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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 Wednesday April 24, 2013 at the Faculty Club, University of Toronto, for the following purposes:

- To receive the report of the Treasurer.
- 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.

Dated: January 1, 2013. Bev Freedman, President.



President's Message - Dr. Bev Freedman

It's been a really busy time for Kappans. To honour Susan Seidman, International PDK members have sent us \$195.00 for the award in her memory.

The October session with Dr. Lorna Earl was outstanding. There were over 100 participants. She is an expert in "assessment as for and of learning" and shared research and strategies to make the learning accessible.

The December session took place at York U has taken place; Beth Lisser explored assessment of learning and provided us with a practical focus on triangulating evidence of student learning and how we can exercise professional judgment to determine grades.

Personally, I have been busy with a variety of school based educators. I am just back from a week in Chile. I was working with their leadership teams through OISE and I was visiting schools. These schools included one in the Mupuche or Chilean aboriginal community and I saw a dual language lesson. I had the opportunity to work with Norwegian upper-secondary (high school) leaders and I am spending time in Thunder Bay and in south-west Manitoba as well as time in TDSB classrooms. I am also involved in interesting leadership work with several independent schools.

Life is good! I am learning and thinking and involved with interesting and dedicated school leaders. I am seeing more intentionality in classrooms as teachers and administrators reflect on where students are (the data) and where they need to be and then target interventions. The conversations are richer and deeper. There is an organized and shared culture of learning happening in Ontario classrooms.

On November 21, 2012 we celebrated with Margaret-Mary (Boni) Thompson our doctoral winner. She graduated from York U and her thesis was entitled, Goodness, Promise and Importance: Cultivating Democratic Education in an Age of Accountability. She was nominated by her thesis advisor, Sharon Murphy. We were joined by members of the nomination committee for dinner. It was an elegant, stimulating evening with discussion ranging from Hannah Arendt, Leading Student Achievement, policy at the Ministry to impacts from snow days in Upper Grande where she is a teacher. If you are completing a doctorate please consider applying for this award. More information is available on our web site: www.pdk-ut.ca.

Finally, our 2013 Educator of the Year will be Mary Jean Gallagher, our own Chief Student Achievement Officer, and head of LNS. The PDK AGM and Award Dinner will be held at the University of Toronto Faculty Club on April 24, 2013. Check the web site for upcoming information and please mark this in your calendars.

Moments In Walk History



Pauline Quan, our Webmaster, and her husband Kevin, our Walk photographer, have never missed a PDK Chapter ChalkWalk since she became a member when still a student. They missed this year's walk due to a very important development in their lives. They got engaged during one of the walks and on another, moved into their new home immediately following the Walk. This year, they missed the walk! They continued to make history in terms of walks – they had their first child shortly before our ChalkWalk.

Pauline says if it weren't for this important event in her life, both she and Kevin would have been in attendance. Their son Apollo will begin his training as a PDK Toronto Chapter Chalk Walk supporter as soon as he can walk.



Bev's Findings

Appropriate for the winter newsletter, snow is flurrying while I write this article. I have been working with school-based leadership from a variety of other countries including Norway and Chile and I am reminded how our concerns and priorities align. Poverty for Latin American countries and issues of improving the quality of public schools compared to private schools is a hot topic.

Everyone is focused on closing achievement gaps. Differentiation is complex and translating it into ongoing and intentional practice is difficult.

We are reading: Hattie, Elmore, Fullan, Leithwood, Levin, Hargreaves, Sharratt, Marzano, Reeves and others. Making learning and thinking visible are phrases I hear more often when I am in schools. There is more explicitness in the designs of classrooms as in the learning space. I see concrete evidence of the beginning use of the feedback cycle in terms of posted Learning Goals, Success criteria and Descriptive Feedback whether student work is posted on walls or in halls of schools. Our Ministry (www.edu.gov.on.ca) continues to do a stellar job and I visit it and the web casts frequently to keep current. It is not by accident that Mary Jean Gallagher is the chapter's Outstanding Educator for 2013. It's worth visiting EQAO (www.eqao.com) –their research and useful strategies for primary junior, grade 9 math and the OSSLT are important for teachers and administrators to know. We now have the cohort that began with the grade 3 EQAO cycles and know we have completed the OSSLT. The implications for success are important considerations:

- Enjoyment of reading and fluency are predictors of success, which is why academic vocabulary matters.
- 57% of students who met the standard in reading and writing did it again in grade 6.
- Approximately 20% who did not meet the standard in either reading or writing did not meet the standards again in grade 6 –where are we value added? For math it was 24%.
- 51% of students who did not meet the standard in grade 3 and 6 did not again on grade 9 EQAO –this is the responsibility of grades 6-8.
- 92% of students who met the standard in grade 3 and 6 met the standard again for grade 9 math.
- 90% of students enrolled in Academic English met the standard on the OSSLT; however only 42% of students in Applied English did

78% of students unsuccessful on the OSSLT did not meet the provincial standard on grade 6 reading. We need to drill down on the data and be more intentional and coherent with targeted interventions

Check out the OECD's web site –Education at a Glance for 2012 and they have some excellent video clips too. <http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2012.htm>. Also consider the Council of Ministers of Canada <http://www.cmec.ca/en/>. Look at the analysis of PCAP and also the equity indicators from the UN.

5 things I have learned about education website hosted by Pearson Foundation is another interesting site.

http://www.thefivethings.org/?utm_source=PDK+International&utm_campaign=3294e7ad27-PDK_All_Member_Email_August_2012&utm_medium=email

I felt this blog was informative on the need for a technical literate society and a support for 21st century learning. <http://blogs.wsj.com/cio/2012/09/23/why-cios-desperately-need-a-technology-literate-society/>

Edutopia is an interesting site with relevant resources and blogs that can provoke <http://www.edutopia.org/brain-based-learning-strategies-resource-guide?download=yes>

I am addicted to You Tube. I love Dylan Williams and his book on formative assessment. Take some time to watch this: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKLo15A80II&feature=related> –

2012 Doctoral Dissertation Award Winner

Dr. Margaret Mary Thompson



Read about the celebratory dinner in Bev's president message.

Upcoming Awards

We encourage you to bring our Chapter Awards' Programme to the attention of family, friends, and colleagues who may be eligible to apply.

Prospective Educator and also The Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching Award applications are due on Feb. 25th, 2013.

The Jackman Award application is due on March 4th 2013.

RESEARCH SERIES - #1 Assessment for Learning: Moving Beyond the Strategies

We were honoured to host **Dr. Lorna Earl** on October 4, 2012 for our launch of the Toronto PDK chapter's research series.

Dr. Earl spoke to over 100 participants at OISE, mainly pre-service students from the faculties of OISE/UT and York U. She carefully constructed our understanding of the differences between "assessment of, for and as learning". Lorna drew on her extensive research background. Dr Earl began by querying our assumptions of assessment. She shared research on the assumptions people bring to learning. She asked questions and gathered input to stretch our thinking. She talked about risk-taking, habits of mind and metacognition. Lorna made us THINK. Individually and collectively we all learned.

Her main message was that, if we really want to use assessment to improve learning, we have to change the ways we think about assessment.

Modeling assessment FOR learning in the session, participants completed an exit slip to share both their thoughts on the session and their ideas for the rest of the series. Lorna graciously agrees to post her slides as a PDF on the chapter's website, www.pdk-ut.ca.



Engagement by participants at Session #1 with Dr. Lorna Earl



L to R: Nehal Patel, Dr. Lorna Earl, Pirasanya Gnanasuntharam



The audience using the strategy of Three Corners for small group discussion.



Tim Rudan introducing Beth Lisser

Assessment for Learning: Going Beyond the Strategies, **Beth Lisser's** thorough presentation at York University as the second in our research series on assessment captured the audience that ranged from practicing teachers to pre-service teachers from York U and OISE/UT. She listed three quotes and asked which resonated with us and had everyone use the 3 Corners Strategy to share. The Learning Goals section included the creation of learning goals, design of assessment plans and urged confidence in our professional judgment when determining students' grades. The materials and activities triggered thinking and raised questions. The interactive session caused us to reflect about our understandings and practices and deepened everyone's understanding of assessment by making the various components more cohesive and applicable. The journey continues.....

The third session, "**Fair**" **Evaluation: What Does It Look Like?** will be held at OISE on February 21, 2013.

By Bev Freedman, John Myers, and Tim Rudan

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 johnjcmyers.myers@utoronto.ca 416-978-0197 OR TIM RUDAN TMRUDAN@HOTMAIL.COM 416 -736-2100

Research Series #3 (3 of 3)	Thurs., Feb 2	Assessment for Learning : Going Beyond the Strategies Panel Discussion Location- OISE (252 Bloor West room 2-214 (second floor) (St. George Subway Station)	7:00 pm – 9:15 pm
Niagara Falls Get Togethers	Sat., Apr. 6 Sat., May 11	Niagara Falls PDK Coordinator - Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDEAR09@aol.com Concert Details : www.niagaraconcerts.ca	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Prospective Educator Scholarship (for Secondary School students)	Monday, February 25th, 2013	Contact: Kari Peters kari@divbyzero.com	
Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching Prospective Educator Award (for Faculty of Ed students)	Applications Due Monday, February 25th, 2013	Contact: Pauline Quan pauline.shou@gmail.com	
Jackman Award	Application Due Monday, March 4th, 2013	Contact: Linda Massey lmasssey@principals.on.ca and lindamassey@rogers.com	
Annual General Meeting	Wed. Apr. 24, 2013	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks St (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	



Programme Co-Chair
John Myers



Programme Co-Chair
Tim Rudan



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Membership Chair
Nancy Nightingale



Foundation Rep
Zenobia Omerali



Marilyn Hahn receiving a 2012 Arbour from Dr David Naylor, President of University of Toronto.

Past President of PDK U of T Chapter, Marilyn Hahn was a recent recipient of the Arbor Award which recognizes volunteers for outstanding personal service to the University. The University has annually acknowledged those alumni whose loyalty, dedication and generosity have added to the quality of the University. Creating a memorable evening for recipients and their guests, the awards were presented at a splendid reception at the magnificent home of President Dr. David Naylor. Congratulations to Marilyn for her ongoing commitment to the University of Toronto.

ANGELS EVERYWHERE – A Memorable Event

Elizabeth Manker created a special concert evening (ANGELS EVERYWHERE) that in seven short years has become a Niagara Falls institution at Christ Church, with performers from both sides of the border. Recognition came from three levels of government. The program was beautiful with school choirs, dancers and professional actors and opera singers. This was enriching for adults and the school children who were all exceptionally attentive through the presentation.



PDK, Toronto chapter members, Elizabeth Manker, Carolyn Moras, Lis Horley-McLeod and Neha Patel with event sponsors

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