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Insert:

- AGM Report

AGM 2015 Kappans, friends & colleagues met on Wed. April 29 at the Faculty Club, 41 Willcocks St.

See p. 2 to welcome our newest PDK members, initiated at the AGM. Congratulations to all our PDK Award winners. Note that **Justina** also won internationally – see AGM insert

Look at page 4 at the **Buzz Around the Bee**. Esther, an award winner, has been giving back to PDK by officiating at several spelling bees.

Funding for awards comes from ChalkWalk



Maikil Kamel, a TDSB student, winner of the Inspire Award, explaining the importance of ChalkWalk .

Join us Sat., Oct. 17, 2015



President's Message – Tim Rudan

Spring is truly on its way and we deserve it, having survived the coldest winter and especially the coldest February in Toronto's history. I made good use of my time indoors by catching up on my reading .I recommend Jared Diamond's, The World Until Yesterday. In my opinion, his observations and findings concerning child play and education in more traditional societies, has compelling implications for teachers and parents in modern "advanced" culture.

The work of our chapter continues. Planning has started for the ChalkWalk and Spelling Bees.

Our last research presentation on Mental Health took place on April 9th and culminated in a salon-type social on May 13th. Participants and presenters from any of the three sessions had a chance to discuss this topic further and how we manage in our respective work sites.

Our AGM and Outstanding Educator Award Dinner was Wednesday April 29, at the Faculty Club. Gerry Connelly was this year's worthy recipient for her decades of work and commitment to education in Ontario. This event was yet another chance for Gerry and me to cross paths in our careers. I worked for her when she was the director of the TDSB and also at York University. I am very pleased she has directed us to donate her award to The Learning Partnerships to support their global initiatives.

Last, we are excited to hold our summer executive retreat in Niagara Falls at the invitation of Elizabeth Manker. Not only will it be good to share time together out of the city but also to connect with fellow Kappans who have supported the work of the University of Toronto Chapter.

I welcome members to serve on the executive to help us continue our work. Please contact me. timothy.rudan@tdsb.on.ca

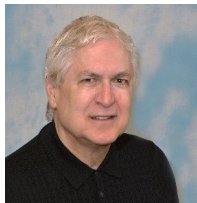
2015 Outstanding Educator Dr. Gerry Connelly with incoming Chapter President John Myers



This is the 60th anniversary of the U of T chapter of PDK. Dr. Connelly is shown receiving our signature Kappan poster.

This poster, a compilation of Kappan covers spanning 50 years and highlighting issues over time, was designed by Noel Nanton to celebrate the chapter's 50th anniversary. It was very fitting to present it to Gerry who was Director of Education for Toronto District School Board at that time.

The equity issues are still current. In her speech, Gerry described these issues and how far we have grown, and how far we still have to go, even today.



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

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

It's not just country music in Nashville.

It's also data use in schools. See how they go from data to dialogue to student success.

<http://dataqualitycampaign.org/success-stories/state-stories/from-data-to-dialogue-supporting-student-success-in-nashville>

More than test scores.

What do students need to succeed? See what the Wallace Foundation has to say.

https://philanthropynewyork.org/news/more-test-scores-what-young-people-need-succeed?utm_content=buffera86a5&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer#.VRGnylV9P69.twitter

The power of social and emotional skills.

Students need a balanced set of cognitive, social, and emotional skills to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

http://www.oecd.org/edu/skills-for-social-progress-9789264226159-en.htm?utm_content=buffercc976&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Millennials

More educated, less pay, 30% in their parents basement. What's up with that?

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gendiy/millennials-are-tolerant-b_6350434.html

You can make a bigger difference in a child's life than you realize.

The science of resiliency – why some students are resilient.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/15/03/science-resilience>

What you might not know about the gender gap in reading.

Girls rule. Researchers suggest Finland's excellence is due to girl power. Brookings researchers show girls consistently outperform boys.

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2015/03/gender_gap_reading_closing.html

Oh Canada! Ontario's secrets to success.

Ontario's improvement efforts are making a difference. Hear from our own Mary Jean Gallagher

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/c-m-rubin/the-global-search-for-edu_b_6354988.html?utm_content=buffer2ff2d&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

What Don Quixote teaches us about leadership.

<http://www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/james-march-what-don-quixote-teaches-us-about-leadership>

2015 Award Winners



Susan Seidman, Excellence
in Student Teaching, 2015
Esther Khew
OISE



Jackman Award, 2015
Ryan Persadie
BMus, OISE



Prospective Educator
Chapter & International Winner
Justina Ilevbare
Marc Garneau, Gr. 12
See AGM insert for more details.

My name is **Justina Ilevbare** and currently, I am a Gr. 12 student with the passion of helping those who are less fortunate and require assistance. Ever since I was a child, I have always dreamed of taking on a profession which would allow me to give back to society. I plan on studying Social Work this fall and then attend Teachers College.

Esther Khew

My dream is to significantly impact and empower the lives of the younger generation. Teaching allows me to combine music and social science in my classroom to encourage informed global citizenship. I strive to encourage student success by embracing the diversity of students through culturally responsive teaching practices and by enhancing student self-esteem through inclusion and community building. My passion is to give all students an opportunity to attain success, through incorporating strategies of differentiated instruction to creating inclusive classroom communities.

Ryan Persadie

As I grew, I saw MD, BA, PHD, B.Ed, professor, doctor, associate and other labels beside the names of many. However, it was later that I began to understand their relevance.

When I write down BMus, B.Ed and OCT, I express gratitude and identify with the educators, leaders and mentors who have taught, supported and enhanced my learning experience. As a developing music and history educator, I wish to honour a mentor in particular, Dr. Leslie Stewart-Rose, who has been vital to my career.

We invite our PDK members to submit articles to our newsletter. The following provocative excerpt is taken from a paper written by Dr. Ruth Childs, Associate Professor, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, OISE, University of Toronto

**What the Mothers in Trefann Court Knew:
Why Educational Equity Depends on Demographic Data**

Ruth A. Childs, OISE, University of Toronto

Trefann Court

Trefann Court is an area of several blocks on the eastern edge of downtown Toronto. It is best known as the working-class neighbourhood that, in the late 1960s, successfully resisted urban renewal. As John Sewell, who worked with the residents of Trefann Court in the 1960s and later became Toronto's mayor, has summarized the struggle: "With the help of community workers, the residents urged the City that their homes not be expropriated, that they be allowed to have significant involvement in replanning their community, and that an alternative to public housing be found."¹

Trefann Court is less well-known for its role in insisting that Toronto schools collect demographic data. In February 1970, residents identifying themselves as "mothers in Trefann Court" wrote, in a letter to the Toronto Board of Education:

It appears as if the school system directly discriminates against children from poor families – and also from immigrant families – in such a way that the kids drop out of the more substantial programs into the dead-end streams. Unless you think that rich people are smarter than poor people or that Canadians are smarter than foreigners, how else do you explain the fact that most of the Special Education facilities are filled with the children of poor or immigrant families.¹

To find out the response from the TDSB and the resulting consequences, you may read the complete Dr. Child's response article on PDK website.

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Research Series Report –Session 2

Claudia Santos from Weston Collegiate and Lorne Young from Upper Canada College introduced more than 40 Kappans and guests to their *Mindfulness, Compassion and Happiness (MuCH) Spiral Approach to Mindfulness and Well Being*. We did a number of experiential activities revealing these qualities. We received an extensive package of resources, many of which are online. The rest of this report comes from our co-chair, Nehal Patel. She speaks for all of us.

"I couldn't get over how deepened and moved I was by tonight's session. I am sharing my debriefing thoughts while they are so fresh.

Today's session on mindfulness was simply empowering and so moving. I was inspired by the work and dedication provided by Claudia and Lorne. The types of strategies provided at tonight's session really resonated with each member in the audience. Just like our students, we are constantly rushing our life with continuous activity and thoughts crossing our minds. **We are almost never soulfully in the moment.**

A wise man once said, "When you eat, all you should be doing is eating and when you walk, you should only be walking" Simple ancient practices that have been so beneficial in so many ways are coming back into our presence. Or, has it just come knocking on our door like an awakening? Meditation not only expands and trains the brain to better use our executive functions but it also helps us gain more control of our emotions and makes us much more compassionate.

This entire evening synthesized my value of education and life. I gain so much by being empathetic to the people around me, especially to my students. This rewarding experience brings me great joy. My true delight doesn't lie within me but in others happiness.

I thank our presenters for synthesizing my experiences into such a memorable evening. I will definitely be trying these techniques out. My new mantra to success is: passion, compassion and dedication!

There more beneath a smile –Session 3

Today's evening was a table turner. All this time I imagined that a smile makes the world go round. When people smile, they are happy and we take them for granted. We never question their happiness. Instead we look for indications of isolation and sadness as a red flag.

Little did I know behind a smile is a broken heart that is crying for help. But that smile almost takes away from our awareness.

Today's session taught me to look at every individual equally and whether one is happy or sad we should always look beneath that face and see what is really impacting that individuals success and well being.

It was gratifying to see how schools and communities are beginning conversations to implement changes to ensure we minimize the stress that exists at such an early age and to better implement smooth transitions. **cont'd on p 4 Nehal Patel**

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

PROGRAMME DATES FOR 2015 -16 VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA FOR MORE DETAILS.

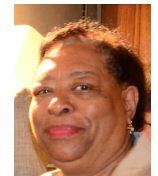
Niagara Falls Get Togethers –enjoy concerts with our Niagara Falls members	Fri., Sept. 25, Thurs., Oct., 29, Sat., Nov. 28, Fri., Mar. 19,2016 Fri., May 14, 2016	Niagara Falls PDK Coordinator - Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDEAR09@aol.com Concert Details : www.niagaraconcerts.ca	5:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Concert
Word on the Street	Sun., Sept. 27	Our PDK Chapter will be hosting a booth, in partnership with Spelling Bee of Canada, to promote literacy and to spread awareness of ChalkWalk	downtown Toronto
ChalkWalk at Wilket Creek (Leslie & Eglinton)	Sat.,Oct. 17, 2015	Put on your calendar and plan to support ChalkWalk at Wilket Creek (Leslie & Eglinton)	9:00 AM-12:00 PM
ANGELS...EVERY WHERE!	Thurs., Nov 12	AT CHRIST CHURCH, NIAGARA FALLS, ONT., CAN.. An innovative concert created and produced each year by Kappan Elizabeth Manker.	7-9 pm



President
John Myers



Membership Co-Chairs
Jelena Rakovac
Tim Rudan



Treasurer
Moveta Nanton



Foundation Rep
Linda Massey



ChalkWalk Chair
Zenobia Omerali



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Advisor
Ron Benson



This year we did an experiment to conclude our series with an **informal social event** in which participants in the series could come together to share ideas. The group spanned several generations of teachers and administrators and together displayed an incredible amount of insight into the issues raised by the series. The discussion were spurred by a series of questions and conducted by Tim Rudan and Jelena Rakovac now membership co-chairs.

Among the responses shared and refined in the discussions were the following:

- The evening was yet another illustration of the value of networks like PDK to help us all

The following articles were used to assist discussion. We recommend them highly.

http://www.thestar.com/life/health_wellness/2013/07/23/5_ways_to_keep_anxiety_and_depression_at_bay.html 5 ways to keep anxiety and depression at bay

Mental health expert Gregory Jantz says take care of yourself — and others — during stressful times.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2015/05/ontario-investing-52-million-to-expand-mental-health-care-for-teens.html> describes an initiative by Ontario's Ministry of Health & Long Term Care **Neהל & John**

Buzz Around the Bee

Kappans Irene Manahan, Marilyn Hahn, Carolyn Moras, Lis Horley-McLeod, Nathan and Amanda Rajkumar officiating at a Spelling Bee. On the right is Esther Khew, winner of the Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching 2015 Award is already giving back to PDK by also officiating at several Bees.



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