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WRITE FOR INTERNATIONAL

Call for Submissions by PDK
members

The 2010-2011 *Classroom Tips* is expanding with short articles that K-12 classroom teachers can quickly read, absorb, and use to implement positive changes in their classrooms.

Themes

December 2010: What are the secrets to implementing Response to Intervention? (Submissions are due by September 30, 2010.)

Please see PDK International website (www.pdkintl.org) for more themes, timelines and writing guidelines.

ChalkWalk ChalkWalk ChalkWalk
Sat. Sept. 18, 2010

9:00AM Sign In-OISE, Rm 212
Please walk and/or donate.
For more info, visit our website at www.pdk-ut.ca or Chair Kristin Hopper at K_S_hopper123@hotmail.com



55th Co-Chairs Ed and Jocelyn Badovinac, look forward to greeting you at Hart House.

THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER,
OCTOBER 28TH, HART HOUSE

On October 22nd, 1955, the foundation of University of Toronto Chapter made Phi Delta Kappa international. Come and enjoy dinner once more in The Great Hall, reconnect with colleagues and friends, celebrate our fifty-five years of service, leadership and research, and hear the truly inspiring founder of Free The Children, Craig Kielburger, speak to the importance of education for all children as he receives the inaugural anniversary education award dedicated to those creating a better world through education as presented by University of Toronto Chapter 85.

See flyer for details.

OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES



Membership Chair, Lis Horley-McLeod and our chapter's link to International, PDK Area Director, Susan Seidman

Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to sign up now at www.trypdk.org. The deadline to sign up online is September 30.

FREE 60 DAY NO COMMITMENT MEMBERSHIP

PDK is currently offering a free, 60-day no-commitment membership to anyone interested in taking advantage of our many resources to enhance their professional opportunities. For two months, no-commitment members will receive all the [benefits of PDK membership](#) for free. (See www.trypdk.org for details.)

There are two ways to take part in this offer and be a part of the U of T Chapter:

- 1) Contact U of T Membership Chair, Lis Horley-McLeod (growings@rogers.com) and request a trial membership form.
- 2) If signing up online, there is a statement: I would like to be affiliated with a chapter – To be part of U of T chapter, type in University of Toronto Chapter.



IT'S TIME TO PUT YOUR WALKING SHOES ON AGAIN!



Join us on Saturday, September 18, 2010 for our seventh annual PDK Walk for Education.

Fun! Exercise! Chat!

Join old friends; bond with new ones.

Registration is at 9:00AM at OISE, Room 212, and then we go to Queen's Park Circle where the walk takes place.

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

For your convenience, one of the inserts in this newsletter is a combo flyer/pledge/donation form for ChalkWalk.



ChalkWalk Chair, Kristin Hopper, one of our chapter's Emerging Leaders, (see ALC insert)

Welcome back – by now the reality of another school year is upon us. It's exciting times in Ontario as the focus on improving precision and intentionality increase. The government is sponsoring an education conference this September entitled *Building Blocks for Education: Whole System Reform*, and I will report on it for the next newsletter. Hope to see some of you there.

Bev's Findings

I have been travelling – Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Rome. Although magnificent structures such as pyramids, amphitheatres, the coliseum, and tombs were the visible legacy of previous civilizations what interested me is what lies behind it – the collaboration of mass

numbers of workers and slaves, mathematical calculations, calendars, engineering- all delivering a message about education. I thought about the formal education for the few and privileged and the informal education of the many and how far we have come, especially women. Modern Jordan and Israel are prosperous with new housing, hotels and infrastructure everywhere – Egypt less so with more visible poverty. Tourism matters to all three and peace in the Middle East is inexorably linked to the continued flow of tourist dollars.

All of this leads me to my next thoughts- how technology keeps us linked. I had my net book, Nook (e-reader) and Blackberry to allow me to connect. I called friends in Israel so we could meet for lunch or dinner. I emailed my travel agent from Jordan when I worried about plane connections and kept current with emails and news of the world - even received pings when I was viewing the tombs in Aswan and Luxor. Technology has become a tool for education. Which web 2.0 tools are best suited for enabling collaboration in teaching and learning? Twenty-first century learning is premised on collaboration and interactive communication. Web 2.0 is a way of using, contributing and accessing information. Google www.youtube.com/watch?v to access video clips of all of these tools. Check out www.teachertube.com too.

Blogging is a basic tool to facilitate collaboration. It's easy and can be protected so it's perfect for the schools wanting to extend literacy skills. Teachers can post blogs and invite students to respond discussing ongoing classroom activities or projects. Students can be encouraged to blog about research for projects and have other students contribute. Blogs are conversational tools.

Social networks do blogs one better, by making the conversation between users instantaneous. That on-the-spot feedback makes social networking more suited for educators to connect and share resources with contacts outside their classroom or institution. The audience is there and the responses can be immediate. Social networking offers teachers an opportunity to talk about web responsibility and protocols. It opens discussions to unintended consequences regarding applications to university or jobs in the future.

Wikis are another web 2.0 tool. Do you know that Wikipedia is as accurate as most reputable encyclopedias and it can be the first place students go in their research journey – it just should not be the last or only place. It's a way to teach research skills and how to distinguish between what's factual and what is not on the web. In this way, you can teach critical literacies and have students participate in knowledge-making by posting their materials and findings.

Podcasts are audio recordings of presentations or class activities. They can be organized by the presenters or levels of difficulty. Students can listen to their podcasts or access other classes to build collaboration. Students can listen to them on their MP3 players. Additionally, students can access new information.

Books to Consider

John Hattie is a New Zealand researcher who has compiled a synthesis of 800 international meta-analysis of what impacts teaching and learning. The book is entitled *Visible Leadership* and distributed through Routledge Press. He includes odometers so you can visually assess impact size. It's a book that is being frequently quoted and I think a must have if you are interested in research-informed practice. The chapters deal with contributions attributable to:

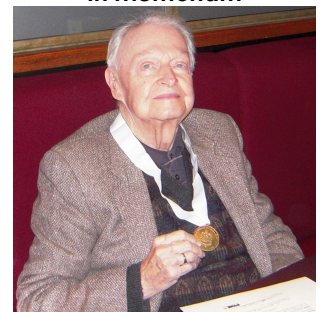
- Students
- School
- Curricula
- Home
- Teachers
- And two chapters on teaching approaches

Bev's Findings continued

Richard Elmore's, *Instructional Rounds* by Harvard Education Press. Teaching is a privatized profession with most of the work ongoing behind closed doors involving the teacher and her/his class. Collaboration, learning teams and moderating practice to name a few require a norm other than that of isolation. Learning or instructional rounds are not new. Downey, Resnik and Marzano all have their own variances. The book describes another model involving teams of educators with protocols and practices embedded. The aim as always is improved student achievement.

Dr. Beverley Freedman

In Memoriam



John Longfield

PDK lost a gentle and modest man when John passed away on Thursday, July 8, 2010. We all benefitted from his vitality and generosity. He was awarded the Phi Delta Kappa Reavis Award.

Despite his ill health, John attended the AGM last April with his beloved wife Cynthia Bracewell.

John's funeral, a High Anglican Requiem Mass at Saint Thomas's Church was attended by several members of Phi Delta Kappa. We will miss his wit, his optimism and his constant support. By Marilyn Hahn

Frederic R Branscombe

A long-time (#372) U of T member, Frederic Branscombe passed away July 13, 2010.

He had enjoyed a long retirement after many years as Co-ordinator of Audio-Visual Education for the North York Board of education.

Beyond the Chapter: Area Director's Report

PDK Executive members, International staff, Field Representatives, and Area Directors met in Chicago to get a common sense of the changes in PDK, the many new initiatives, and have initial discussions on the new responsibilities that will be assumed.

International President Sandee Crowther, President-Elect Kathy Andreson, Past President John Amato, Executive Director Bill Bushaw, International Board member JoAnn Masterson, and Field Representative Sherie Williams were among those who had a jam-packed weekend focused on the new directions.

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, the Board as well as the number of Regions has been trimmed to six. There are four Field Representatives, paid by International, who have responsibility for the 6 regions. Canada is divided into Western Canada, with Area Director Eileen Phillips, and Eastern Canada, with Area Director Susan Seidman.

The Field Representative, a new position, will have the main responsibility for work with chapters: they are to encourage chapter activities, communicate with chapter leaders, attend local meetings, ensure compliance, and, with International staff, organize and conduct training events for Area Directors and Chapter Officers.

A key change for the new Area Director role is the shift in responsibility from work with chapters to making connections with Ministries of Education, other educational organizations such as ETFO, and other organizations involved in education.

What do the changes mean to the Chapters? There are many changes in the works. Here are a few:

- The Kappan - PDK's Kappan editor Joan Richardson is running a contest to suggest topics that you would like to see featured in The Kappan. If your suggestion is accepted, you may win an iPod.
- Kappan Classics - this year, The Kappan staff will choose several articles that were highly influential from back Kappans. The full article will be reprinted in pdf format on line, while The Kappan will run an interview with the author, asking about the impact the article had, what changes would be suggested now, etc.
- The Kappan will have a member/chapter spotlight to make others aware of what other Kappans are doing
- Classroom Tips - check the website for the rolling series of topics they would like to have addressed
- Free Membership Trial - please encourage colleagues, family members who are in education, or those expressing an interest in education, to take advantage of the Free Trial Membership, which expires at the end of September
- Project Grants - New deadline is November 1, and projects which embody PDK's tenets of Leadership, Service, and Research are preferred. Note that this no longer goes through the Chapter. Forms can be downloaded from PDK Connect.
- Emerging Leaders - Have a special pre-conference day at the PDK Conference in Atlanta, with a grant to defray conference expenses, and will be given many leadership opportunities in PDK. Consider throwing your hat in the ring, or mentoring an emerging leader for next year!
- Gallup Poll - Results will be released in September. Note that many of the questions are open-ended, and provide a fascinating counterpoint to Canadian opinion. Gallup also has a free student poll, aimed at Middle School students, which has parent and community sections as well. It may give valuable insight for your school.
- Webinars - Look at the International website for the range of topics for the webinars. If you can't participate at the scheduled time, note that they are posted on the website within 2-3 days, in PDK Connect. They include any PowerPoints that were used in the session.

One valuable aspect of the Conference was the opportunity to have presentations about current trends in associations and the issues they face, as well as having a Skype presentation and Q + A with Michael Horn, co-author of Disrupting Class. The book and discussion gave insights into some changes in expectations for education and the institutions which educate our citizens. Among the trends noted were the challenges posed by commercial entities beginning to compete for students and services.

We in PDK have to clearly understand our core values and services, have a keen understanding of societal expectations and changes, and be able to tailor our efforts to educate our students, support our teachers, and articulate our passion to the community at large in ways which generate partners working with us for the betterment of society. No small task!

By **Eastern Canada Area Director Susan Seidman**



A key change for the new Area Director role is the shift in responsibility from work with chapters to making connections with Ministries of Education, other educational organizations such as ETFO, and other organizations involved in education.

L to R: Field Representative Sherie Williams, Area Director and Emerging Leader Vicky Gilpin, Area Director Susan Seidman, Area Director Teresa Kennedy

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

President's Message



CHAPTER PRESIDENT
 Moveta Nanton

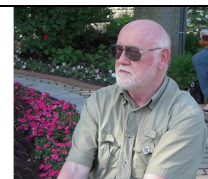
This fall our chapter reaches 55 years. We are celebrating this milestone on Thursday, October 28. This event is already shaping up to be very exciting and worthwhile. Craig Keilburger is our keynote speaker and he will bring us his unique perspective on education. Please see the enclosed flyer for additional information.

Your chapter executives have been working hard to put together programs for 2010-2011. The Area Leadership Conference (ALC) held in Niagara Falls in July has energized the executive members. As a result there have been a number of working meetings in July and August to ensure that our program for 2010-2011 is set appropriately.

In addition to the 55th Anniversary on October 28, the Chalkwalk is our first event on September 18, 2010 and is followed by the first session of this year's Research Series: Teaching the Diverse Classrooms of Today and Tomorrow kicks-off on September 28, 2010.

Phi Delta Kappa is an organization that promotes quality education through research, leadership and service. PDK offers something for everyone and with each Newsletter we ask for your support. Here's how you can support the executive. You may want to participate on the executive committee or helping with one of our sub-committees or participating in the Spelling Bee activities. **We need you!** Please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 416-428-4972 or Nanton@sympatico.ca

Would You Like To Be Part Of A Fun Team?
Join the PDK Chapter executive. Little Jobs! Big Jobs! Flexibility re meetings!
Call Moveta at 416-493-2805 or e-mail nanton@sympatico.ca



Programme Co-Chairs
 John Myers and
 Susanna Tang



Newsletter Editor
 Shak Ahad



Membership Chair
 Lis Horley- McLeod

PROGRAMME FOR FALL 2010 (FOR FULL LISTING OF 2010-11 PROGRAMME /AWARD DATES, VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA) NOTE: OUR RESEARCH SERIES THIS YEAR WILL FOCUS ON "TEACHING THE DIVERSE CLASSROOMS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW". EACH CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE.

QUESTIONS: Susanna Tang, pdk.register@gmail.com 416-219-2883 OR JOHN MYERS jmyers@oise.utoronto.ca 416-978-0197

PDK Book Club	Sat., Aug. 28	<u>Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle</u> by Chris Hedges Contact: Mary El Milosh 416-229-0496 maryelmilosh@hotmail.com	5:00 Dinner 7:00 Discussion
Research Series #1	Tues., Sept. 28	OISE, Room TBA Culturally Responsive Teaching & The Ministry's Diversity Policy	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., Oct. 16	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert: Joe Sealy and the Jazzbirds	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
55 th Anniversary	Thu Oct. 28	55 th Anniversary Celebration Craig Kielburger, Key Note speaker.	Hart House
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., Nov. 6	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert: Angele Dubeau and La Pieta	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Research Series #2	TBA	Panel: Lessons from the Classroom	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., Dec. 4	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert: The Majesty of Christmas: the Hannaford Street Silver Band and the Amadeus Choir	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Mentoring: Tailoring Resumes & Interview Skills	Sat. Dec. 11	Contact Carolyn Moras cimoras@rogers.com	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Lunch included

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