

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- President's Message
- Join PDK International
- Buzz Around The Bee

Page 2

- Research Findings
- Chapter Executives

Page 3

- Readathon
- Life as a Page by
Adam Omarali

Page 4

- Upcoming events
- Join PDK Executive
- In Memoriam-
Elizabeth Manker

Buzz Around The Bee – We Need You



Spelling Bee of Canada

Contact: Kappan Carolyn
Moras & SBOC Coordinator
carolyn.moras@gmail.com

Marilyn Hahn writes:

My involvement in Spelling Bee has revealed a surprising benefit to my own "later life learning" --- my increasingly creative vocabulary. Whether you are a polyglot, or bi-lingue or a well-educated monoglot, you may also discover the unexpected delight of impressing yourself with the joy of further English language learning.

Join PDK International

For News, Information
& Membership Renewal,
call **1-800-766-1156**
or visit www.pdkint.org



John Myers

President's Message

We live in challenging times for all organizations. This is true for volunteers united in a common visit for education. Conference attendance and memberships are down whether we are involved in curriculum subject councils or committed to link teaching, research, leadership, and service like Phi Delta Kappa.

Why so? Here are some hypotheses.

- Membership is getting older as is our population in the GTA.
- There has been a surplus of young teacher education graduates; consequently, they either teach elsewhere or are on the LTO treadmill for years.
- With the challenges to teacher education programs with expanded programs yet restricted funding, the balance between working in the field with teachers and conducting research studies- the field and the tower- has shifted.
- It is physically more difficult to attend after school or weekend sessions in a traffic-filled metropolis like Toronto.

Our chapter is doing its best to adapt to changing circumstances. The Readathon is one example of outreach where we encourage lifelong learning. I offer another example below. In the May-June 1917 issue of the newsletter I did a review of a new resource looking at rural poverty in the U.S. Regenia Rawlinson's *A Mind Shaped By Poverty: 10 Things Educators Should Know*. Since then some states such as New York have recognized the need to address such issues as in

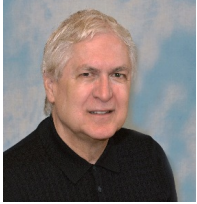
<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/35461/20180118/teaching-educators-to-prepare-students-in-poverty-for-success>.

A google search for items related to rural poverty in Ontario found no information after 2016. Does this mean that it is not an issue? I have spoken to some of my graduates who have worked in schools marked by rural poverty and they would say that it was still an issue. Having worked in rural British Columbia I would agree. For example, if we have diminished expectations for students from poor families that will influence education achievement.

This has a similar impact in urban areas as the recent Vital Signs Report on Toronto would attest. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/first-time-torontos-vital-signs-report-exposes-pervasive-inequity-675395273.html>.

If the trend of a shrinking middle class continues with more numbers at the extremes of the social-economic spectrum, what does this mean for schools and the communities they serve? One finding from the report is that 15 per cent of TDSB students taking applied courses drop out of school before graduating, compared to only 3 per cent of students taking academic courses.

In the GTA we have many other "diversities" in which to be mindful of. As a community committed to public education, the U of T Chapter has much to think about. Your ideas, dear readers, are both desired and necessary.



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

Paul Favaro, Ph.D.
York University Faculty of Education,
Department of Administrative Studies

The Social Class Versus Race Debate

Black boys from high income families have lower adult incomes than white boys from high income families. So, black-white gaps can't be explained just by class or family income differences.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/03/19/upshot/race-class-white-and-black-men.html>

Does the above study end the class v. race debate?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/21/opinion/class-race-social-mobility.html>

Student Equity and Inclusion

Building more inclusive career pathway opportunities for students <http://hechingerreport.org/opinion-five-ways-to-build-stronger-more-inclusive-work-opportunities-for-students/>

Equal talents, unequal opportunities <http://diverseeducation.com/article/112689/>

School Safety Issues

Feelings of safety at school <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2018096>

How to stop school shootings, by the Secret Service (that comma is important)

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/if-you-want-to-know-how-to-stop-school-shootings-ask-the-secret-service/>

Changes in bullying at school <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2018095>

Student Engagement and Study Skills Research

How aggression and weak study skills are associated with dropping out

<https://news.uga.edu/two-behaviors-linked-high-school-dropout-rates/>

Make progress with disconnected youth <http://www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2018/>

How life outside of school affects performance in school

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/how-life-outside-of-a-school-affects-student-performance-in-school/>

Civic engagement by high schoolers and young adults may have long term positive impacts

(says research and a '70's kid) <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/12/well/family/why-demonstrating-is-good-for-kids.html>

Interesting Factoids

A selfish argument for making the world a better place

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnskMHn0sqQ&feature=youtu.be>

Meta-analysis shows vaccines are not associated with autism

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X14006367>

11% of adults are not on the internet, and they are mostly over 50, rural and poorer. Remember that when people say your parents do not have internet

access <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/03/05/some-americans-dont-use-the-internet-who-are-they/>



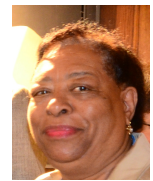
President
John Myers

Membership Co-Chairs

Jelena Rakovac
Tim Rudan



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Treasurer
Moveta Nanton



Foundation Rep
Linda Massey



Readathon Co-Chair
Zenobia Omerali



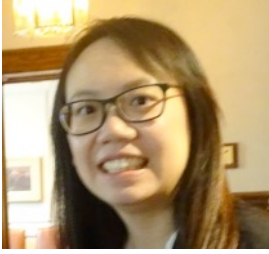
Advisor
Ron Benson

Chapter executive
2017-18

CHAPTER NEWS

Fundraising.

ReadaThon from Pauline & Zenobia



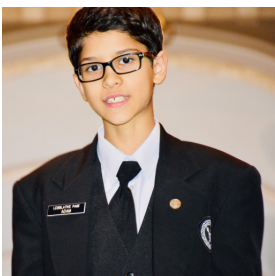
Co-Chair and Treasurer of the Readathon

“People who report as little as a half-hour a day of book reading had a significant survival advantage over those who did not read... And the survival advantage remained after adjusting for wealth, education, cognitive ability and many other variables.”
Professor Becca R. Levy



John sharing his Readathon choice.

Please send yours for a future newsletter.



Adam Omarali

The PDK readathon challenge is the primary fundraiser for our chapter's awards. From October 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018 chapter members read and raised funds for our initiatives. It is now time to return your pledge forms so we can tally up your hard work.

Please send cheques written to PDK-UT to Pauline Quan at 10 Strawflower Mews, Toronto, ON, M2N 0E8 or Zenobia Omarali at George Vanier Secondary School, [3000 Don Mills Rd E, North York, ON, M2J 3B6](https://www.google.com/maps/place/3000+Don+Mills+Rd+E,+North+York,+ON,+M2J+3B6) as soon as possible.

Thank you for your participation.

For further information contact the “Read-a-thon Challenge” Co-Chairs:

Pauline Quan

pauline.quan@peelsb.com

Zenobia Omarali

Zenobia.omarali@tdsb.on.ca

John's Latest Read

My Readathon contribution (and we welcome yours) is a recent book by Dan Pink [When: the Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing](#), published by Riverhead Books, New York in 2018. Dan has done a number of easily-read but well-researched books on motivation and had a “Pinkcast” online that is free that offers tips on working smarter. His tips on timing in school from optimal start times, to the power of recess, breaks, and pacing, struck a chord with me. Here are two example which you may know.

- For most of us, doing detailed analysis such as required in math, is best done in the morning (though the teenage school day should start later as some schools now do). Inspiration comes later in the day; hence, art and creative subjects should be scheduled at that time.
- Coverage or consolidation? We tend to remember things at the beginnings and ends of periods, so plan lessons and units accordingly. This makes the current Ontario suggested sequence of “Minds-On, Action, and Consolidation” most appropriate. If time is short, rather than try covering new material, emphasize the important key points. Remember that one definition of “cover” is “to hide from view”.

I hope we have more insights in future issues of the newsletter.

By John Myers

Service, Research, Leadership—these are the tenets of PDK. John Myers points out that Service is clearly a part of living in a democracy and PDK strives to apply this to our work supporting public education. **We know that to engage students in the abstractions of government they need to see its relevance in their present and we hope future lives.** This may be more important than ever with media buzz about lowering the voting age to sixteen.

In becoming a Student Page, **Adam Omarali** is following in his parents' footsteps. Zenobia Omarali and Bill Velos are long-time PDK members who have contributed to our chapter in a variety of ways. Adam has learned from their examples to be involved in the wider community.

“Experience Politics in Action” - <https://adamomaralilegislativepageexperience.wordpress.com/> **Adam's blog**

I would like to share an opportunity available to all Grade 7 and 8 students to experience “Politics in Action”. The Ontario Legislative Page Program Portal is now open and closes on June 15th. Students can apply to become a Page at: <http://discoveryportal.ontla.on.ca>.

Having just served as a Page I highly recommend this once in a lifetime experience. It gave me insight into how our Ontario Legislature works. I now know there are 107 MPP (Members of Provincial Parliament) for each of the provincial ridings in Ontario and currently, we are in the Third Session of the 41st Parliament. MPPs meet at the Ontario Legislature to debate about current issues/legislations that impact their constituents, vote on Bills, recognize achievements and more! (continued on p.4)

Continued from page 3 –Legislative Page During my time at the Legislature, I met a variety of students from across Ontario. A few weeks before we started I attended an orientation session about what was expected from a Page and we were fitted for our uniform. During my time as a Page I assisted on the legislature floor with a variety of duties. We had some perks too including Page lunch sessions with the Lieutenant Governor General of Ontario, the Premier, the Clerks and the Speaker of the House. My time as a Page in the Legislature went by very fast and by the end of each day I was tired but I felt I made a difference and gained a better understanding of democracy in Ontario.

I knew my grade 7 Language Arts teacher would ask me to do a report when I went back to school so I made a Blog. I blogged about the Application Process, Page Schedule/Class, Snap or Buzz, \$15 Payday, MPP Test (80+% or re-write), the Ontario Budget, my Page Captain Video Report and more. You can get a better insight on the day to day experience of being a page on my Blog: <https://adamomarailegislativepageexperience.wordpress.com>.

When I spoke to other students my age many told me that they did not know that they too could apply to the Ontario Legislative Page program. My goal is to create awareness so others can experience this once in a lifetime opportunity! Good Luck Grade 7 and 8 students, you are just one essay away from a once in a lifetime experience!

JOIN THE PDK CHAPTER EXECUTIVE

Contact: Nehal Patel nehal_patel_88@hotmail.com or John Myers at jjcm1946@sympatico.ca

SAVE THESE DATES and PLAN to ATTEND

AGM (Annual General Meeting for Members)	Thursday, May 31, 2018	Wallace Gastropub 1954 Yonge St, Toronto, ON M4S 1Z4 thewallacegastropub.ca There are 3 close by parking lots as well as walking distance from Davisville subway station. A reservation has been placed under Rudan, 6pm in the back room.	6 pm
Outstanding Educator Award Dinner	Wednesday, October 3, 2018	U of T Faculty Club More details to follow	



Elizabeth in 2017 at Notables of Niagara, her programme of celebration of Canada's 150th.

Remembering Elizabeth Manker

30 JANUARY , 1930 – 8 APRIL , 2018

Elizabeth's obituary on the web says that, "Elizabeth leaves a legacy of a life serving her community"

Elizabeth has left a chasm in the PDK community where she energized our chapter through programmes, events, and social times she originated as well as bringing guests from Niagara to many AGMs. Elizabeth contributed to many organizations through membership and volunteering; PDK was close to her heart.

Elizabeth was a proud supporter of Niagara Falls, and used her creativity and deep knowledge to develop her ideas. PDK was frequently invited. Who can forget the mayor giving us a personal guided tour of the revitalization work on Queen St, after a PDK conference in Niagara? Memories abound; changing the colors on the falls, tea in the beautiful church gardens, Angels Everywhere, and Notables of Niagara, a celebration of Canada's 150th.

Elizabeth's passing leaves a gap in PDK.
Her family is in our thoughts and prayers

Printing of this newsletter is sponsored by

THE SHAWN LEPP TEAM

www.ShawnLepp.com

905-428-8100 or 416-688-4151

Keller Williams Energy Real Estate, Brokerage



Shawn Lepp, Lee Vermaak,
Marion Penny, Brenda Demian,
Jennifer Hudon, Gina Vermaak