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AGM Invitation

To all Kappans, Friends
& Colleagues

Wed. April 29

at the Faculty Club,
41 Willcocks St

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Phi Delta Kappa International, University of Toronto Chapter, will be held on Wednesday April 29, 2015 at the Faculty Club, University of Toronto, for the following purposes:

- To receive the report of the Treasurer.
- To elect officers and members of the Governing Council for the coming year.
- To transact such other business as may be properly brought forth before the meeting.

Dated January 1, 2015.
Tim Rudan, President.



President's Message – Tim Rudan

Happy New Year. During the holidays I was fortunate to receive the latest book by Noah Hariri, *A Brief History of Humankind: Sapiens*. His theories will have profound implications on education, especially when he suggests that in 20 years half the jobs today would no longer exist in their present forms. The pace of technology is astounding and will continue to transform society at all levels. I wish to thank the members of our ChalkWalk committee for another successful autumn fundraiser, which included a dynamic educational component presented to students.

In addition to discussing their post-secondary experiences, a forum was created for participants to ask questions about transitioning from high school to university.

It was wonderful to see more people involved and Julie Spence's attendance was testimony that our cooperation with Spelling Bee Canada is closer than ever.

Perhaps not coincidentally, our topic of our research series this year is "Mental Health" which interestingly is also the focus of the recent edition of the Kappan. Stakeholders at all levels would agree with Megan Allen in Crossing a broad gray line to help children, Kappan, December 2014/January 2015 that "supporting students with mental health issues is becoming more common even as resources to help teacher and students confront these issues are quickly dwindling."

The first of three Research Series sessions was launched at OISE in November to be followed on February 5th with a presentation and workshop on Mindfulness. I sincerely hope our efforts help raise awareness and provide educators with strategies to deal with mental health issues.

It is with great pleasure to announce that Gerry Connelly has accepted the award for Outstanding Educator and will be honoured at our AGM and annual dinner at the Faculty club on April 29th, 2015. Not only was she my boss as former Director of the TDSB but Gerry has continued contributing to the promotion of public education through The Learning Partnerships. I hope you can personally congratulate her by attending this special event.

A Special Anniversary! 60 years as a PDK chapter Help us bring our Chapter History to the Forefront in Our 60th Year Connections and relationships forged are a strength of our Chapter



Past Presidents/ Executive Lunch, Oct. 2014

L to R: Balfour LeGresley, Shelagh Harris, Robert Hookey, Carolyn Moras, Mary Hookey, Ron Benson, Linda Goldspink, Marilyn Hahn

Our PDK Chapter history matters.

Why? Collective memories will bring out the relevance of PDK.

We are inviting remembrances from everyone who had a connection with PDK, U of T Chapter.

Send remembrances to Ron Benson ronbenson@rogers.com

9 Castle Hill Drive
Toronto, ON M1T 2Y2

Past Presidents luncheons traditionally offer input to the current executive. The 2015 suggestion was a need for an updated directory, including former members, to keep connections & history alive.



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

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

An international history of school testing and accountability

What are the central themes of educational accountability? What are the recurring themes associated with educational accountability frameworks? What are the future paths for educational accountability? The paper argues that educational accountability cannot be treated in isolation from society at large.

<http://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/1913>

"Best Foot Forward" project at the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University.

What if teachers controlled the cameras in their classrooms – would we have better evaluation outcomes?

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/14/12/new-lens-teaching>

Average class size a U.S. perspective.

Many studies on class size are inconclusive. Intuitively it makes sense. What do educators and economists have to say?

<http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/should-states-spend-billions-to-reduce-class-sizes/>

Accountability may be more than just a test score in the future

California is working on a new accountability system, Connecticut wants to add other indicators and downplays test scores, New Hampshire pilots performance-based assessments beyond academic disciplines.

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2014/12/state_working_on_new_rating.html

Science isn't all navel gazing – the mystery of belly button lint solved!

Have you ever wondered how belly button lint forms?

<http://www.vox.com/2014/12/13/7382269/belly-button-lint>

Testing as a form of study, especially for students less prepared for the material

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/23/sunday-review/studying-for-the-test-by-taking-it.html?smid=tw-share>

A good conversation on the importance of teachers (Klein, Goldstein, Freidman, + on Freakonomics)

<http://freakonomics.com/2014/11/27/is-americas-education-problem-really-just-a-teacher-problem-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast/>



Research Session Report #1 Stress in School and Life

It has been a challenge trying to shape the current series looking at issues surrounding mental health and just plain stress in school and in life.

- What tone should we set?
- How personal can we get?
- Who should be involved in the series?

These are just some of the challenges the executive, especially the three of us on the Program Committee, faced. In September a report in the Sept. 21 issue of the *Toronto Star*: [Back to School: Looking beyond the 3 Rs](http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2014/09/01/back_to_school_looking_beyond_the_3_rs.html) illuminated the focus.

http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2014/09/01/back_to_school_looking_beyond_the_3_rs.html

Our first session with an audience of more than 40 Kappans and guests, many of which were student teachers at OISE and York University, began from the student voice. Nobu Chern-Warwick, a grade 12 student at Danforth Collegiate and Technical institute in Toronto, and the focus of the article, was our main presenter.

The session was dynamic as Nobu was articulate and informed beyond his years. We went over some familiar ground around issues of mental health. We also looked to possibilities for improving our mental well being from physical activities, breaks, to mindfulness and meditation sessions to working with school Safe and Caring Committees.

We also touched on the tensions adolescents face between striving for personal identity, yet conforming with their peer group importance of social and emotional development (a theme of an earlier PDK series)

Nobu passionately promoted a more holistic assessment of schools beyond test scores.

Tina Maestri, Curriculum Leader of Student Services at Danforth CTI also talked to us about other initiatives at the school and school district level. She invited us to explore the TDSB's services to support mental health in our schools (<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/>).

Several times we interacted with each other and with Nobu about our level of awareness and how this awareness of the need to look at mental health issues has been a recent phenomenon.

In another interactive task we talked about what we personally did to "decompress" and relieve our own stress.

Another interaction had student teachers talking about what they might do to promote mental well being in their classes.

**Session #2 - Feb. 5
OISE in will focus on Mindfulness. Details in enclosed flier.
by John Myers**

CHALKWALK

A BIG THANK YOU to PDK Members, Friends and Guests

who generously sent in contributions as well as those who participated and collected pledges for our 2014 Walk.

Funds raised at ChalkWalk keep our chapter's Awards program alive.



Present and Future Executive



Pauline Quan (Shou) shown here with her family at ChalkWalk, won the International Excellence in Student Teaching Award in 2005. She has given back to the chapter continuously, being on the executive and utilizing her advanced technological skills.

Thank You To ChalkWalk Donors



Thank you to

- Eska Water
- Zestee Pizza
- Bluffer's Restaurant
- Women's Fitness
- Renata Racheva
- Susie's Shears Hair Salon

ChalkWalk 2015 Chair



Zenobia Omarali, Student Liaison for the ChalkWalk has promoted PDK and Spelling Bee over the years. She has been successful in bringing many students to the ChalkWalk and ensuring that their leadership skills development. It is only fitting that Zenobia has agreed to continue her support as the **new ChalkWalk Chair for 2015.**



Spelling Bee of Canada

We love to hear the humming sound of busy volunteers. Bee season is beginning. If interested in volunteering, please contact Nehal Patel 647-281-2108 or nehal_patel_88@hotmail.com



Julie Spence and Carolyn Moras

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

PROGRAMME AND DUE DATES FOR AWARDS FOR 2014 -15 Visit WWW.PDK-UT.CA FOR MORE DETAILS. **NOTE:** OUR RESEARCH SERIES FOR 2014 WILL FOCUS ON "MENTAL HEALTH". EACH SESSION CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE. QUESTIONS: JOHN MYERS johnmyers.myers@utoronto.ca 416-978-0197 OR TIM RUDAN TIMRUDAN@HOTMAIL.COM 416-736-2100

Research Series #2 (2of 3)	Thursday Feb 5	Location- OISE- Room TBA	7:00 pm – 9:15 pm
Niagara Falls Get Togethers –enjoy concerts with our Niagara Falls members	, Feb 7, May 8	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
JackmanAward Prospective Educator and Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching Awards	Monday, March 2	Award Applications are due on Mon , March 2, 2015 See Jackman application on PDK, U of T website For info re Prospective educator awards, contact Zenobia Omarali zenomarali@gmail.com	
Annual General Meeting & Initiation Dinner & Outstanding Educator presentation	Apr. 29, 2015	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks St (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	5:30-9:30 pm



President
Tim Rudan



Programme Chair
John Myers



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Membership Chair
Nancy Nightingale

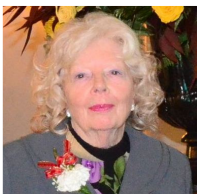


**Foundation Rep
ChalkWalk Chair**
Zenobia Omerali



Advisor
Ron Benson

ANGELS EVERYWHERE by Elizabeth manker



THE NINTH ANNUAL "ANGELS...EVERYWHERE!" EVENT CONFIRMED THAT "YES" - THERE WERE ANGELS EVERYWHERE!!

There were actually 114 angel students participating in this program on November 20, 2014, at Christ Church in Niagara Falls, and with parents and friends in the audience the church was filled to the rafters!

There were two well-trained choirs: one from Sacred Heart Elementary, and one from St. Paul's Secondary, who brought us beautiful music. At Stamford (Collegiate) Secondary: (there were only boys in the woodworking class this year); their angel creations were artistically displayed at the altar, and then given as gifts to each school on the program.

Miss Kathie's Just Dance Academy offered a breathtaking program of Lyrical, Tap, and Jazz presented by very young to teen-age dancers. Our soloist from Christ Church who is a now a student at St. Michael's Secondary brought tears to the eyes of the audience with his solo "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman".

Teachers from Niagara Falls, N.Y. brought us pictures and stories of angels from 34 students ages 6 and 7 from St. Stephen's School in Grand Island, N.Y. We were touched by their accounts and beliefs: Included were:

"My angel listens when I pray, my angel watches me every day."

"There is an angel in your head, ...even if you can't see them they are always there."

"I saw an angel taking my cat away when she died."

Each school was presented with certificates from the Mayor, M.P.P., M.P. (who is also the Minister of Defence for Canada); from the University of Toronto Chapter of PDK International Educators; and the Canadian Federation of University Women - Niagara Falls Club, which also offered stipends to the academic schools.

"Special PDK personalized certificates were prepared by Kappan Carolyn Moras, and the students were thrilled with the remarks: this made them feel so special and important! They clapped and cheered!

Following the program the Christ Church Rector, Fr. Paul Maynard offered appreciation and the Blessing. The reception following was enjoyed by all.

Everyone benefitted from this event: Project Share (food bank) and the Community Kitchen (meals) received donations. EVERYONE received an everlasting gift of the spirit!

Elizabeth Lockhart Manker - PDK, CFUW, CHRIST CHURCH.

Program Founder Elizabeth is a long-time Kappan who is our Niagara Falls Convenor.

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