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Research: Session #3

This year's series first two sessions were crammed with ways to address Social Emotional Development in the classroom. #3 on Feb. 17th promises even more.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Phi Delta Kappa International, University of Toronto Chapter, will be held on **Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Faculty Club, University of Toronto**, for the following purposes:

- To receive the report of the Treasurer.
- To receive the report of the Nominating Committee.
- To elect officers and members of the Governing Council for the coming year.
- To transact such other business as may properly be brought forth before the meeting.

Join Us for an Evening of Conversation

Are you contemplating teaching in another country? Do you like to combine travel and learning about other educational systems?

Teaching Ideas Thu. Feb. 3 An interesting evening with recent participants, Irene from China... 7 – 9pm Manahan and Nancy Nightingale, in PDK's travel program to China. To attend, contact Host Irene Manahan at 416-431-0557 or irene.manahan@rogers.com

Last year Irene Manahan and Nancy Nightingale traveled to China as part of the PDK Travel Experience. It was certainly fantastic and full of unforgettable memories. Irene captured the trip with amazing photos and regular journals. Nancy and Irene look forward to an evening at Irene's home to talk about their experiences. It was everything they had expected and even more. After listening to their travelogue you may be inspired to try one of PDK's travel programmes. Come to enjoy the camaraderie and the opportunity to learn about another educational system.

Are you going to the PDK International Conference?

It is being held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 17-18, and features some good friends of University of Toronto Chapter. For example, Yong Zhao, who kicked off the Global Education research series, will be a keynote speaker. His topic will be "Catching Up or Leading the Way." The theme of the conference is "Innovations in Teaching and Learning" which is relevant to educators everywhere as new and effective educational practices continue to emerge. The conference includes interactive sessions, research presentations, and networking events. February 19 will be a special post-conference day. It will focus upon writing for professional publications, mentoring and induction. **What would you get if you attend?** Interesting sessions, the opportunity to meet passionate educators with high levels of expertise, and exposure to a wide variety of materials, research presentations, and Kappans from around the world. U of T Chapter has long recognized the importance of having the Chapter represented at the Conferences. It will help support a participant with a modest contribution. Contact Moveta Nanton, Chapter President. **By Susan Seidman, Area Director for Eastern Canada**

Have you checked out Susan's blog, [Eastern Canadian Conversations](#), on PDK Connect?

Kudos

Kappans have always been involved in many facets of education. The 55th insert, in the Certificate section, highlights founders and members of longstanding. Here, we draw attention to what some Kappans are doing currently as well as teaching fulltime!

		
<p>Kudos to U of T Chapter member Colin Brezicki, head of English, at Ridley College, for his article in the Dec. /Jan. <u>Kappan</u>. Entitled "<u>Kindling: The Amazon e-Reader as an Educational Tool</u>". It critically looks at strengths and weaknesses of this medium. The discussion will be of relevance to those who use e-readers either personally or professionally. It is a fabulous lead-in to the International Conference in February, whose theme is Innovations in Teaching and Learning.</p>	<p>Kudos to U of T Chapter member John Myers, a curriculum expert teaching at OISE, U of T. for his book <u>Welcome to Canada?</u> - an opportunity for high school educators to supplement existing text books with new material. Key questions on the development and future course of Canadian immigration policy enhance teaching on civics, with additional entry points in history, politics, law and economics courses. The Teachers' Guide has options to bring these issues to life.</p>	<p>Kudos to U of T Chapter member Zenobia Omarali, Guidance Head at SATEC /W.A. Porter. Zenobia mentored student Sherriff Mohammed through the process of creating, for the Spelling Bee of Canada (SBOC), a DVD that was launched at City Hall.</p>  <p>SBOC President, Peter James, Sherriff Mohammed and Julie Spence, CEO of SBOC</p>

Bev's Findings

In a previous article, I wrote about "Building Blocks for Education", the international conference hosted by our Premier. The following is the web site link for PDFs of power points, and speeches. The OECD presentation is worth sharing. Please visit www.ontario.ca/bb4e to view and download programme materials from the summit, including case studies, keynote speaker presentations and video clips. Additional interviews and film footage of keynote speakers can be found at IVO Parents. We hope this information continues to inspire international collaboration to help more students succeed.

In order to ensure that the components of the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) are intentionally and coherently implemented, the province and school districts have dedicated resources and time. One of the research-informed approaches that hold promise to influence teaching and learning in the classroom is differentiated instruction, which also includes assessment and evaluation. The 2010 School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) states that "instruction and assessment are differentiated in response to student strength, needs and prior knowledge" (4.5). Specific indicators for DI are described at the school, classroom and student level (SEF, p. 29-30).

The Ministry defines DI as "an approach to teaching and learning that is responsive to the learning needs and preferences, interest and readiness of the individual learner". This is a strategy focused on the classroom – it is reliant on increasing the skills and knowledge of teachers and administrators. As educators' expertise increases there is an impact on the instructional core or the intersection of teachers, students and the curriculum.

DI is a framework or approach to support Learning for All. It requires lots of dedicated, job-embedded professional learning and support. Expertise is developed over time. It is important that teachers and students are clear about the learning goals – that a student can paraphrase it in their own language and internalize the meaning. Teachers need to know where students are individually and collectively in terms of the learning goals which entail diagnostic assessments. Based on the assessment information, the teacher then structures the learning to move students from where they are to where they need to be. It is not individualized teaching; it is individualized learning. It requires formative assessment to timely intervene and adjust instruction to move towards the learning goals.

Teachers use strategic questioning to direct the learning. Did you know that the average teacher asks 400 questions per day (Moss & Brookhart, 2009)? Most teachers ask questions at the knowledge and comprehension level with a short wait time of 1 to 3 seconds and require a right or wrong response.

DI encourages fewer but more open-ended or complex questions with a longer wait time of 7 to 10 seconds. Instead of asking one student and receiving a response from one student and moving on, DI encourages a variety of groupings so that students can collaboratively deconstruct the question and engage in purposeful talk. What types of questions might you differentiate? Another consideration is to have your students pose the questions or create assessment items and then have the students provide descriptive feedback in terms of what makes the questions or assessment items effective in terms of DI.

Research-informed approaches such as DI require intentionally matching resources and strategies to the needs and interests of students. Focusing professional learning on developing knowledge and skills of educators, working in classrooms to make DI part of embedded practice, is one factor why Ontario has an excellent school system. Collectively we are committed to "all students can succeed".

Resources for DI: www.edu.gov.on.ca, www.curriculum.org;
Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools, 2010. Grades 1-12.

Hall, S. (2008). [Implementing a Response to Intervention](#), Corwin Press.

Moss, C. & Brookhart, S. (2009). [Advancing Formative Assessment](#). ASCD.

Popham, W J. (2008). [Transformative Assessment](#). ASCD.
Tomlinson, C. (2003).

[Fulfilling the Promise of the Differentiated Classroom: Strategies and Tools for Responsive teaching](#). ASCD.

Tomlinson, C. & McTighe, J. (2006). [Integrating Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design: Connecting Content and Kids](#). ASCD.

Tomlinson, C., Brimijohn, K. & Narvaez, L. [The Differentiated School](#). ASCD.

Tomlinson, C. & Imbeau, M. (2010). [Leading and Managing a Differentiated Classroom](#). ASCD.

Canada-U.S. Colloquium on Equity and Innovation Recap

Participants of this two-day invitational event, co-hosted in October by CEA and SCOPE, explored equity challenges in Canada, the U.S., and other countries. Presentation topics addressed innovation in schools, student engagement, and teacher education. The papers are worth reading and can be accessed through the URL below.

http://www.cea-ace.ca/events/achieving-equity-through-innovation-canada-united-states-colloquium?utm_source=Bulletin+subscribers&utm_campaign=6583b70758-November+December+2010+Bulletin+11+26+2010&utm_medium=email.

By Dr. Beverley Freedman

Bev's Findings are always full of useful references. Past columns can be accessed in the archived chapter newsletters on our website.
www.pdk-ut.ca

PKD Outreach

University of Toronto Chapter PDK has been involved in several outreach activities this term.

Representatives have presented information about both the Chapter and the Awards to several classes at York University, in both the consecutive and concurrent programmes. Similar information was presented to students at OISE's Professional Preparation Conference on December 17.

Kappans Susan Seidman and Hawaii PDK member Julia Morton-Marr attended via Skype a bi-national presentation on materials on the War of 1812 by students of Dr. Paul Vermette of Niagara University. John Myers, Programme Co-Chair, had invited Paul to present at Session 2 of this year's Research Series, and Paul extended the invitation to participate. John attended in person and gave feedback on the presentations, while Julia and Susan had suggestions on further extensions to the existing work.

By Susan Seidman

Our chapter has a broad geographical reach. Our executive is committed to having opportunities for members to get together, both socially and for educational conversation, beyond the GTA. In the East, we have two Book Club evenings a year. For those west of the GTA, Elizabeth Manker is our Niagara Falls Coordinator

ANGELS...EVERYWHERE!

As well, Elizabeth organizes a special performance each December, **ANGELS...EVERYWHERE!** The words below express the appreciation participants have for Elizabeth's initiative and hard work.

"I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you so much for inviting us to participate in the Angels show. My students have gained some golden experiences from participating in your events. I was pleased with the entire show and thought all of the children performed well. It was nice to have all the acknowledgements from the dignitaries as well and we will forever cherish those mementos.

Again, thank you so much. I hope you have a glorious holiday season and relax after a busy fall preparing for the Angels event." Regards, Tammy Lacas, Happy Feet Dance

TEOF Auction

The 18th annual TEOF auction was well attended on November 19, 2010. The attendees were sparkingly dressed and dinner was delicious. There were diverse items on display for the silent auction and I hope everyone got what they wanted. PDK's table was filled with active bidding from many of the Emergent Leaders (and one non-emergent) who attended: Zenobia Omarali and Nabil Velos, Kari Peters and Nick Boldt, Michelle Bailey, and Susan Seidman.

Discussion centred on activities the Leaders and their schools were doing, in addition to bidding. Kari successfully bid on a lunch with TDSB Director (and Kappan) Chris Spence. The live auction was intense; the experience of auctioneer John Weatherup was essential as he engaged in the art of skillful attention and rapid speech.

Some of the items in the auction were tickets to sports events, sport jerseys, paintings, needle point pillows, and framed works of art. There was a sigh of disappointment from the audience when they were told that there were only 7 cakes available; undoubtedly most people wanted to take a cake home. The disappointment was over quickly, the proud recipients of the cakes were joyous. The stained glass sun (done by Kappan Jim Youngson) stood out. They are deserving of homes where the people have the time to observe the kaleidoscope of colours that will be shining through. This enjoyable event is worth attending every year for fun and to support the school food programmes.

By Michelle Bailey

In Memoriam

Dr. Henry "Hank" Hedges (1924-2010)

Sadly, we lost an Emeritus Kappan, Dr. Henry "Hank" Hedges on Nov 7, 2010.

Hank was an educator, author, television personality and director of numerous organizations. He started his teaching in Windsor, became an Instructor at Toronto Teacher's College, was Principal at Hamilton's Teacher College and retired from OISE/UT as Professor of Education.

Hundreds of his photo's and manuscripts have been published by the National Film Board of Canada. Many Kappans used his textbooks.



L to R: Henry Hedges being congratulated for 50 years membership in PDK by Lou Wise at the 2007 Annual General Meeting

Dr. George Vari (1924-2010)

George Vari, a renowned engineer and philanthropist, who passed away Dec 9, 2010, was not a Kappan but had a powerful influence on education through the Vari Foundation. Consequently, he had direct impact on many education students. One of our Chapter's emerging leaders, Kristin Hopper, was one of those students. Kristin writes "I know that he (and his scholarship program) deeply impacted my life; his family has always been very loving and supportive."

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

It has been a very busy fall. We had an exciting time at the ChalkWalk and then Thanks to Kristin Hopper who coordinated the ChalkWalk and for the Research Series John Myers, Patty Pappas and Susanna Tang.

The highlight of this fall, though, was the chapter's 55th Anniversary on October 28, 2010. It was a great success due to the superb organization and the knowledge of planning such an event by Co-Chairs Ed and Jocelyn Badovinac. Committee members were Pauline Quan, Walt Winchell and Jim Youngson.

Behind the scenes there were a number of other people supporting, especially with the making of the 55th Anniversary book. I would like to thank all of them, especially past chapter president Carolyn Moras. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our International President Sandee Crowther and PDK Board Member JoAnn Masterson. They too helped to make this event a success. As well, it was a pleasure for our chapter to be their host and we thank them for being here and celebrating this historic event with us. Likewise all members, family and friends who attended, thank you.

As you can see from the newsletter, there are many wonderful pieces of writing regarding these events so I would like to turn to another topic and that is the various benefits that PDK offers. I encourage members to take a look at the International Travel with Education Colleagues through PDK. This is a program that provides members with financial support to travel to and learn about education in other countries.

In recent times two of our chapter members: Irene Manahan and Nancy Nightingale have just returned from such a trip to China. They plan to share their experiences with us on February 3. The contact information for this is listed on the front page of this newsletter. Finally, I would like to remind you of our Annual General Meeting on April 28. I hope to see all of you there!

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 FALL 2010 (FOR FULL LISTING OF 2010-11 PROGRAMME /AWARD DATES, VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA) NOTE: OUR RESEARCH SERIES THIS YEAR WILL FOCUS ON "TEACHING THE DIVERSE CLASSROOMS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW". EACH CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE. QUESTIONS: SUSANNA TANG, PKD.REGISTER@GMAIL.COM 416-219-2883 OR JOHN MYERS JMYERS@OISE.UTORONTO.CA 416-978-0197

DUE DATE!	Fri., Jan. 28	Prospective Educator Scholarship/ Excellence in Student Teaching Award –Are you eligible to apply? Do you have someone in your family who could apply?	Check website for details
Teaching Ideas from China...	Thu. Feb. 3	An interesting evening with recent participants, Irene Manahan and Nancy Nightingale, in PDK's travel program to China. To attend, contact Host Irene Manahan at 416-431-0557 irene.manahan@rogers.com	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Research Series #3	Thurs., Feb. 17	PULLING IT TOGETHER FOR YOUR CLASSROOM at York University, Room TEL 3069 (Technology Enhanced Learning)	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., Mar. 5	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert: Lizi Alfonso Danza Cuba	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., Apr. 23	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert: Voices and Vibes: The Voices of Showtime featuring Peter Appleyard.	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Annual General Meeting	Thu. Apr. 28	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks St (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	6:00 Reception 7:00 Dinner
PDK Book Club	Sat., May. 7	Amusing Ourselves TO DEATH by Neil Postman Contact: Mary El Milosh 416-229-0496 maryelmilosh@hotmail.com	5:00 Dinner 7:00 Discussion

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