

The Newsletter

PDK-UBC Chapter 0124
British Columbia



<http://www.pdkubc.org/>

April 12th 2011 ~ Issue 212

President's Message

Dear PDK Chapter 0124 Members,

As Spring arrives and we find ourselves entering the home stretch of the 2010-11 school year, your PDK Executive is hard at work to offer members and guests alike quality leadership, research and service.

[Our upcoming dinner meeting on April 27th will feature guest speaker Audrey Van Alstyne](#)

Currently District Principal Learning Technologies with the Vancouver Board of Education, Audrey has a wealth of experience in curriculum and technology and is recognized for her ability to engage teachers and students in developing opportunities for personalized learning. This is an event not to be missed.

In my unbiased opinion, the real strength of our Chapter is our membership. We are privileged to have both long-standing and newer members of our Chapter who demonstrate a real commitment to the profession. I would like to take a moment to highlight two of our current members. It is my pleasure to inform you that **Harry M. Evans**, a member of our chapter, has achieved status in the George H. Reavis Society. Reavis recognition is limited to Kappans whose cumulative donations to the foundation total \$1,000 or more. While Harry has now received the bronze medallion and certificate that are awarded to each new

Reavis Associate, you are invited to join us in recognizing Harry at our upcoming dinner event. Congratulations Harry and thank you for your continued support of outstanding prospective educators!

Also, Chapter member **Jason Parker** recently attended the PDK International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Jason has kindly provided us with a summary of his experience at the conference and we are pleased to share it with all of you in this edition of our newsletter. Thank you Jason! We look forward to seeing many of you at the Arbutus club on the evening of April 27th, our final professional development opportunity of the school year.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Rainer



The Inside Story

President's Message

1- PDK
International Conference
Atlanta, Georgia ~ Feb/11

2- President Elect of
PDK International

3- Exciting
Opportunities

4- Upcoming Events

Please **mark your calendars** for our upcoming dinner event, **"Social Networking in the Classroom: Potential, Pathways, and Practicalities"**

Date: Wednesday April 27th 2011

Time: 5-5:30 to 8:00

Location: The Arbutus Club

Contact: Brian Leonard-registrar

bleonard@sd43.bc.ca

Visit us online @
<http://www.pdkubc.org/>



~The Keynote Speaker for the conference was Dr. Yong Zhao (Associate Dean for Global Education – University of Oregon). He gave a very interesting talk, entitled *“Catch Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization”*. You can investigate more of his works at <http://zhaolearning.com>

~He posited that most of the skills traditionally taught in public education are based on an “industrial model”. Citizens needed to survive, make a living, raise children, function socially/politically and enjoy their leisure time. The problem, of course, is that with the rise of globalization there has been a paradigm shift. The skills of yesterday are being replaced with a new battery of competencies. 21st Century Learners need to be able to design, tell stories, have technological competencies, exhibit empathy, have passion and be entrepreneurial. Schools of the future need to stop preparing students to “get a job” and enable them to “make a job”. The ability to be creative, imagine, inspire and follow one’s passions were the keys to being successful in a global market where internet communications had led to the “death of distance”. The key to future economic prosperity is finding new commodities to sell and this requires a generation of inventors and entrepreneurs.

~At the PDK Mixer, I ran into Robert Meyers (former PDK Region B Representative). He’s now recruiting for schools in China. He sends his regards and best wishes to PDK UBC Chapter. The next morning I had a moment to check in with PDK President Sandra Crowther. She too sends her warm greetings.



~The morning of the second day we listened to the inspirational Byron Garrett, CEO of Life Works Inc. and author of *“The A,B,C’s of Life”*. A dynamic speaker, Byron essentially delivered a message of optimism and recognized the importance of teachers before opening up the conversation to a Q&A that addressed a myriad of topics, including: high stakes testing, teacher training, the shape of schools in the future and the voucher system of enrolment in the U.S.

~Claire Lenz, Associate Professor from St. Josephs College gave a fantastic workshop on *“Boys as Readers and Writers: Instructional Strategies for Their Success”*. Not only did she provide a clear picture of the achievement gap between boys and girls, she left us with useable strategies to meet their learning needs in the classroom and build interest in literacy.

~After lunch I took a workshop on *“Using Mobile Devices in Education: Challenges to Technology Innovation”* by Jozenia Colorado, Emporia, Kansas. She introduced us to a very useful online application called www.polleverywhere.com Students can use their cell phones to text or tweet responses to questions. Their responses are collated and graphed to PowerPoint slideshows instantaneously. She made some great points about the utility of mobile devices. They are ubiquitous; students know how to use them already (no training) and the school doesn’t have to actually buy them, thus off loading the price of technology on to the learner. She gave some excellent ideas about how cell phones can be used in the classroom to supplement the instructional efforts in the classroom. If you are interested, ASCD Educational Leaderships recent edition, entitled *“Teaching Screenagers”* has an article on uses of cell phones in the classroom. There are some convincing arguments for their use. You can read the article at [“Adventures with Cell phones by Liz Kolb”](#)



~The conference wrapped up with a joint dinner featuring 200 PDK attendees and 800 members of the Future Educators Association. Bill Nye gave a light-hearted perspective on the importance of teachers in his own life, pointed toward some of the challenges we will face in the coming decades with population growth and global warming and exhorted teachers to take part in shaping a future generation that would be able to solve these challenges.



Members might like to look to PDK International giving them details of the election for **President Elect of PDK International**.

A message containing a voting signature password has been sent as well as links to the elections information. Voting is on-going from April till the end of May 2011. For more information, please visit www.pdkelections.org.

The site has:

- An FAQ document to address the new bylaws
- Endorsements of the new governing documents from PDK Past Presidents Eve Proffitt and Rick Kolowski
- Candidate bios for the three individuals running for president-elect
- Videos of the candidates position statements as given during the 2011 PDK International conference held in February in Atlanta

Voting is at <https://www.directvote.net/PDK/>

Thank-you for taking the time to check things out and to vote!

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Exciting Opportunities

Would you like to join our team?



The PDK UBC Chapter Executive is a happy, hip and heterogeneous group of educators that engages in great professional dialogue with lots of fun added to the mix. We would **love** to have you join us as part of the 2011-2012 Chapter Executive.

If you are interested in being part of this dynamic group, please contact our Past President, **Marion Broadbent**, at mbroadbent@vsb.bc.ca by Wednesday May 18th 2011.

**2010-2011
Executive Board**

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PDK-UBC Chapter 0124

proudly presents

**Social Networking in the Classroom:
Potential, Pathways, and Practicalities**

with Audrey Van Alstyne

Wednesday, April 27 @ The Arbutus Club Vancouver BC

The UBC Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa will convene on Wednesday, April 27 to visit with colleagues and discuss "Social Networking in the Classroom: Potential, Pathways, and Practicalities."

Social networking presents many exciting prospects and significant challenges to teachers today. Educators need to understand the exciting potential for learning that social media present. They also require practical guidance to address the issues that social networking creates in their classrooms and schools and bring up many questions:

- How do teachers "keep up" with the new technology?
- What opportunities and pitfalls are evident in the infrastructure that currently exists?
- How do educators encourage colleagues to explore and manage social networking?
- How have educators worked with these rapidly changing influences on their teaching methods in their classrooms?

Audrey Van Alstyne will address the issues surrounding social media and offer practical suggestions as to how educators can respond. Known as an engaging presenter and as a Distinguished Apple Educator, she is well positioned to lead a discussion on social networking and education. Currently a District Principal for Learning Technologies in Vancouver, she was formerly the District Administrator for Curriculum and Technology in North Vancouver. She has extensive experience working with administrators, teachers, and students.

Place: **The Arbutus Club** Vancouver on Arbutus Street just south of 25th Avenue opposite Safeway at the pedestrian light at Nanton. Entrance is off Nanton.

Arrivals: **5:00 - 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Program price: **\$50 for members, \$75 for nonmembers**

(A portion supports the PDK Scholarship for a student in the Faculty of Education at UBC. Pay at the door of the Quilchena Room. Cash and cheques accepted. We issue professional development receipts. Your colleagues are also welcome.)

Please contact Brian Leonard, our registrar, at bleonard@sd43.bc.ca **no later than noon on Monday, April 25** for a reservation.

An early response is recommended. You will be sent a confirmation.

* Parking is available in the parkade on the right hand side after you enter the Arbutus Club lot. We hope to see you there 5:00-5:30.

*All participants register beforehand for our dinner programs. The Arbutus Club requires PDK to commit to payment ahead of the event. If you register and learn that you are not able to attend, please inform our registrar before the deadline and your name will be removed from the list. **If you do not attend the dinner and are unable to cancel beforehand, please send a cheque payable to UBC PDK for the full amount to Eileen Phillips at 3669 West 18th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6S 1B3**