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Sat. Oct. 13, 2012
at Sunnybrook Park
9:00AM -12:00

Please walk and/or donate. For more info, visit our website at www.pdk-ut.ca or Contact Chalkwalk Advisor Moveta Nanton, nanton@sympatico.ca, 416-526-2975

or Co-Chairs: Reneta Racheva / Michelle Bailey
reneta.racheva@peelsb.com
bailey4michelle@yahoo.com

Funds raised support our Awards Programme and two regional Spelling Bees our chapter organizes as a service activity.

ChalkWalk If you read this too late to attend the Walk, donations are always welcomed.



President's Message - Dr. Bev Freedman

We have finished the AGM and have recognized Steve Paiken as our 2012 Outstanding Educator. I was fascinated by the concept of professional triumphs and by the private cost of leadership. I am currently reading Steve's book on John Robarts, Public Triumph and Private Tragedy, which is of particular interest to me because I, myself, am a product of the Robarts/Davis era.

There is information about the AGM in this newsletter; however, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the amazing efforts of our chapter's executive in making it happen. It is an honour and privilege to work with them.

The Faculties of Education were well represented and many interesting conversations occurred over drinks and dinner.

I also want to acknowledge the contributions of Ed and Jocelyn Bodanovic who have been instrumental in shaping PDK-UT. They dropped by with the historical artifacts, which are now housed in my basement. Jocelyn was our historian extraordinaire for several years.

I am asking if there is someone interested in the role of maintaining these records. I am happy to have materials stored at my place because I think the position is important to historical memory and record. If you are available to take on the very important job of being our Chapter Historian, please contact me at bevfreedman@rogers.com.

We are planning our Research Series for 2012-2013 and the executive is planning a summer retreat to develop a strategic plan to guide us through the next 3 to 5 years. If there are goals/outcomes you think are important please let me know. We value your input.

I cannot believe year one, since I assumed Moveta's mantle, has drawn to a close. My President's thoughts in the AGM agenda reflected our ongoing loss over Susan Seidman. She continues to be missed. A positive is that others have willingly given of their time and effort to sustain us and you will note the new editions and continued stalwart dedication in the executive.

OPSOA was held April 25-27 and we heard the Minister and Deputy speak. We have accomplished much and the new reality of fiscal restraints will be challenging; however, Ontario remains a leading example of excellence: blending research, practice, and leadership on all levels dedicated to serving the needs of ALL students, just like PDK-UT pillars. I hope you had an excellent spring and summer and are ready for the challenges of autumn.

Bev



Executive Retreat

L to R: Tim Rudan, Pauline Quan, Marilyn Hahn, Bev Freedman, Linda Massey, Nancy Nightingale, Zenobia Omarali, Lis Horley-McLeod, John Myers

Come to ChalkWalk and win this painting by Reneta Racheva, Artist and Art teacher



Reneta's Painting for 2012ChalkWalk



Bev's Findings

I had the privilege to learn from experts this spring. I attended sessions with John Hattie in mid-April. Both the LSA forum and OISE panel challenged our thinking. Do you know his doctorate was completed in Toronto at OISE? The OPSOA/OPC pre-conference session was led by Ben Levin and Andy Hargreaves and there were more lessons to be learned in terms of research influencing practice.

I was at CSSE and presented a paper with a colleague, Scott Lowrey on [Canada's Outstanding Principals](#). I have been working in a variety of districts including Evergreen in Gimli, Manitoba. I went to the Dominican Republic to do my volunteer work with Teacher Mentors Abroad. I will be training principals in the greater Santo Domingo area – ask me about it.

Ontario educators are much in demand. Check out this article about how good we really are in the Guardian.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/mar/12/ontario-shows-support-teachers-schools?newsfeed=true>

EQAO has released a new research bulletin that looks into the relationship between how much students are aware that their result on EQAO's Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics will count toward their final course mark and how much their motivation and achievement counts on that assessment. Check out this new research bulletin, and many others, in the "[EQAO Research](#)" section of EQAO's Web site, www.eqao.com.

Counting the EQAO Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment Toward Course Marks Makes a Difference in Student Results

This research investigated the impact on student results of teachers' counting the EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics as part of students' final course marks and of students' awareness of whether the assessment will be counted.

Learning though Videos

Do you know the Khan Academy? Have you checked them out on Ted.com? They have over 3,000 video clips from math to physics to history. If you want another way to engage students this type of learning at a distance using media makes sense.

<http://www.khanacademy.org>

On TED Education teachers from all over the world post video clips – I have used these clips in presentations. If they keep adults interested and bemused, think of how your students might respond.

<http://www.youtube.com/tededucation>

Teachers all over the world can post video lesson content

These websites deal with Innovations in Education:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/c-m-rubin/the-global-search-for-edu_32_b_1346288.html

<http://asiasociety.org/initiative/wtw/top-10-ways-reform-schools> - from Vivien Stewart, a senior adviser to the Asia Society

<http://epistemicgames.org/eg/category/projects/dynamic-stem-assessment-through-epistemic-network-analysis/> - a site that talks about other ways to assess understanding in STEM

http://www.ted.com/talks/shilo_shiv_suleman_using_tech_to_enable_dreaming.html?utm_source=newsletter_weekly_2012-02-23&utm_campaign=newsletter_weekly&utm_medium=email

This is an article on how developments in neuroscience may provide new insights into teaching students with disabilities. Published by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, the analysis highlights several examples of the promise of brain research in the lives of students with disabilities. The article talks about brain imaging and biomarkers. Neuroscience may be another pathway to unlocking education for some students with special needs.

<http://www.edweek.org/tsb/articles/2011/10/13/01neuroscience.h05.html>

Two neat wiki spaces you might enjoy
<http://ictmagic.wikispaces.com/> - an award winning wiki on ICT
<http://sjrlearners.wikispaces.com/Google+Apps-Docs> – apps for Google for students

[How teachers/mentors can support students in terms of educational games](#). This was part of a WCER doctoral thesis measuring the impact of online chatting versus face to face support. It has some possibilities for rural and remote schooling. Gaming is a whole new field for learning.

<http://epistemicgames.org/eg/stop-talking-and-type-mentoring-in-a-virtual-and-face-to-face-environmental-education-environment/>

This next project talks about enhancing literacy in science through digital texts. It is for middle school (Grades 6-8) and it is a way to support cross curricular literacy strategies and would align with the [Think Literacy Series](#). Students read texts and gather evidence, write procedures and explanations, use scientific and technical language, understand relationships between concepts, provide summaries, and use quantitative information in text. A hypertext system, CoMPASS-Physics, engages students in design challenges, simulations, and experiments using physical materials like ramps and pulleys. Students collaborate throughout the module in both small groups and whole class discussions. More:
http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/projects/projects.php?project_num=836

Let me know what neat sites you discover – Bev

PDK PARTNERSHIP – SPELLING BEES

As a service activity, our PDK chapter supported the Spelling Bee of Canada in many ways. We, the Kappans at the helm, registered over 250 participants for Toronto East and Oshawa-Whitby Bees. We coached for weeks on end in schools and libraries – teaching children study and spelling skills, and also stage presentation and confidence. We also developed a manual to help our new coaches.

Finally the days of the Bees arrived. Such excitement! Over 100 Primary children alone – literacy is on the rise. Many Kappans made up the number of educators involved, from principals, teachers and retirees as well as university and college students. It was indicative of the importance literacy and learning skills has these days.



Primary, Junior and Intermediate trophies are provided through the partnership with PDK using funds raised through the ChalkWalk.



Kappan Irene Manahan and Darren Neely, Marketing Director of Eglinton Square Mall. Irene has played an integral role for many years in both Spelling Bees.

Much appreciation goes to Darren for facilitating the Eglinton Square's sponsorship of the Toronto East Spelling Bee.



L to R: Bill Velos (PDK), Jerry Murray (Principal, Walter Perry School), Irene Manahan (PDK), Teresa Valaderos and Kappan Lis Horley-McLeod (Next Year's Co-President of Toronto East Regional Spelling Bee).



Colin receiving his trophy from Amanda Denman, Co-President of the Oshawa-Whitby Spelling Bee at the Whitby Public Library, another literacy partnership.



Ivy, a Whitby winner, enjoyed shopping for back to school supplies, thanks to Staples Ajax manager, Janice Munro, who donated generous gift certificates for Durham students.

We are expanding from two to three sites next year due to growing numbers. Thus, we welcome all Kappans who wish to join us in this partnership as it expands.

Working together, SPOC and PDK provide teaching practice and leadership opportunities for new educators who are yet to secure teaching jobs. Many of our experienced Kappans are able to connect through the spelling volunteer activity to these new educators. This is such a great opportunity for everyone.

We look forward to hearing from you!!!

Oshawa -Whitby Spelling Bee: Co-presidents: Amanda Denman amandadenman@gmail.com 905-995-3237 or Carolyn Moras cjmoras@rogers.com 416-497-3034

Toronto East Spelling Bee: Lis Horley-McLeod, growings@rogers.com 416-867-1432

ChalkWalk- Sat., Oct. 13 Promote Literacy, enjoy a fun morning together and get a tax receipt! (SBOC is a registered charity)

As a service activity, to promote literacy and learning skills, our chapter took on managing some regional bees for the Spelling Bee of Canada (SBOC) with several Kappans volunteering in key roles over the last few years. Ask Irene Manahan, Zenobia Omarali, Bill Velos, Lis Horley-McLeod, Amanda Denman, Kristin Hopper, Lisa Hill, Pauline Quan, Ruth Childs, Carolyn Moras, Shelagh Harris, Vivian Smith and Sheila Bennett-Smith about their roles. The late Susan Seidman was instrumental in setting up this partnership.

The PDK Toronto Chapter, 2012 ChalkWalk for Education has formed a partnership with Spelling Bee of Canada. We are very happy that Spelling Bee of Canada is joining us on the walk. (Excerpted from the AGM annual report)

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

PROGRAMME AND DUE DATES FOR AWARDS FOR 2012 -13 VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA FOR MORE DETAILS. NOTE: OUR RESEARCH SERIES FOR 2012-13 WILL FOCUS ON "ASSESSMENT ". EACH SESSION CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE.

QUESTIONS: JOHN MYERS johnjcm Myers.myers@utoronto.ca 416-978-0197
OR TIM RUDAN IMRUDAN@HOTMAIL.COM 416 -736-2100

Research Series #1 (first of 3)	Thurs., Oct. 4	Assessment for Learning : Going Beyond the Strategies Presenter- Dr. Lorna Earl Location- OISE (252 Bloor West room 2-214 (second floor)(St. George Subway Station)	7:00 pm – 9:15 pm
ChalkWalk	Sat. Oct. 13	Contact: Chalkwalk Advisor Moveta Nanton, nanton@sympatico.ca , 416-526-2975 Co-Chairs: Renata Racheva or Michelle Bailey reneta.racheva@peelsb.com bailey4michelle@yahoo.com	9:00 AM-12:00 PM at Sunnybrook Park
Niagara Falls Get Togethers	Sat., Oct. 13 Sat., Nov. 17 Fri., Dec. 8 Sat., Apr. 6 Sat., May 11	Niagara Falls PDK Coordinator - Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert Details : www.niagaraconcerts.ca	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert NOTE: *Sat., Oct. 13* is 3:00 concert
"Inspired" – The PDK Toronto Chapter ChalkWalk Award	Thursday, November 1, 2012	Contact: Amanda Denman amandaldenman@gmail.com 905-995-3237	
Annual General Meeting	Wed. Apr. 24, 2013	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks St (East of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	

Your Program Team at Work – John Myers and Tim Rudan

We recently attended the 20th Constructivist Design Conference on Teaching and Learning at St. Lawrence University in Canton New York in July. Features of this and previous conferences can be seen on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-it6_LJO4 and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1v_6JhkA3c

The conference is unique in a number of ways. First there was the building, its vast open central area and three floors of sections, adjacent to each other and accessible to the centre (no doors by the way) reminded me of the open classroom style of the 1970s except this time we were encouraged to listen in, eavesdrop, drop by, and share.

Facilitators with rich and diverse experiences were trained to work in this open environment. This gave teams maximum opportunity to connect to on site human resources to help them. The team products were displayed and presented on the Friday as a showcase of wonderful ideas. There were no long lectures. Instead, the teams came with a project, problem, or issue to resolve. The projects included: Curriculum and assessment, teaching strategies, parental involvement, uses of technology, leadership development and much more.

The stress was on student and teacher interaction based on constructivist principles. Details can be found at <http://www.learningcentered.org/>. The mantra we used throughout was: Trust: People, Process, Chaos, Ourselves.

Tim and John were facilitators. Our job was to use our expertise to support our teams in their work. Want to know what participants did? Check out the participants at experiences <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqzF15k33kY>

John J C Myers, Curriculum Instructor, OISE. Tim Rudan, Course Director, Faculty of Education, York University



Programme Co-Chair
John Myers



Programme Co-Chair



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Membership Chair
Nancy Nightingale



Foundation Rep
Zenobia Omerali

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

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