

President's Message

As this Spring issue is being shared, both our Canadian and Dominican educators are successfully navigating their way through school closures as a result of Covid-19. For our Dominican educators, who experienced school closures during the civil war in 1965, they will once again rise above adversity as they continue to use innovative methods to connect with their students.

This issue will celebrate the good work of TMA which continues to positively impact educators, even in our ever changing landscape.

~ Nancy Threan Loraine



Beth Buchanan



Wendy Chan



Karen Ovenden



RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH OUR DR MENTORS

2020 started off at full speed for our Dominican Mentors in Santiago and Santo Domingo with robust learning about Formative Assessment. On January 1st Janet Giberson and Denise Taylor-Edwards traveled to the Dominican Republic to deliver two days of training at each site. Our dedicated Dominican Mentors sacrificed holiday time with their families and committed themselves whole-heartedly to exploring how to provide quality feedback to impact student learning.

In addition, the Mentors experienced a trial run using ZOOM to connect virtually with TMA program committee members in Canada and to pave the way for more regular professional learning at a distance. Little did we know in January that virtual meeting platforms were about to become a mainstay of both of our education systems.

Many thanks to Lucia Betances, Ruth Green, Gloria Lopez and Gloriannie Lopez for coordinating these fruitful days together.

In February the Dominican mentors shared their January learning with colleagues and started to gather samples of student work with the intent of coming together in March with members of the Program Committee. Then as news of COVID-19 began to spread around the world, TMA made the difficult decision, in March, to cancel our summer conference. In honouring our ongoing commitment to undertake work that is sustainable and to adapt to diverse situations, the Program Committee is now looking to strengthen our virtual connections with our DR Mentors. In the coming months we will be utilizing both Zoom and other social platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook to continue our collaborative work.

Be sure to check out our website and Facebook page for regular updates, including our latest "Hola" video.

 facebook.com/TMA-Teacher-Mentors-Abroad



Santo Domingo mentors



Santiago mentors

SPRING / SUMMER 2020



In March, Dominican schools were closed, likely for the remainder of the school year. Some of our Dominican mentors shared their insight on their new reality



~ Andres / Santiago
 "Thanks to God our center has been working hand in hand with technology for several years as our principal is a visionary who adapted what we were already doing by creating an online plan to complete the school year".



~ Leonisia / Santo Domingo
 "We are working via WhatsApp with students. I send them research assignments and they are very interested in achieving a positive completion to this eventful year. We are all involved and God willing we are going to achieve it. Yes we can."

EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY: LESSONS LEARNED, HOW TO ACHIEVE BOTH

In February, TMA partnered with CAFE and Centro Leon for a symposium focusing on how communities can come together to achieve Excellence and Equity in education. The event provided our DR mentors with an opportunity to hear Dr. Bev Freedman's message and position them in a setting where they could network with influential education community representatives. The results of this conference far exceeded anyone's expectations.

Dr. Freedman created the conditions for the 100 participants to actively engage in discussions which were led by our DR mentors ~ a very different format than the expected lecture style conference. Our mentors expertly rose to the occasion to facilitate and participate in those discussions. The mentor teams from both Santiago and Santo Domingo embraced this first opportunity to meet each other and to work together. This will inevitably strengthen our mentor teams as they continue their work with the Program Committee.

Dr. Freedman also took this opportunity to publicly and formally recognize and honour the work that our DR mentors are doing in their schools and within their Districts.

Partnerships are at the heart of our TMA work. We look forward to building more community partnerships, where our DR mentors are highlighted as Change Agents.



Mentor Training led by Denise Taylor-Edwards



Santo Domingo mentors and Canadian team members



Translation: You are the change the world needs

CHANGES

Just as we embrace the changes that occur during the spring, we need to embrace the changes that occur within our organization. Thank you, Adrienne Grant, our exceptional Director of Communications & Donor Relations, who worked tirelessly to provide TMA with the financial stability which has allowed us to enrich our programs. We are grateful for her dedication and wish her well as she begins a new venture.

We are delighted to welcome Eva Stiller, a founding TMA Board member who is skilled in graphic design and social media. Eva is returning to serve as our new webmaster, a role that will be imperative as we continue to build our social media presence as a way of continuing our work with our DR mentors.

TEACHER MENTORS ABROAD

Dedicated to improving the quality of education in under-resourced communities

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