



United Way Centraide

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\$600,000 OTF GRANT HELPS STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES

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An investment announced on January 20, 2016 will provide greater access to resources and supports across the north for families and educators of students who face challenges with learning. Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault offered his congratulations to those involved with the Northern Ontario Centre for Learning Differences (NOCLD) on receiving a three year, \$600,000 Grow grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

Along with Niilo Saari, a volunteer with OTF, MPP Thibeault met with representatives to hear how this newly established organization will increase the reach of existing programs and services being provided by the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury (LDAS).

The three-year Grow grant is part of OTF's new Investment Strategy and will enable the NOCLD to expand the LDAS mandate to other communities in Northeastern Ontario. Funds from the grant are being used to hire an Executive Director, Resource Facilitators, and will also help with the costs associated with hosting workshops, in addition to administrative costs.

"This is terrific news for Sudbury and Northern Ontario. After meeting with representatives, I was impressed with their innovative approach and realized how this learning centre will expand services for the LDAS. It's programs such as this one that the Ontario Trillium Foundation is proud to support," stated Glenn Thibeault, MPP for Sudbury

"We are very excited about the announcement and thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their investment in our centre," said Mary-Liz Warwick, Interim Executive Director of the NOCLD. "This funding will allow our organization to reach more students and make a greater impact across the north."



"This really is an important milestone in supporting children and youth with learning differences across northern Ontario," stated Ron Lessard, Executive Director of the LDAS. "This funding will enable us to share and replicate our one-on-one and group supports to reach parents directly and build their capacity to improve their children's emotional and social skills. Families across north eastern Ontario will benefit knowing they are not alone."

The head office of the NOCLD will be housed out of Huntington University in Greater Sudbury, with satellite offices being established in North Bay, Timmins and Sault Ste. Marie in the coming months.

LDAS Mission Statement:

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

PARENTS

We Are Not Alone

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury in partnership with Dr. Todd Cunningham, C.Psych., Clinical and School Psychologist, University of Toronto, is pleased to announce the launch of our **We Are Not Alone** program. This is a monthly evening program for a limited number of parents across the North to be connected through a University of Toronto "Vidyo" Internet connection to get information, share best practices and support each other. This initiative is funded by the Ministry of Education Parent Reaching Out Grant.

Many families of a child with a learning disability find their journey to be a lonely one. Connecting with other families, agencies and professionals can be a challenge and it can be an even bigger challenge to those living in Northern Ontario communities. This project is designed to support parents by connecting them with others on the same journey.

The first of four sessions was held on January 20, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Participants of the session walked away with new ideas that can be used to support their child with a learning disability.

The next three sessions will take place on February 17, April 20 and May 18, 2016. There is still time to join! If you are interested in joining, please contact Mary-Liz Warwick, Regional Business Development Coordinator, at maryliz@ldasudbury.ca.



Ontario

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario North Bay and Area NORTH BAY SERVICES (705) 476 5437 x 3704 or toll free 1 855 522 0100

On Tuesday, December 8th, Vincent Massey Public School welcomed Jarah Preston, Community Outreach Coordinator, LDASudbury to present a variety of workshops. "It was a pleasure to present one of our new workshops called: *Social Skills for Success!* Both the students and teachers found it very beneficial" stated Jarah.

"The presentation was informative and the content covered a great deal of social skills that the students could connect with easily," said a very appreciative teacher.

"I also had the opportunity to present *Be Cool in School* and *Victors of Transition*, both of which were very well received." added Jarah Preston Community Outreach Coordinator, LDASudbury.

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario Sault Ste. Marie and district SAULT STE. MARIE SERVICES (705) 759 2554 or toll free 1 855 522 0100

On Monday November 16th I presented six workshops at the lovely St. Theresa Catholic School, in Sault Ste. Marie. I presented various workshops such as *Victors of Transition*, *Social Skills for Success* and *Be Cool in School*. The students and teachers alike were engaged and very interested in the information being shared. Many of the teachers hoped that we could return! Jarah Preston Community Outreach Coordinator, LDASudbury.

What We've Been Up To!



LDAS participated in the Sudbury Santa Claus parade on November 21st with its *Elf on a Shelf*–themed float, one of about 70 that travelled through the streets of downtown Sudbury between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Despite the cooler weather, a good time was had by all.

LDAS staff and volunteers would like to express a special thanks to A&J Home Hardware for their donation of the Christmas lights; SMS for the use of the generator;

Chad Barry, who donated the trailer; Jim Battistoni, designated driver and lastly, Lockerby Composite School's donation of space in which to prepare and store the float.



Bookmark Contest Winners

We would like to thank all of the students who participated in our bookmark contest. Morgan grade five and Avery grade two, both from Holy Trinity School were our winners. Congratulations!

Morgan describes her bookmark as follows “My bookmark is about how a learning disability shouldn't be something that is a set down it should be an advantage.” Well Said!



Social Skills for Success

A United Way community grant made it possible to launch the Social Skills program, a six-week pilot project aimed at building social skills. This Sudbury Catholic District School Board sanctioned event was launched in October at Holy Cross and Holy Trinity schools to Grades 4, 5 and 6 students, with the help of first and second-year Cambrian College students from the Child and Youth Worker program. The weekly workshops were a great way to start the week and received praise from parents and students.

“The people involved should be very proud,” said Jen (parent). “I am very grateful they have been with my son these past few weeks. Thanks everyone! You made [my son's] Mondays.”



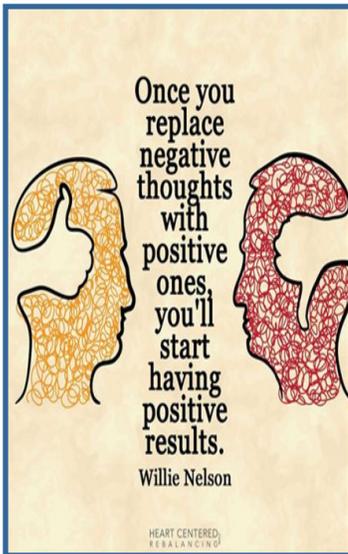


The right to learn, the power to achieve

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LDAS SERVICES

- **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:**
Be Cool in School Gr. 2 - 4
- Social Skills For Student Success Gr. 4 - 5
- LD 101 Gr. 5 - 6
- Victors of Transition Gr. 6
- Transition Pizza Gr. 7 - 8
- Step Up Gr. 11-12
- 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

Congratulations! The LDAS Educator of the Year Awards presented to:



Tanya Marcotte, Special Education Resource Teacher, SCDSB

Below: Melanie Douglas Special Education Resource Teacher at Copper Cliff Public School



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

“The National Centre for Learning Disabilities recognizes that assistive technology can:

- ◆ minimize the extent to which individuals with learning disabilities need to ask for help (enabling them to be more independent learners)
- ◆ improve the speed and accuracy of work
- ◆ reinforce effective classroom instruction and strengthen skill development
- ◆ help students to 'fit in' with classroom learning and routines
- ◆ motivate students with learning disabilities to set high goals for themselves and to persevere”

www. NCLD.org National Centre for Learning Disabilities

