



# ***Releasing the Power - the "Faces of Learning Disabilities"***

## ***Feed the Power: Join us for Breakfast***



**United Way Centraide**  
Sudbury and/or District



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Police Chief Frank Elsner and Special Education Resource Teacher Sue Elsner, the Honorary Co-chairs of this year's "October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month", invite you to join them for a community breakfast on Friday, October 14 from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Caruso Club. This wonderful "couple" of community leaders represents many of the ingredients which demonstrate that Chinese proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child." Frank and Sue are models of loving and encouraging parents, of insightful community leaders, of supportive educators, and of empathy for the hundreds of young people with learning disabilities in the Sudbury area.

Chief Elsner explains it this way: "With over 2000 children and youth identified with a learning disability in our educational institutions locally, it is very important we understand

and support each and every one, not only in the classroom but in our community. Because these young people have average to above average intelligence, they have the ability to succeed after graduation with the support of our businesses, employers and the community at large."

"These students represent the largest single disability group in the country"; Sue Elsner adds. "Of all children with disabilities in Canada, 59.6% have a learning disability. It definitely does not mean they don't learn! They just learn differently. All of them have tremendous abilities and strengths. All of them have the potential to succeed at school, in life and in the community."

The national motto of the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada is "The right to learn, the power to achieve". The theme of this year's Learning Disabilities

Awareness Month across Canada is "The Faces of Learning Disabilities". Here in Sudbury, we want to make a special effort to connect with a record number of parents of children with learning disabilities and to support educators to appreciate that "if they don't learn the way we teach, we will teach the way they learn". We have to work together for these rising stars.

Please join the Elsners for a power breakfast to start your day and to show your support for students with learning disabilities in our community! Any business or individual wishing to sponsor tickets that will be provided to students with learning disabilities, both individually or by table can do so and a charitable receipt will be issued. Call 705 522 - 0100 for information on ticket sales. Tickets are \$25 each. Tables of eight can be reserved for \$200 per table.

### **Mission Statement**

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

# **The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury**

**and Honorary Co-Chairs of LD Awareness Month  
Police Chief Frank Elsner and Educator Sue Elsner**

**invite you to join us for  
Breakfast  
to recognize the “Faces of Learning Disabilities”  
in our Community**

**Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Caruso Club**

**Tickets available at BlackCat, 96 Durham Street  
or contact LDAS Office (705) 522 0100**

**\$25 each or a Sponsored Table of 8 @ \$200**



**ldas • Learning Disabilities  
Association of Sudbury**

*The right to learn, the power to achieve*



**United Way  
Centraide**  
Sudbury and/or District

## Parents



### OTF Comes Through Again Expanding the Power

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, MPP Rick Bartolucci announced an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for the Learning Disabilities Assoc. Sudbury to expand their support of children with learning disabilities and their parents and families. The two-year, \$50,000 grant provides for delivery of programs and services for children with learning disabilities and their parents in Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma. Funding will be used to broaden access to resource materials & delivery of workshops on learning disabilities for children, parents and educators. "This project is about sharing and community capacity building in Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie," says Liz Brett -Dickie, Chair of the LDAS Board of Directors who was present at the announcement and accepted the grant. Brett-Dickie, retired principal from the Rainbow District School Board, knows only too well the importance of releasing the power from the great minds of children and youth with learning disabilities. "They have tremendous potential," she adds; "this is really an investment in kids. By encouraging and building on their strengths we can help them discover different ways of learning. This power leads to success not only in elementary and high school, but in college and university and in life."

### Build Your Learning Profile Workshop

Everyone has individual ways of learning. When students understand how they learn they, (and you) are able to advocate for what they need in order to be successful in school. This experiential workshop will have participants **create a strength based learning profile** covering the key aspects recognized by the Ministry of Education: their learning style, their types of intelligence, their learning strategies and a clearer understanding of their Individual Education Plan.



Please join us

**November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.,  
Lockerby School Auditorium.**

### A Parent's Checklist for Success

The beginning of the school year is a time to establish clear communication with your child's school and teachers as well as set up your child for success. Use the following checklist as a guide:

- Phone call/email/visit to the school's Resource teacher to introduce yourself
- Phone call/email/interview with your child's teacher(s): reinforce information on your child's IEP; set up a line of communication with the teacher(s) for updates on your child's progress; voice a commitment to support teacher strategies at home
- Help your child organize homework: set up organizer (ex. Rainlendar, school agenda) and check this organizer daily/weekly
- Set up a place (ex. binder insert) for storing school newsletters, information pages, or forms that need to be brought home, signed, and returned
- Set up a homework routine with your child (perhaps let your child decide when homework will be done); include times in organizer; schedule time to review organizer and homework

Rainlendar: <http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/index.php>

Rainlendar Lite Program is free of charge

## YOUTH AND STUDENTS

### Celebrating 5 years of Success

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, over 100 parents, students and future educators joined together at the School of Education Building, Laurentian University for a graduation and anniversary celebration. This unique partnership involving Laurentian University, Rainbow District School Board, Sudbury Catholic District School Board, the City of Greater Sudbury Public Libraries, and LDAS, celebrated the fifth anniversary of our Coaching Program funded by the United Way Centraide Sudbury and/et District.

One parent thanked the University students by reflecting on how the coaching program made a difference for her son:

*"Things are going well with [my son's] coach. He is also working with him in helping him develop brain storming ideas for a speech he is to present to his class.*

*All I know for sure is that this is the best experience that [my son] has had since his identification. He continues to be very enthusiastic about learning. He has come out of his shell so to speak. His coach has been the perfect match for him. Not only are his strategies effective but, he comes in with the sense of genuine enthusiasm to help [my son] with his learning. Thanks again for all of your support."*

Lyndon Ferguson, one of the coaches summed up his experience by telling everyone gathered:

*"The coaching program has helped me to truly recognize the diversity of learning styles that I will encounter later in my career, and provided a foothold of tools to use with various learning styles.*

*... What I learned most was the profound impact that we will soon have as teachers. The attitude that I had brought to each coaching session was reflected by the student's eagerness to work hard and achieve his goals. The coaching program has taught me a valuable lesson in self-awareness and reflection."*

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Coaching Program Meet and Greet  
September 26, 2011

7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Fraser Auditorium, Laurentian University

### 2011-2012 Coaching Program: Building on Success

This year's Coaching Program has already begun, with students from Laurentian University's third year Concurrent Education Program paired with select students with a learning disability, all from Grades 7, 8, and 9 of RDSB and SCDSB. The coaching sessions will begin in October after the mandatory "Meet and Greet" to be held Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> (7:30-9:00 p.m.) at Fraser Auditorium.

Feedback from the 2010-2011 Coaching Program provided compelling evidence for continuation of the coaching sessions, but there is always need for improvement. Numbers of parents commented on the meaningful connection between their child and coach, a crucial step in establishing a learning relationship. The child or student is much more willing to learn about learning styles, learning strategies, and organizational skills if he or she feels valued and secure. These coaches have realized an important key to successful learning in tomorrow's classrooms.

Building on last year's successes, this year's program includes some additional features:

- improved manual for LU coaches, including supplementary lesson plans;
- improved coach communication with parents about individual coaching sessions;
- Laurentian University's Library (Curriculum Resource Centre) as a site for coaching sessions in addition to Sudbury's Public libraries;
- Parent Meeting in January 2012 to assess the program mid-year and to promote successful practices;
- introduction to Self-Advocacy skills for both coaches and students.

With support from the United Way and Laurentian University, and partnerships with RDSB, SCDSB, and Sudbury's Public Libraries, The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury is able to maintain and develop this coaching program. We want our youth to "release their power"!

Coach: "This placement taught me a lot about students with exceptionalities. I learned how and why different students learn differently."

Student:  
The coach "explained little tricks to keep me from forgetting and [they were] so simple."

## Youth and Students

### Knowing Oneself is Empowering

Adolescence is a time of discovery, a search for a unique identity while fitting in with one's social group. This process is especially important for young people with a learning disability, because they must accept their disability, and then find strategies to take advantage of their strengths and to support their weaknesses. The first step in this process is **self-awareness**. Before teens with learning disabilities can advocate for themselves, they must **know who they are**.

Parents can help their children see that even though they have areas of challenge, they also have strengths. Take a little time and use the following questions to build **self-awareness**:

- What do I love to do?    • What kinds of activities do I avoid?    • How would I describe my learning disability?
- What is important to me?    • What tasks are difficult for me?    • What would be my ideal job or career?

Once these questions have been answered, a parent has a glimpse of where his/her child is in **self-understanding**. If your adolescent has difficulty answering the questions, then suggest specific examples that you have observed to move toward the answers. Refrain from making judgements; just identify the true responses. **Self-awareness** is the foundation for building personal empowerment!

References:

1. <http://www.ncld.org/college-aamp-work/post-high-school-options/transitioning-to-college/guiding-teens-with-learning-disabilities-an-interview-with-dr-arlyn-roffman>
2. <http://www.ncld.org/ld-basics/ld-aamp-social-skills/self-esteem/self-determination>

### Read with your Ears Write with your Mouth Assistive Technology Camp

The power of assistive technology was the driving force behind the curiosity and enthusiasm of students attending the first ever Assistive Technology Camp held at Cambrian College. The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury in partnership with Cambrian College offered a one week Assistive Technology Camp for students in grades 6 to 8 identified with a learning disability. Students received hands on training in Kurzweil, TextHelp Read and Write, Dragon Naturally Speaking, One Note, Inspiration and a demonstration on the capabilities of smart board use in the classroom.

*"They showed me a lot of stuff I never would have known. They showed me that I'm smart which boosted my confidence" – Student*

Parents attended the camp to share in the learning and the fun. Angie DeMarco, Community Outreach Coordinator offered parent workshops throughout the week.

When asked what they liked about the program parents wrote:

*"Overview of many different types of software. Better informed as a parent/advocate. Have more confidence to help at home".*

*"Learned a lot saw my daughter's confidence grow! The parent sessions exceeded expectations – just excellent information. Congratulations on such a great camp".*

A special thanks to our instructors Marlene McIntosh and Yvan Roy from Cambrian College and assistants Krissy Battisoni (L.U. Student) and David Woodley (Educator – RDSB) for helping make this A.T. Camp possible.

We've been SNAP'd. Follow the link to read more about the camp.

[http://www.snapsudbury.com/index.php?option=com\\_sngevents&id\[\]=296604](http://www.snapsudbury.com/index.php?option=com_sngevents&id[]=296604)



## EDUCATORS

### DVD Releases the Power

The LDAS workshop "I Learn Differently, Please Teach Me Differently" will soon be available free to educators in DVD format. The official release will take place at the Learning Disabilities Awareness Month Breakfast on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Angie DeMarco, Community Outreach / Education Coordinator with Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury, delivers the workshop to a group of educators who are given not only "the facts" about learning disabilities, but also insight into the hearts and minds of students with learning disabilities. Angie suggests and models learning approaches and strategies that teachers can use in their classrooms for all students. This workshop has already met with success locally and provincially; now in DVD format, copies will be distributed to school boards and First Nation Educational Institutions across Northern Ontario.

Educator Ronda Lenti introduces the presentation, reminding teachers that they have a professional and moral responsibility to reach out to all learners. Participation in workshops such as this one helps educators develop the insight and compassion that young people with learning disabilities need.



Susan Alcorn-MacKay, Director of The Glenn Crombie Centre for Student Support at Cambrian College in Sudbury, closes the presentation with an emphasis on the need for student success in elementary and secondary school. With such success will come opportunities for post-secondary education.

Financial and technical support for the production of the DVD has come from community partners: Vale Community Investment Fund, Rainbow District School Board, and Cambrian College.



### Quotations from the Workshop

"This workshop was fantastic! Loved the "sensitivity training", the experiential learning and the awareness of what a learning disability is."

"How can we ensure that ALL staff in the board take this training. It should be mandatory."

"Specific examples to increase understanding."

"Engaging, Fantastic, Passion for the topic!"

# No One is an Island Announcement

Angie DeMarco, Education Coordinator with The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury (LDAS), will be delivering three workshops at this exciting national conference:



- "I Learn Differently, Please Teach me Differently!"
- "Navigating the System with your GPS" (Advocacy for Parents)
- "Universal Design for Learning" (What's Necessary for Some is Good for All!)

These same presentations and more are available for you! Angie offers a variety of workshops to students/educators/parents and community agencies.

Contact our Sudbury Chapter to make arrangements with Angie.  
**(705) 522 0100 or email: [communityoutreach@ldasudbury.ca](mailto:communityoutreach@ldasudbury.ca)**

## Recognizing Powerful Teachers with our Educator of the Year Award

Nominations continue to be accepted by our Board of Directors to recognize outstanding teachers who work tirelessly to release the power of students with learning disabilities. The award will be presented to our 2011 Teacher of the Year at the Learning Disability Awareness Month Kickoff Breakfast on Oct. 14, 2011.

The LDAS Teacher of the Year Award recognizes an exceptional teacher who consistently supports, encourages, and advocates for the success of students with learning disabilities. Nomination letters should include:

- Contact information of the individual teacher, parent, or student who is making the nomination
- Background information: a brief description about the nominee and how he or she became a significant teacher/mentor for students with learning disabilities
- Innovation and creativity: a description of the nominee's most effective approaches to stimulate & motivate learners with learning disabilities
- Impact: a description of how the nominee has made a difference in the lives of students with learning disabilities

Testimonials from students or parents may also be included. Please limit your submission to 400 words or less!

Nominations will be accepted until Sept. 30, 2011 and can be faxed to 705 522 2289 or emailed to [info@ldasudbury.ca](mailto:info@ldasudbury.ca).

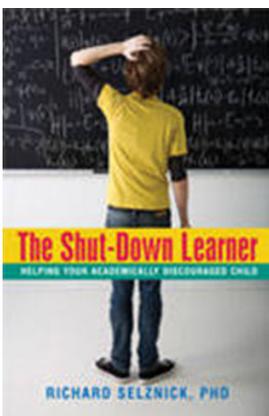
This is a great opportunity to recognize amazing teachers who truly understand the needs of students with learning disabilities and work tirelessly to help them reach their full potential.

### Quote

"If kids come to us from strong, healthy functioning families, it makes our job easier. If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important."

-Barbara Coloroso

## Now available from the Greater Sudbury Public Library



Learners who can perform mechanical tasks with ease but get stumped with reading and writing.

### High Spatial Learner Characteristics:

- Lego Kid
- Love Puzzles
- Engages for hours with hands-on activities
- Likes taking things apart to see how they work
- Enjoys hooking things up such as entertainment systems
- Good awareness of visual detail
- Excellent visual recall
- Enjoys doing tasks that are movement based

The most important way to overcome their status as a shut-down learner is to help them value and understand their strengths. Ideally this should start at a young age, as the layers of negative, failed experiences will take their toll on the child's core sense of self.



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**United Way  
Centraide**  
Sudbury and/et District

## LDAS Services we provide:

- **One-on-one resource/advocacy support** to families as they “navigate the school system”
- **Development and delivery** of workshops and presentations designed to raise awareness through our Community Outreach Program
- **Extensive resource library** offered through our partnership with the Greater Sudbury Public Library
- **Gr. 7 & 8 Coaching Program** in partnership with Laurentian University
- **School Age Presentations:**

Happy Feet	Gr. 2 - 4
LD 101	Gr. 5 - 8
Self-Advocacy	Gr. 7 - 8
- **Edu-Kinethetics** an interactive workshop to address anxiety and negative emotions
- **Newsletters** “Working Together for Rising Stars”
- **Representation** on School Board SEAC Committees, RDSB & SCDSB
- **Web Site:** www.ldasudbury.ca

## TOLL FREE NUMBER CONNECTS LDAS WITH NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO

Parents across Northeastern Ontario will have free access to LDAS services beginning October 1, 2011.

**(855) 522- 0100**

is the new toll-free line. Wendy Larouche, our trained and experienced Resource Facilitator will provide information, ideas and suggestions in your role as advocate for your child. You can also connect with Wendy by e-mail at

**resource@ldasudbury.ca.**

## Powered by United Way Centraide Sudbury and/et District

LDAS is very proud to be a United Way Funded Agency, with most of our programs and services supported in part, by United Way grants. In the past year this support has empowered us to make a difference in our community:

- We connected with 3248 individual parents, students with learning disabilities, educators and community members through our Community Outreach Program. This includes parent workshops, teacher professional development training sessions and classroom presentations.
- Our Resource Facilitator provided support and guidance in navigating the system to 240 families of students with learning disabilities.
- We provided 12 hours of training to 124 third-year concurrent education students at Laurentian University, School of Education, focusing on Special Education and learning disabilities.
- We trained and provided support to 56 Laurentian University students who adopted and coached a grade 7, 8 or 9 student with a learning disability.

Join us in supporting the United Way 2012 Campaign by making a contribution today or signing up for a payroll deduction. Release the Power!



Boston Pizza partners with United Way on a year-long fundraising initiative. All you have to do is write 'GenNext' on your receipt and place it in the box at the front of the restaurant. 10% of your pre-tax (excluding alcohol) total will be donated to United Way. Enjoy great food and help make a difference in your community!