

December 21, 2015

Hi Helen,

Please see reflections on Ontario-Italy Principal Exchange Experience – PART 1

**1) Planning: background, advertising the opportunity, time of year, grouping of participants, etc.**

-reading about this opportunity in an OPC newsletter was a determining factor in my decision to pursue this opportunity. The association of GPP (Global Principal Partnerships), OPC (Ontario Principals' Council) and supported by long time professional learning leaders such as Joanne Robinson was key in creating a sense of credibility to this professional learning exchange and adventure!

-getting a snapshot through our phone conversations of your background in education also made me more confident in my commitment to moving the process forward. Thanks for sharing Helen!

-many of my colleagues said they noticed the advertisement in the OPC newsletter, thought it was interesting, but did not submit applications. After numerous discussions with associates they have indicated they will look twice when GPP presents future learning opportunities.

-it was somewhat unsettling to experience the pairing portion of this experience. I remained patient and kept an open mind.

-Helen, your sensitivity, diligence and perseverance as a coordinator were instrumental in seeing that needs and requests of applicants were being considered and met, when possible. I believe the success of this pairing is due to, in large part, your timely communication, willingness to take phone calls and quick response time. I felt in the loop, there was clarity in process and felt confident that a match would be found.



-having partners arrive at this time of year was ideal. We were in the middle of many school-wide activities, the political landscape was improving and the excitement of the holiday season was before us!

-we are investing personal time, resources and energy in the pursuit of this learning experience and, I feel, we are on the right track. Thanks Helen!

**2) Matching: use of profile to match principals, etc. (I am thinking of adding a section having participants explain their travelling history as it was obvious some of our Italians were new to travelling overseas and that would add a layer of information for our benefit.)**

-I am pleased you were responsible for coordinating the process of matching principals.

-an alternative approach, which I believe could be problematic, is to provide detailed profiles of each exchange applicant and have individuals seek out their own exchange.

-I believe, there needs to be someone at the helm with a big picture, bird's eye view of the process and pairings.



-you were able to iron out wrinkles in the process and bring the professional learning opportunity to as many qualified Ontario and Italian principals as possible. Not everyone can nor should go to i.e. Rome, Milan or Florence or Toronto. A representative sample of pairings from many regions will result in a diverse experiential data base to draw upon at the end of the exchange.

-I believe this data will be helpful if GPP embarks upon "final and next steps" reflective work at the conclusion of the Ontario/Italy Exchange.

### **3) *Welcome, Home Life, Social Events, etc.***

-a proper welcome is key to making people feel special upon arrival. Franco had the opportunity to experience two formal, yet different welcomes, one in Toronto and one in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

-colleagues who assisted in Toronto helped with welcoming Franco when geographical and distance challenges and work or prior personal commitments constraints were involved. Helen and Cristina, your help in this area was appreciated.

-OPC's willingness to help with financial costs was well received and helped to level the financial burden for participants wanting to embark upon the journey.



### **4) *School Observations/visitations, etc.***

-a wide variety of experiences at the school, community and district level allowed many individuals in my networks to share in the benefits of this professional learning experience. School staff and students in elementary and secondary school settings, Algoma District Principals' Association holiday meeting attendees, ADSB's Curriculum Consultant and IT Coordinator, Board Superintendents, Our Chair and Director all met Franco.

-an introduction to education in Ontario became wider in scope when interactions with individuals holding different portfolios, roles and responsibilities in the organization met with my exchange partner.

-Social experiences outside of school helped bring local culture and traditions to life for Franco.

-Planning a variety of extra-curricular activities was necessary and an inherent part of my role as an Ontario Education ambassador for Franco.



Itinerary sample:

- dinner with family and friends
- concert featuring Algoma District School Board students
- Sault Rotary North breakfast meeting with fellow members. First time Franco had a full breakfast at 7 a.m. 😊
- evening out on the town to take in the music of local Blues entertainers. Franco enjoys listening to music, is a strong advocate for music education in his schools, so, I felt these musical experiences would be both inspiring and appreciated.
- brief tour of community
- shopping experiences
- espresso at Tim Horton's

-meeting with Sault residents originally from Bari, Italy

### 5) *Thoughts for return visit*

-having met Franco, the dialogue has started and we can now delve deeper into educational conversations we've started. I believe my knowledge of Italian and Franco's willingness to speak English are key factors in the successful completion of one-to-one conversations and discussions with colleagues in group settings. I am able to translate for Franco as needed and this has proven to be helpful in many situations.

-I have several months to reflect on topics needing investigation in preparation for when I go to Bari, Italy in March.

-referencing our discussions with professional readings will provide us with greater insight and common understandings. This is particularly important when we speak about educational terms and issues, discuss innovative thinkers' ideas in education and ponder our common and different day to day challenges inherent in leading learning organizations.



Have a wonderful holiday Helen!

Cheers from Sault Ste. Marie,

Frank Greco



## Your 2015/2016

### Executive

#### PRESIDENT (Elementary)

• Deb King; Ben R. McMullin

#### VICE PRESIDENT (Elementary)

• Carol Lucio: Parkland

#### PAST PRESIDENT

• Sergio Izzo: Korah

#### SECRETARY

• Chris Roux: Rockhaven

#### TREASURER

• Frank Greco: Greenwood

#### VICE PRINCIPAL REP (E)

• Agostina Patterson: H.M. Robb

#### VICE PRINCIPAL REP (S)

• Jeff Giovanetti (Korah)

#### CENTRAL AREA REP

• Sergio Izzo: Korah

#### CENTRAL ALGOMA AREA REP

• Dominic Izzo: Echo Bay

#### NORTH AREA REP

• David Jeremy: Hornsby

#### EAST AREA REP

• Pauline Brunet: Easton Park

#### MEMBERS AT-LARGE

• Nicole Shattman (S): Chapleau

#### PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR (E)

• Frank Palumbo: Parkland

#### PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR (S)

• Rony Del Cin: AEC

"This is my wish for you: peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holidays!"  
- D.M. Dellinger

## Who do I contact?

Is there something you are concerned about with respect to your position? Is there an idea or question you would like to raise with the Algoma District Principal's Association? Your ADPA executive is here for you!

We are a 'body' which represents our principals and vice principals, speaking on behalf of our association. If there are ideas, questions, or concerns, these should be channeled through an executive member to bring forth and discuss at the executive council meeting. Please see the list of executive members to the left - you are asked to contact the appropriate representative based on your question or concern.

## Winter Social

Our Winter Social was another great success thanks to the wonderful arrangements made by Stephen Patterson. Thank you also goes to Carol Lucio for the treats and decorations. Congratulations to Ellis Nyman for winning the door prize; a \$50 gift certificate to Sheri Menardi Photography.

It was a fantastic evening to see everyone, in the light this time, and share some much needed laughter.

*Laughter*  
among the best medicines

Frank Greco introduced our guest Francesco Lorusso from Bari, Italy to give a few words on his visit to Sault Ste. Marie and Greenwood school. Frank is participating in OPC's Global Principal Partnership and will be visiting with Francesco later this year. (Frank Greco, Francesco Lorusso, Lucia Reece)

