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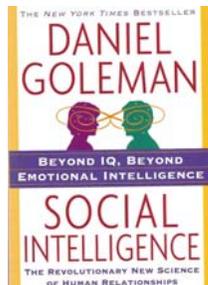
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PDK
Book
Club

Sat.
May 1

Join us for an evening full of ideas, discussion, and fun. Contact Mary El Milosh at 416-229-0496 or maryelmilosh@hotmail.com

Chalk Walk - Sat. Sept 18

The Toronto PDK ChalkWalk is trying to be bigger and better this year and to accomplish our goal we will need all the help we can get. Please put on your walking shoes and help make the ChalkWalk a fabulous day. Join the Walk Committee by contacting Kristin Hopper at k.s.hopper123@hotmail.com and/or Angela McDowell at Angela_McDowell@edu.yorku.ca!

Why Should You Attend?

April 7th's "I CARE", Part 3 of our research series

In a time when students can feel isolated from their school, come to hear and see how a school embraces its students and gives them voice. I attended a Gr. 8 Tech Fair Day, organized by Kari Peters and Don Burns, along with other staff at Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute.

Welcoming murals showed "a happening place". The Hall of Fame showcased student ownership of taking a class project and turning it into a fundraiser for Haiti. Students were engaged immediately, had a skill lesson, and left with a product from each session.

After a day spent at Borden, a book I am currently reading strongly resonated. In Shop Class as Soulcraft, 2009, Matthew Crawford advocates for manual competence and its intellectual engagement. "We want to feel that our world is intelligible, so we can be responsible for it." p. 8

The bathrooms alone, a tour part of the April 7th evening, are worth a trip to Borden! No graffiti-murals of iconic figures, student selected, cover the walls.

By Carolyn Moras



Don Burns & Kari Peters



One of the products



In the stalls

Meet and Mingle with Kappans old and new, colleagues and friends at the Annual General Meeting, Thursday April 22, 2010



Left: Prospective
Educator Awards
Committee



Right: Ritika
Chaudhary

U of T Chapter has chosen its Chapter-level 2010 award winners. Fathima Nizamdeen of SATEC at WA Porter is the Prospective Educator winner. Ritika Chaudhary of OISE is the Excellence in Student Teaching winner. Thank you to the Committee: (L to R) Zenobia Omarali and son Adam, outside evaluator Kathy Atherton, Susan Seidman, and Co-chairs Pauline Shou, and Kari Peters. Fathima and Ritika will be honoured and initiated at the AGM on April 22.

THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY, Ed and Jocelyn Badovinac

Since Phi Delta Kappa, University of Toronto Chapter, is celebrating the 55th Anniversary this year, we wanted an inspirational keynote speaker to enrich our celebration. We are honoured that Craig Kielburger has accepted the invitation for key note speaker and the inaugural recipient for The First Anniversary Award. It will be a great opportunity for everyone to hear (in person) Craig talk about the amazing work of Free the Children including building 500 schools around the world. Please mark your calendars: **October 28, 2010**. Bring your children, grandchildren, young relatives, significant young friends, special students, etc., to hear this amazing young man who has so positively influenced over one million children world wide. The time and venue for the dinner evening will be announced later.

For greater details and a better perspective on Craig and his brother Marc please Google: [Craig Kielburger Wikipedia](#), [YouTube Me to We](#); and other YouTube such as [YouTube - Craig Kielburger](#), [YouTube - Craig Kielburger convocation address](#) for his Doctorate at Windsor University 2009. You won't want to miss this remarkable and memorable event.

Bev's Findings

As always I have been reading furiously. As is the case with most Kappans we remain life-long learners. So this issue I have some reading to share. If you have been thinking about inclusion or differentiation, after Haiti's earthquake, what is humanness and humanity, then *The Boy in the Moon* by Ian Brown is a must read. It would be great for a PLC. Ian Brown's son suffers/endures an obscure but all encompassing syndrome. The book is not depressing, but rather hopeful and it made me think-a lot –about what is ability and disability. The interview with Jean Vanier of L Arche is brilliant and, all by itself, it could be the lever to an in-depth discussion on diversity in today's classrooms K-12. '

Hattie, J. (2009). *Visible learning: A synthesis of over 800 meta-analyses relating to achievement*. Routledge: London. *Visible Leadership*, by J. Hattie, is another must read. It is a synthesis of 15 years of global research studies on what really impacts achievement. Hattie argues that what we suffer from in education is a plethora of programmes. There are fragmentation disconnects in the system and what is needed is intentionality and coherence.

There are several chapters on the effects of teachers and teaching approaches. He recommends:

- teachers having high expectations and "challenging students to think through and solve problems" (p. 115)
- and "nurture and challenge intellectual and imaginative capacities ... to care with sensitivity and humanity (p. 261).
- These attributes/strategies will assist students to strive for their full potential.
- He writes about the need to teach a love of the subject/discipline to help students gain meaning and understanding.

Me Read? And How?

Have you seen the Ministry's recently released *Me Read? and How?* It's the continuum of *Me Read. No Way!* The focus on targeted approaches to boys' literacy is timely. This does not, nor has it ever meant we ignore young women. Gendered interventions are different for boys and girls. Each has unique needs and strengths. It behooves us to remember that the differences among girls and among boys is greater than the differences between them. Not all boys are reluctant readers and writers, but many remain disengaged from the curriculum and the selection of fiction texts. Boys are more literate than their reading and writing results indicate and if we use different strategies to engage them and assess their achievement, the abilities that we were unable to see become apparent." (p.3)

If we are to develop life- long literacy for all students then we need to understand from the research what some additional effective practices may be. Gender is another form of differentiation and the more we understand the individuals in the groups, the better teachers we will all be. This is about refining practice.

Fullan, M. (2010). *Motion leadership: the skinny on becoming change savvy*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing. You can also get this through OPC.

The skinny is a distillation on what should matter to change leaders. It's a blueprint of action. Fullan writes that "if a leader notices something that needs improvement, he or she can either act on it or hope it will take care of itself." (p.45) He reflects that as a leader, you can either build capacity of the system to understand and act intentionally and effectively [capacity-building) or become critical and judgemental. Argyris argues in *Teaching Smart People How to Learn* that since most leaders are successful, when an initiative fails, leaders look to external sources to blame. He refers to that as single loop learning. He has a chapter on defensive reasoning. Effective leaders learn from their mistakes and learn along with their system. This chapter in Fullan's book is entitled "*Capacity building trumps judgementalism*".

Dr. Avis Glaze used to remind us at the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat that when we don't see something in classrooms or schools, in 90 percent of the cases, it is the lack of capacity building- knowledge, skills, attitudes both individually' and collectively. We are social animals and we learn-better together. More.....refer to www.pdk-ut.ca for a continuation of this article and links to many websites about Leadership, Professional Learning Communities and Change.

Dr. Beverley Freedman

In Memoriam



William Edward (Bill) Sager
Date – Feb. 24, 2010

"In as much as three quarters of the earth's surface is water and only one fourth is land, the good Lord's Intentions are very clear. A man's time should be divided three fourths for boating and one fourth for work."

Bill, a Kappan for over 40 years, was an avid boater and consummate educator. Bill retired in 1987 as Professor Emeritus, from the Faculty of Education, University of Toronto after years as a Geography Professor. He was a talented watercolour painter.

His commitments ensuing from his interests included teaching courses for the Canadian Power Squadron and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, responsibilities within the Mimico Cruising Club, church activities, and pursuance of studying the history of the World Wars, including writing and travelling to retrace his father's steps as a gunner in France.

Bill was our chapter's president 1980-81 and continued after his presidency to support PDK.

"For me, he was a very impressive gentleman who always gave very good advice."
David Kirk (President 1986-87)

Kappans Care: TEOF



Kappan Reneta Racheva created and donated this painting, held by Valerie Mah, MC for the Toronto Equal Opportunity Fund's Chinese New Year Dinner at the Bright Pearl.

E-Certificates

U of T Chapter has presented its very first e-certificate to Julia Morton-Marr. Past Chapter President Susan Seidman and President-Elect Bev Freedman presented the unique hardcopy certificate to her at her home in Mississauga on January 24, 2010. While a number of certificates, different in design, have been awarded for attending all three sessions in a series, this is the first e-certificate.

Julia, who is a virtual member of the PDK Hawaii Chapter, attended one part of our three-part series on Technology. She accessed the other two parts online through the ABEL site (www.abelearn.ca) or the U of T Chapter site (www.pdk-ut.ca).

Julia achieved the criteria for the e-certificate by writing an in-depth report of the series, with reflections and suggestions for extending the learning from the series. She also made connections with the work on International Peace Gardens for which she is so well known that she is being presented to the Ontario Legislature. Julia is one of 9 Canadian Peace Women who have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Julia has set a high standard for those who wish to receive an e-certificate. Her report will be posted on the U of T Chapter website, www.pdk-ut.ca.

By Susan Seidman



Left: Bev Freedman and Susan Seidman presenting the E-Certificate to Julia Morton-Marr.



Right: OSDN participants enjoyed Sue Ferguson's presentation

Kappan presents to the Ontario Staff Development Network

Kappan Sue Ferguson, Coordinator of The Learning Consortium at OISE, (sj.ferguson@utoronto.ca), recently presented the results of their Collaborative Teacher Inquiry to the Ontario Staff Development Network. The project will be presented to the Ontario Education Research Symposium in February.

The project focused on improving teaching and learning in Grade 9 Applied Math, which has had very poor results in recent EQAO tests. Failure or poor results for these students can be significant, affecting credit accumulation and leading to students dropping out of high school. In addition, poor results in grade 9 mathematics gives students less confidence and ability to tackle senior math courses leading to college technical courses or other post-secondary pathways.

The project involved schools, administrators and teachers from the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, the Peel District School Board, and York Region District School Board, and Dr. Douglas McDougall, Associate Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

The collaboration included some funding to give staff release time; to provide active workshops which were both theoretical and practical; data analysis; use of SmartBoards and other technology; online support through a shared Wiki; support from the participating Boards' central instructional staff; and, individual school visits.

Among the results were dramatically higher EQAO scores in some schools, improved student attendance, and requests to have the programme continue when the students move on to Grade 10.

By Susan Seidman

FREE THE CHILDREN'S ME TO WE DAY IN TORONTO, by Ed and Jocelyn Badovinac

On October 5, 2009, we were included by Craig and Marc Keilburger in the We Day rally to promote the concept of children helping children through education. Last year we enjoyed the enthusiasm of approximately 8,000 mostly young people dedicated to creating a better world who came and stayed all day at the Ricoh Centre to hear the inspiring messages of the speakers. This year, at the Air Canada Centre, over 16,000, mostly students and educators, heard Phil Fontaine describe the poverty, malnutrition and need for schools up north and of Paul Martin's exceptional work with the Aboriginal communities. The Lieutenant Governor, David Onley, stressed that one person **can** make a difference and reduce suffering. Eli Weizel's message was of tolerance and compassion to fight indifference, Jeff Skoll stressed environmental concerns while Robin Wiszowaty talked of her Masai "family" and the three to four miles she walked daily with the women to fetch water. Michael "Pinball" Clemons stressed that Craig and Marc are heroes because they believe in young people who refuse to give up working to create a kinder world. Craig reported on programmes stressing the right of all children to study, thus breaking the cycle of poverty, child slavery and child soldiers. Kathleen Wynne, Robert Kennedy Jr. and the M.C. Ben Mulrone were also inspirational. The students spoke of the shock they experienced in seeing the poverty, yet the happiness, of people they met in countries they visited with Free the Children; how a pencil was treated as an enormous gift and how they realized "how good we have it in Canada".

At the first ever We Day in Vancouver this year, participants included His Holiness the Dalai Lama, The Governor General, Jane Goodall, K'Naan, Sarah McLachlan and Mia Farrow, while, in Toronto, the Jonas Brothers brought us all to our feet. It is awesome to see how the Kielburgers, two young men have been able to bring together world figures to help inspire youth determined to create a better world. Over one million young people are involved; over five hundred schools have been built throughout the world by these young volunteers, while the importance of sanitation and the sanctity of water are being learned. We were very honoured to be accepted so graciously by these student ambassadors.

Our Chapter's Executive Team
Get a full listing and connect via our website www.pdk-ut.ca

President's Message



CHAPTER PRESIDENT
Moveta Nanton

On April 22, Phi Delta Kappa, University of Toronto Chapter, will bring together its membership to celebrate and recognize an outstanding educator, initiate new members and honour Kappans who have reached significant membership anniversaries at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year, our 55th year, we are pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Benjamin Levin while welcoming 14 new members and honouring those who have reached certain membership anniversaries including one each of 50 and 55 years.

April is an important month for our chapter. We have two exciting and enriching events. We end the month with the AGM, but begin it with the last session of our very successful Research Series that has focused on Promoting Academic Achievement Through Personal and Social Responsibility. **On April 7**, Kari Peters and Don Burns present "Who Cares? I Care! Engaging Students Through Character Development" at Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute.

When we ask our members why they enjoy getting together at these events, we are often told that they find it enjoyable, rewarding and knowledgeable. They are able to renew long-standing relationships, connect with new members and friends through these various events.

It is these features of Phi Delta Kappa that have continued to remain with me. They are what define the greatest strength of Phi Delta Kappa at the chapter level and one of the key ingredients that makes us continue our membership.

I hope to see many of you at the **Research Series on April 7 and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 22**. Information for both events is included in flyer form in this newsletter.

Would You Like To Be Part Of A Fun Team?

Join the PDK Chapter executive. Little Jobs! Big Jobs! Flexibility re meetings!
Call Moveta at 416-493-2805 or e-mail nanton@sympatico.ca



Programme Co-Chairs
John Myers and
Susanna Tang



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Membership Chair
Lis Horley- McLeod

PROGRAMME FOR SPRING AND FALL 2010 (FOR FULL LISTING OF 2009-10 PROGRAMME /AWARD DATES, VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA) NOTE: OUR RESEARCH SERIES THIS YEAR WILL FOCUS ON SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF LEARNING IN SCHOOLS. EACH CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE. QUESTIONS: Susanna Tang, pdk.register@gmail.com 416-219-2883 OR JOHN MYERS jmyers@oise.utoronto.ca 416-978-0197

Promoting Academic Achievement through Personal and Social Responsibility: Session #3, Speakers: Kari Peters and Don Burns	Wed., April 7	Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute, 200 Poplar Road. Toronto ON M1E 1Z7.	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., April 10	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert: Contabile, The London Quartet	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Annual General Meeting, Outstanding Educator Presentation and Dinner	Thurs. April 22	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks Street (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	6:00 PM Social 7:00 PM Dinner
PDK Book Club	Sat May 1	Book: Social Intelligence, by Daniel Goleman. Contact Mary El Milosh, 416-229-0496 or maryelmilosh@hotmail.com to register and arrange carpooling	5:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Dessert & Discussion
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., May 8	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert: Slovak Sinfonietta, guest pianist H. Zhang	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Area Leadership Conference and Chapter Planning (ALC)	Sat., July 10	Americana Resort, Niagara Falls, Ont. Contact Susan Seidman, sseidman@sympatico.ca	8:00 Breakfast 9-4:00 Conference
ChalkWalk	Sat. Sept. 18	Register and sign in at OISE, room 212-13. Walk at Queen's Park.	9:00 AM Registration
55 th Anniversary	Thu Oct. 28	55 th Anniversary Celebration Craig Kielburger, Key Note speaker.	Location TBA

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