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Karen Grose

Co-author of "[Flash Forward! Rethinking Learning](#)" and presenter at Research Series in October 2013 (see page 3 for details).

Initial assembly → included George S. Vanier's mascot for the walk; others joined as we walked. All the walkers, from ages 8 to 80, including Ebony, had a great morning.

Contributions are still being accepted; send to Moveta.



President's Message – Tim Rudan

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."- William Arthur Ward.

I found this quote to be poignant. It sums up truly inspiring events led by our members in the Toronto Chapter of PDK. Commendably, participants raised funds to support PDK Chapter Awards and the Kappan organized Spelling Bees.

The annual ChalkWalk which is held in Wilket Creek Park was a great success. Participants enjoyed a rigorous walk on a beautiful October day.

The walk was followed by an informative educational session; "How to prepare for a post-secondary education?"

This session was given by John Myers and by me. Julie Spence, who is the CEO and Founder of Spelling Bee of Canada, (SBOC) both walked and spoke at ChalkWalk this year.

Julie talked about the importance of spelling as a literacy life skill. She spoke to the student volunteers about how essential and appreciated was their commitment to our fundraising. PDK and Spelling Bee of Canada are walk partners; the ChalkWalk is our principal fundraiser.

On October 15 we held our first Research Series Workshop. We were honoured to host Karen Grose, co-author of [Flash Forward! Rethinking Learning](#), at OISE. Karen's message was well received as she was invited to help us explore our topic "**Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century**". This was the first of three free interactive workshops.

The second will take place at York University on December 10th when we will host members of the Learning Partnership.

The Learning Partnership is an organization which supports educating students in an increasingly technological environment. Please refer to the flyer attached to the newsletter for more information about this evening.

The executive is currently planning our AGM which will take place at the Faculty Club at the University of Toronto on Wednesday, April 30th.

This will be a truly inspirational event as we will honour Carol Rolheiser for her contributions to education in Ontario. Dr. Rolheiser has co-authored many books and articles including [Beyond Monet: The artful science of instructional integration](#).

Our AGM is an enjoyable, informative evening set in the elegant ambiance of the Faculty Club. It is an excellent opportunity to mingle, learn and converse with our colleagues.

I strongly encourage you to attend the above events. Whether you are an educator in current practice, or a parent or grandparent keeping abreast of our changing educational world, a welcome awaits you.

CHALKWALK 2013: A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL



PAUL'S HOT TOPIC RESEARCH FINDINGS



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

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

Education's Future 2014 and Beyond

Here are some predictions that will impact the future of jobs in education. *Seven Trends Impacting Edu-Jobs*. What is the future of education and more importantly, what is the talent that will be required to unlock education's future potential?

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/on_innovation/2013/10/7_trends_impacting_edu-jobs.html These provocative predictions require a moment for reflection. What are the opportunities, threats and challenges we will face if these changes go through?

Have you wondered how the second generation digital natives will change education? 65% of *Low Income Children have used a Mobile Device*. http://digital.hechingerreport.org/content/more-on-the-mobile-digital-divide_980/ and 38% of children under 2 have used them. Interestingly, the gap between rich and poor mostly disappears when you compare how those with mobile devices use them for education purposes. These children are coming to a school near you soon!

Lagniappe: Higher Education is worth 8% more income per year for the rest of your life. Who wouldn't want that type of Return on Investment (ROI)? <http://freakonomics.com/2012/07/30/freakonomics-goes-to-college-part-1-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast/>

Educational Achievement Gaps

A recent California study identified a new group on the short end of the achievement gap – foster children. <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-foster-education-20131014,0,3257218.story> *The Gap Between Schooling and Education*. This article is about cross national gaps. But what is the difference within our systems on the difference between sitting in schools and education? An interesting and often talked about topic in Canada and the USA. <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/18/the-gap-between-schooling-and-education/?mid=tw-nytimeseconomix&seid=auto>

In Public Education: Edge Still Goes to the Rich. The OECD says unlike other nations, that seems to be the official policy for child issues in the US. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/06/business/a-rich-childs-edge-in-public-education.html?hpw&rref=business&r=0>

On a related topic, a child's academic success and life success may depend on his/her zip code. Can students in your community become prime minister? A look at the USA Opportunity Index. <http://opportunityindex.org/#4.00/40.00/-97.00/>

Early Years Research

Investing in our future: the case for preschool education. <http://forourbabies.org/wp/2013/10/16/new-research-brief-investing-in-our-future-the-evidence-base-on-preschool-education/> and the actual study <http://www.srcd.org/policy-media/policy-updates/meetings-briefings/investing-our-future-evidence-base-preschool> Forty years of early childhood education research says that high quality preschool works. Ten researchers agree! <http://www.edsource.org/today/2013/preschool-works-new-analysis-of-research-concludes/40511#.UmH9kxAUbbN>

Annie E. Casey Foundation finds a third of K students not cognitively prepared. <http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/Publications.aspx?pubguid={C1FB5F12-3394-4F79-9BF7-549F73DC7CA6}>

International Educational Comparison Studies

PISA scores will come out in December and Shanghai will be at the top of the list. Read Bob Slavin's commentary on what that really means. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-e-slavin/shanghai-dreams_b_4231974.html

Our Own PDK Gallop Poll Out and Ready for Review

Gallup Poll on schools is out - A's and B's are down to 18%. <http://pdkintl.org/programs-resources/poll/>

Buzz Around The Bee



Consider volunteering for the Bees. It's a honey of a job!

Contact Carolyn at 416- 497-3034
cjmoras@rogers.com



Irene Manahan and the Georges Vanier SS Mascot at ChalkWalk

Irene Manahan is one of many Kappans who enjoys being involved with Spelling Bees. Her roles range from coaching to officiating.



Julie Spence

a participant and presenter at the 2013 ChalkWalk is the hard working CEO & founder of the Spelling Bee of Canada (SBOC).

PKD has a symbiotic relationship with the SBOC as a partner in the annual ChalkWalk.

PKD and SBOC have similar values in promoting literacy and student learning.

21st Century Teaching and Learning - John Myers reports on our first session

October 15, 2013 was the beginning of our series on 21st century learning. More than 60 attended. This included Kappans and guests. Many were teacher candidates from OISE and York Faculties of Education.

TDSB Superintendent and Doctoral candidate Karen Grose posed four questions for us to consider.

1. How are we promoting creativity in our classrooms, schools, school districts and our workplaces?
2. Are we implementing or are we innovating?
3. How are we using technological tools to transform learning?
4. Are our students genuinely engaged in their learning? Are we genuinely engaged in our learning?

Much of the session presented an overview to issues connected to the theme and participants explored the implications of these in pairs. Many of the ideas about learning we explored came from *Flash Forward*, co-authored with Jim Strachan (reviewed below). Karen argued for a shift in the learning environment and the role of the teacher based on current learning trends. The four questions above can be tied to four broad teaching and learning goals:

Personalization

In addition and as an aid to developing core competencies, we need to work with the interests and motivations of individual learners. The Ministry's stress on "minds on", along with learning *with* our students are two directions towards this aspect of 21st century teaching and learning.

Global Engagement

If the world was not a "global village" when McLuhan used the phrase more than half a century ago, it certainly is now. Having a sense of social justice, a return to ethics and character, and learning more about the world in which Canada is situated and interconnected are important goals.

Information, Communication, and Media Technology Skills (ICMS)

I have adapted ICMS as my shorthand for the world of internet technology. It is more than learning how to use the gadgets. We need wisdom to use them properly.

Building Connections to Nurture Mind, Body and Heart

The Toronto chapter of PDK ran a series on social and emotional learning two years ago and it seems the issues remain. Mental health, the development of resilience, and a sense of belonging are more important than ever. A special thanks to OISE Teacher Candidate, Shahriyar Rashid, for technical support. As we were setting up Shah also demonstrated some "creative thinking" of the kind increasingly necessary in our world. After looking for a podium tall enough for Karen's laptop, he got a box, inverted it, and placed a short podium on top— a perfect solution, (albeit low tech).

Book Review by John Myers

Flash Forward! Rethinking Learning by Karen Grose with Jim Strachan, both superintendents with the Toronto District School Board expand on the ideas Karen initially presented to begin our series on 21st century teaching and learning. This book is an ideal professional learning tool for us for the following reasons.

Format- A clearly written text, with useful diagrams, introductions and summaries, share the ideas in a book that will not look onerous to busy teachers. This and other features of *Flash Forward!* (published in 2011) make it ideal for teacher and faculty professional learning. Each chapter can be used as a jumping off point for discussion, investigation, classroom and school implementation, and program evaluation.

Organization- The first two chapters call us to action and outline why this must be so. In our PDK session Karen described the experiences of her youngest child as a rationale. Chapter 3 notes the changing roles of teachers, including teacher leaders. The days of planning and teaching in splendid isolation are over. The demands on schools are so many and complex that school communities, including students and parents, need to collaborate. This happens in school systems in such high achieving countries as Finland, Singapore, and Japan and should happen here.

We found in our session that in changing our teaching practice we could begin with any of the four broad learning themes for our century. Chapters 4 through 7, review personalization, global engagement, information, communication, and media technology skills, while building connections to nurture mind, body, and heart. The session report adds a little to each of these and the detailed descriptions hint at how these themes integrate. As I noted in my session review, I was particularly inspired by the recognition of the possibilities and challenges of using social media wisely. The impact of changing technology has been a recurring theme in history (though I would personally like to see this better reflected in school curriculum).

Chapter 8 for me is a key one for taking up the call to action. When I was in school many students dropped out before graduation to take up rewarding jobs in agriculture, mining, forestry, or manufacturing. Those jobs are either gone or have morphed into trades requiring a high degree of skill. Even a high school education is no longer enough.

The last brief chapter returns to a call for action. Ironically the website listed <http://rethinkinglearningtogether.com> is no longer operating (though that may change). This phenomenon is just one example of the challenges of working with changing technology

The good news is that *Flash Forward!* is published by Lantern Resources . Its website <http://lanternresources.com/> is operating and growing. It is also available as an ebook at <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/flash-forward-karen-grose/1112757709?ean=9780986596827&isbn=9780986596827>

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

PROGRAMME AND DUE DATES FOR AWARDS FOR 2013 -14 Visit www.pdk-ut.ca FOR MORE DETAILS. **NOTE:** OUR RESEARCH SERIES FOR 2014 WILL FOCUS ON "LEARNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY". EACH SESSION CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE. QUESTIONS: JOHN MYERS johnjcmyers.myers@utoronto.ca 416-978-0197 OR TIM RUDAN TMRUDAN@HOTMAIL.COM 416 -736-2100

Research Series #2 (2 of 3)	Tuesday Dec. 10	Learning for the 21 st Century Location- York U Room TBA (see flyer for details)	7:00 pm – 9:15 pm
Niagara Falls Get Togethers	Dec. 14, 2013	Niagara Falls PDK Coordinator - Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com Concert Details : www.niagaraconcerts.ca	5:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Concert
Research Series #3 (3 of 3)	TBA	Learning for the 21 st Century Location- OISE Room TBA	7:00 pm – 9:15 pm
Prospective Educator and Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching Award	Feb. 24, 2014	Applications are due on Monday, February 24th, 2014	
Jackman Award	Mar. 3, 2014	The application is due on Monday, March 3rd, 2014.	
Annual General Meeting & Initiation Dinner & Outstanding Educator presentation	Apr. 30, 2014	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks St (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	5:30-9:30 pm



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Tim Rudan



Programme Chair
John Myers



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Membership Chair
Nancy Nightingale



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PDK Creates and Receives A Community Of Caring And Giving

Through the Chalk Walk, members are involved in a variety of leadership roles. This is especially important for young members who are increasing their skills under Kappan mentorship. Other benefits of the walk are being able to provide role models for young people as they earn community hours and the donations to the chapter awards and the spelling bee. You generous contributions help keep these opportunities alive.



A ChalkWalk 2013 Committee meeting.

L to R: **Donielle Norville, Kevin Li, Khadija Waseem, Bassel Al-Nazer, Reneta Racheva, Moveta Nanton.**

At this table are three former award winners giving back to PDK. 2013 Prospective Educator Award Khadija Waseem, 2012 "Inspired" Award winner Bassel Al-Nazer, and 2009 Excellence in Student Teaching Award winner Reneta Racheva.

"Inspired" is The PDK Toronto Chapter ChalkWalk Student Award.



Another award winner, **Nehal Patel**, the 2012 Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching, is a vital member of the PDK executive and is also a co-president of the North York East Spelling Bee.

We encourage you to bring our Chapter Awards' Programme to the attention of family, friends, and colleagues who may be eligible to apply.

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