

# Phi Delta Kappa

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# RE-KAPPAN

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## President's Message

As your co-presidents, Liz and I are delighted to both work together and to work with you to advance PDK throughout the area.

It seems truly amazing that we are already at the beginning of another school year. This month I have had the opportunity to reread a familiar book The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey. It is one of those books that reminds us what is important, and with a title like that, how can one not hope to keep improving!

Whether you read this book wearing your personal and/or professional hat, the book presents timeless principles. It allows for differing perspectives according to your circumstances. Habits 1 through 3 lead to Private Victories allowing us person-

## One More Time

### Research Column

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Phi Delta Kappa/ Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward The Public Schools was released in early September and, no surprise here, 67% of those surveyed gave the public school their oldest child attends a grade of "A" or "B" (up from the 64% of last year) whereas only 16 % gave public schools nationally a grade of "A" or "B."

This question, or one very similar to it, has been on the PDK/Gallup poll almost since its inception—and the

Alison Watson

ally to move from dependence to independence; Habits 4-6 lead to Public Victories allowing us to achieve success with people through win-win, communication and synergy; and

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*Effectiveness is really a matter of self-mastery. It requires discipline and mindfulness.*

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Habit 7 gives us strategies to help sustain growth over time. I hope the following also helps you to move more thoughtfully throughout your year.

Habit #1 is Be proactive – choose your response, rather than react. In our lives this is sometimes difficult since we feel much of our time is at

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Judith Kerrins

results have been fairly consistent across those many years. Local schools always receive a higher grade—and one that indicates the perception that they are, on average, doing a fairly decent job of educating local children. After all, it's about the local schools that a parent or community member knows best. On the other hand, what we know about public schools in America often comes from state and national media outlets, including talk-show hosts, who often

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## NCLB Assessed

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enjoy “bashing” public education. Rose and Gallup (2007) note, “it seems fair to say it would be a mis-

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*“Like politics, all education is local. Despite what detractors say about ‘the nation’s schools,’ the closer the public gets to its local public schools, the more it likes them, and this continuing trend reflects well on those who lead*

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take to shape public policy decisions on data regarding the nations’ schools.

The schools in the community are the ones the public knows about and cares about” (p. 40). Tirozzi

## Calendar of PDK Events

2007—2008

Mark your calendars early!

- ◆ Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> Rita Stanley
- ◆ Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> – Board meeting
- ◆ Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup> Steve Klein
- ◆ Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- ◆ Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> Austin Buffum
- ◆ Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- ◆ Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Hope to see you there!

## Our next Presenter—Rita Stanley

Framework for Understanding Poverty: What makes kids from poverty different? - Learn about the culture of poverty and how it impacts learning in our classrooms.

This workshop will be based on the work of Ruby Payne. Learn about the different kinds of poverty, the different values these kinds of poverty engender and the hidden rules our students bring with them to the classroom.

## Your Chapter Needs You!

Please consider volunteering to serve on the executive Board of your PDK Chapter. We are in need of a President-elect, a membership committee member, and a co-secretary.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Liz or Alison at [lcapen@chicousd.org](mailto:lcapen@chicousd.org), or [awatson@bcoe.org](mailto:awatson@bcoe.org)

(2007) adds, “Like politics, all education is local. Despite what detractors say about ‘the nation’s schools,’ the closer the public gets to its local public schools, the more it likes them, and this continuing trend reflects well on those who lead schools” (p. 40).

The report can be found in your September issue of Phi Delta Kappan, or on-line at [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org). We can also provide a PDK media presentation on this, suitable for a faculty meeting, parent meeting, or board of education meeting.

And continue to check this website and your next issue of *The Kappan* for Gerald Bracey’s “Report on the Condition of Public Education.”

## A Great Resource: [marshallmemo.com](http://marshallmemo.com)

The Marshall Memo is designed to keep principals, teachers, superintendents, and others very well-informed on current research and best practices in the field. Kim Marshall, drawing on his experience as a teacher, principal, central office administrator, and writer, lightens the load of busy educators by serving as their “designated reader.”

To produce the Marshall Memo, Kim subscribes to 44 carefully-chosen publications and looks through scores of articles each week to select 5-10 that have the greatest potential to improve teaching, leadership, and learning. He then writes a brief summary of each one, pulls out several striking quotes, provides e-links to full articles when available, and e-mails the Memo to subscribers every Monday (with occasional breaks).

What do readers gain from the 20 minutes it takes them to read the Marshall Memo? For one thing, they feel less guilty about not getting to all those journals piled up on their desks! More importantly, they tap into a rich vein of ideas and resources that can help them be more effective. Some Marshall Memo items reaffirm what practitioners are already doing well; some might boost an idea higher up the “to-do” list; and some are genuinely new and thought-provoking.

In addition to receiving the Marshall Memo by e-mail each week, subscribers have access to the Members’ Area of this website, where it’s easy to download back issues, and locate any article by searching a comprehensive database by author, topic, title, source, headline, or grade level.

Interested? Go to [marshallmemo.com](http://marshallmemo.com).

## Message from the President

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other people's mercy. Proactive people make their choices from their values.

Habit #2 is "Begin with the End in Mind" – identify your personal mission and support it carefully with chosen roles and goals. I use this one professionally too as I plan on ways to work through projects. It keeps me focused on the end result and helps me plan better how to get there.

Habit #3 is "Put First Things First" – Covey believes this one to be so vital to our lives that he wrote another book just on this habit. In this habit we act upon our priorities, which were developed as part of our mission statement. You know the saying "on their deathbeds, no one ever wished they had spent more time at work". So where do you wish you spent your time?

Habit #4 is "Think Win-Win" – in which we look for alternatives that allow everyone to win. I value his premise that the option to Win-Win is "No Deal", rather than some one losing. Win-Win is a belief in a third alternative, a solution that gives everyone what they want.

Habit #5 is "Seek First to Understand", which is both an attitude and a skill of listening deeply for complete understanding. This is a hard one since it

means taking time to listen and not jumping in to solve the problem without all the information, because we often think there are more important things we should be doing with that time. How wrong we can be!

Habit #6 is "Synergize" in which we discover a creativity that can arise when we explore our differences together. Using other points of view can multiply the effectiveness of an interaction. Covey says that "synergy means one plus one equals three or more".

Habit #7 is the simple daily activities that implant the principles of effectiveness in our minds. Take small positive steps each day, and doing these consistently has a cumulative effect that is powerful and dynamic.

Effectiveness is really a matter of self-mastery. It requires discipline and mindfulness. We would not expect to be productive if we ignored the quality of our regular gardening, garage and kitchen tools. Nor should we expect our work tools to stay sharp without some regular maintenance.

Very best wishes to you all for a productive and satisfying work year.

## Kappa Delta Pi—Our Local Honor Society Chapter

Megan Beck

The Chico State University chapter of Kappa Delta Pi is a National Honor Society for Educators. Our society meets twice a month to provide our members with speakers who are in the field of education and who are willing to share their knowledge with us. Our society focuses on "effectively addressing the needs of members through the phases of their careers as scholars and educators while providing an energetic, diverse learning community that enhances professional growth through high quality programs, services, and products."

A major aspect of our honor society is to give back to the schools in the Chico community. We sponsor a booth at Chico State's "Fun without Alcohol" Fair, where we provide a game for visiting students with fun alternatives without alcohol. We adopt a school to beautify each spring where we invite classrooms to help us plant flowers and pick up trash. At the same time, Kappa Delta Pi also provides schools with help on specific clean up projects. In the

spring we hold an event called "Spring into Reading" where we work with students to write their own book for their classroom, bring an author for a school assembly, and then provide the students with the latest best seller children's books to take home. Our goal is to encourage literacy by making reading and writing fun. During Thanksgiving we either hold a can food drive or find a place needing volunteers. For the winter holidays Kappa Delta Pi has done several activities in the past. We have adopted a classroom, adopted a family, set up an angel tree, or have provided coats for children.

In order for us to provide these events and activities we also fundraise. Our biggest fundraisers are car washes, but we also sell baked goods in Chico States' BMU and we write sponsorship letters and hand them out to local community businesses.

For more information and dates of our upcoming meetings, events, and fundraisers please visit our website at [www.csuchico.edu/kdp](http://www.csuchico.edu/kdp)

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## Upcoming Events:

Wednesday , October 24

**5:30-8 pm at The Holiday Inn.  
Dinner and Keynote Speaker:  
cost \$17.00 for students, and  
\$22.00 for non-students.**

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**Rita Stanley**

**Understanding The Culture of Poverty**

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RSVP for the above event by October 10th to  
[lcapen@chicousd.org](mailto:lcapen@chicousd.org), [awatson@bcoe.org](mailto:awatson@bcoe.org), or leave a message at 877-0495

Check out our new web site at [www.pdkchico.org](http://www.pdkchico.org) to find a copy of our brochure.  
Use the brochure to attract new members.