

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO



LAMBTON COUNTY CHAPTER

NEW LOCATION AS OF JULY 4, 2007!!!!!!
c/o Johnston Memorial School
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SUMMER HOURS MONDAY
TO THURSDAY 8:30 TO
3:00. CLOSED FRIDAYS!

SUMMER 2007

From the desk of the Executive Director

Summer is here and we have a new home. On July 4 we move to Johnston Memorial School in Sarnia's south end. We are excited to move and will be open for business the week of July 9. As we did last year, we will be taking on a limited number of children to tutor, utilizing the skills of two summer students. Join us in welcoming Jennifer McIndoo, a Child and Youth Program student and Stacey Guthrie, an Office Administration Program student, both students at Lambton College.

We are happy to announce that beginning in September we will be operating a Homework Hub. The Homework Hub will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and will be staffed by an educator, as well as a Child and Youth worker/co-op student. As many of you have told us, and as I know firsthand, there is a special level of insanity that parents of learning disabled children go through in order to satisfy homework requirements.

While my personal opinion is that homework completion often poses an unfair burden on the shoulders of learning disabled students, I don't think anyone in charge at the Ministry of Education cares about my opinion. If I went to work every day, struggled with the challenges of my job, and then had to go home with piles of work each night, I would be very unhappy, very quickly.

I have two children. One son we have never—ever—helped with homework. We have always been actively involved in schooling—volunteering, sitting on school council, etc.... but this child has never needed any intervention on our part to complete his work. He has just completed Grade 7 and if he ever has homework, we don't see it.

Now my other son, that is a different story. Every single night poses a challenge—it never goes away—and we have just survived (barely) Grade 9.

If I only had my younger son's experience as a parent, I would not even believe that the situations we go through with my older son were possible. While I understand the importance of preparing students for post-secondary, we have to make sure we are not going too far with stressing students and families out so much that they shut down or give up. There is no reference in the *Education Act* to "homework" that I can find—but if anyone out there wishes to correct me, please do so.

Our job here is to help support those dealing with learning disabilities, and the #2 request (after requests for help with testing or identification) is homework support. Please note Homework Hub is NOT just for students of Johnston Memorial. It is hoped that those who utilize Homework Hub will include our members—because we have developed it for you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff Brenda Fleischer, Debbie Jean and Joe Spadafora for their hard work this school year, as well as our Board of Directors and fabulous volunteers. *Annie*

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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!

Summer Programming

Kids Positive Social Skills Program for children between the ages of 6 and 13. We will have two sessions, one in July and one in August. The sessions will not be the same so it is possible to take both weeks. They will run from July 23 to July 26 (Monday to Thursday) from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The August sessions are August 20-23. The cost is \$50 for members and \$110 for non-members. Membership is \$50 per year per family. *Financial help is available.* The July week will cover Friendship Skills, Peer Pressure, Joining Others at Play, Dealing with Anger, Feelings and Building Self-Esteem. Thursday it's time to PARTY! The August session will cover Ignoring Distractions, Accepting Consequences, Jealousy, Dealing with Anger, Bullying, Self-Esteem and again, wait for it, Thursday it's time to PARTY!

JUMP (“Junior Undiscovered Math Prodigies”) Summer Program. This is a NEW JUMP intake – and it will cover the fractions unit of JUMP. This program requires a commitment from families wishing to take it and the number of children we can accept is limited, so please only sign up if you can attend all 9 sessions over the three weeks. JUMP will be held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for three successive weeks beginning Tuesday, July 24, 2007 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Classes end Thursday, August 9, 2007. Students will attend three times a week for three weeks. Please only enroll if you can attend all or almost all classes. Program is for children in Grades 3-8. Cost \$50 a child or \$80 for two children for nine sessions. For more information on JUMP and the philosophy behind the program, please visit www.jumpmath.org.

Summer Tutoring. For a very limited number of paid members of our chapter, we are offering free, targeted, one-on-one tutoring to begin the week of July 9. Call the Resource Centre (before June 28-519 541-9687—after July 4—519- 344-4919 to get on the tutoring list.

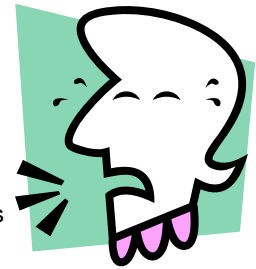
We Hate to Beg, But.....

In preparation for opening Homework Hub in September, we are looking for resources. If anyone has any used textbooks, workbooks, tutoring or enrichment materials they have purchased for their child and no longer use, we can use it. If the workbooks have been written in, that is okay. We still want them. Of course textbooks belonging to schools need to be returned to schools, but in some cases families may have purchased textbooks for home use. We are trying to add textbooks to our resources for each Grade of elementary and secondary.

If space allows, we would also love to have a little library that students can borrow from—just for fun—with a healthy number of high interest, low vocabulary titles and lots of nonsense books also. We would like to increase the number of books on tape we have to go along with our hard copies of books in order for children to hear the words as well as decode them.

We are Missing Books and Videos

At any one time, we have over 100 books and videos out on loan. Some things we rarely have in our Resource Library, such as Richard Lavoie videos. We really need our Resource Library items back — so please, have a search and if you have anything of ours, please return it so that someone else can benefit from the resources.



“We apologize for the error in last week’s paper in which we stated that Mr. Arnold Dogbody was a defective in the police force. We meant, of course, that Mr. Dogbody is a detective in the police farce.”

....Correction notice in the Ely Standard, a British newspaper.



Invite to All!

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (“SEAC”) PARENT INFORMATION SESSION AND OPEN HOUSE

Date: Wednesday October 10TH from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: St. Anne Catholic School, 1000 The Rapids Parkway, Sarnia.

**Topics: * What is SEAC?
* The Identification, Placement and Referral Process for the
St. Clair Catholic District School Board**

**Carousel Presentations: * Student Services Team - Behaviour Supports
* Technology – An Overview of Premier Suite
Assistive Technology Products**

All are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

In the News

From The Expositor, Brantford, June 19, 2007

Children with Tourettes Aren't Misbehaving on Purpose, so the usual discipline techniques not only don't work; they actually escalate the problem by Cheryl Clock

<http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/webapp/sitepages/content.asp?contentid=576648&catname=Health+%26+Fitness&classif=>

From Education Week, April 4, 2007

Let's Abolish High School by Robert Epstein****

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/04/04/31epstein.h26.html>

***Note—this article should probably not be shown to our high school students. Just very interesting food for thought!

New to Resource Library

BOOKS

Time Tests: Tips & Tricks for Multiplying and Dividing—"Success at School" Series

The Everything Kids' Math Puzzles Books by Meg, Glenn and Sean Clemens

Teach for Success: Teach ADHD: Teacher's Resource Manual by Rhonda Martinussen, Med., PhD, Rosemary Tannock, PhD, Alison McInnes, SL-P, PhD and Peter Chaban, Med, MA, Sick Kids Hospital, Toronto.

Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities and their Clinical Subtypes, a Handbook for Parents and Professionals (New Edition) by Dr. Maggie Mamen.

BOOKS/VIDEO/DVD—SCHOOL/HOME PROGRAM

Don't Laugh at Me: Creating a Ridicule-Free Classroom. School Program Kit

Package includes: Teacher's Guide, Grades 6-8.

Book: Don't Laugh at Me by Steve Seskin & Allen Shamblin

Video—Peter, Paul & Mary video of "Don't Laugh at Me", Peter Yarrow outlines project goals, Peter Yarrow solo performance of "Don't Laugh at Me" and Peter Yarrow speaking to students

DVD— Don't Laugh at Me School Program Songs

Teacher/Counsellor Questionnaire

Student Questionnaire

Thank You!

We would like to thank Sandy Butler from the Nordia Call Centre for donating a photocopier and several computers to our Resource Centre.

Thank you to Sherry Crowley, Thermon FibreForm for collecting Zehrs Grocery tapes at her office. We are still collecting Zehrs tapes so please keep us in mind. If you are willing to post an envelope for collection purposes at your office let us know. We will provide you with the poster/envelope for collection.

Thank you to Joan Murchison for donating resources to our Resource Library.

Thank you to the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton who donated several computers to our chapter, which we were able to donate to members of our community who did not have computers.

Thank you to the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton who approved a United Way Venture Grant to our chapter in the amount of \$30,000. It is this funding that is allowing us to go forward with the Homework Hub. Thank you United Way!

Awareness Month—October 2007

In celebration of Learning Disabilities Awareness Month, we are planning several exciting educational events. More details in next newsletter but please mark your calendars for.....

Friday, October 26, 2007— All-day workshop with Dr. Norm Forman, author of the book "Exceptional Children, Ordinary Schools" and Bob Clements, Program Director, Ontario Association of Education Advocates.

1/2 day Dr. Norm Forman— Dr. Forman is a registered psychologist who has been working in the field of psychology and education for over 25 years, with teaching experience at the primary, secondary and university levels. Dr. Forman will speak about psychological testing, individual and organizational psychology and his experience sitting on the Special Education Advisory Committee, Toronto District School Board.

1/2 day Bob Clement— Educator with over 20 years experience with background in curriculum development. Bob will talk about Education for All, the Special Education Transformation document, due process and informed consent. *Don't miss what will be the highlight of our year's educational events!*

Ontario Association of Education Advocates

Excellent online course "Parent Consultant in Education Advocacy. Highly recommended course and excellent online newsletter regarding special education in Ontario "Recess". For more information go to <http://www.oaea.ca/>

New Office Open House/Volunteer Recruitment

Join us on Monday, September 10, 2007 from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. when we will hold our Grand Opening and Volunteer Recruitment. We will also be recruiting new volunteers—high school students on up—who may be interested in helping in some way with our programs or other volunteer opportunities. We will have nibbles and the unveiling of a very special sculpture—"The Dyslexic Bear" by sculptor and local artist Jeffrey Rafuse.

**Next Parenting Children with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD
Parenting/Advocacy Program coming January 2008.**