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Annual General
Meeting

Wed, April 25, 2012 at
the Faculty Club,
University of Toronto,

Don't miss this
opportunity to meet
Steve Paiken, from
TVO's Agenda. He will
be recognized as our
2012 Outstanding
Educator.

See flyer insert for more
details.

Why Should You Come
to the AGM?

It's an opportunity to
will get a chance to
meet, mingle, and chat
with a wealth of
experienced educators
from a variety of
backgrounds, both
during the social hour
and over dinner.



President's Message - Dr. Bev Freedman

It's been a busy time for Kappans with holiday celebrations, trips and events that celebrate our tenets of research, leadership and service. I have been travelling, and working in and outside of Ontario. In many ways, as educators we are focused on similar issues – raising the bar, closing achievement gaps, intentional focus on literacy and numeracy. As one colleague reminded me, "what gets monitored gets done". Yet, context still matters in how the strategies are interpreted and used. The second in our research series was held at OISE on December 6 and focused on brain research and the power of collaboration. This is the chapter's seventh year in hosting research series, which are free to attendees, something of which we all can be proud of. There is a description of the session in this newsletter. The next in the series, was also at OISE on Feb. 9. Don Plumb lead this interactive workshop and provided strategies to assist teachers in increasing, "their effectiveness with a more intentional approach to lesson design that integrates cooperative learning structures with formative assessment strategies". Attendees learned ways to make classes more energetic and students more successful in this highly interactive workshop.

On your behalf, I presented the award to the winner of our Inspiring Educator Essay competition introduced this year at the 2011 PDK Chalk Walk. Participating Chalk Walk students were invited to write about a teacher who made a difference in their life. We are pleased to congratulate this year's winner Juan Martín Aristizábal, a new Canadian currently attending Georges Vanier Secondary School. He had a unique global perspective on his teachers. Juan writes, "I have had a lot of teachers, some of them funny, some serious, some energetic some mellow however, from teachers I always learned some interesting fact, theory or concept that will last me a lifetime and give me the wisdom to resolving the problems." He concluded that, "In my life I found that teachers may be in different countries they are the same, they want to teach and help us. I want to use this opportunity to say thank you to all the teachers in the world for teaching us and for their dedication to their students." Juan hopes to attend the University of Toronto upon graduation to earn a degree in International Business. Thanks to Zenobia Omarali and Pauline Quan for making this all happen.

We are maintaining our international connections. Orlena Broomes, one of this year's doctoral winners is now working at the university in Trinidad. I did a presentation for Norwegian principals and I am preparing workshops for Chilean principals and thinking again of the series I am involved with every summer in the Dominican Republic. In February I am off to Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand for pleasure but connecting with colleagues working in Vietnam and Cambodia and will report back. These outreach activities that many of us are involved with reflect Kappans' commitment to outreach. Drop us a note and share your thoughts with us, so we can celebrate together.

Most of the planning is now on the AGM and our Outstanding Educator, Steve Paiken. The flyer is included in the newsletter and I urge you to attend. The evening will be exceptional. He is a skilled and provocative presenter. Bring a friend.



On November 25, PDK hosted the President and other members of the Beijing Institute for Education. Kappan Barbara Bodkin welcomed the guests to OISE Continuing Education for a presentation and discussion on current issues in education in the morning. Fellow Kappans, Irene Manahan, Carolyn Moras, Marilyn Hahn and Nancy Nightingale enjoyed a luncheon with the group at the Crystal restaurant at the ROM. The afternoon program included a visit to a TDSB Model School (Lord Dufferin) followed by a dinner at the U of T Faculty Club hosted by our President Bev Freedman.

We hosted a group of administrators from Beijing at the Royal Ontario Museum and Faculty Club and through Nancy Nightingale, Kappans used their connections to contribute to the Chinese delegation's learning experiences.



Bev's Findings

It's an exciting time in education. As a province and country, we continue to gain recognition for the stellar collaboration of the Ministry and school boards. Dedicated administrators, teachers and support staff are making differences in students' lives. I have had the opportunity to visit many classrooms across Ontario and work with different boards.

I am impressed by the focus on using evidence-informed strategies and student data in an intentional way to inform practice. Public confidence in Ontario education is increasing. Remember the newsletter can also be downloaded from our web site – www.pdk-ut.ca. Check out the 2009 results from the Programme for International Student Assessment or the PISA results from the OECD.

<http://cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/269/PISA-second-report.pdf>. Consider Education at a Glance the OECD's report - http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/education-at-a-glance-2011_eag-2011-en

The Hechinger Report - <http://hechingerreport.org> – offers some interesting comments on international education results. As President Barack Obama has noted time and again, the U.S. has slipped from first to 16th in the world when it comes to the percentage of the population aged 25-34 with postsecondary credentials.

We understand more on what it takes to create great schools. One of the factors is a focused and aligned school system. System leaders and central supports make a difference. What makes organizations such as school districts effective? I have included some readings and a video clip for your consideration. McREL is the Mid-continent Research in Education or the Marzano lab.

http://www.mcrel.org/pdf/LeadershipOrganizationDevelopment/0121MM_HRO_No_teworthy_sml.pdf from McREL on Highly Reliable Organizations
http://www.mcrel.org/PDF/ChangingSchools/0125NL_CS_Fall11.pdf re-imagining high performance
<http://www.youtube.com/user/McRELScaffolding?feature=mhsn>

From the Wallace Foundation three essentials for improving schools.

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/school-leadership/district-policy-and-practice/Documents/Three-Essentials-to-Improving-Schools.pdf>



Some sites you may not be aware of that provide homework and other supports for students.

Support is available in English for Math and Science for Grades 9 to 12 in a live, anonymous and online format from Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 p.m. EST to 9:30 p.m. EST.

Homework Help - <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/homework.html>

Homework Help is free, real-time math tutoring by certified Ontario teachers available to students in Grades 7 to 10 math students in [31 school boards](#). Students in the 31 boards have access to live, interactive online math help through the expansion of a pilot project funded by the Ministry of Education. This program is password protected and not available to the general public.

For students needing some supports in French: [SOS Devoirs](http://sosdevoirs.org/) - <http://sosdevoirs.org/> or <http://sosdevoirs.org/a-propos/english/SOS> Devoirs, which is operated by TFO, provides tutoring services and educational resources such as dictionaries and multimedia learning objects to French-language students from grades 1 to 12. phone and by e-mail.

Students can get help in any subject matter from specialized teachers via chat, by SOS Devoirs' tutoring services are available Monday to Thursday, from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., during the school year. This is a homework site for French immersion students - <http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/>

Engage Students

Looking for some different web sites as teachers for you and your students? Have you seen these? We are collectively always looking for ways to engage students in their learning.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/spacelab> - YouTube space lab contest for students

<http://www.edvillage.org/> - great international teacher web site

http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/44116507/ns/today-today_people/t/photographer-reveals-kids-kingdoms-their-bedrooms/?GT1=43001

– where kids sleep project

<http://www.kwayaciiwin.com/aboutus> - The

Kwayaciiwin Resource Centre of KERC provides culturally and linguistically appropriate and responsive curriculum and support to the First Nation Bands surrounding Sioux Lookout. If you have Aboriginal students or just wanted to know more – check it out. I have done some work for KERC. Revitalizing education for the on-school reserves concerns us all. To come:

For the spring, I will review John Hattie's 2012 new book taking [Visible Learning](#) into the classroom. Stay tuned.

HONOURING OUR MEMBERS



Mihai- Basarab Sarbu gave an informative and inspiring presentation about the increasing pace of climate change and damage to the environment to the Chapter Executive, November, 2011.

L to R: Amanda Denman, Mihai, Bev Freedman, Moveta Nanton, Linda Massey, Carolyn Moras

Photo by Pauline Quan.

Local & International Recognition



Chapter President Bev Freedman, presenting the Chapter Doctoral Award to Dr. Arlena Broomes in November 2011.



Arlena Broomes participating in the September 2011 ChalkWalk

Congratulation to Dr. Arlena Broomes who was given our Chapter's Doctorial Dissertation Award in November, 2011. Phi Delta Kappa International selected Orlena's dissertation for the Recognition of Merit. This honour signifies that members of the PDK International review panel rated her dissertation summary very highly.

Information about Arlena's dissertation will be included in the May 2012 issue of Kappan magazine, and she will receive a letter and a certificate honouring her achievement. Orlena Broomes is currently Lecturer, School of Education, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

ANGELS...EVERYWHERE!

At the Angels Everywhere event on Thursday, Nov. 24, more than 330 people cheered and loudly applauded the wonderful music of choirs from Sacred Heart School and Forestview School; dances by the Wendy Leard School of Dance and Happy Feet Dance School, and poetry from Children of Christ Church. Stamford Collegiate students who created angels in their woodworking classes, generously gave these as gifts to each group on the program.

The Canadian Federation of University Women presented certificates to each group, and cheques to Forestview, Sacred Heart and Stamford Collegiate to support their music and arts programs.

The teacher from St. John de Lasalle Elementary school in Niagara Falls NY offered stories compiled in an album from their young students, and gave gifts of angel ornaments to the children in the program. Certificates were also presented by the Univ. of Toronto PDK International Educators, and by reps. for Mayor Jim Diodati and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Hon. Rob Nicholson.

Terry Brown entertained with a musical prelude;

The Rev. John Ripley offered an appreciation to all who attended, and the Rev. Jim Powell offered the Blessing. The program founder is Elizabeth Manker. Everyone enjoyed the Reception Party after the program.

Donations of \$50 cash and 93 food items were collected for Project Share. This was an event that was of benefit and joy for everyone! By Elizabeth Manker.



Elizabeth Manker conceived and created the well recognized annual Angels..... Everywhere Program.

Left Photo (Elizabeth and restaurant owner)

L to R (Past President Walter Winchell, Irene Manahan, Margaret, Lis Horley-McLeod, Carolyn Moras and Elizabeth enjoyed dinner together followed by an enjoyable concert.

In Memoriam

Remembering My Friend, John Armstrong, M. Ed (by H. J. (Bud) Dilling)

Feb. 27, 1924 –Dec. 12, 2011



John Armstrong

John was a veteran pilot of WWII and a Master at Lakeshore Teachers' College. I first met John through Phi Delta Kappa. (Isn't that where we all meet interesting people?) It would have been in the late 60s, and, as members, we were both keenly interested in the promotion of the ideals of PDK and in searching out capable educators who were already a credit to the profession and would bring their passion to the organization. We were honoured by being elected as Presidents (myself in 1972-73 and John in 1974-75). The reason for tying our times on the Executive together is very simple. It seems as if we were always working together to create new ideas and procedures for enhancing the experiences of PDK members.

John and I discussed ways to make members feel really welcome when they first entered the venue of meetings. Now John was always an "idea man." In fact, I have been involved with a great number of creative, innovative individuals during my professional life, but John ranked up there with the best. His response to our dilemma was that we should go over and shake hands with each member on arrival. We certainly felt that it made members feel that they were an important part of all of our activities and, hopefully, to encourage continual attendance at meetings.

Indeed, during all our interactions, John continued to be an inspirational idea producer. In keeping with this, he came up with another splendid idea. Why not embellish one of our dinner meetings with a course about wines. Well, it turned out that his idea of "course" took more than one form. There would be a different type of wine, and only the appropriate one, for *each* dinner course. Not only would all the wines be supplied from John's cellar of personally-fermented varieties, but there would also be the necessary palate-cleansing activity between courses, and John would provide the requisite commentary throughout the feast. What a delightful evening! If memory serves me correctly, the wine "course" was held in conjunction with one of our fabulous meals hosted by Chef Igor of the Culinary Arts Department at George Brown College.

Furthermore, how can we ever forget the "dinner/initiation ceremony/dance" extravaganzas, complete with flowers for the ladies, gentlemen in tuxedos, and candle grapefruit appetizer, celebrated every December in the Great Hall of Hart House!

Regarding John's professional life, we seldom got into it unless it was to talk about his efforts in enabling his students to carry on his own skills at chess by forming chess clubs for them. Also, he claimed to have taught them rules, created by him, to help them master the spelling of *any* difficult word. Indeed, when I tested him with several difficult words, he never failed to provide an appropriate rule.

To me, life still continued to appear exciting for John whenever we encountered each other in subsequent years, but inevitably the calendar catches up with all of us. So, surprisingly, it did with John. The last time I saw him personally was when we sat beside each other during the banquet at the PDK University of Toronto Chapter's celebration of its 55th Anniversary on October 28th, 2010. Fittingly, it was in the Great Hall of Hart House. John, my great friend departed this world on December 12, 2011.

So, John, what joint activities are you planning for us when we meet again someday? What's that you say? Heaven's out of bounds for any change; it's already perfect. But you *are* wondering about the possibilities for a place that has temperatures considerably higher. OK, we'll see. Good luck with your planning. I have great faith in you. Miss you!

Cheers!
Bud



Programme Chair
John Myers



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Membership Chair
Nancy Nightingale



Foundation Rep
Pauline Quan

For a full Listing of our Chapter's Executive Team, visit our website. www.pdk-ut.ca

PROGRAMME AND DUE DATES FOR AWARDS FOR SPRING 2012 VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA FOR MORE DETAILS

Niagara Falls Get Togethers	Sat., Apr. 21 Sat., May 12	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert Details : www.niagaraconcerts.ca	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
PDK Book Club	Sat., Apr. 21	<u>Catching Up or Leading the Way</u> by Yong Zhao Contact: Mary El Milosh - 416-229-0496 maryelmilosh@hotmail.com	5:00 Dinner 7:00 Discussion
Annual General Meeting	Wed. Apr. 25	Faculty Club, University of Toronto (See flyer enclosed) bevfreedman@rogers.com 41 Willcocks St (East of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	5:30 AGM 6:00 Reception 7:00 Dinner

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