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### Join the PDK Chapter Executive

Consider joining our PDK Executive team.

John Myers, Chapter President, has creative and exciting ideas for the year's Focus and Research. New executive members, new ideas and a new PDK international focus are all included.

Come and be part of the changes.

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**John Myers**

### President's Message

Hard to believe how busy the fall opening of schools can be! This is also the U of T Chapter's 62nd year as part of an international organization that has influenced teachers, schools, and school districts throughout North America and beyond.

While Canada and the United States share many things in common our histories make us more like cousins than siblings. Yet there is no doubt that our "big cousin" influences our thinking in many ways, including schools. Hence it is important to connect to PDK International and check out trends south of the border.

For example, the current issue of *The Kappan* features the results of its highly regarded annual poll on public attitudes towards its schools. When you examine the results you can ask "How similar are Canadian attitudes"? Are our needs and issues and bright spots similar or are there important differences?

In the light of changing demographics, changing needs and the role of communications technology, PDK International is reviewing its approach to our mission of promoting public education through research, leadership, and service.

Recently, we took part in the orientation for student teachers new to the programs at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). While there was considerable interest in our work, a number of teacher candidates noted their busy lives and schedules in the expanded two year teacher education program. Some hoped that our research series could have an online component.

Among the initiatives our chapter is exploring is the institution of a Readathon to raise funds for our awards program. We shall see how successful this new program is this year.

As we adapt and work through our initiatives both old and new, we invite all Kappans and those interested in becoming Kappans to offer ideas and suggestions for our continued success.

### Research Series

This year's series is an update of a topic we explored a few years ago: non academic outcomes and their implications for academic learning.

The influence of the former on the latter is clearer than ever and the topic has become very topical. Yet, questions persist.

- How do we make sense of the many terms in research and in the media such as "grit", "social and emotional learning", "persistence", "mindfulness", character", and "learning skills" to note just a few?

- How can we incorporate these elements into our teaching and assess their impact on student learning while making sure we meet curriculum expectations?

- Since teachers play a key role, how do we help each deal with our own stresses that affect us and our students inside and outside the classroom?

The series will consist of three sessions all of which will be at OISE- 252 Bloor Street West. They shall be in the evenings. The first session is Wednesday December 7, 2016- see page four for details.. Fliers for each session shall be on the PDK-ut website. All sessions are free.  
John J C Myers



## **Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings**

Paul Favaro, Ph.D.  
Chief of Research & Evaluation,  
Peel District School Board,  
York University Faculty of Education

### **Five Pollsters With 1 Data Set and 5 Different Outcomes.**

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/20/upshot/the-error-the-polling-world-rarely-talks-about.html?action=click&contentCollection=The%20Upshot&module=Trending&version=Full&region=Marginalia&pgtype=article&r=0>

### **Teacher Expectations Matter (But You Psych Majors Already Knew That)**

[https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2016/09/16/do-teacher-expectations-matter/?utm\\_campaign=Brown+Center+on+Education+Policy&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=34587401](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2016/09/16/do-teacher-expectations-matter/?utm_campaign=Brown+Center+on+Education+Policy&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=34587401)

**Education innovation index** [http://bellwethereducation.org/publication/us-education-innovation-index-prototype-and-report?utm\\_content=buffer95969&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://bellwethereducation.org/publication/us-education-innovation-index-prototype-and-report?utm_content=buffer95969&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

### **Let's Stop and Think About the Teacher Shortage Headlines**

<https://www.the74million.org/article/opinion-sorting-out-the-issues-in-the-teacher-shortage-crisis>

**It Has Gotten Better: A Global History of Health** <https://ourworldindata.org/slides/global-health/#/Child-Mortality-Sweden-UK-and-Germany>

### **Using Early Warning Systems to Keep Kids on Track To**

**Graduation** <http://educationpolicy.air.org/blog/heeding-early-signs-keep-students-track-graduation?platform=hootsuite>

### **Characteristics of Good Early Warning Systems From**

**USED** <http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/high-school/early-warning-systems-brief.pdf>

### **A Data Scientist, An Evaluator and Some Messy Data Points Walk Into A Bar....**

<https://marketsforgood.org/better-is-good-enough-putting-imperfect-data-to-good-use/>

### **Can Teenage Defiance Be Manipulated For Good? (Where Were You When I Was 16?)**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/13/upshot/can-teenage-defiance-be-manipulated-for-good.html?smid=tw-share&r=0>

### **Gladwell on Charters (And Ripping Off Kramer's Hairstyle From**

Steinfeld) <http://www.ozy.com/pov/why-malcolm-gladwell-is-optimistic-about-charter-schools/71448#.V9gBeG7H9eU.twitter>

**OECD Education At a Glance 2016** <http://www.oecd.org/edu/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm>



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## **Join PDK International**

For News, Information and Membership Renewal,  
please call **1-800-766-1156**  
or visit [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org)

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Readathon Challenge 2016

PKD Toronto is excited to be kicking off our very first Readathon this year! The Readathon Challenge 2016 will take place in lieu of the ChalkWalk as our main Chapter fundraiser. Money raised from the Readathon will be used to support our Chapter's Awards and our literacy service with the Spelling Bee of Canada.

The Readathon is uniquely convenient for you as it can take place at the comfort of your own home. This activity directly supports educators' common desire to improve literacy skills in children and to continue to broaden the knowledge of those who read regularly.

Please participate yourself and encourage your family and friends to join in this reading challenge. To participate, download and print the registration (tracking) form from our website [www.pdk-ut.ca/readathon](http://www.pdk-ut.ca/readathon), and start collecting pledges. The Readathon ends March 31, 2017. Please mail your completed registration (tracking) form along with all funds collected to Pauline Quan at 10 Strawflower Mews, Toronto, ON, M2N 0E8.

Questions can be directed to either Pauline Quan at [pauline.quan@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.quan@gmail.com) or Zenobia Omarali at [ZenOmarali@gmail.com](mailto:ZenOmarali@gmail.com).

Participants are welcome to share "Great Reads" suggestions and updates. How? We will have a news feed about the Readathon on our website. There, we will post information, opinions and accomplishments as they come in. Follow along with us at [www.pdk-ut.ca/readathon](http://www.pdk-ut.ca/readathon) to get the most up to date news about our Readathon.

We will also recognize the top readers and top fundraisers at our AGM in April and online... so READ ON, PDK! Support your chapter's initiatives!

### Inspirational Thoughts from Elizabeth Manker

Elizabeth Manker, our Niagara Falls Kappan Liason, invited several U of T chapter members to Christ Church Niagara Falls which sponsored its second "Messages From Heaven" in conjunction with the Angels Everywhere service which is held annually in November. A Shema blessing in Hebrew and Yiddish was offered by a member of the U of T Chapter.

Elizabeth Manker also offered this recollection because of the TV reporting in the upcoming election. There was a strong endorsement for Hillary Clinton. Carolyn Moras, Susan Seidman and I attended a PDK International conference in Washington, DC October 20, 2006. We were invited to visit Senator Hillary Clinton's office where we were warmly welcomed. It confirmed the positive and successful approach by her to educational planning. It was obvious that she had devoted years to this for the benefit of children.

**Elizabeth Manker is the creator of a wonderful concert of students presenting music, dance, and poetry at "ANGELS...EVERYWHERE! The trip to Niagara Falls is a looked for event where some Kappans go annually to Niagara Falls to enjoy the performance at Christ Church, corner of River Road and Zimmerman Ave. at 7 PM on Thursday, November 17. PDK Certificates are presented to the participants.**

### Buzz Around The Bee – We Need You



Spelling Bee of Canada  
Contact: Kappan Carolyn Moras  
and SBOC Coordinator,  
[cjmoras@rogers.com](mailto:cjmoras@rogers.com)

The 2016-17 Bee Year kicked off at the annual Word on the Street, Sept. 25. Word on the Street, being a large literary family event, melded perfectly with the family literacy component which the bee enhances.

A great interest was shown by visitors who stopped at the SBOC booth and questioned the volunteers pictured.

**L to R: Future Kappan Joan Piloya, Kappan Carolyn Moras, Julie Spence, CEO of SBOC and Dorine Tcheumeleu, fondrice de Épelle-Moi Canada (the French Spelling Bee in partnership with SBOC)**



Toronto PDK partners with SBOC as a service endeavour.

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**The “Dark Matter” of Learning: Session 1  
Identifying the forces and their influences- John Myers OISE**

**Date:** Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016  
**Place:** OISE (252 Bloor West) room 2-198 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
(St. George Subway Station)  
**Time:** 7:00 - 9:15 P.M

Whether it is called “grit”, “perseverance”, “character” or “social and emotional learning” non academic outcomes, like “dark matter” in the universe, are invisible to most of us but influence how we teach and how we learn. This three-part series shall reveal these forces and help us work with them to improve our teaching, our learning, and our lives.

In this first session, John introduces us the field of non academic influences in learning. Through interaction and experimentation participants also get to reflect on how these influences have affected teaching and learning in our classrooms.

Resources for further exploration and to set up the next session in the series shall be provided.

John has taught grade 3 through adult for—it seems like forever—in four provinces and three countries. He was “borrowed” by the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Education for a six month period in 1994. He has stayed ever since.

He has taught many courses and published on a wide range of topics provincially, nationally and internationally. Among other things he is a co-author with a group of American teachers working on a soon-to-be released book looking at using social and emotional learning in the classroom to promote academic achievement.

He is the current president of the Toronto chapter of PDK.

To **register**, email [pdkut.register@gmail.com](mailto:pdkut.register@gmail.com). **This is a FREE event**

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