

Message From the TODOS President May 2023

It is feeling like spring in the part of the world that I live. The trees are once again leafing; frost has, for the most part, left the ground and flowers and flower pots are beginning to appear.

As I notice all of the ways 'living' is made visible to me through mother earth I am reminded of one of my favorite writings by the late Richard Wagamese:

"The old ones say that humility is the foundation of everything. Nothing can exist without it. Humility is the ability to see yourself as an essential part of something larger. It is the act of living without grandiosity. Humility, in the Ojibway world, means "like the earth." The planet is the epitome of a humble being, with everything allowed the same opportunity to grow, to become. Without the spirit of humility there can be no unity, only discord. Humility lets us work together to achieve equality. Humility teaches that there are no greater or lesser beings or things. There is only the whole. There is only the great, grand clamour of our voices, our spirits, raised together in song." (Wagamese, 2011, p. 9)

In this quote I think about everything sustained by or associated with Mother Earth - the lands, the flora, fauna, waters, animals, rocks, insects, and humans. As I watch Mother Earth make visible 'new growth' - from the leaves on the trees, to the flowers, to what humans call weeds. I think about mathematics classrooms and I wonder, what would it look like if mathematics classrooms were spaces where all humans had the "the same opportunity to grow, to become?" Or for all humans to flourish (Su, 2020)? What might that classroom look like for all humans - learners? teachers? parents / caregivers? Then I ask myself, what responsibility do I have to contribute to developing spaces where all humans have "the same opportunity to grow, to become?" or "to flourish"? I invite each of you to look within yourself and to challenge yourself to create spaces for human flourishing - as a mathematics teacher, mathematics educator, parent, caregiver, researcher - in all of the ways that you identify. What might the spaces look like as you begin to plan for a new school year?

May is also the beginning of a new year for TODOS. In the April enews I acknowledged outgoing Board members. Here I'd like to welcome newly elected members to the Board: *Marian Dingle* (as President - Elect), *Ji Yeong I* and *Brandie Waid* (as Directors for a 3 year term); newly appointed members *Aly Martinez* as Chair of the Advocacy Committee, *Erin Sylves* as a 1 year appointment as Director of the Board to fill the vacancy when Marian Dingle was elected to President - Elect and will continue to serve as Chair of the Fund Development Committee, *Jon Oaks* as Chair of the Member Services Committee, *Susie Håkansson* as NCTM Representative. *Ji Yeong* has also agreed to serve as Chair / Board Liaison for the Research and Publications Committee. *Brandie Waid* will continue to serve as TODVXS lead.

Continuing Board Members for 2023 - 2024 are *Bernard Frost* as Partner Conference Chair, *Diana Ceja* as Communications Chair, *Lisa Jilk* as Chair of the Awards Committee, *Luz Maldonado Rodríguez* as Chair of the Professional Development Committee, Ma Bernadette

Andres-Salgarino as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, *Nicole Lindgren* as Treasurer, *Nora Ramirez* as Executive Director, and *Sylvia Celedon-Pattichis* as Vice President.

I look forward to working with these amazing human beings who have each dedicated their lives to building spaces where all humans have “the same opportunity to grow, to become?” or “to flourish”? As I’ve come to know these amazing individuals I am grateful that they continue to find ways to work towards the Mission of TODOS: Mathematics for ALL.

We hope to see you engaged with TODOS activities over the next year - and learning about the ways that you are building those spaces.

With much respect,

Florence Glanfield, President
Mathematics for ALL

References

Su, F. (2020). *Mathematics for human flourishing*. Yale University Press.
Wagamese, R. (2011). *One story, one song*. Douglas & McIntyre.