

## **Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury**

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Quarterly Newsletter

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# Special Education Newsletter for Rainbow Schools

## What Is a Learning Disability?

A learning disability is a neurological disorder that causes a person with average to above average abilities to have trouble learning and using certain skills. The skills most often affected are: in listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing, mathematics, reasoning, organization and social-skills that individuals must use every day to fulfill their roles as students, family members, employees and citizens.

For a complete definition of a learning disability go to <http://ldao.ca>, click on "about learning disabilities/definition".

## Did You Know?

- Our most recent statistics indicate that there are 1878 students in the Rainbow District School Board who have been identified with an exceptionality, and of these students, 602 have been identified under the category Communication-Learning Disability (LD).
- One in ten Canadians has a learning disability or 16,000 in Sudbury.
- 35% of students identified with learning disabilities drop out of high school. This is twice the rate of non-disabled peers and does not include students who are not identified and also drop out.
- Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury is here to support students with learning disabilities, parents and educators.

Call us at: 522-0100  
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If they do not learn the way you teach,  
then teach the way they learn.

-Dr. Jane Bluestein

## October Is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month!

The theme for the national campaign this October "Learning Disabilities and Mental Health: Is there a Higher Risk?" will illustrate how mental health issues are not the cause, but rather the consequence, of academic frustrations and continued failures.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury (LDAS) recognizes 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. Learning disabilities are life long and with early interventions and appropriate supports, children with LD can become competent, content and independent adults who reach their full potential and lead satisfying lives.

"Learning Disabilities Awareness Month allows us to collectively, as a community, a province and a country, set one month aside each year to remind us to put our concentrated efforts into educating as many people as possible about learning disabilities," says Janet Guembel, President of LDAS.

## Grade 9 Learning Strategies Pilot Laptop Program

A first in Northern Ontario! Lockerby Composite School is offering a Grade 9 pilot laptop program for a select number of students identified with LD from the south end of the city. This program will focus on the use of laptop computers and appropriate software (Kurzweil, Dragon NaturallySpeaking, Smart Ideas, Text Help, Rainlander) as assistive technology supports to the students. The Rainbow District School Board, in partnership with the Glenn Crombie Centre at Cambrian College, is piloting this program on a one year basis and will evaluate its success throughout the year. Our LDAS chapter is pleased to be supporting this innovative program which symbolizes "a different way of learning can lead to success"!

## Learning Disabilities Resource Library

Looking for information about LD or AD/HD? Our Resource Library at the Main Library, 74 Mackenzie Street, Sudbury has it! We have hundreds of books and videos on LD and AD/HD for individuals to borrow. Ask for the Learning Disabilities Section! To look at a list of our resources, go to any one of the 13 branches, or <http://www.sudbury.library.on.ca> (Online Databases→Books, Periodicals and Multimedia→Booklists→LD)

## "Bridges to Learning" Assistive Technology Room Is Waiting For You!

The Assistive Technology Room is also housed at the Main Library. The "Bridges to Learning" Assistive Technology Room has two computers, each one equipped with Kurzweil 3000, and Dragon Naturally Speaking, the latest technology to assist individuals with disabilities. There are over 500 textbooks scanned and ready for students to use with Kurzweil. We welcome everyone to come and check it out!

Another "Bridges to Learning" assistive technology room will be opening in October '06 at the New Sudbury library branch!

## Grade 8 Coaching Program

LDAS, in partnership with The Greater Sudbury Public Library and the English School Boards, has developed a comprehensive student coaching and tutoring program for implementation in October '06. The main element will be a "personal coach" program delivered through the branches of the public library system. The program is for students entering Grade 8 in September 2006, who have been identified with a learning disability and have an Individual Education Plan.

Fair is giving  
someone what they  
need, NOT giving  
everyone the same.

## LDAO Online Workshops

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario is offering several online workshops. Workshops are self-paced online learning environments that do not have direct access to a moderator. Though workshops are not facilitated, LDAO will continue to be available to participants to answer questions and concerns in a timely manner.

Next Session Begins  
October 7th, 2006 to January 5th, 2007  
Register Now!!!

- Parent Workshop Series \$30/each
- Professionals Workshop Series \$30/each
- Adult Workshop Series Free
- Youth Workshop Series Free

For registration information please visit the LDAO website at: <http://www.ldao.ca/courses>

### Rick Lavoie Is Coming To Sudbury!

Collège Boréal's Learning and Support Services presents...

**Mr. Rick Lavoie, M.A., M.Ed.**  
**Speaker, author and learning disabilities specialist**  
**November 15, 2006**

**Parents and Educators, you do not want to miss this event!**

Rick Lavoie is recognized for his various workshops, books and video recordings. He delivered his message to more than 500 000 parents and professionals across North America. He is also the author of several books, articles and videos such as: "How Difficult Can This Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop".

The conference will be delivered in English, with simultaneous translation service in French.

For more information please contact:  
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### 2006 Community Outreach Events

#### Mark Your Calendars!

**Official Proclamation of LD Awareness Month by Mayor  
AND**

**Launch of Grade 8 Coaching Program**

Tuesday, October 3, 2006 @ 10 a.m.  
Greater City of Sudbury Public Library Main Branch  
(74 Mackenzie St.)

**Information session-Building Resiliency:  
The Whole Child and The Real Meaning of Success!**

Wednesday, October 18, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Canadian Hearing Society (1233 Paris St.)

**Community Information and Interactive Session  
Assistive Technology Workshop**

Wednesday, November 22, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Canadian Hearing Society (1233 Paris St.)

**LDAS Board of Directors meetings are held the second  
Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., everyone welcome!**

**To confirm the date, time and location for community  
outreach events and our Board of Directors meetings, please  
call 522-0100 or e-mail us at [info@ldasudbury.ca](mailto:info@ldasudbury.ca)**