



President's Message

This issue is full of stories about our summer travel teams and exciting work with expanded Dominican Mentor teams.

Aslini Brito, a dynamic, visionary educator and former Director of Education for La Vega will be the guest speaker for our Annual General Meeting. Now a Regional Education Advisor with the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic (MINERD), Mr. Brito exemplifies collaboration and commitment to education training and reform as reflected in his doctoral thesis on Inter-institutional Education Partnerships. He even joined the newly formed TMA Zona Cibao mentor team!

TMA Director Juan Pablo Liriano introduced Mr. Brito to TMA and encouraged him to integrate TMA as an effective tool in their management in the field of teacher training. Mr. Brito attributes this encounter to translating a vision into reality with innovative and transcendental pedagogical practices.

Save Oct., 21, 2023 for our Annual Meeting at St. Paul's in Leaskdale, ON. You won't want to miss an encounter with this outstanding education leader.

~ Nancy Threan Loraine



Aslini Brito

Teams Prepare for Summer

This summer Canadian educators from seven different school boards in Ontario will travel to the Dominican Republic to support Dominican mentors as they prepare for teacher training workshops. Building on last year's expansion, four Dominican mentor teams, who describe themselves as Agents of Change, will design workshops which they will deliver to over four hundred educators at four sites across the country.

Marg Snider-McGrath, retired Principal, Durham DSB is a first-time TMA mentor

My sincere desire is to work alongside educators in different countries with the goal of making a positive impact on their professional development. Having already had the opportunity to work as a teacher in Colombia and Cuba, I am well aware of how aspects of the Canadian educational experience can benefit other countries, and how such an exchange results in my own personal learning, growth and respect for different cultures and their challenges.

Balanced Literacy

The Dominican Republic is traditionally an oral language society. Books are often absent in homes. This summer TMA teams will be training Dominican mentor teams in Balanced Literacy.

They will introduce "Un Sancocho de Piedra," a book written and published in the Dominican Republic by the Dream Project.



TMA has purchased 150 books that include class sets of thirty texts for each of the four Dominican mentor teams to use for educator training. The Dominican mentors will use the class sets in their home schools for further training with their colleagues.

Inspiring Allies in Consuelo

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Whitby Sunrise, TMA became aware of the amazing educational community in the municipality of Consuelo in the province of San Pedro de Macoris. Consuelo has progressed from a shanty town (batey) built around the local sugar mill to become a proud community.

Since 1998, the Rotary Club of Whitby Sunrise has been working closely with the Grey Sisters in Consuelo. During this time, they have instilled community pride, supported athletic and musical talents, built schools, a retirement home, and a local cultural centre. Sister Lenore, a Canadian-born member of the Grey Sisters and recipient of the Order of Canada has served in Consuelo since 1959.

Bob Jarvis, Past President of Sunrise Whitby, and DR Lead, reflects that “through Sister Lenore our Rotarians became involved in school projects and have come to admire the way the teachers worked hard to provide the best education to their students despite difficult obstacles. TMA provides guidance and pride to the teachers and gives them renewed enthusiasm for their vocation. For us, this enhances our efforts to improve the working conditions of the teachers.”

In 2022 a team of Santo Domingo mentors and Canadian mentors provided a day of workshops to introduce the work of TMA to local educators. From that initiative TMA garnered an invitation to return this year and recruited several dedicated and enthusiastic new mentors who will provide workshops in August.

Dominga Ortiz Mota, an elementary teacher, joined the newly formed mentor team in Consuelo. She works in a ‘batey’ where students experience



monotony. “I’m motivated in acquiring strategies that I receive from TMA in order to provide my students with meaningful student-centered learning. I also see myself as a multiplier of knowledge and methods with other teachers so they too can bring good learning to their students. My goal is to train teachers in areas surrounding

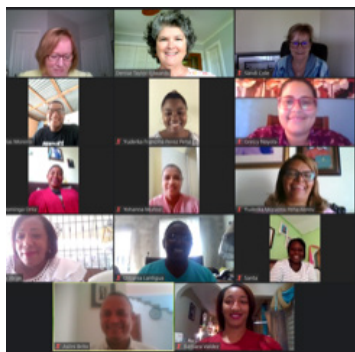
Consuelo with TMA strategies so that children lacking in understanding and support from busy working families can see their teachers’ classrooms as that second home where they will receive learning that will serve them for a lifetime. My motto: I give by grace what I received by grace because I am called to serve.”

Welcome New DR Mentors

to provide leadership bases in four sites: Santo Domingo, Santiago, La Vega, and Consuelo. Given the proximity of the Santiago and La Vega groups, they have decided to unite as a mentor team under the name Zona Cibao.

Members of the Program Committee had the opportunity to travel to the DR and meet with each of the mentor teams to provide orientation to the newest members and gather input for planning the summer workshop programs. New mentors were given a copy of TRIBUS/TRIBES and an overview of TMA, our pedagogical approach, and how we work. Existing mentors provided insight into next steps in supporting their professional development and theme/topics for upcoming summer workshops.

A follow-up Zoom meeting was held in preparation for their work in the summer workshops at their sites.



As a result of TMA’s Summer 2022 outreach to La Vega and Consuelo, eighteen keen Dominican educators have been accepted as new TMA mentors

Welcome Virginia Dawe

The Program Committee is delighted to welcome Ginny Dawe to the team! Ginny is a long-time supporter of TMA, a high school teacher in the Toronto District School Board who regularly travels to the Dominican Republic with her students of environmental studies on March breaks.

In fact, Ginny was a member of the four-person team that initiated TMA workshops in Santiago in 2015. Since joining the Program Committee, Ginny has provided insight and support, especially in our book study and Cultural Orientation for new Canadian mentors projects.

TEACHER MENTORS ABROAD

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