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AGM Invitation

To all Kappans, Friends
& Colleagues

Wed. April 20

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 20, 2016 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, 2016.
John Myers, President.



John Myers

President's Message

In recent years, Canada has prided itself on being a welcoming place for people from around the world. In fact, its multicultural reality has been seen as a model. Yet, when one looks at the history of our country we may more accurately be in the "experimental stage" in this area. Notably, the events of the last Toronto Municipal and recent Federal elections have revealed tensions previously ignored or not noticed.

Given that our source of welcoming newcomers has not always been one of great pride, it is the treatment of indigenous Canadians that is still a source of shame. Fortunately, this is now being addressed with the release of the report from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We have much work to achieve the important goals the TRC has set.

This need to welcome newcomers as they pursue a better life for themselves and for their families is not diminishing in the foreseeable future. The influx of Syrian refugees is a good example of living up to our expectations. We wish them great success and the fulfillment of their dreams now that they are arriving.

Congratulations to the ChalkWalk Committee for a most excellent event. Zenobia Omarali, Pauline Quan, volunteers and those who contributed all deserve great praise. The ChalkWalk is our chapter's main source of funding. For this reason it is one of the most essential committees. I must express my thanks and support to all those involved. Joining our autumn walks in the crisp, clear air of Wilket Creek Park promises a sublime and fun time.

The AGM, held in April, is another highlighted event. Each year the executive considers, researches and submits various possible candidates' names for a much anticipated "Educator of the Year Award". This year we are proud to honour our very own Chapter Past President and Research Officer, Beverley Freedman on April 20.

Her bio, printed on the back of the AGM Flyer insert, begs the question "Why did we wait so long to honour Bev?". Please join us on April 20, 2016 along with Bev's colleagues, friends and many educators who will be excited to honour her.

At the AGM we also recognize others with our awards. They are funded by ChalkWalk. These are: The Susan Seidman Award, The Jackman Award and The Perspective Educator Scholarship. Page 4 of this newsletter lists these and many other important dates. **Best wishes to you all for a happy and successful 2016!**



**Buzz Around The Bee
We need you!**

**PDK and The Spelling Bee
of Canada (SBOC) are in
partnership to
promote literacy.**

Humming Bee volunteers are a service branch of our PDK chapter. Spelling Bee season has begun and volunteers are needed. Why do it? The camaraderie, the laughter, the shared knowledge, and the fun make it a rewarding experience with learning that goes as high as the curve of an iconic beehive.

By Marilyn Hahn

Contact Carolyn Moras,
cjmoras@rogers.com
416-671-7024



Marilyn Hahn



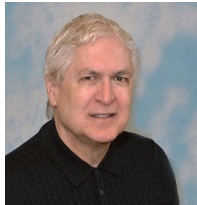
Irene Manahan



Amanda Rajkumar



Lis Horley-McLeod



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

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

The future of polling. Donald Trump claims not to have a pollster. What the turn from polls to data science means for democracy. Do polls produce skewed results and policies? Or, as Donald Trump says "No one tells me what to say."

http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/11/16/politics-and-the-new-machine?mbid=social_twitter

Will your School District or school be getting Syrian refugees? After their long journey, refugee children and how to teach them – tips from Harvard University

http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/15/10/after-journey?utm_term=0_14311f3351-1dbe36b6ae-50811189&utm_content=buffercfef6&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

AERA gives a Wam to VAM! Value Added Models – A technical PDK side journey.

A summary by Vamboozled <http://vamboozled.com/>

Dropouts decline – but 1 in 5 don't complete.

There are many reasons that graduation rates can rise – not all of them have to do with school effectiveness/improvement.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/the-nations-high-school-dropout-rate-has-fallen-study-says/2015/11/09/3c8db2cc-86fd-11e5-be39-0034bb576eee_story.html

Dropouts down <http://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/NoAccident/>

RAND on personalized learning. http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1365.html

Is this why there are fewer special education teachers – long hours and crushing paper work? http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/11/09/436588372/behind-the-shortage-of-special-ed-teachers-long-hours-crushing-paperwork?utm_campaign=storyshare&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social

Low test scores a function of poverty or instruction? <http://educationnext.org/americas-mediocre-test-scores-education-poverty-crisis/>

Sharing data with families. <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/15/11/data-dialogue>

Where in the world do people have your surname? How many are there?

A surname heat map, <http://forebears.io/surnames>

Research Report - Canadian Diversity: Session 1, October 2015

The Nature and Implications of Our Diversity

Demographics Do Not Equal Destiny

In early October Kappans and guests, including student teachers attended the first of this year's program looking at classroom demography diversity and its implications.

John Myers, current program co-chair and chapter president, began the session with a brief overview of demographic diversity throughout Canadian history from indigenous times before European contact to the present and offered resources for further exploration of our history in this area.

Dr. Paul Favaro, Chief of Research, Evaluation, and Accountability for the Peel District School Board provided a detailed outline of current and perhaps future demographic diversity in Peel. The trends and patterns he identified were based on a "social risk index" which was calculated using factors such as:

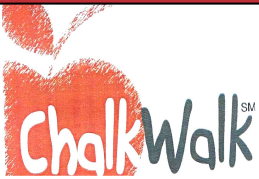
- average household income
- unemployment rate
- education level
- owner-occupied dwellings
- mobility over one year
- knowledge of Canada's official language
- recent immigrants
- lone parent families
- government transfer payments

Other jurisdictions such as Toronto have collected similar data over the years though the maps provided in Peel bring the numbers to life. The data can be found on the Peel DSB Social Risk Index.

For school communities and school districts as a whole this work offers insight into community needs. It is one thing for a school community to be demographically diverse but if the social risk index is high, then other challenges come into play. - The good news from Paul's presentation is that such communities can meet the challenge academically and socially.

**Session #2 - Jan. 27
OISE -rm 5-260.
Details in enclosed
flier.**

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 2015Walk. Funds raised at ChalkWalk sustain our chapter's Awards program and provide Spelling Bee trophies.



L to R: Zenobia Omarali and Pauline Quan, ChalkWalk Co-Chairs planning the walk activities.



Julie Spence, CEO of Spelling Bee Canada, led the walk.



L o R: Tim Rudan, past PDK chapter President and John Myers, current President on the walk.



Students from Geroges Vanier SS showing the banner and mascot of their school during the walk.

For a full Listing of our Chapter's Executive Team, visit our website. www.pdk-ut.ca
PROGRAMME AND DUE DATES FOR AWARDS FOR 2015 -16 VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA FOR MORE DETAILS
 QUESTIONS: JOHN MYERS johnjcmyers.myers@utoronto.ca 416-978-0197

Research Series #2 Canadian Diversity: How Human Rights, Immigration and Prejudice Impact Canadian Identity	Wednesday January 27	OISE, 252 Bloor St. East, Room 5-260 (fifth floor). See flyer insert for more details.	7:00 pm – 9:15 pm
Jackman Award Prospective Educator and Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching Awards	Monday, March 7	Award Applications are due on Mon , March 7, 2016 See Jackman application on PDK, U of T website For info re Prospective educator awards, contact : Pauline Quan Zenobia Omarali zenomarali@gmail.com	
Niagara Falls Get Togethers —enjoy concerts with our Niagara Falls members	Sat., Mar. 19,2016 Sat., May 14, 2016	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
Annual General Meeting & Initiation Dinner & Outstanding Educator presentation	Wed., Apr. 20, 2016	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks St (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor). See flyer insert for more details.	5:30-9:30 pm



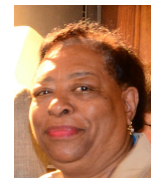
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John Myers



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Tim Rudan



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Shak Ahad



Treasurer
Moveta Nanton



Foundation Rep
Linda Massey



ChalkWalk Chair
Zenobia Omarali



Advisor:
Ron Ranson



ANGELS...EVERYWHERE! THE 10TH ANNUAL EVENT

November 12, 2015.

The church bells chimed, the pianist launched into the prelude, and the student participants, parents and friends streamed into the church excitedly awaiting the amazing program.

The program creator, Elizabeth Manker, welcomed the 224 attendees. Sixty students from grades 1 to 12 from nine schools (from Niagara Falls, Chippawa, and N.Tonawanda, NY) brought us a wonderful program: school choirs, soloist, angel woodworking creations, dancers, poetry recitations, angel information presentations, and lovely angel drawings. One secondary school brought their new chamber choir - enthralling! Certificates were awarded by the reps for the N.F. Mayor, the M.P.P. and the M.P. The Cdn. Fed. University Women - NF presented certificates and honorariums to schools to support these special programs.

Our Univ. of Toronto PDK International Educators presented certificates which addressed each participant's special contributions to the program. These were presented by Kappan Lis Horley-McLeod.

Following the program, there were gifts for everyone from our N.F.N.Y. teachers, Betty Hoke and Jack Worthing, and a great buffet prepared by Christ Church. A fabulous evening enjoyed immensely by all!

Elizabeth Lockhart Manker
PDK, CFUW, CHRIST CHURCH.

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

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