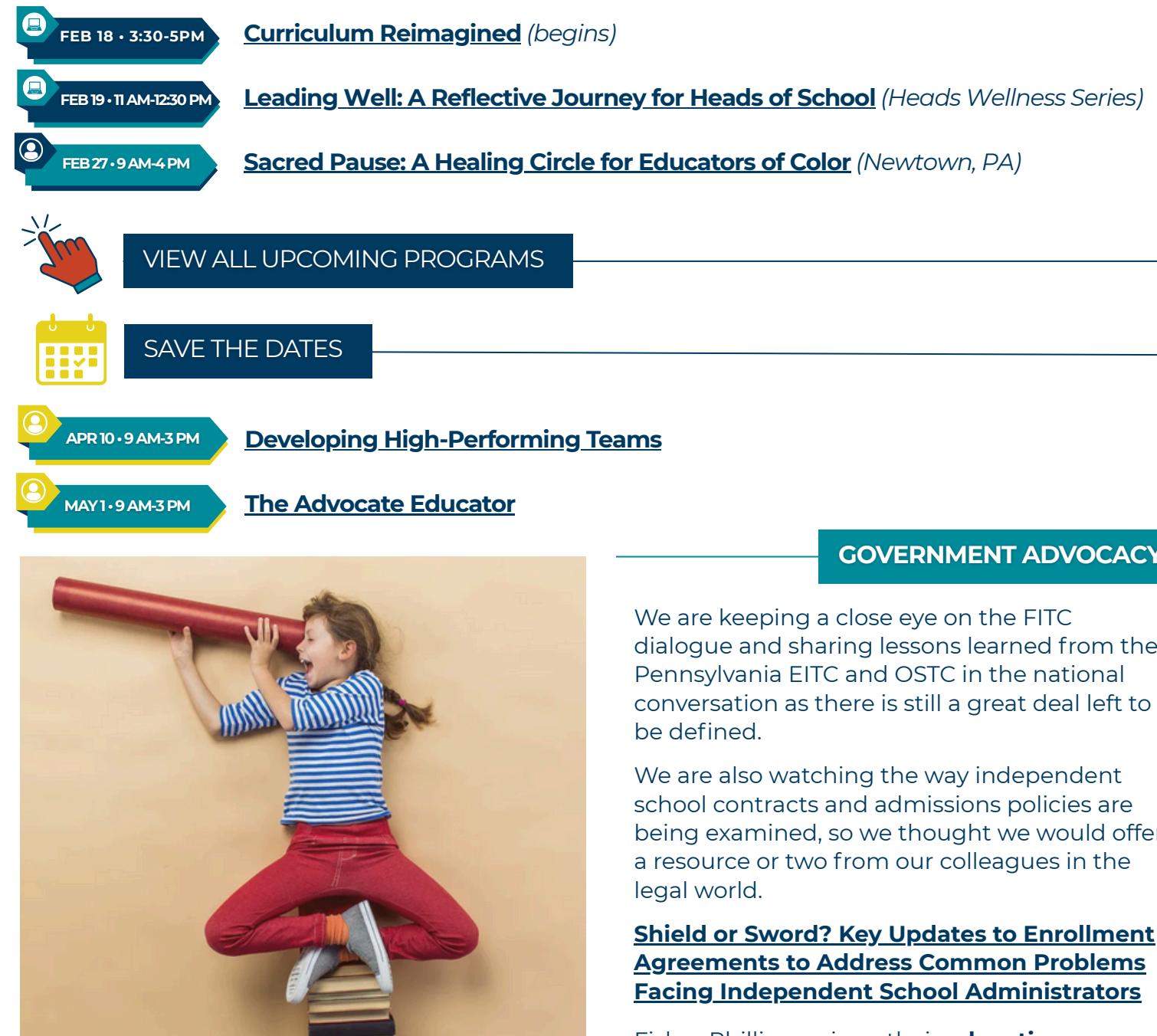


ACCREDITATION

The second half of the PAIS accreditation year kicks off on February 22 with a Full Scale visit to **The Kiski School**. Other Full Scale visits will be held at **Tower Hill School**, **Goshen Friends School**, **Villa Maria Academy High School** and **La Salle College High School**. Seven Interim and two Focused Revisits will also be held between now and the end of March.

The PAIS Commission for Accreditation remains busy strengthening and growing the process by reviewing five of our existing Self Study Sections, in addition to the launch of an alternative process for the Interim visit.

And finally, the spring also includes the launch of our ICAISA five-year review in addition to the creation of a standalone Vision Statement for PAIS Accreditation.



PROGRAMMING

Professional learning is ultimately about elevating the impact of your knowledge, methodologies, wisdom, and kindness on your students. It's all about the students! With a focus on students, PAIS is happy to offer **student programming**, bringing students together from different schools for collaborating, learning, and finding purpose. This Spring, we are offering two programs:

- On **Sunday, April 12**, Friends Council On Education, PAIS, and George School are collaborating on a Student Diversity Conference, **JOY**, to be held at George School. Student teams from 7th & 8th and 9th - 11th grades will be invited.

- A **Middle School Student Purpose Summit** (Earth Week theme) on **Thursday, April 23**, led by the World Leadership School and held at Sewickley Academy in Pittsburgh.

And, looking ahead to the Fall of 2026, The Shipley School will host our annual Middle School Student Leadership Conference, **RISE**, on October 7, 2026. For now, **SAVE the DATES** for these programs. You will be notified when registration opens.

And, as we, as a Nation, celebrate our 250th Anniversary, Philadelphia will be the center of activity for **Civic Learning Week National Forum**, March 9-10, 2026. PAIS was proud to serve on the planning committee to represent independent schools.

 FEB 3 • 11-11:30 AM [Independent School Group Retirement Plan: Escape the Trap of Other Plans](#)

 FEB 3 • 3:30-4:30 PM [Recommended Practices for Medical Leave & Return from Leave Policies](#)

 FEB 5 • 3:45-5 PM [Developing Strategies for Resilience and Well-Being](#)

 FEB 12 • 9 AM-2 PM [Parents as Partners in Supporting Student Mental Health](#)

 FEB 18 • 3:30-5PM [Professional Growth Visits](#)

 FEB 19 • 11 AM-12:30 PM [Curriculum Reimagined \(begins\)](#)

 FEB 27 • 9 AM-4 PM [Leading Well: A Reflective Journey for Heads of School \(Heads Wellness Series\)](#)

 FEB 27 • 9 AM-4 PM [Sacred Pause: A Healing Circle for Educators of Color \(Newtown, PA\)](#)

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