

Our Chapter's Executive Team
 Get a full listing and connect via our website www.pdk-ut.ca
 President's Message



CHAPTER PRESIDENT
 Walt Winchell

During the past two years the chapter has continued its growth and development by continuing to provide Research, Leadership and Service for our members. We remain financially viable and have managed to initiate more than 25 members into our ranks encourage some of our lapsed members to regain their full membership status. More importantly we have been approached by professionals in education requesting information as to how they can join PDK! We began the year with our Chapter's 4th annual PDK Walk for Education - 2008 on October 20th and its success assisted us in raising the needed funds to support our chapter awards program and our FEA club activities; we had our best turn-out ever and the weather fully cooperated. This year we concluded our second Research Certificate Series focused on Technology in the Classroom. This three-part series was well attended and held at OISE on October 21st, at Port Credit Secondary School on January 29th and concluded at York University on March 5th. The turn-out and interest was excellent and we will be continuing the Series in the coming year, this time focusing on the Impact of Social and Emotional Learning.

Our Annual AGM at the Faculty Club on April 23rd was a huge success and combined our Outstanding Educator's award and an excellent address by Dr. Chris Spence the incoming Director of the TDSB as well as an initiation and brief business meeting. Our Chapter presented several additional awards this past year including the Prospective Educator, the Excellence in Student Teaching, two doctoral dissertation award winners and the Jackman Award.

During the year we also held many other events including our Book Club meetings, Spelling Bees, Niagara Falls - Get Togethers and Concerts and several opportunities for engaging students both at OISE | U-T, and York's Faculty of Education.

In the fall we also held a doctoral dissertation awards dinner and fall initiation ceremony. We are currently planning to hold our third ceremony at the spring social and awards ceremony on June 12th. We are proud that we will be able to add as many as 15 members into the chapter this year.

On July 11th we will be holding our annual Region Hd - Area Leadership Conference in Niagara Falls, with the participation of PDK International, and representatives of other Canadian Chapters as well as our executive. If you are interested in attending, please contact Susan Seidman, our CML.

As this year draws to a close, I would like to welcome Moveta Nanton who will be taking on the role of Chapter President for the next two years. She presently holds the role of Membership Chair and is the past chair of the Walk for Education. She is currently Vice Principal at Heart Lake S.S., Peel DSB. In September, Moveta will be coordinating VP for Peel's Section 23 Programs. I am sure she will welcome your comments and suggestions. You can reach her at Nanton@sympatico.ca or (416) 493-2085.

Walt Winchell
 President, Chapter 85



Program Co-Chairs
 John Myers
 and Susanna
 Tang



Newsletter Editor
 Shak Ahad



Incoming President
 Moveta Nanton

ALC (Area Leadership and Chapter Planning Conference)	Sat., July 11, 2009	Americana Conference Resort, 8444 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls; contact sseidman@sympatico.ca	8:15 to 4:00
Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award application due	Fri., Aug. 14	See www.pdk-ut.ca Contact: Dr. Bev Freedman, bevfreedman@rogers.com	Application Deadline
PDK Book Club	Sat., Sept. 12	<u>Payback</u> , by Margaret Atwood Contact: Mary El Milosh 416-229-0496 maryelmilosh@hotmail.com learn more →	5:00 Dinner 7:00 Discussion
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., Oct. 24	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert: Pavlo	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert



Shawn Lepp
 Sales Representative

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The Professional Association in Education



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THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHAPTER OF PDK (85)
Encompassing the GTA
www.pdk-ut.ca

June 2009

Beyond The Chapter



Regions G,H, I, meeting: CML Andrew Jackson; PDK International President Elect Sandee Crowther; Regional Rep Chris Cherau; CML Susan Seidman; and Reg. Rep Frank Nappi focused on PDK Connect.



Lis Horley-McLeod, U of T Chapter; John Stewart, London Chapter, at Young Authors Conference (YAC) VI in London, ON.

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Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Nearly a hundred Kappans attended the awards ceremony honouring some present and future educators and AGM. In addition to the usual festivities, including the induction of 11 new Kappans we had greetings from the International by Frank Nappi, Jr. Our Educator of the Year is Doctor Chris Spence, current Director of education for the Hamilton Wentworth DSB and incoming Director for the Toronto District School Board. Dr. Spence reminded us why we are teachers: to make a difference and be a force for good in the world through a positive instructional relationship with our students. We need to keep our standards high, to challenge and support all of the children in our care, regardless of background. Through anecdote and evidence, the power of engagement and the values of literacy were reinforced through the A, B, Cs of Achieving, Believing and Caring. We have challenges: working with diversity, lessening the achievement gap, and overcoming the effects of poverty in a large urban area. His message inspired all.

By John Myers



Frank Nappi (Reg. Rep), Chris Spence (Outstanding Educator & Incoming Director of TDSB) & Walt Winchell (Chapter President)



Initiates left to right: (Athill Fahie, Hamza Hamid, Chris Spence, Sandra Poczobut, Angela Hinton)

Athill Fahie is a Vice-Principal at North Albion Collegiate Institute, **TDSB**.

Hamza Hamid is a student at SATEC (Scarborough Academy for Technology, environmental and Computer Education), TDSB. Hamza is the 2009 Prospective Educator Award Winner.

Angela Hinton works at EQAO.

Chris Spence, currently Director of Hamilton SB, will be the new Director of the Toronto District School Board. Chris was honoured as PDK, Chapter U of T's Outstanding Educator, 2009.

Nancy Nightingale, a former TDSB secondary principal, is an Appreciative Inquiry Facilitator.

Reneta Racheva taught in Bulgaria. An OISE student, Reneta is our chapter's 2009 Excellence in Student Teaching Award winner.

Angela McDowell is a Faculty student in the Concurrent Program at York University, hoping to teach at the elementary level. Angela enjoys and participates in mixed martial arts.

Sandra Poczobut is a Faculty student, consecutive program, at York University.

Jennifer Orticello is a Fine Arts Faculty student, consecutive program, at York University.

Glenn Conduit is principal of Bradford Public School in Simcoe DSB.

Elizabeth Parker is an Art teacher in the TDSB. She was our 2008 Jackman Award winner

MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS



Summer approaches and we will all have some time to re-connect with reading research and reflect on its potential impact on practice. I know that there are diverse interests and backgrounds in our readership so I have included an amalgam of articles, books and web sites for your consideration. In Ontario today, it is imperative that as educators we keep current. On the Ontario Ministry web site www.edu.gov.on.ca are two new position papers worth checking out and discussing with colleagues:

- School Board Governance: A Focus on Achievement
- Realizing the Promise of Diversity: Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy

Teachers and Professional Learning

The National Staff Development Council (NSDC) has just released (2009) *Professional Learning in the Learning Profession: A status report on teacher development in the United States and Abroad*. Linda Darling-Hammond among others explores this issue from the research through trends and strategies to lessons learned. If you have not yet seen a copy of the Harvard Education Letter, www.edletter.org. It's worth reading. Your board may already subscribe. The May/June edition has an article on Instructional Rounds and the coaching/training of purposeful administrator presence in classrooms as a strategy and tool to develop instructional leadership occupies much of my professional work.

Student Achievement and Books for PLCs

Closing achievement gaps is important if we are to continue to make progress on student achievement. If you are looking for a powerful case study consider, *Opportunities Lost: Race and Poverty in Memphis City Schools* (2009) by Marcus Pohlmann. Another is *How to Change 5000 Schools: A practical and positive approach for leading change at every level* (2009) by Ben Levin, our acting Deputy Minister. Another good book on the work of PLCs is *Leading Professional Communities* (2008) by Hord and Sommers. It talks about how to move a learning team "from congenial to collegial". Most schools are working on implementing differentiated instruction as a way to close gaps. In Ontario it's referenced in all of the Expert Panel reports as well as *Education for All*, soon to become *Learning for All*. There is a good interview with Carol Tomlinson you can find at <http://www.teachersourcebook.org/tsb/articles/2008/09/10/01tomlinson.h02.html>

Another component of reducing gaps is the development of effective strategies and tools to enable 'assessment for learning'. A new source is from the Education Testing Institute, one of the major assessment agencies in the USA. You might consider reading *Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning* (2009), Education Testing Institute.

Thinking about Media Literacy.

Are we educating our students to be critical online readers? Increasingly in schools we are beginning to emphasize the teaching of critical-thinking skills as part of the regular curriculum. I know that printed text and in fact fictional text still dominates. Doug Reeves promotes the daily use of non-fiction writing and reading. Many teachers are digital immigrants and lack the skills and understanding to effectively integrate technology. Our students are spending their non-school time online. The last educational research series PDK held discussed ways that video games, simulations, social networks and distance learning to name a few, can heighten both student engagement and critical literacy skills. Teachers need to think about critical literacy skills for students engaged in blogging and instant messaging. The March 2009 v66 issue of Education Leadership is called Literacy 2.0 and has lots of really useful articles that align digital literacy with critical thinking. *Beyond technology: Children's learning in the age of digital culture* (2007) by Buckingham is a good read. Internet Reading Research Group & New Literacies Research Team. (2006), as is *Survey of Internet usage and online reading* (Research Report No. 7). Washington, DC: Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. www.newliteracies.uconn.edu/iesproject/reports/SurveyReport_CTSC_comparisons.pdf is another good source. Are your schools involved in the School Effectiveness Framework reviews? Research carried out by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) indicates that participation in School Report can have a significant impact on literacy. This is a similar process to what we are doing in Ontario without the external accountability and I have included the cite reference if you want more information. Being part of a participatory process of self-reflection and self and collective review can impact practice. It's a form of participatory research.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/school_report/7845151.stm

According to a March article in the London Guardian, a draft of England's new primary-school curriculum requires that students use Twitter and Wikipedia and gives schools more autonomy over what students learn. If approved, the curriculum would include traditional lessons in phonics, history and maths, but also would weave in media skills.

Mathematics is an area of interest for many of you, You may be interested in *Lessons Learned: What international assessments tell us about math achievement* (2007) edited by Loveless. The book explores the wealth of data from the international assessments and provides summaries to encapsulate the main ideas. Issues explored include: curriculum coherence, focus and methodology of teaching mathematics. It is a book where the research can be used to inform practice. *Content-Focused Coaching: Transforming mathematics lessons* (2003) by West and Staub offer practical suggestions for developing constructivist mathematics lessons that inform and engage.

Looking for some free resources?

This regular bulletin presents free information and teaching materials available on Statistics Canada's Learning Resources website, which is located at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/indexeng.html> This should keep you happily engaged. Relax and enjoy the long summer days and we will re-connect in the fall.

Dr. Beverley Freedman

CHALK WALK

Attention Kappans! Mark your calendars for our annual Walk for Education on Saturday October 3, 2009. This year help us honour educators who have made a difference in our lives. Contact K. Hopper at 905-433-7570 or P. Quan at 416-948-2053. See insert for more details.

PDK Connect

For your own instruction, register with DeShawn Easley deasley@pdkintl.org for a webinar, held the first Wed. of each month at 3pm.

In Memoriam



Dr. Robert L. Lamb (President, U of T Chapter of PDK, 1960-61)

We are sorry to report that Bob Lamb died at his home in Scarborough on April 25, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Norma, two children and six grandchildren. At the age of 92, Bob was still actively involved with his extended family, and adored by all.

He had a wide range of interests and skills, including a "Mr. Fixit" reputation, sailing and music, (singing and piano playing). He was also a very active member of the Immanuel Baptist Church, providing leadership and support for many years.

Bob spent most of his career with the East York Board of Education, followed by a new provincial responsibility as Secretary Treasurer of the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation.

A Founding Member of the Toronto Chapter of PDK, he became our third President, in 1960.

Bob's health had been deteriorating for several years, but he maintained his sense of humour and interest in all facets of his life, including PDK. He rarely missed the annual gathering of PDK past-presidents.

Bob Lamb, after a lifetime of service to others, is gone. We are thankful for his friendship and leadership. We will remember him.

By Derek Bate



Beverly Freedman & Linda Massey presented on Learning & Leadership at the May Ontario Staff Development Network

LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, & MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS

Converse While Stuffing



Claudia and Mihai Sarbu, Evangelina Crook and Hostess Eleanor Pierre
Photo by Susan Seidman

Volunteer 'Stuffers' met at the home of Kappan Eleanor Pierre in Oakville, to put together the March issue of the PDK Newsletter. A very enjoyable, productive and congenial time was had by all. Special thanks to our hostess for the array of tasty snacks that were provided!
Evangelina Crook

Mentoring



Merilyn Fox, Joulie Georgopoulos, Reneta Racheva, Irene Manahan

Thanks to you, I'm here to share a success story. I have been a member of the PDK for a while and recently benefitted from the wisdom and time of Carolyn Moras, Susan Seidman and Irene Manahan and Merilyn Fox to help me. They graciously shared with me, a current B.Ed graduate, tips and techniques for managing a TDSB interview, in both French and English. Thanks to that (somewhat nerve wracking!) practice, I was able to face the "real" interview with confidence and ease. I'm thrilled to say that I successfully made it onto the 'eligible to hire' list. Thanks so much!! Reneta, a mentoree, also includes her thanks.

Joulie Georgopoulos



L. McLeod & S. Seidman point to Spelling Bee trophies funded by our chapter



L. Mercury, Councillor P. Fletcher & S. Seidman at Toronto East Spelling Bee



Kristin Hopper, Kathy Hopper & Carolyn Moras officiated at Durham Spelling Bee



Sheila Bennett-Smith spoke at the Durham Spelling Bee