

PDK Newsletter

Baylor University Chapter—#0184



Fall 2009 Newsletter

2009-2010

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President's Message

Guess who's turning 40?!

The Baylor University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa is turning 40 in November. Often in our individual lives reaching 40 is a major milestone. This is possibly true of our own Chapter as we are faced with advances in technology, economic challenges, and changes in education. This is an opportunity for our Chapter to be a part of shaping the future—looking to the next 40 years. It is an exciting time for our Chapter as we are planning a focused year of activities so that members can find opportunities to grow professionally, support education in the area, and reflect on their own scholarly endeavors.

Our officers have been busily working to plan our September meeting where we will be challenged and revitalized as we begin our new school year with words of wisdom from area outstanding teachers and administrators. We will also be initiating new members and recognizing longtime members for their support of our Chapter. I encourage you to attend as we *Learn from the Masters!*. Details of the meeting time and place are in this newsletter.

In addition, on September 16, from 6 until 7 p.m. we have a webinar set up to hear Bill Bushaw, Executive Director of PDK International, discuss major points and highlights from the 2009 Gallup Poll of Education. Members can find free

downloads of the report and PowerPoints at www.pdkintl.org. I hope you can join me in Draper 211 for this opportunity.

Guess who else just turned 40? *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle! This is especially significant for us as we turn 40 in that we have the opportunity to participate in *Read for the Record*, a PDK initiative focusing on literacy. We have partnered with our local *Barnes and Noble* to help us with this event. Read more in this newsletter about opportunities you have to support this worthy endeavor. Opportunities range from reading to a class or teaching lessons connected to the book, to making donations to purchase the book for area schools.

Well, what would a 40th birthday celebration be without cake and ice cream? Our Chapter will host an event on November 24, 2009 to celebrate this milestone. More details will be shared at our September meeting and invitations will be sent as reminders.

So—Mark your calendars with all these exciting events. I look forward to seeing you soon as we celebrate education together this year. By the way—the Internet just turned 40 as well! What a great year 1969 was and what a wonderful time to look forward to 2049!

Trena

Baylor Chapter Reaches a Milestone

The Baylor Chapter of PDK has been providing support for our local educational community for 40 years this November 24. Be watching for an invitation to come and celebrate this event with us!



Fall Meeting—September 21

The Baylor PDK Chapter will have their fall meeting on September 21st, from 5:30 - 7:00 in Draper 139 on the Baylor campus. The meeting will begin by honoring members who have provided great service to the Chapter as well as recognize the longevity of others. In addition, new PDK members will be initiated into the Chapter, along with a celebration of the Baylor Chapter of PDK's 40th anniversary. Beginning at 6:00, Baylor PDK will offer four break-out sessions featuring local experts in education who have been recognized for their leadership to field of education.

Bruce Williams, Midway ISD, 2010 Region 12 Secondary Teacher of the Year

"Laughing and Learning"



In an educational environment tense with standardized testing, leery of legislative changes, and anxious to advance our student's learning, too often we are caught up in the pandemonium of the administrative nightmare of education and forget what we started doing this for in the first place, the students. No wonder our students are taxed beyond measure, as educators are TAKSed beyond measure. It's time we returned to having fun in our classrooms. Join us as we take a look at a way to become serious about laughing in the classroom and engaging our students while doing so.

Debbie Perry, Midway ISD, 2009 State Finalist for Teacher of the Year

"The Power of One"



In the mathematics classroom, we know that adding a power of one to a number does not change the value of the number. However, in the classroom, the power of one person—the teacher—impacts each student in immeasurable ways. Join us as we look at the ten powerful ways teachers can connect with their students.

Dr. Rose Cameron, Copperas Cove ISD, 2009 Region 12 Superintendent of the Year

"The Superintendency: A Profession of Professionalism and Standards"



The role of the Superintendent is defined in the Texas Education Code 11.201(a) as: *The Superintendent shall be the educational leader and chief executive officer of the District.*

What does this definition actually mean, and how can the superintendent balance professionalism, standards, and the day-to-day operations of a school district? More importantly, how can the superintendent accomplish all of these things and still manage to make a difference in the education of all students?

Gayla Reid, Waco ISD, 2009 Region 12 Elementary Teacher of the Year

"Big Lessons from Little Souls"



How could five, six, and seven years olds possibly make a difference in the lives of well over a thousand people? Come and discover how these precious souls impacted one teacher's vision and purpose in teaching and in life. This session will include reaching students from poverty, building a community of learners, and empowering students to take ownership of their learning and their lives.

Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

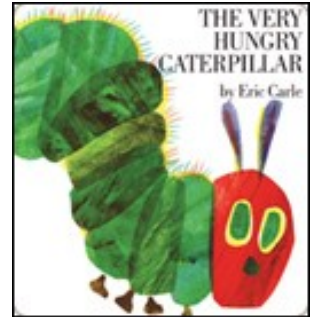
SAVE
THE
DATE

Can you imagine your childhood without your favorite stories? Neither can we. But the fact is that most children in low-income communities have few, if any, age-appropriate books in their homes. The number of books in a home is the single strongest indicator of a child's future reading ability—setting him or her on a track for success in school and in life.

Phi Delta Kappa is helping to bring national attention to the importance of early childhood education by making Jumpstart's Read for the Record the largest shared reading experience ever. The 2009 campaign is designed to encourage young people, their families and educators everywhere to set another world record by creating the largest shared reading experience ever on Thursday, October 8, 2009, when people read the same book across the country. The Pearson Foundation, sponsor and founding partner of the campaign, is once again underwriting the cost of the campaign book, which this year is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

The Baylor University Chapter has purchased 30 official campaign books. You can help with the event as well. Barnes and Noble is offering a voucher to share

with not only members but everyone. When you shop and purchase in the store (books, coffee, magazines, etc.) on September 26th or 27th and either show the voucher or just tell the cashier that you are supporting the BU PDK Chapter event, Barnes and Noble will give a percentage of your purchase to our PDK Chapter to purchase *The Hungry Caterpillar* for us to donate to area schools. You can also just buy the book there to donate. When we get the voucher we will e-mail it, snail-mail it, pass it out, share in many venues with our membership, friends, family Barnes and Noble will also have displays in the store to support the event.



For more information about how you can support this event or participate in Read for the Record, contact Dr. Trena Wilkerson at Trena_Wilkerson@baylor.edu or Dr. Barbara Purdum-Cassidy at Barbara_Purdum-Cassidy@baylor.edu.

PDK Gallup

The PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools is a well-known research instrument that is conducted annually with the intent of finding the pulse of PDK members and other educators concerning some of the issues facing our nation's schools.

You are invited to come and hear Bill Bushaw, Executive Director of PDK International discuss the recent 2009 Gallup Poll of Education. This webinar is free and will be offered in Draper 211 on the Baylor campus, September 16 from 6 until 7 p.m. This informative webinar will discuss points of interests from the poll concerning topics such as:

- No Child Left Behind
- Charter Schools
- Teacher Pay
- Tenure
- Dropouts
- Early Childhood Education
- Economic Stimulus

- Media Coverage of Education
- Other topics of interest to Education

If you are a member of PDK, you can log in to www.pdkintl.org and view the 2009 PDK/Gallup Poll results and download a PowerPoint presentation for free.

Non-members can download the 2009 PDK/Gallup Poll results for only \$4.95.



"So what if my grades are lousy? You always said it's not what you know, it's who you know."

"The secret to teaching is to appear to have known all your life what you learned this afternoon."
-Anonymous

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Upcoming Events



- PDK Gallup Poll Webinar, September 16
- PDK Fall Meeting & "Learning from the Master's," September 21
- Barnes & Noble Event, September 26 - 27
- Read for the Record, October 8
- Baylor Chapter 40th Anniversary, November 24