



The Alamo Chapter #1361

Visit us at www.alamopdk.org

April 2009

Upcoming Events

April 15, 2009

Joint Meeting-Alamo Chapter
Hosting, Officer Election and
Dinner

May 11, 2009-

Initiation, Scholarships,
Installation of New Officers and
Dinner

June 12 – 14, 2009-

One Room School House at
Texas Folklife Festival

Folklife Festival Volunteers Needed

Join PDK at the Texas Folklife Festival on June 12, 13, & 14th in the One Room School House. Every year Alamo PDK sponsors this Folklife event. Volunteers are needed to work at the One Room School House. Each volunteer gets free admission for the entire weekend for themselves and their families. They also get free parking. Volunteers work a 90 minute shift, talking to visitors about teaching school in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Costumes are available. This is such a wonderful and fun opportunity. Sign-up sheets will be available at the April 15th meeting or you can email rory.raven@nisd.net.

~Rory Raven, Service

A Message From Our President:

Dear Fellow Kappans,

Phi Delta Kappa chapters in the San Antonio area held the first annual "So You Want To Be A Teacher" panel discussion at the Texas A&M campus in San Antonio. Future teachers were provided with the opportunity to speak directly to experienced principals. This event provided them with useful information about the education profession and trends. The response from attendees at the event was positive. Thank you to everyone from the Alamo Chapter who participated and supported this event.

The chapter is preparing to select new board members for the 09/10 school year. The challenges they will face are compounded by the economy and the demands of our profession. In order for PDK to continue to support education, it is imperative that we find time to gather as educators to discuss ways to improve and manage our jobs effectively and efficiently. Please join us in April as we continue our "town hall" style meeting designed to provide meaningful, productive discussion sessions.

Please invite you're your friends and colleagues to join our group. Phi Delta Kappa gives us the opportunity to meet other educators who share common goals. We grow together as leaders as we share ideas at our meetings and functions. We also have the wonderful opportunities to do service for our city with our colleagues in our chapter. As I move into a new position in this organization, all I can say is that I truly enjoy being involved in getting to know all of you!

~De 'Ann Upright, President



Joint Alamo and San Antonio Chapters PDK April Meeting

Join us on **Wednesday, April 15, 2009** at

Alamo Cafe
10060 IH-10 West
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 691-8827
Cost \$15.00

Please join us at 6:30 for meet and greet time. Dinner and the meeting will begin at 7:00. Please RSVP by, **April 13th**.

You may RSVP by email to Josie Perez at josie.perez@nisd.net or by calling 397-4665.

We hope to see you there!

Program for April Meeting - What Makes a Great Teacher Great?

In a recent article in the New Yorker magazine (December 2008), the author tells his readers of the effects of a bad teacher on a child's learning. On average, he states, the students of a very bad teacher will learn half of a year's material in one year. On the other hand, students in a very good teacher's classroom will learn, on average, one and one half years of material. He goes on to challenge his readers with this provocative statement, "your child is actually better off in a 'bad' school with an excellent teacher than in an 'excellent' school with a bad teacher."

What are your thoughts about this statement? Is an excellent teacher the key to student achievement? If so, then what makes a great teacher great? Join us at our April meeting as we continue our discussion on the factors that contribute to teacher excellence.

~ Barbara Parisher, Programs

Wanted: New Alamo Chapter PDK Members

If someone you know has not attended a meeting in a while, or their membership has expired, please encourage them to come to the April meeting. We are always looking for ways to draw in old and new members because there is power and strength in numbers.

Let's all work together to recruit new PDK members. Joining PDK can help you develop leadership skills, have fellowship with other educators, and become involved in community service projects. All potential new members can download the membership application from the link on our website:

<http://alamopdk.org/membership.html> or complete an application at the next PDK meeting. Please send completed applications to Daeon Harris, 8503 Ray Ellison Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78227 or daeon.harris@nisd.net by **May 8, 2009**.

New member initiation will be held at the May 11th meeting.

~Daeon Harris, Membership

Presenting the 2009-2010 Slate of Officers

Nominating Committee members Mary Adams, Veronica Arteaga, and Sherry Dillard would like to present the following slate of officers for the 2009-2010 school year.

Elections for these offices will be held at the April 15th meeting and the new officers will be presented at the May 11th meeting. If you are interested and would like to run for any of the officers' positions, please email us at thealamopdk@yahoo.com or present your nomination at the April 15th meeting.

President- nominating Daeon Harris
Vice-President of Membership- nominating Josie Perez

Vice-President of Programs – returning Barbara Parisher

Treasurer – returning Laura Duff

Webmaster – returning Jack Funkhouser

Research – returning Brenda Ward

Scholarship – nominating Belinda Trevino

Foundations – nominating Jill Palmer

Newsletter – nominating Sonya Kirkham

Hospitality – nominating Vicki Siebrecht

Service – nominating Billy Navin

Past President – De'Ann Upright

Advisors – Mary Adams and Don Schmidt

~Sherry Dillard, Nominating Committee



Scholarship News

It was another exciting year for the scholarship committee. We had eight applicants for the PDK scholarship. After much deliberation among the selection committee of Ronnie Gonzalez, Leah Gray and Jody Fries two applicants were selected. Fedora Stakes, a senior at Clark High School, and Amber Sanchez, a senior at Churchhill High School, will both be awarded \$500 scholarships at our May meeting. We would love to see all of you come meet both applicants! Applications from both these students were submitted to PDK International in hopes that they will receive further assistance.

We want to congratulate both Fedora and Amber and wish them luck on their future endeavors.

~Jody Fries, Scholarships