

For immediate release

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## **OCTOBER AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS WERE MET WITH SUCCESS!**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury (LDAS) received much praise and success in its effort to spread awareness of learning disabilities during the first two weeks of October 2014 Awareness Month. The proclamation that took place at the newly-renovated MacLeod Public School on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, created an exciting buzz about October Awareness Month from both adults and children alike in the community. Students from grades 2 to 4 came together in the gym to listen to Honorary Chair Dr. Kevin McCormick's speech reflect upon the importance on the importance of diversity and Ward One Coun. Gerry McIntaggart's reading of the proclamation. They also participated in LDAS' newest workshop titled "Be Cool in School", presented by guest speaker Angie DeMarco. The students responded energetically and enjoyed the workshop that was inspired by Disney's Blockbuster, "Frozen". They connected with the messages of understanding and empathy for their peers, "who learn in a different way". As Angie went through the screening of selected movie clips, the students were able to easily draw on the parallels between the movie's main characters, Elsa & Anna, and the variety of learners in their school. The LDAS would like to send a special thank you to MacLeod Public School for providing the location, Ward One Coun. Gerry McIntaggart, the honorary chair Dr. Kevin McCormick, and Angie DeMarco for attending this event.

Our main speaker event titled "Neuro-diverse NOT Neuro-deficit", presented by guest speaker Angie Demarco gathered seventy-five community members including (but not limited to) educational professionals, parents, and student teachers into the Science North Vale Cavern on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The evening workshop welcomed participants to appreciate their child or student's unique neurodiversity. Angie DeMarco discussed the current neuroscience research in regards to learning disabilities in fun and interactive ways that were accessible to all types of learners. She also related much of the research back to how individuals with learning disabilities are successful because of how they are wired differently. The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury would like to thank guest speaker Angie DeMarco for sharing her wonderful insights with the community and Science North for providing the venue.

If you missed our events but are interested in the topic of neurodiversity, check out Angie DeMarco's CBC interview where she discusses this fascinating topic and more at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/sudbury-s-angie-demarco-speaks-about-learning-disabilities-1.2791319>.

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