

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF
ONTARIO— LAMBTON COUNTY CHAPTER

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Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County

SUMMER 2009

From the desk of the Executive Director

Summer is finally upon us (I think) and we have lots to share. We are proud to report that this spring we entered into a partnership with Hillside School at Kettle and Stoney Point. For the first time, we delivered our Kids Positive Social Skills and Self-Esteem Building Program in a school setting for seven weeks. Staff Debbie Jean and Samantha Hunt ran the Kids Positive Program to three different groups back to back one day a week. We have been to the school on a few different occasions for PD opportunities and have found the school community to be the most welcoming we have ever encountered. What a wonderful group of educators, families and last but certainly not least - students. Thank you to Acting Principal Ruth Anne Cook and the team at Hillside School for welcoming us so graciously into their community.

In addition to Kids Positive, we are offering two new educational opportunities. We are very mindful of our short summers and the fact is—people don't want structure and schedules so much in the summer — we're listening to you. Accordingly, our summer programming is short and sweet.

In another new partnership, we are doing a workshop on Cursive Writing with the VON. The workshop is to occur Wednesday, July 15 in Sarnia and the same workshop will be repeated on Tuesday, July 21 in Watford. Occupational Therapist Lisa Huffman will

give parents, educators, EAs and caregivers guaranteed strategies for learning cursive writing based on the Loops and Other Groups Cursive Writing Program developed by Mary Benbow. The program allows students to improve legibility of written work, spelling skills, ability to read handwriting and most importantly, **increase the awareness of using multi-sensory memory for improved recall and success at school.** The workshop is \$7.00 for members of our chapter or \$12.00 for non-members. As with all of our programs, financial help is available for those who require it. The Sarnia workshop will take place at our Resource Centre at Northgate Plaza from 6:00 to 8:00 and the Watford workshop will take place at the Watford library from 5:30 to 7:30. As space is limited, please call or email to book your spot.

Another exciting new initiative for us is a summer arts program. Two mornings only, on Tuesday, July 14 from 9:00 to 12:00 and again on Tuesday, July 28, also from 9:00 to 12:00. These workshops are for children 10 and up to adults. Board member Sue Bendall has offered to lead this two-session art class. The first session will involve planning our pieces and beginning to play with our canvas. The second session will involve playing with textures if desired and finishing off our pieces. Each workshop is \$5.00 for chapter members and \$10.00 for non-members. Each participant will take away a beautiful piece of art that celebrates their unique gifts and strengths.

Anniz

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The LDAO does not endorse any particular method, therapy, treatment, institution, opinion expressed or the methods described through public meetings, guest speakers, Resource Centre library, newsletter or product. We do endorse your right to know about them!

Summertime !!!!

KIDS POSITIVE Social Skills and Self-Esteem Building Program

We are only running Kids Positive once this summer and that session will occur Monday July 20 through Thursday, July 23. The four morning program is for children ideally 6-9 years old and we can only accept a maximum of 10 children because of space constraints.

Please note that although the program is designed for children with learning disabilities and/or ADHD, children do not have to be diagnosed in order to attend. The cost for the four morning program is \$110.00 which includes family membership to our chapter for a year. For those already members, the four morning program is \$60. As always, financial help is available if required. Kids Positive is designed for children who need help with social skills and self-esteem building. **Call 519-344-4919 or email ldalc@xcelco.on.ca for registration details.**

One on One Tutoring

We are once again doing free one on one tutoring for chapter members. This year we welcome back Samantha Hunt, who also worked with us last summer and who is a long-standing volunteer tutor. New to our chapter this summer is Elyse Duchesne. Samantha and Elyse are quickly filling up their tutoring slots with students—let us know quickly if you wish to take part.

Frito Pie Catering Company

Earlier this year we were fortunate enough to receive funding from the **Ministry of Economic Development and Trade** to run our new social enterprise, Frito Pie Catering Company. Some of you have had our Frito Pies at different community events — Canada Day last year and this, as well as the Brigden Fair and other events.

The funding program is called Youth Entrepreneur Partnership and our project involves hiring a team of youth to work our food booths with us but also to allow them exposure to a small catering initiative. The youth will be involved in many different facets of running a small catering company. Our original goal was to seek out youth who might be considered “at risk” - or youth who may not have considered self-employment as a viable career choice. The youth we were looking to hire for these part-time positions should have an interest in food and/or cooking. Some of the chosen youth have physical or other disabilities—and some do not—but we know we have assembled a great team. We received well over 400 resumes for the dozen positions we had open for this project. Competition is fierce these days for summer student jobs. We have selected a team of youth who are absolutely phenomenal—excited about the Frito Pie Catering Company and excited to be working. Watch for us later this month at Ribfest. Better yet, come over and say hello and tell the kids what a great job they’re doing.

New to Lambton County....Keys to Reading



A tutoring resource centre. Does your child struggle to read? Learning Disabilities? Dyslexia? Come and see what a summer can do! Register now for summer programs. First session free.

Touch-Type-Read-Spell Simultaneous Multi-sensory Teaching (SMT) based on proven “Orton-Gillingham” based multi-sensory reading programs. Tax deductible. Call today. Space is limited. Call 519-312-0471 or keystoreading@bell.net

New to Resource Library

BOOKS

Difficult to Delightful in Just 30 Days—How to Improve the Behavior of your Spirited Child by Jacob Azerrad, Ph.D.

The Explosive Child by Ross W. Greene, Ph.D.

Lost at School: Why our Kids with Behavioural Challenges are Falling Through the Cracks and How We Can Help Them by Ross W. Greene, Ph.D. **NOTE: ROSS GREENE IS COMING TO SARNIA AND CHATHAM THIS FALL. SEE FURTHER INFO ON PAGE 4.**

Special Education Handbook: A Practical Guide for all Teachers by Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario

Giving Thanks

We would like to thank the County of Lambton Health Services Department Healthy Living Lambton program for awarding us a \$200 seed funding grant for our Walking to Wellness Program. The \$200 was well spent on fresh fruit kebabs. The 9 week program ended earlier this summer but we do hope to re-start the program in the fall. The weekly program involved walking through our gorgeous Canatara Park where we discussed everything from what is happening in Sarnia, to favourite books to favourite TV shows—Dancing with the Stars was a popular topic. Thank you to all who came out each week—we hope to see you again in September.

We offer thanks to BMO Employee Charitable Foundation for their generous \$1,000 donation through the Kids 'N Motion Program toward our Thinking on Your Feet program.

We thank General Mills Champions for Kids Program for their \$5,000 donation to our Thinking on Your Feet program.

Thank you all who donated items, volunteered or shopped at our Spring Garage Sale. Very special thanks go out to our President Joanne Culley— who tolerates endless deliveries of items that literally take over her home prior to our garage sale. Also Trudy Catt who is our primary pricer— thank you so much for all your hard work.

Interested in Special Education?

Special Education Advisory Committee (“SEAC”) is a committee of representatives mandated by legislation for each local school board. Our two local school boards are the St. Clair Catholic District School Board and the Lambton Kent District School Board. The SEAC committees of each board are responsible for advising the Board on all matters related to the provision of special education programs and services to its exceptional students. The Learning Disabilities Association is one of several member groups and members at large who sit on SEAC.

The Lambton Kent District School Board SEAC meetings are held at Wallaceburg District Secondary School usually the third Thursday of each month during the school year. There are usually 10 meetings a year, from September through June. There is usually a group who carpools from Sarnia. We need a SEAC representative to replace SEAC member Lisa Saul, who resigned earlier this year. Representing our chapter on SEAC is challenging but very rewarding. Training and support materials are provided to SEAC reps.

We are looking for a new representative for the Lambton Kent District School Board, as well as back-up representatives for both public and separate boards.

More information can be given to interested candidates. Call the Resource Centre at 519-344-4919 or email ldalc@xcelco.on.ca

Community Events

Workshops

AT4-All: Assistive Technology for All

The Ministry of Education - Provincial Schools Branch (PSB) and the Association for Special Education Technology (ASET) are proud to partner in hosting a provincial conference focussing on Assistive Technology (AT), "**AT4ALL: Assistive Technology for All - On the Road to Success**", from August 27-29, 2009 in Milton.

Assistive Technology is a powerful tool in supporting the education of exceptional students by increasing accessibility, promoting independence and enhancing equitable learning environments. While technological supports may be necessary for some learners; educators, parents and students themselves are increasingly realizing the potential use of Assistive Technologies for all. The conference will promote enhanced understanding of technologies in meeting the needs of all learners by:

- Sharing evidenced-based research on the efficacy of a variety of AT tools for learning;
- Furthering the role of AT in supporting differentiated instruction;
- Supporting educator, student and parental awareness of the role of AT in life-long learning.

The Saturday workshop (August 29) is for parents only. The \$50 cost is well worth it for the day-long workshop particularly in view of the keynote speaker—**Todd Cunningham** -- PhD candidate at the University of Toronto. Todd shares his life experience as an individual with a learning disability from Grade 1 through university to the workplace, and demonstrates how assistive technology can be used to help individuals use their natural strengths and overcome their weaknesses.

More information on conference can be found at <http://www.at4all.ca/index.php/home>

Dr. Ross Greene is coming to Lambton County! Author of *The Explosive Child* and *Lost at School*

The Student Support Leadership Initiative, a Joint Ministry Project between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, has provided funding for a day-long workshop on *collaborative problem solving*. Dr. Greene is the associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and is the founding director of the Collaborative Problem Solving Institute, a program based in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital. He lectures extensively both in North America and abroad and his research is funded by the US Department of Education, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Stanley Medical Research Institute. Details are still being finalized, but I would ask that you set aside Sept. 16 and 17 for a very special event to our area.

Fall Programming

Homework Hub—starts Monday, September 14.

Parenting Children with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD—free 5 week course starting Wednesday, September 30. Unsure as to the difference between an Individual Education Plan and an IPRC? Overwhelmed or frustrated—with kids, life, school? Meet other parents and we will go over different topics each evening. Facilitated by chapter President Joanne Culley and co-facilitated by Annie Sheehan.

Kids Positive—10 week program begins Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Thinking on Your Feet—7 week program begins Thursday, Oct. 15.

Noteworthy Items

Race to Erase

Operated by The Chris Dawson Foundation, the Race to Erase is an annual fundraising event involving teams of four adults driving around competing in fun-filled challenges. These challenges are designed to create awareness and exposure to local businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Prizes are awarded to individuals and teams that raise the most money, as well as the team that finishes the Race's challenges in the fastest time.*

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Benefits: Goodwill Industries Essex-Kent-Lambton

Register your team online today at sarnia.racetoerase.com

* We were fortunate enough to have been one of the pit-stops on the Race to Erase last year and it seemed like a blast. The teams, as well as the organizers, had a great time. The teams, some dressed in full costume, really got into the challenges—all to benefit a great cause. Highly recommended.

Bridge My Community

"helping one person may not mean much to the world but it means the world to one person"

Bridging My Community is a non-profit organization that operates at the grassroots level to help bridge the gap between people who need help and the people and organizations who want to help them. Bridging My Community gives people an easy way to ask for help and allows the community to respond directly to their needs. The Sarnia connection was initiated by the Sarnia Evangelical Missionary Church and there are a few requests for help on the website from Sarnia residents. Please bookmark this site and help spread the word.

<http://www.bridgemycommunity.org/>

I Search I Give



We would ask our supporters to consider downloading the iSearchiGive toolbar onto their home computers. Using the search engine every time you search the web earns us \$0.01 for each valid search. Raise money for

your favorite cause every time you search the web. iSearchiGive.com is a search engine powered by iGive.com, the internet's first online shopping mall where a portion of each purchase is donated to your favorite cause. There is no fee to shoppers or to the cause—the funds raised come from advertisers (shopping destinations) who are listed on the igive.com website. If our members choose to download the iSearchiGive toolbar onto their computers and use it to search the web, we will earn money. We have raised \$42.63 to date—it all adds up. If more members download the toolbar and choose us as their cause, we would gratefully appreciate it.

Pocketbooks are tight—there is no question about it. While we still shop locally for resources when possible, we have begun to order books and other resources on the internet using igive.com and we are very pleased with the results.

Visit <http://isearch.igive.com/>

to download the toolbar.

Learning Disabilities are Complicated.

Helping Isn't.

Barbequed Hotdogs and Books!

Who can resist a barbequed hotdog? Please watch for us outside Giant Tiger on Saturday, August 29. We will be having a fundraising barbeque and used book sale.