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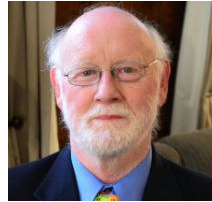
**Past President's Note
September 2015**

Congratulations to our incoming President John Myers. This summer we both returned as facilitators at the Annual Constructivist Conference at St. Lawrence University, NY. The team I led planned to create a whole school strategy to infuse outdoor activity and environmental awareness with the aim to promote wellness and harmony amongst staff and students.

My interest in how this could work in my school was heightened after reading Sarah Leipziger and Trevor Herriot. Both write to remind Canadians how close we are to nature. We have access to parks, ravines and the waterfront; these can serve as instructional settings and natural laboratories.

Come and experience this at our ChalkWalk on October 17th.

President's Message – John Myers



With the introduction of the extended teacher education programme across Ontario we are entering a very interesting and important time in education. This signifies the importance of education in our time—a time featuring economic, social, and political challenges for all of us as citizens. This year's research series, on diversity in our classrooms and communities, strives to help educators to respond to these challenges. Save October

6 from 7-9pm for the kickoff session of the Research Series.

I am fortunate to follow on the work of Tim Rudan, Bev Freedman, and all members of the executive as well as the many Kappans in Ontario and internationally. We are looking forward your support for the ChalkWalk on October 17. This is our Chapter's main fundraising event. The funds raised pay for our Chapter awards and support our partnership with the Spelling Bee of Canada. Please contact executive members for more information on how you can contribute to our success.

I am fortunate, in addition, to have a veteran executive team that includes a new generation of teacher leaders such as Research Committee co-chair Nehal Patel and membership co-chair Jelena Rakovac. I am confident in our Chapter's future given the quality of our recent award winners such as Justina Ilevbare and Esther Khew who won our 2015 awards.

The names and faces on our executive roster and award winners represent the diversity of Canadian life. Given current issues, how do we as an organization respond and support PDK's mandate? This is not just a matter for our chapter but for all educators which is why the executive sees the importance of maintaining communication with our sister chapters in Canada and the United States.

I wish everyone a productive and inspiring start to the new school year.

Support ChalkWalk - Saturday October 17, 2015

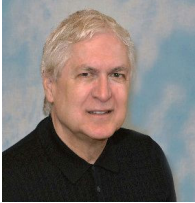
www.pdk-ut.ca or [gofundme.com/h32x5mdw](https://www.gofundme.com/h32x5mdw)

Chapter Executive Team, 2015-2016



L to R: Zenobia Omarali, Linda Massey, Jelena Rakovac, Moveta Nanton, John Myers, Nehal Patel, Marilyn Hahn, Lis Horley-McLeod, Elizabeth Manker, Tim Rudan, Ron Benson.

Absent from the photo: Pauline Quan, Shakeel Ahad



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

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

The Educational Poll Season

Highlights of the 2015 PDK Gallop Poll Results. Testing Does Not Measure Up For Americans.

Standardized testing lacks public support. Americans endorse choice and love their local schools. The common core standards are out of favor. They are concerned about the federal influence on schools.

<http://pdkpoll2015.pdkintl.org/>

The 2015 Education Next Poll on School Reform. Students Are More Than Test Scores.

Support for standardized testing still strong. Those who favor the common core standards continue to outnumber opponents. Support for charter schools dipped. Support for teacher tenure is just 29%.

<http://educationnext.org/2015-ednext-poll-school-reform-opt-out-common-core-unions/>

Which Poll Is Right Regarding Support for Common Core Standards ?

On common core standards and standardized testing results, can two polls this different both be right ?

<http://morganpolikoff.com/2015/08/25/on-common-core-polls-can-two-polls-this-different-both-be-right/>

Latest Adolescence Research

The Terrible Teens. What's Wrong With Them ? New Research From The Neurosciences.

The new science of adolescence. Teens are programmed to take risks, so that's what they do.

http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/31/the-terrible-teens?mbid=social_twitter

Damn The Bus Schedules and Sports Teams. Teens Need Sleep To Learn.

<http://www.ewa.org/blog-educated-reporter/schools-slowS-wake-research-sleepy-teens>

Engagement – Statistics – Homework Research

Student Engagement (Or Not)

<http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/01/21/are-your-students-engaged-dont-be-so-sure/>

Blood Doping ? Bayesian Statistics To The Rescue.

Using math to catch athletes who dope.

<http://www.newyorker.com/news/sporting-scene/using-math-to-catch-athletes-who-dope>

Too Much Homework? Research Says Naahhh

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/brown-center-chalkboard/posts/2015/08/20-misleading-cnn-homework-story-loveless>

Research Series

Session 1

Cultural Diversities:

Implications for our
Classrooms and School
Communities

Date

Tuesday Oct. 6
7-9pm

Location

OISE 252 Bloor St.
West Room TBA

Programme

John Myers will
introduce the session
by presenting a brief
history of Canadian
immigration.

Paul Favaro, Chief of
Research & Evaluation
for the Peel District
School Board, will
outline the nature of
diversity today and its
implications for
classrooms, schools,
and
school communities

CHALKWALK 2015

ChalkWalk - Saturday, October 17, 9am - 12pm

PDK Toronto's annual ChalkWalk will be held on October 17 at Wilket Creek Park from 9am to 12 noon. The money raised from this fundraising event goes to support student literacy programmes and educational awards for students. The ChalkWalk is where the community comes out to bring attention and support to our educational programmes. During this time families, students, teachers, professors, the young, and the old, come together to support quality public education. Guest speakers present options on post-secondary apprenticeships, colleges, and universities.

This year we have established a **Go Fund Me Account: Educational & Literacy Funding PDK** www.gofundme.com/h32x5mdw. If you are unable to attend the PDK ChalkWalk you can support our educational initiatives by donating online at our Go Fund Me account!

When you reach the gofunding website, you will read the following: PDK is dedicated to promoting quality public education through research, service and leadership. It supports regional chapters of the Spelling Bee of Canada and a variety of student awards. These awards bring not only monetary enhancements, but support to the award winners through membership within the organization. Members take place in various literacy initiatives including coaching students for the Spelling Bee of Canada and mentoring of new Ontario teachers. Contribute to our programmes by fund raising, recognizing and celebrating educational excellence. Support student literacy achievements, exemplary educators and post graduate research.

Your monetary contribution is much appreciated but you are also invited to personally attend our ChalkWalk - a walk for education. The ChalkWalk will take place on October 17, 2015 from 9 am to 12 noon at Wilket Creek Park in Toronto and is where the community comes out to bring attention to our educational programmes. Connect with us online at **Facebook: ChalkWalk Toronto** to get the latest details and connect with others on the walk or get registration details at www.pdk-ut.ca or gofundme.com/h32x5mdw

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

In the words of our Niagara Falls PDK Coordinator, Elizabeth Manker, partnering is the way to go now, because it strengthens organizations in many ways.

Elizabeth welcomes PDK members to Niagara Falls to build partnerships and very importantly, to create opportunities for Kappans to meet and connect at events outside of Toronto.



General Brock greeting Kappans attending CFUW luncheon at Queenston Park

PDK has been attending CFUW luncheons at Queenston Park. This year Elizabeth Manker, Lis Horley-McLeod, Marilyn Hahn and Irene Manahan attended the Canadian Federation of University Women luncheon.

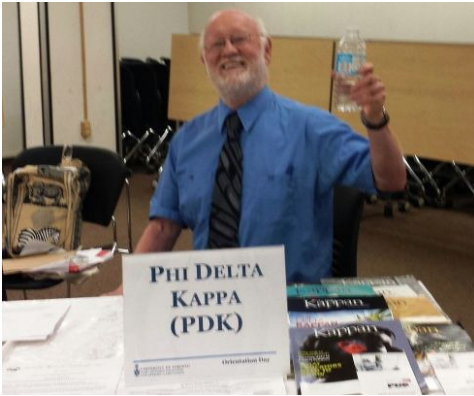
Niagara Concerts-see the dates on the back page.



ANGELS...EVERYWHERE! - NOVEMBER

12, THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M. Each year this wonderful concert, created and organized by Elizabeth, is a treat as it showcases students' performances of all ages. Certificates to each participating school and cheques to support music and creative programmes are presented, courtesy of PDK and CFUW.

PKD Outreach At OISE Orientation Days



We had a busy two days as students in the Concurrent Teacher Education Programme (CTEP); Masters of Teaching and students in other graduate education programs came by our table and spoke with us.

More than 60 students signed up for information regarding PDK, its programmes, services, events, and awards.

I will be sending an email welcoming students who indicated an interest in getting involved in PDK. John Myers



President
John Myers



Membership Co-Chairs
Jelena Rakovac
Tim Rudan



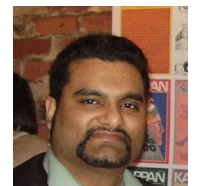
Treasurer
Moveta Nanton



Foundation Rep
Linda Massey



ChalkWalk Chair
Zenobia Omerali



Newsletter Editor
Shak Ahad



Advisor
Ron Benson

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS - cont'd

Buzz Around The Bee

PDK and The Spelling Bee of Canada have been partnering to promote literacy.



Spelling Bee of Canada

Busy volunteers hum behind the scenes all year, culminating in the Spelling Championships each May.

One of the many tasks is producing spelling words. Lis Horley-McLeod and Irene Manahan, along with Marilyn Hahn, had a pleasurable time on the words in Irene's beautiful garden this past summer.



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	5:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Concert
		Concert Details : www.niagaraconcerts.ca	
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	Harbourfront 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
Research Series #1 (1 of 3)	Tue. Oct. 6, 2015	Location- OISE- Room TBA	7:00 pm – 9:15 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

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PKD International

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