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**PDK VOLUNTEERING:
WHAT ARE THE REWARDS?**

- Enhanced Resume
- Networking with colleagues
- Helping students develop life skills
- Chatting informally with parents
- Learning parents' viewpoints re education
- Satisfaction!!!

**PDK VOLUNTEERING:
OPPORTUNITIES**

PDK Service Activity:

Spelling Bees

Coaching

Wednesdays, 5-6 pm Jan. 14 to March 25

The Bee: Sat., April 4, 2009

PDK "Stuffing Parties" and
Committees

Work groups that include
focused conversation
Leadership Opportunities
Mentoring

Contact Susan Seidman
sseidman@sympatico.ca
416 656-6929

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Session #2 of PDK's Research Series

(see enclosed flyer)

**Why Should You Come?
What will you learn?**

- Social networking context
- Importance of social networks
- Bridge the tech gap between generations
- Catch up with Barrack-use in the workplace

Presentation and hands on in the lab

RESEARCH



Bev Freedman

Bev's Findings:

This fall has been a time to experience education outside of Toronto and the GTA. Since early October I have been in Algonquin and Lakeshore DSB, Ottawa Carleton DSB, Rainbow (Sudbury) and Eastern District of Newfoundland. The quality of teaching and learning makes me proud to be a Canadian educator.

In early October, I attended a wonderful conference in Toronto called Change Wars. Presenters ranged from Sir Michael Barber through Richard Elmore, Ben Levin, Andy Hargreaves to Michael Fullan. Their thoughts have been compiled into a new book, *Change Wars, 2009*, Solution Tree – it is worth reading. It is perfect for a school-based learning community. Another excellent read is *Disrupting Class*, Christensen, Horn and Johnson, McGraw Hill, 2008. Christensen works for Harvard School of Business and is a leading expert on innovation in the corporate world. He and his team tackle innovation in education. His team focuses on technology and predicts that the tipping point will come around 2015.

The thesis is that disruptive innovation will change the way the world learns and the book has some profound learnings for us as educators. Some key points include:

- Few reforms address the root causes of students' inability to learn
- Instead of attacking education reform we need to use disruptive change, which will drive affordability, accessibility, capability and responsiveness
- Students learn differently and we need to focus on differentiation and customization
- Online networks can create a new modular education system
- To implement we need to use the tools of power and separation

The October 2008 issue of Education Administration Quarterly Journal is focussed on Linking Leadership to Student Learning. It contains six compelling articles, sharing some cutting edge research. It is worth considering, as we build capacity and develop both self and collective efficacy.

Continued on page 2

Bev's Findings – Continued from page 1

It is not easy to find current research on adolescent learners. From Harvard Education Press (2008) comes Adolescents at School: Perspectives on youth, identity and education. It is a series of articles by experts in the field compiled by Michael Sadowski. The articles discuss current issues impacting adolescent learners including gender, special education, adolescent spirituality, social class, race and the immigrant experience. The book contains tonnes of quotes from adolescent learners – reminding us always that every student is an individual learner, unique in their own right.

In meetings and not sure what is happening in the world? Here are some Useful Web Sites to stay connected on your mobile device:

www.cbc.ca/news/news2go/
www.cnnmobile.com
www.nytimes.com/services/mobile/site.html

Some of the works sponsored by educational foundations that impact education are profound.

One is the Wallace Foundation -

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/Pages/default.aspx>

They sponsor a variety of current research including leadership, the arts and issues that influence student learning. Check out the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for ideas in education and health.

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/Pages/home.aspx> - look specifically at the section entitled: What we are learning.

A site with outstanding video clips on areas that you can use in classrooms and schools is www.ted.com. One excellent clip dealing with multiple intelligences is <http://surfaquarium.com>. It has lesson plans, overviews and ideas and well worth adding to your list.

I attended the CODE symposium on implementing Education for All. This document's focus was k-6 but it has been expanded to K-12 called Learning for All. The actual guide should be out in the spring but the Ministry will begin with supporting materials.

The K-12 focus will assist in aligning strategies & interventions in school systems. This includes the alignment of improvement plans from the Secretariat and Student Success into one district plan. Special education will be added in 2010, given the legislative component where SEAC offers its input into the special education plan.

What is of interest to you and your own professional network? Let us know

Dr. Bev Freedman

Did You Know?

PDK International website (www.pdkintl.org) has a plethora of valuable resources for any educator. For example, have you read "The Edge" an online magazine for members? Do you need classroom tips?

Doctoral Dinner



Dr. Clay Lafleur, Dr. Bev Freedman and Dr. Sheryl Freeman

Dr. Bev Freedman, this year's recipient, gave a brief address in which she noted the value of feedback to help teachers feel better about themselves and their work and be more effective in the classroom.

Clear, thoughtful, articulate, and passionate" were words used by her doctoral committee to describe her thesis. These adjectives could just as easily be applied to her address. As Bev herself noted, this is far from the end of her learning journey: a good thing too since we and ultimately our students will benefit from her travels through the labyrinth of learning.

Congratulations, Dr. Freedman!

And welcome to new Kappans Angie Littlefield and Miihai Sarbu !"

John Myers



Past President Eleanor Pierre welcomes initiates Angie Littlefield and Miihai Sarbu.



**Is That My Blackberry
Sitting on a Pile of
Books?**

**The Role of New
Literacies in a Crowded
Curriculum**

Over 50 Kappans and guests attended the first session in this year's research series on Oct. 21 at OISE. David Booth entertained, informed, thus provoking rich discussion from the outset.

- New technologies have expanded the nature of literacy for the current generation; we had better learn to work quickly with this (just as the world had to get used to the implications of the printing press more than 500 years ago).
- Books are still here; the world is different from Dick and Jane days. So are books.
- Literacy is much more varied with online information and text increasing at astonishing speeds. Technology is global and so is literacy.
- Literacy is more important than ever to help students make sense of online and other forms of text (*Maus*, anyone?)
- "Technology does not dumb us down, it frees our minds."
- Blogs, wikis promote online collaboration on a global scale.
- There is renewed interest in bringing back non-fiction into literacy-based classrooms. Research supports its value in promoting achievement.
- Teachers are vital in shaping the future. If we fail to make it what it could be, we may get a future that we and our children might not prefer.

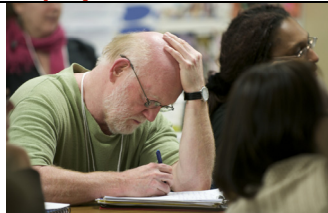
And then there is YouTube!
What's next?

Come to session #2, (to continue this discussion to find out what is happening where it counts - in schools!

Face Up to Facebook – The Potential and Perils of Facebook, YouTube and Other Internet Tools Thursday, January 29, 2009 Port Credit Secondary School.(see flyer).



Anne Kerr



John Myers



Robert Hookey



Our Future

Foundation Report

By Susan Seidman

Just before the holidays, Kappans received a colour pamphlet called "Phi Delta Kappa Educational Annual Report 2007-2008." It details the Foundation's work, and provides an excellent overview of its many different aspects. It also contains a tear-off form for donating to the Foundation. The Foundation exemplifies the three tenets of PDK – Service, Leadership, and Research.

Service is demonstrated by the large Scholarship and Award work, as well as the support for Future Educators Association and the Walk for Education. U of T Chapter actively participates in all three of these.

Leadership is demonstrated through the Emerging Leaders program as well as the Educator to Educators International Travel: U of T Kappans Stephanie Fetterolf and Vidya Jaisaree have recently participated in these professional trips.

Research is demonstrated through the Center on Educational Policy, supporting publication of The Edge and Topics & Trends, as well as the annual PDK Gallup Poll.

But at the same time, as the Foundation supports us, we must support it. Although exuding much good will, the Foundation cannot run on that alone. It needs the financial help of each of us to do its job. That is why, although any contribution is happily accepted, a gift of at least \$10 a year is requested from each member. This may be a donation in memory of someone close, in honor of a deserving relative, friend, or colleague, special gifts, or by an annual specified pledge.

**Forward Thinking Session: Nov. 2nd
Foundation: Awards**



(L to R) Pauline Quan thanking Nancy Nightingale for leading an appreciative inquiry about our awards process. Zenobia Omarali & Phyllis Hill contributing great ideas. Hostess Sheryl Freeman receiving a Kappan poster from Moveta Nanton.

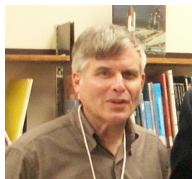
PROGRAM FOR FALL 2008 (FOR FULL LISTING OF 2008-09 PROGRAM /AWARD DATES, VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA) NOTE: THE PROMISE AND PERIL OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CLASSROOM IS A SERIES OF THREE RESEARCH SESSIONS. EACH CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE AT THE THIRD. QUESTIONS: susanna.tang@utoronto.ca 416-219-2883 OR JOHN MYERS jmyers@oise.utoronto.ca 416-978-0197

The Promise and Peril of New Technologies in the Classroom. Session #2 Speaker: Terry Whitmell	Thurs., Jan. 29, 2009	Port Credit Secondary School, 70 Mineola Rd. East, Mississauga	6:30-9:30 pm
Prospective Educator Scholarship/ Excellence in Student Teaching Award Application Due	Fri., Jan. 30	See www.pdk-ut.ca Contacts : Kari Peters kari@divbyzero.com Pauline Quan pauline.quan@gmail.com	Application Deadline
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., Feb. 28	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, sidecar09@aol.com	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
The Promise and Peril of New Technologies in the Classroom. Session #3 Speakers: Dr. Bev Freedman, Dr. Jennifer Jenson	Thurs., Mar. 5	York University, Stedman Hall, Lower Level, Studio A	6:30-9:30 pm
Annual General Meeting, Outstanding Educator Presentation and Dinner	Thurs., April 23	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks Street (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	6:00 PM Social 7:00 PM Dinner

Our Chapter's Executive Team

Get a full listing and connect via our website www.pdk-ut.ca

President's Message



CHAPTER PRESIDENT
Walt Winchell

Our fall program began with our Research certificate series presentation by Dr. David Booth. The session was well attended; those also attending the subsequent two sessions will be granted a certificate.

The attendees included teachers, administrators and school trustees from Toronto, Peel and York Catholic District School Boards, as well as faculty and students from OISE/UT and York University. Our special thanks for their work in developing and organizing this presentation series to our program Co-Chairs

John Myers and Susanna Tang. In addition, the ABEL project at York University provided video support for this presentation, and will be making it available on their server. A link shall be posted on our website at www.pdk-ut.ca

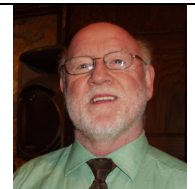
Two of our executive members participated at this year's conference in San Antonio; we value our connections with PDK International. Contact any member of our executive (their e-mails are posted on the executive page of the website) for additional information on our programs, membership, awards and other activities.

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 **Thursday April 23, 2009 at the Faculty Club, University of Toronto**, for the following purposes:

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

Dated: January 1, 2009.
Walter Winchell, President.



Program Co-Chairs

John Myers and
Susanna Tang



Newsletter Editor

Shak Ahad



Moveta Nanton and Carolyn Moras with Bill Bushaw, PDK Executive Director in San Antonio at PDK's Summit

This year's summit truly covered what PDK is all about. It began with a panel discussion on what makes a great teacher. This was followed with a variety of stimulating workshops along with supportive research. Assessment followed by high quality corrective instruction was centred out as being a key to good teaching. Overall, this was a very useful conference.

By Moveta Nanton



Shawn Lepp
Sales Representative

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