

Phi Delta Kappa

NEWSLETTER

UBC Chapter #0124

Vancouver, BC



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 27, 2008

Dear Kappans,

I trust that everyone had a chance to enjoy the Easter weekend with family or friends. It doesn't seem possible that spring is on its way especially when we read the overnight forecast of flurries for the higher levels. If you walk down some of our Vancouver streets lined with cherry blossoms, daffodils, flowering heather and rhododendrons then you do indeed get the sense that spring is here. Along with spring come many plans for finding ways to spend time outdoors: gardening, walking, sailing, golfing and spring skiing. STOP! Don't forget to plan on attending PDK's last dinner meeting on Wednesday, April 16th. Our program director, Dan Brown has put together another stimulating topic and guest speaker that will prove to be another dinner meeting not to be missed. The title is ***YouTube, Myspace, and Facebook: Emerging Issues for Educators Today***. Wendy Harris, Q.C. of Harris and Company, and her colleague Page Kendall, associate of Harris and Company, will make a presentation and lead a discussion on the legal issues facing schools and educators with the

emergence of websites like Myspace, YouTube and Facebook. They will include strategies to address those issues. Wendy Harris is perfectly positioned to guide this exchange. A prominent lawyer in the province, she has appeared as legal counsel for school boards on a full range of matters pertaining to education law. That representation includes matters of labour arbitration and human rights, both for trials and appeals. A writer on issues of education law, she has served as President of the Canadian Association of Practical Studies in Law and Education and has taught the School Law course at UBC. Page Kendall is an associate of Harris & Company who has focused her practice on education law, written on school law, and is on the board of CAPSLE.

At our last dinner meeting Celina talked about the new PDK vision statement, **PDK—The experts in cultivating great educators for tomorrow and ensuring high-quality education for today.** The

PDK International Summit Conference will be in San Antonio, Texas this fall from November 13-15, 2008. The conference will focus on the topic of what makes a great teacher? A panel of educators will discuss this issue in a moderated session on Thursday, November 13. Thomas Guskey, professor of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation at the University of Kentucky, will address summit attendees on the Friday morning. Dr. Guskey is widely known for his research in education reform, assessment, and professional development. Along with the panel discussion, his remarks will set the tone for thought-provoking sessions that will further delve into the issue. Breakout sessions will encourage the dialogue that will answer one of education's most critical questions. PDK invites you to join us in San Antonio Texas, November 13-15. If you would like more information about this conference you can go to [2008 PDK International Summit on High-Performing Educators](http://2008.PDKInternationalSummitonHigh-PerformingEducators.pdkintl.org) at pdkintl.org

I would like to thank all the members of the PDK-UBC chapter executives for all their support and work towards making our dinner meetings an enjoyable time when we are able to gain some new knowledge and share points of view with our invited guest. We are truly a collaborative working team of professionals which makes being President such an honour and a pleasure. We are always welcoming to newcomers at any time.

Thank you and see you at our last dinner meeting on April 16th.

Sincerely,
Marion Broadbent

February PDK Dinner

Is Inclusion for Every Student? At our dinner meeting on February 5, Kathy Champion, Director of Instruction in Richmond, lead a discussion on special education policies and practices in the province. She defined inclusion, reviewed its policy foundations, provided an overview of what works, and offered a conceptual framework. The coordinated approach to effective change is school-wide and involves elements such as physical education, nutrition, health services, health education, counselling, and family involvement. Her anecdotes about Jackie and other "special kids" grounded her presentation. She left her PowerPoint file with Dan Brown (dan.brown@ubc.ca) who will forward it to members on request.

Foundations/Scholarship Report

Our University of British Columbia Phi Delta Kappa Chapter's Foundation needs your financial support. Contribution to our local Prospective Educator's Endowment Fund provides financial resources for local educator scholarships. Our chapter's ability to provide scholarships is sustained by ongoing support from you and others in the local PDK community who collectively make significant financial

contributions. Together we can make a difference and support our future education leaders. If you are able and willing to help build our local PDK Prospective Educator's Fund please contact Don Allison.

This year our local Phi Delta Kappa Chapter has supported one \$1000 U.B.C. Education Undergraduate Scholarship. Our chapter has also awarded two \$250 Prospective Educator Scholarships to two Grade 12 students who are intending to pursue careers in the field of education. This year's Grade 12 recipients are Kimberley Walker (Magee Secondary) and Jae Yeoung Oh (Port Moody Secondary). Congratulations to both students!

Submitted by Don Allison, PDK Foundation's Representative (U.B.C. Chapter)
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Last Call for a Special Learning Opportunity at UBC

The annual conference of Canadian professors of education will be held at UBC this year for four days starting Saturday, May 31. Faculty come together for lively sessions and to present research of interest to teachers and administrators. Highlights of the conference include new books available at a discount, high-profile speakers (Bob Rae, Michael Ignatieff, and Rex Murphy in past years), and a special dinner for those connected to educational leadership programs. For more information and even if you missed

the early bird registration, March 31, please visit www.csse.ca or contact Dan Brown at dan.brown@ubc.ca.

Upcoming PDK Dinner Program on Wednesday, April 16, 2008:

YouTube, Myspace, and Facebook: Emerging Issues for Educators Today.

The abuse and misuse of technology provides many challenges for teachers and administrators. Wendy Harris, Q.C., of Harris and Company, along with her colleague, Page Kendall, will make a presentation and lead a discussion on the legal issues facing schools and educators with the emergence of websites like Myspace, YouTube and Facebook. They will include strategies to address those issues.

The UBC Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa will convene the evening of **Wednesday, April 16** to visit with colleagues and review this important topic.

Wendy Harris is perfectly positioned to guide this exchange. A prominent lawyer in the province, she has appeared as legal counsel for school boards on a full range of matters pertaining to education law. That representation includes matters of labour arbitration and human rights, both for trials and appeals. A writer on issues of education law, she has served as President of the Canadian Association of Practical Studies in Law and Education and has taught the School Law course at UBC. Page

Kendall is an associate of Harris & Company who has focused her practice on education law, written on school law, and is on the board of CAPSLE.

After the presentation, they will circulate among the tables and you will have an opportunity to question them directly.

Don't miss this chance to join us and share your experiences. Mark your calendar!

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

Arrivals **6:00-6:30 p.m.** Program price: just \$40 for non-members, \$35 for members. Dinner is free. Pay at the door. Your colleagues are also welcome.

Please note that due to construction in the Arbutus Club parking lot, you are asked to park in the Safeway lot on the other side of Arbutus (by agreement).

Please RSVP to dan.brown@ubc.ca by noon on **Monday, April 14** for a reservation.

Region Be CML Report – Eileen Phillips

At a recent meeting for Chapter/Member Liaisons in Denver, those of us present discussed the new vision statement for PDK - ***The experts in cultivating great***

educators for tomorrow and ensuring high-quality education for today. We focused on the three tenets of PDK:

- Service
- Research
- Leadership

We discussed what we do to promote each of these in our areas. At PDK – UBC we have been fantastic in each, but there are also more things we can do:

Service – we serve our members by bringing them together 4 times a year at dinner meeting to connect with each other, to listen to experts on current issues, and to discuss important and relevant topics. We could do more in supporting the next generation of educators.

Research – we invite speakers who reference current research and research trends. We could do more to showcase formative research at our close universities – UBC and SFU - as well as classroom research in our area's schools.

Leadership – we offer leadership opportunities and we model leadership; we could do more by showcasing educational leaders in our community, whether they are PDK members or not.

Now, three reasons to celebrate: PDK –UBC remains a strong and viable chapter; PDK – OKANAGAN has club status and hopes to become a chapter in the early fall; PDK- FV (Fraser Valley) is rejuvenating itself and asks its

members to watch their website for news of upcoming meetings and events. Congratulations to all three chapters!

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