

President's Message

Good things continue to happen through TMA's work in the Dominican Republic.

In reading the two profiles featured in this newsletter I was struck by how the Dominican mentor highlights the spirit of volunteerism Canadian colleagues inspired in her. Volunteerism is a foundational principle of TMA. It's evident that even in a virtual environment this common commitment to share the best of what each has to offer has not been diminished.

~ Nancy Threan Loraine



Alexia James



Martha Aracelis Rodriguez



Supporting staff from my home office

Sue Bruyns



Profile: Denise Taylor-Edwards, Program Committee member

My introduction to TMA was through a serendipitous internet search leading to a TMA newsletter featuring one of my colleagues. When I had the chance to ask her about TMA, her effusive response urged me to get involved.

EDUCATION ... IS THE PRACTICE OF FREEDOM, THE MEANS BY WHICH MEN AND WOMEN DEAL CRITICALLY AND CREATIVELY WITH REALITY AND DISCOVER HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR WORLD.

PAULO FREIRE

CIVICEDUCATOR.ORG

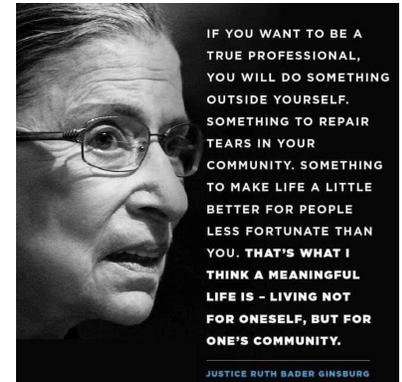
Since my first trip to Santo Domingo in the summer of 2012, TMA has been part of my life. The focus on enriching student learning informed by, and in collaboration with, local educators aligned with my understanding of what constitutes rich, respectful intercultural experiences.

Awestruck is the best way to describe my response to the commitment and creativity

the Dominican educators display in pursuit of providing quality education. Their motivation springs from the students they teach and the challenges they face, and is fuelled by the understanding that their work links intrinsically to the betterment of the Dominican people and to their country. This sense of purpose and passion is inspirational.

Recently more Dominican schools were built, the school day restructured, the curriculum revised and professional development became a focus. DR teachers eagerly engaged with new approaches and helped us align with their realities. TMA has grown because of this responsive collaboration. Over time TMA and TMA Mentors have gained the support and confidence of Dominican educational stakeholders. Consequently, we are proud to note that TMA Mentors now serve in more senior positions in the education system.

News of TMA is spreading across Ontario, too. Increasing numbers of teachers from school boards across the province are represented on TMA teams each summer. Passionate professionals, eager to share with each other provide rich cross-pollination within our borders as well as in the DR. All this bodes well for enriching classrooms in both countries!

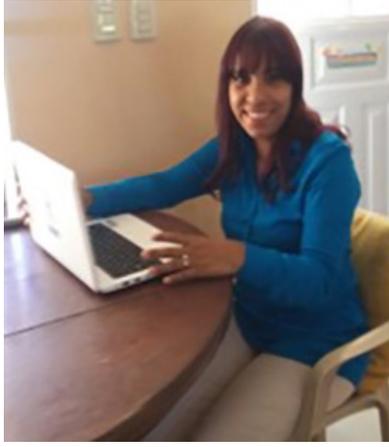


JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG



Denise with Santiago Mentors

Profile: Deyanira Aquino de Urbáez, Co-leader Santo Domingo Mentors



Receive a warm Caribbean greeting, with the smell of firewood, the taste of honey and the color of hope. I've participated in TMA since 2007, while an education student and early years teacher at Joyas de Cristo school in Hainamosa, and have taken training workshops to this day. TMA awakened in me a hunger for knowledge and an interest in offering a quality education with love, as they have done, without expecting anything in return. This selflessness is what keeps me involved with TMA. If others collaborate in my nation, I, who am a native, can and wish to follow their example and motivation.

Presently I co-lead TMA mentors with Marta Aracelis Rodriguez and work as a Superintendent for Early Years teachers in District 10-07.



Dr. Bev Freedman with Deyanira in 2012

Since the pandemic we teach virtually, with teachers using WhatsApp with students and by Zoom between Superintendents, principals and teachers. It brought negative aspects, but also sensitized the authorities to collaborate with teachers and students by giving them laptops and tablets to facilitate work and forced the whole country to educate themselves in the use of digital platforms and tools. The state has provided free workshops via Zoom to teachers of all levels to guide them in the knowledge and use of technology, which delayed the start of the new school year from mid-August to November.

We hope TMA will continue to support the teaching work in our country as they have done since its inception and at this time especially with the proper use and management of digital platforms, letting us know about their experiences, implementing plans and how they've succeeded in overcoming obstacles. God bless you.

“Man is an unfinished being”

~Arnold Gehlen

CHANGES

Welcome Abigail Falcon.

Abigail, a professional with more than 20 years of experience in banking and financial services, joined TMA's Board of Directors and is incoming treasurer. Her experience in the area of Internal Control, Internal Audit, Quality Assurance and Customer Service, includes companies such as Deloitte, ABN Amro Bank, Citibank and CTH S.A. in Ecuador. Abigail brings a commitment to high standards of customer service internally and externally and expertise in design of controls for risk management. Her knowledge of Spanish and the Hispanic culture are valuable additions to our board.



Thank you Julia Bendall.

Julia Bendall was a participant on the first team to the Dominican Republic in 2005 and was famously referred to as the person who could make “something out of nothing” because of her ingenuity in creating teaching/learning resources shared with the teachers. A person of many talents, she became TMA's bookkeeper in 2011 serving with heart and mind. Julia's devotion and outstanding service to TMA has been a gift beyond measure. Muchas, muchas gracias and best wishes in your endeavours!

Thank you Tim Geissberger

Tim, as Treasurer, brought valuable insights into the financial planning and oversight of a not-for-profit organization from his own broad accounting experiences in the field. His patience and dedication made for excellence service and we know that as he now commits to devote that time to his growing family they too are being very well served. Gracias Tim, de todo corazon. Thank you with all our heart!

2020 Virtual Annual Meeting

Join us for our annual event to look at how we are moving forward and creating opportunities for you to connect and grow with us despite these uncertain times.

This will be our first virtual Annual Meeting offering, with a dedicated page on our website. The page will feature our Annual Report along with some great videos of our Mentors in Motion. All the posts will be pre-recorded so don't worry about tuning in at a specific time.

We will be ready for you beginning Oct. 25 at www.teachermentors.ca

TEACHER MENTORS ABROAD

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