



Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury Working Together for Rising Stars!



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LDAS Mission:

To support all individuals with learning disabilities in reaching their full potential within a community that values their unique abilities and contributions.

Our Mission could not be fulfilled without the cooperation and support of our outstanding community partners. They are:

**Cambrian College
Glenn Crombie Centre**

**Greater Sudbury Public
Library**

**Laurentian University:
Department of Education
And Special Needs Office**

**Rainbow District School
Board**

**Sudbury Catholic District
School Board**

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LDAS News (Volume 6, Issue 1, January 2009)

Investments In Our Future!

"This is not a gift, but rather an investment". These comments were expressed by Ron Lessard, Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury, during his acceptance speech of the **Ontario Trillium Grant**.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury is pleased to announce that we are able to continue to offer programs and services through this generous funding. The \$66,000, over two years, will enhance and broaden our coaching program and develop six new and exciting parent and student workshops in partnership with local school boards.

United Way/Centraide

LDAS, a member agency of the United Way/Centraide, will receive programming dollars for 2009- 2010. With this sustainable funding we are able to provide one-on-one support and guidance to families of children with learning disabilities, offer community outreach programs to local school boards and the community at large.

Read With Your Ears And Write With Your Mouth!!

Join us as we welcome back inspirational speaker **Todd Cunningham**. Todd is working on his PhD and has earned two degrees, despite his life long challenges with learning disabilities. Todd has presented numerous workshops across Canada to parents, students, and education professionals on topics related to assistive technology and learning disabilities. He will be sharing his vast experience of assistive technology and how it leads to success.

Who: Students with learning disabilities, educators, parents, community members and individuals interested in assistive technology.

When: Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Where: City of Greater Sudbury Council Chambers
Tom Davies Square

Supported by : Cambrian College Glenn Crombie Centre,
Rainbow District School Board, Laurentian University
Special Needs Office and Greater Sudbury Public Library



First Annual LDAS - Educator Of The Year Award

Our deserving recipients are Rhonda Lenti and Patricia Girolametto!! This award acknowledges the meaningful contributions of teachers in local schools who support students with learning disabilities. Please join us in congratulating these recipients. Details on page 6.

Our Coaching Program

Thanks to funding from the United Way/ Centraide, the "Coaching Program" is off to another exciting year thanks, to the strong on-going partnerships with Laurentian University's School of Education, Greater Sudbury Public Library and Sudbury Catholic District School Board and Rainbow District School Board.



We are pleased to note that the demand for this program grows stronger every year and that the number of students choosing to participate continues to increase. To date, there are 39 grade 7 and 8 students involved. The weekly coaching sessions are held in eight of the local library branches, where the second and third year School of Education University students work directly one on one with their assigned elementary student. These University students participated in orientation and training workshops throughout the months of September and October in preparation for their role as coaches. These coaches now meet with their assigned pupil weekly in an effort to assist them in developing self awareness regarding their learning disability and to assist the student in discovering which learning strategies can benefit their overall learning. The sessions are intended to increase the students self-confidence, self esteem and self advocacy skills. Parents and students alike speak highly of the program and its benefits as it provides opportunities for success.

"We are looking forward to another very successful year with this initiative." Rita Tosolini (Coordinator)

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

The 2007 federal budget announced a new savings plan for persons with a disability known as the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).

The RDSP was created to provide families with the means for future financial security of their loved ones with disabilities. The RDSP is a *long term* savings plan that allows for significant tax free accumulation of funds for the benefit of individuals qualifying for the disability tax credit. Contributions to an RDSP are supplemented by contributions from the federal government. In order to benefit from the program, the person must qualify for the disability tax credit (DTC).

November 30, 2008, the Ontario government moved to *exempt* RDSP assets and withdrawals from the calculation of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits. Ontarians are free to contribute to RDSPs and later withdraw from them without a decrease of social benefits.

December 1, 2008 legislation and regulations implementing the government contributions to RDSPs came into effect. The Government of Canada is now able to provide funding to a person's RDSP in the form of a Canada Disability Savings Grant and a Canada Disability Savings Bond.



Financial institutions should begin to offer these savings plans early in the New Year.

Ryan Minor is a recognized income tax/disability tax credit specialist.

For further clarification and registration he can be reached at 705-560-1190.



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Classroom Presentations

Workshops can be conducted in a classroom setting with larger groups accommodated in a library or gymnasium.

Self Advocacy

"A skill that ensures you're the best you can be" (45 minutes Gr. 7 & 8)

Through the fun, but profound messaging that **Dr. Seuss** is famous for, the students will look at the key aspects of self-advocacy, as profiled in the current movie block-buster, "Horton Hears a Who". Utilizing 10 tips, students will have the opportunity to explore and build on this effective and essential life skill, knowing "It's okay to say I learn this way".



It's Okay to Learn a Different Way! (30 minutes interactive workshops for Gr. 2)

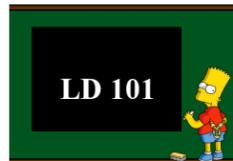
Based on the Warner Brothers movie "Happy Feet", students will be provided with messages of understanding, tolerance and appreciation of their peers "who learn in a different way". Also embodied in the presentation are messages about bullying and respecting the unique and special characteristics each of us possess.



LD 101

A Different Way of Learning Can Lead to Success (45 minutes Gr. 7 & 8)

This is a fun and engaging workshop that not only provides awareness about learning disabilities, it also has students experience processing challenges that increase empathy and understanding about how, "a different way of learning can lead to success"!



Edu-kinesthetics

Move to Learn! Learn to Move! (60 minutes Gr. 7 and Up) (Fee for service \$50)

Educators, parents, students : Schedule this workshop and you will learn about an innovative and effective new learning strategy. An empowering, self-administered technique that enhances learning by addressing stress and anxiety. The technique is also a self-care tool that is of benefit for all. Learn by doing at this "energetic" workshop.



I Learn Differently, Please Teach Me Differently - (Educators)

In partnership with the Council for Exceptional Children, the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury has developed an experiential workshop on learning disabilities for educators. This material has been reviewed and endorsed by EFTO, OSSTF, SCDSB SEAC, RDSB SEAC, and Special Needs Educators. Due to their enthusiastic response we are now prepared to respond to requests from schools in the Sudbury area. The material never fails to provide a variety of "a-ha moments" with the outcome being educators seeing and teaching students with learning disabilities "in a different way".

Encourage your Principal to call Angie DeMarco, Community Outreach Coordinator at 522-0100 to schedule this fun and interactive 1 hour session at your school.

Viewer Comments

"Lot of information on different learners, very inspiring. Presentation offered a chance for me to reconnect with my different learners and understand how they see things."

Adamsdale Educator



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October! Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

October was Learning Disabilities Awareness month and we "kicked off" our Self-Advocacy theme campaign at Laurentian University's School of Education. The event focused on how young people with learning disabilities, as well as their peers, must learn the skills of self-advocacy in order to be the best they can be. LDAS Executive Director, Ron Lessard introduced 2008 Co-chairs Jean Hansen (RDSB) and Catherine McCullough (SCDSB) in his opening address. "With the theme this year of "Self-Advocacy" we were delighted to have not 1 but 2 community leaders step up and volunteer as the 2008 Honourary Chairs of Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. Words of inspiration were heard from our 2008 co-chairs Catherine McCullough (SCDSB) and Jean Hansen (RDSB). "I could not be more pleased that this year's theme is self-advocacy. Learning is a lifelong process and the first step in developing the necessary skills to learn is having the proper supports in place. We recognize that with an understanding of the social and emotional challenges at hand, parents and teachers can help children with LD develop positive self esteem, useful social skills and traits that can lead to success." (Catherine McCullough). Rainbow Director, Jean Hansen, talked passionately to students about the positive outlook for learners who are experiencing challenges in the school system and spoke to the importance of self advocacy as an important tool for all.



Catherine McCullough Jean Hansen

SELF-ADVOCACY TOP TEN TIPS

Tip # 1

Self-Awareness - Stay focused on your strengths & needs.

You know yourself better than anyone.

Tip # 2

Self-Awareness - Know your learning style.

When you understand how you learn you are actively participating in your learning.

Tip # 3

Self-Awareness – Learn & use learning strategies

Learning strategies support independent and lifelong learning.

Tip # 4

Be organized and prepared.

Share all the relevant information about yourself, early in the year/ with each teacher.

Tip # 5

Anger is one letter short of Danger!

You can disagree without being disagreeable.

Tip # 6

Help others understand your views – practice problem solving skills.

But do not hesitate to get an Advocate if necessary.

Tip # 7

Surround yourself with winners.

Connect with whoever contributes to your success.

Tip # 8

Allow yourself to be less than perfect.

No one is.

Tip # 9

Thank people for their time.

Even when you do not get what you want.

Tip # 10

Take responsibility for your success!

You will create a self-determined future!

Big News !

The Ontario Ministry of Education is releasing "Learning for All", Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students K-12. This is the continuance and more inclusive document proceeding the K-6 publication released in 2005. Look for it soon!

Did you know?

There are 810 students identified with the exceptionality of learning disability in the Rainbow District School Board and 300 identified in the Sudbury Catholic District School Board.



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Cambrian College – The **Glenn Crombie Centre** for disability services, in partnership with Nipissing University – Counseling and Disability Services, is hosting the most comprehensive learning disability transition conference in Northeastern Ontario.

Pathways – Learning Disabilities Conference
Friday, May 22 and Saturday May 23, 2008

at Cambrian College's main campus in Sudbury, Ontario.

Participants (students, parents, and educators) will receive information about:

- planning for postsecondary education
- understanding learning disabilities
- understanding psychological tests and assessments
- learning college and university survival tips
- learning about assistive technology
- enhancing the learning experience and supporting students with learning disabilities in the classroom

There are separate pathways for parents, educators, and high school students.

Keynote and presenter: Rick Lavoie—Rick Lavoie has served as an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs since 1972. He holds three degrees in Special Education and has served as an adjunct professor or visiting lecturer at numerous universities including Syracuse, Harvard, Gallaudet, Manhattanville College, University of Alabama and Georgetown. His numerous national television appearances include CBS Morning Show, Good Morning America, ABC Evening News and Disney Channel Presents.

Rick Lavoie serves as a consultant on Learning Disabilities to several agencies and organizations including Public Broadcasting Service, New York Times, National Center for Learning Disabilities, Girl Scouts of America, Child Magazine and WETA. He is a member of the Professional Advisor Board of the Learning Disabilities Association.

Rick Lavoie has delivered his message to over 500,000 parents and professionals throughout North America. Rick is probably best known for his videos “How Difficult Can This Be?: The F.A.T. City Workshop” and “Last One Picked, First One Picked On: The Social Implications of Learning Disabilities”.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear this dynamic speaker.

For further information and registration <http://homepages.cambrianc.on.ca/gcc/pathways>

Or contact **Marlene McIntosh** (705) 566-8101, extension 7219



Student Success Transition Day

“Beyond High School”

Transitions to Postsecondary Education For all Exceptional Students in Grade 12

The Glenn Crombie Centre at Cambrian College

Friday February 13 , 2009:9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

For further information Contact Elizabeth Brett–Dickie

1400 Barrydowne Rd. Sudbury, ON P3A 3V8

Phone: (705) 560-8101, Extension 7537 Fax (705) 566-5452

Elizabeth.brett-dickie@cambriancollege.ca

This interactive one-day session will provide an opportunity for students to prepare for the major transition from high school to post-secondary education at college or university. The session will cover common accommodations and services, information about financial assistance, assistive technology demonstrations, an open dialogue with postsecondary educators, & much more.



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LDAS and the Greater Sudbury Public Library A Great Partnership Continues!

The Greater Sudbury Public Library and LDAS continue to work together ensuring the Learning Disability's section at the MacKenzie Street branch is provided with the latest resources. New material is provided in a variety of formats (videos, dvd's and cassettes) offering parents, educators and students the opportunity to review the most current information regarding learning disabilities.

(left to right-Stephanie Manarin, Ron Lessard, Kaija Mailloux)

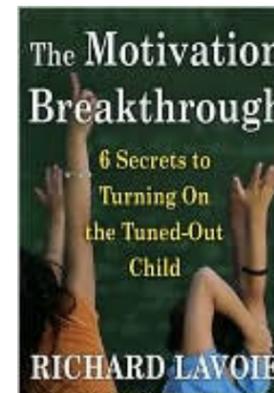


Top three checkouts at the MacKenzie Street Library in 2008

1. Learning Disabilities and Social Skills (VHS): Last Once Picked ...First One Picked On
Parent's Guide: Author, Richard Lavoie
2. The ADD/ADHD Checklist : Author, Sandra Rief
3. Look What You've Done! (VHS): Stories of Hope and Resilience: Author, Dr. Robert Brooks

The Motivation Breakthrough

A new addition to our Learning Disabilities Section!



Motivation is the key to learning, but very few parents and teachers have effective techniques at their disposal. Acclaimed author Rick Lavoie, provides effective tools and strategies to encourage children to learn and achieve success.

Rick Lavoie's practical, innovative approach begins with a quiz that helps a parent or teacher identify six different possible models of a child's motivational style. This resource is available at the Main Branch of the Greater Sudbury Public Library. See page 5 for more information regarding Rick Lavoie's presentation at Pathways Conference.

LDAS Educator of the Year Award

(continued from our front page)

Rhonda Lenti is an English teacher at Lockerby Composite School who was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Grade 9 Learning Strategies classes. She is recognized for her outstanding effort, commitment and enthusiasm for the use of assistive technology to support students with learning disabilities.

Exceptional resource teacher , Patricia Girolametto from St. Francis School is also being recognized for the time, energy and effort she applies on an individual basis to students with learning disabilities. The support she provides to other teachers at the school has tremendous impact on the success of these students. Congratulations to both of these excellent educators– we are so fortunate to have them in our school communities.

“Engaging the student is more important than engaging the subject.”



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Our Commitment from the LDAS TEAM....To Making a Difference

As we start a new calendar year, it's a great time for us to reflect on the past, and to renew our commitment and dedication to support students with learning disabilities in reaching their full potential.

In the past year we have increased awareness and understanding about learning disabilities within the community through direct contact with over 5000 individuals. These contacts have been with students, parents, educators and community members. Each and every one is important! Whether it's one-on-one parent meetings, classroom sessions or community awareness presentations; each one is about.... making a difference.

As an organization, we are particularly proud of the response to our new program offered last year for teachers. "I Learn Differently, Please Teach Me Differently". This informative and interactive session for educators, developed in partnership with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Chapter 503, and local school boards was presented to 812 teachers during 25 presentations in schools and to 640 future teachers/early childhood education students in 14 sessions at the Laurentian University School of Education and Cambrian College. Very positive responses and feedback have been generated from these presentations.

In 2009, with the combined efforts of our community partners, we have some new and exciting initiatives. We will be developing and presenting several new parent workshops starting with the release of the P.A.R.E.N.T.S. Toolbox at Cambrian College's PATHWAYS Conference on May 22nd and 23rd. We will be working with the School of Education at Laurentian University to ensure graduating teachers have an appreciation for the abilities and strengths of all students, especially students who learn differently. We will strive to meet the needs in the community, particularly on an individual basis through one-on-one support.

We are here for you..... we want to hear from you.....

it's all about making a difference!

Ryan Minor C.A., Chair, Board of Directors Ron Lessard, Executive Director

Our Team in the LDAS office!

Angie DeMarco- Community Outreach Coordinator- Angie develops and delivers presentations that build our community partnerships. The themes incorporate information that focuses on empathy and awareness for: educators, elementary, secondary, college and university students, employers and employees in the workplace. With a background in mental health, Angie shares information that is exciting, encouraging and enlightening.

Wendy Larouche- Resource Facilitator- Wendy offers one-on-one support to parents/guardians in navigating the education system. Wendy assists parents in compiling documentation and getting organized for the IPRC process.

Stephanie Manarin- Resource Development and Community Outreach- Stephanie researches funding opportunities, provides office support and facilitates community outreach programs within the schools.



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LDAS

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Online Resources- Web Addresses

- Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
www.ldao.ca
- Learning Disabilities Resource Community
www.ldrc.ca
- Great Schools
www.greatschools.net
- Special Needs Opportunity Windows
www.snow.utoronto.ca
- LD Online www.ldonline.org

LDAS services we provide:

- One-on-one support to parents/guardians of students with learning disabilities, to assist them in "navigating" the educational system and in developing advocacy skills.
- Personalized information and support to individuals with learning disabilities.
- Information packages available for parents and teachers.
- Advice on assistive technology available to individuals with a learning disability.
- Extensive and current collection of books and videos on learning disabilities offered in partnership with the Greater Sudbury Public Library. Check out the "Learning Disability Section" at the MacKenzie Street Branch.



LDAC / ACTA

Learning Disabilities Association of Canada

The right to learn, the power to achieve

“ HELPING PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES IN LEARNING IS THE FIRST STEP.

HELPING THEM CELEBRATE THE DIFFERENCES IS THE GOAL”

Sign the Right to Learn Petition ! (www.ldac.ca)
We call on the governments of Canada to support the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada's (LDAC) Policy on Educational Accommodations for Individuals with Learning Disabilities. The Policy states that all students who are diagnosed as having a learning disability, as defined by LDAC, be guaranteed full access to appropriate accommodations, which will enable them to optimize their potential in accordance with the mandates of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Human Rights Legislation of the Provinces and Territories. Add your voice and make a difference!