

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- President's Message
- Socializing
- Join PDK International

Page 2

- Research Findings
- Read-A-Thon
- Chapter Executive

Page 3

- Outstanding Educator.

Page 4

- Upcoming Events
- In Memoriam
Dr. Donald Hambleton
Dr. David Booth
- Buzz Around the Bee

**PDK Socializing &
Connecting**



Marilyn Hahn, Linda Massey and Moveta Nanton were among the many Kappans and guests at a PDK social hosted by Tim Rudan in his home in December.

Conversation flowed, connections were made, and issues were discussed. The passion for public education was evident.

All in attendance were profuse in their thanks and appreciation for Tim's hosting and for John's vision in bringing Kappans and prospective Kappans together for such an invigorating evening.

Join PDK International
For News, Information
& Membership Renewal, call
1-800-766-1156
or visit www.pdkint.org



John Myers

President's Message: A 2019 Resolution (or two) for Teaching

The Chapter Newsletters in 2018 (April and September) and the December 2018/January 2019 issue of *Phi Delta Kappan* noted both challenges and opportunities. The challenges we face are the increasing recognition of diversities in our classroom, the overwhelming number of mandates, some contradictory, that most of us in classrooms simply cannot keep up with. When I was a

school board curriculum leader the phrase "This too shall pass" was a common one among my cohort. At one school board meeting the very seasoned Director of Education (and Kappan) pointed out to trustees that they had passed a number of motions, each of which was to be the top priority for the district.

We now know much more about how learning works due to the large number of studies done worldwide and highlighted by the Kappan which reveal the complexities of learning. These complexities match with the diversities in our classrooms.

How do we go from an idea related to a question in learning or teaching, and avoid the decision paralysis of too much information and DO SOMETHING THAT WORKS? We could make a resolution for 2019 to read some of these studies and findings. But people like me and workshop presenters do this ALL THE TIME.

I limit this to 2 sources so you do not suffer from Decision Paralysis.

Dan Pink's *When: the Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing*, was published by Riverhead Books, New York in 2018. Dan has written a number of easily-read, well-researched books on motivation and has a free "Pinkcast" online that offers tips on working smarter. His tips on timing in school from optimal start times, to the power of recess, breaks, and pacing struck a chord with me. Here are two examples you may know:

For most of us doing detailed analysis such as required in math is best done in the morning (though the teenage school day should start later as some schools now do). Inspiration comes later in the day; hence, art and creative subjects.

We tend to remember things at the beginnings and ends of periods, so plan lessons and units accordingly. This makes the current Ontario suggested sequence of "Minds-On, Action, and Consolidation" most appropriate. I have always advised my student teachers that if they have a choice of cramming the last 10 minutes of a class with stuff to cover versus consolidating what they have taught. Remember that one definition of "cover" is "to hide from view".

To stimulate motivation, Dan has written other books that identify ways for people to motivate themselves or others. Go <https://www.danpink.com/> or check out his TED talk on the science of motivation.

Among my other current faves <https://heathbrothers.com/> are Chip and Dan Heath. Chip Heath is a professor of organizational behavior in the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. Dan Heath, a former researcher at Harvard, is a consultant and developer of innovative textbooks. They also write a regular feature for Fast Company magazine. On their website is information on other relevant works such as *Switch* which suggests way to promote change. For example, while we ought to have a grand vision of what we want, the critical moves need to be scripted and our steps small so that we are not spooked by the risks. Getting allies for your plan offers support and may provide you with ideas you might not have thought of alone. It would be great for readers of our newsletter and participants in our events and initiatives such as our Read-A-Thon Challenge to share their insights. Send to Pauline Quan pauline.quan@gmail.com). Also, the AGM on June 27 is another forum for sharing.



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

Paul Favaro, Ph.D.
York University Faculty of Education,
Department of Administrative Studies

A nation at hope instead of at risk: The report from the National Commission on Social, Emotional and Academic Development <http://nationathope.org/>

Brokering educational research knowledge

<https://journals.sagepub.com/stoken/default+domain/10.1177%2F2332858418769297/full?hootPostID=5273d9ad8731189210a9afd5b86480b9&>

RIP USA annual state testing? <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2019/01/09/is-it-time-to-kill-annual-testing.html#.XD3g17MfpoA.twitter>

CREEDO on Indy schools <https://www.the74million.org/stanfords-credo-releases-first-academic-study-of-indianapolis-innovation-schools-finds-strong-growth/>

Texting nudges may get students to go to college in the fall, but....

<https://jaysgreene.com/2019/01/17/texting-nudges-harm-degree-completion/>

Preparing students for their future <https://hechingerreport.org/study-the-u-s-isnt-doing-enough-to-prepare-students-for-the-automation-age/>

Curiosity may have killed the cat but it also fuels careers

<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/51538/the-benefits-of-cultivating-curiosity-in-kids>

The profession with the lowest turnover (despite the news

coverage) <https://www.the74million.org/article/union-report-are-teachers-quitting-at-record-rate-actually-they-leave-their-jobs-at-lower-rates-than-almost-everyone-else/>

Teacher judgements in 88 seconds or less <https://hechingerreport.org/20-judgments-a-teacher-makes-in-1-minute-and-28-seconds/>

Identifying students at risk using machine learning (Dissertation)

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/35b5/e56c0183da02682bf0300d12f658fa18c1c3.pdf>

Interesting factoid. The most influential educational scholars

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rick_hess_straight_up/2019/01/the_2019_rhsu_edu-scholar_public_influence_rankings.html

Interesting factoid. Think like a winner <http://freakonomics.com/podcast/think-like-a-winner/>



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Chapter Executive
2018-19



Pauline Quan

Read-A-Thon Co-Chairs



Zenobia Omerali

The second portion of our 2018-2019 PDK Read-A-Thon commenced on Jan 1, 2019. It will end on June 30, 2019. The PDK Read-A-Thon is our Chapter's main fundraiser. Funds raised from this initiative support chapter initiatives, scholarships/awards & trophies for the Spelling Bee of Canada. We urge PDK members to participate and share a few sentences of reflection on the book they are reading! Just e-mail your review to zenobia.omarali@tdsb.on.ca and it will be tweeted it on the PDKReadathon Twitter account and shared on our website!

Registration sheets can be downloaded from www.pdk-ut.ca/readathon. For further information, donations, participation and acknowledgements please contact the "Read-a-thon Challenge" Co-Chairs: Pauline Quan at pauline.quan@gmail.com or Zenobia Omarali at zenobia.omarali@tdsb.on.ca. PDK members, let's all read and share recommendations to books to support and honour the literacy initiatives so dear to our hearts!

Dr. Joanne Robinson, 2018 Outstanding Educator



Under the umbrella of The Ontario Principals' Council, Dr. Joanne Robinson is CEO, International School Leadership and Director of Professional Learning, Education Leadership Canada.

On the evening of Wednesday, October 3, 2018, an enthusiastic group of PDK members and guests gathered together for an informal reception followed by dinner at the Faculty Club, University of Toronto. The occasion was in celebration of Dr. Joanne Robinson as the recipient of the PDK Outstanding Educator Award for 2018.

Dr. Beverly Freedman introduced Dr. Robinson and presented her with the award.

In accepting the award, Dr. Robinson chose to speak about "**Extraordinary Leadership in Extraordinary Times**".

To create the scene and set the stage, Dr. Robinson began her talk by giving us what she called, "**A Snapshot of Education in the Province of Ontario**" which highlighted the following information about our province:

- As the most populous province, Ontario houses 40% of Canada's 33.6 million people.
- In 2016, Ontario received 37.3% of the 320 932 new immigrant permanent resident admissions to Canada.
- The province is home to 2.1+ million students.
- English is not the first language of many of our students.
- There are almost 126,000 teachers (unionized teaching and support staff), 5,000 schools and 72 school districts in Ontario.

Following that snapshot, Dr. Robinson made an oft-forgotten point: "**Leadership abounds at all levels of any system**". In translation, that means that in the field of education, leadership is not restricted nor confined to those who hold administrative positions. Rather, it is important that teachers at all levels – including those who are in their early years in the profession – be recognized as education leaders and be encouraged to seize opportunities to influence educational direction. And this they can do by sharing thoughts and ideas as we all continue to learn together and to move forward in our thinking and our practice.

Dr. Robinson reminded us that taking on "specific challenges and responsibilities . . . is pivotal to student success" and that "it is only through collaboration and shared purpose that any growth in student learning can be realized".

She acknowledged that there are myriad reasons why our Ontario education system is so successful. However, after thinking long and hard about the many reasons, she had eventually been able to identify one over-riding quality that has prevailed across the past twenty years since she has been with OPC. And that is "the mutual trust and respect that educators have for the work that each of us is trying to do".

She brought her address to a close by reminding us that "leadership is a behaviour, not always associated with a position title" and that "the more we focus our efforts on common goals and support each other in our roles, the benefits to students will accelerate".

Dr. Robinson's words confirmed that student success is heightened by the existence of a cooperative, collaborative, and collegial climate in which all professionals work together to create the best education system possible. Her insights, passion, commitment, and reminders combined to make the evening one of significant and inspired learning for all in attendance.

PDK-Toronto thanks Dr. Robinson for her many contributions to education over the years and we celebrate and congratulate her as our "Outstanding Educator for 2018". **By Ron Benson.**



JOIN THE PDK CHAPTER EXECUTIVE

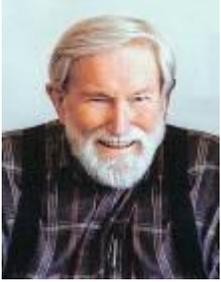
Contact: Nehal Patel nehal_patel_88@hotmail.com or John Myers at jjcm1946@sympatico.ca

SAVE THESE DATES and PLAN to ATTEND/PARTICIPATE

PDK Read-A-Thon	Start Jan 1, 2019	Read-A-Thon (See Pauline and Zeobia's article on page 2).	End June 30, 2019
Annual General Meeting	Thursday, June 27	Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Phi Delta Kappa International, University of Toronto Chapter, will be held on June 27, 2019. Venue TBA	Time TBA

In Memoriam

Dr. Donald Hambleton



PDK, University of Toronto chapter, grieves the passing, July 2, 2018, of our colleague and friend Dr. Donald Charles Hambleton. Don was a Kappan since his initiation in 1958 and served consecutive terms on the executive.

Born in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Donald studied at the University of Saskatchewan and later received his Doctorate of Education at Columbia University.

After holding an appointment as Assistant Professor in the faculty of Education University of British Columbia, he moved to Toronto to become a lecturer at the Ontario College of Education.

Until his retirement in 1994, Donald held the position of Educational Research Coordinator for the Metropolitan Toronto School Board.

A fly fisherman enthusiast, he and his wife Sheila combined their energy and community service to many causes. They remained vital contributors to PDK and graciously hosted newsletter distribution meetings.

Dr. David Booth



It was with great shock and sadness that we learned of the passing of a most revered educator, David Booth. David was the recipient of the PDK's 2011 Outstanding Educator Award. His contribution to children's learning was extremely impressive. David was a teacher, consultant, professor, researcher, speaker and author. He was a respected authority in curriculum and the impact of the award-winning author influenced people involved in teaching and learning throughout Canada, the United States and beyond. David's prolific, impressive contributions will be his legacy to us all.

The Linkage between our PDK Chapter and Spelling Bee of Canada Continues.

Last December, the many Spelling Bee volunteers who live in the GTA were honoured at a reception hosted by Julie Spence, founder of the Spelling Bee of Canada (SBOC). These volunteers, as well as our counterparts throughout Canada, dedicate many hours of work and personal time to enrich the language arts learning of scores of children. After a buffet dinner was served, executive members were introduced and they reported on their various accomplishments. Everyone was presented with a framed certificate. Volunteer appreciation is implicit for the success of this worthwhile educational achievement. **By Marilyn Hahn**



Buzz Around the Bee



Joan Piloya, Kappan, Oshawa –Whitby Chapter President, SBOC.



Marilyn Hahn, Irene Manhan, veteran Kappans & SBOC volunteers.



Keisha Newell, LN 18 Chapter President, SBOC

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