

December 2009

LD *Connections*

*learning disabilities
different paths....same destination*



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ldawc.ca

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Welcome

It has been a busy Fall for LDAWC as we enter into our 21st year as a chartered member of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario. We were fortunate to host several educational events focusing on issues related to learning disabilities.

“The Invest in Success Teacher’s Guide to Learning Disabilities” packages were distributed to both the Upper Grand District School Board and the Wellington Catholic District School Board. These full colour guides prepared by the LDAO, were designed as a teaching tool for provincial school boards and classroom teachers.

Two members of our Wellington Chapter attended the LDAO’s Annual General Meeting on October 16th and 17th in Toronto. Guest speaker, Charles Beer presented his work with the

Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Presenter Ryan Clarke from Advocacy Solutions discussed the principles of advocacy in his workshop entitled “LDAO-Making our Voices Heard”. Susan Taylor and Nicole Kovacs spoke about revenue generation and its correlation to sustainability.

This Fall, the LDAWC was pleased to welcome Christine McDonald as our newest Board member. We look forward to the skills and experience that she brings so that we may continue our work to support those with learning disabilities and their families in our community.

The year concludes with our Annual General Meeting, on December 2 at The Village of Riverside Glen.

On behalf of the LDAWC, we would like to extend our best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.

IPRC and IEP workshop

Held on Saturday, October 24th at ARC Industries was very successful with 28 in attendance. Thank you to our corporate sponsor:

Shire Canada for an unrestricted educational grant, as well as Tim Horton’s, Imperial, Tim Horton’s, Woodlawn, Zehrs Imperial and Zehrs Eramosa Guelph. For more details about the speaker, Lindsay Moir, look into this on-line resource: <http://www.oacrs.com/resource-familyenet.php>

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Introducing the new Logo

The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC) approved this new design in July 2008. It was adopted earlier this year by Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) in an effort to use a single brand and style.

What does the logo mean? The definition of the logo, corresponding to the three outer components of the logo, is as follows:

Collaboration - Many people working together to support and accommodate

Potential - Helping people lift off and achieve

Hope - Optimism, aiming high and working with passion.

The new logo succeeds on all three fronts.

The English name remains the same – this is an association of Canadians committed to a single focus – Learning Disabilities.

In French, the name changes to *Association canadienne des troubles d'apprentissage*

The icon conveys a sense of many people collaborating to support an individual; though diverse (employers, educators, parents, etc.), they are united in the task.

The colours and the font of the new brand are clean, fresh and optimistic. This is a modern, forward-looking design that conveys how dynamic and innovative we are.

LDAC works to protect the rights of people with LD to learn, while empowering them – through support and accommodations/strategies to achieve their full potential as learners, employees and citizens.

Former President of LDAO

Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, board member Pam Howard recently completed a two year term as Provincial President for the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario. Pam will continue on with providing support and valuable input to the provincial committee - Chapter Support and Development. Pam has been a long term board member of this chapter and will continue to support the local needs.

\$2.66 Million Raised for United Way Guelph Wellington

The Guelph Wellington community raised a record breaking \$2.66 million for the United Way. This achievement was announced on December 9, 2009, at the campaign closing celebration with over 250 United Way volunteers in attendance. The \$2.66 million raised is based on received and pledged dollars, as some work place campaigns continue to wrap up into January. The total raised is \$10,000.00 over the campaign goal announced in September.

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Ask Lindsay Moir – Parental Involvement

Question

The Ministry of Education has issued a survey this week about increasing parental Involvement in Education and I wish to share my thoughts on this with parents and community members involved in Special Education. The document can be found at

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/survey.html>. I hope that many of you will take time to respond to this survey. The survey ends December 31, 2009

Answer

The Ministry seems to have finally returned to its agenda from the Special Education Transformation document and is "rolling out" pieces that were included in that document. I believe this is good news for Special Education students. In the past few days there have been announcements about the new Report Card coming in the next year, now the Parent Engagement Office is actively soliciting input into its newly released draft policy, "Parents in Partnership- a Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools" which is available at

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/Parent_Engagement_Policy2009.pdf

I recognize the need for the Ministry to "speak nice", so as not to offend educators and school boards, but I find the draft document paints a "too-rosy" picture of schools embracing parents and working side-by-side with them. While this does happen in some schools and even generally in some boards, I hear from many parents and community professional that they are not being "engaged" by the schools that they work with!!!!!!

There is a strong sentiment in the Special Education community that a lot of knowledge and expertise

is being ignored and that a significant number of parents and professionals feel "shut out of the club" simply because they are not "teachers".

In "Special Education Transformation" the Ministry promises a greater role for parents and community professionals and states that many educators need training in collaboration---I believe this is still true in schools today. Please be candid about your experiences, both positive and negative---how well are YOU being engaged?

The survey offers two different response formats--- one is for "individuals" while the other is for "Groups". It is important for the Ministry to hear from as many individual parents as possible--- but is EQUALLY important that, agencies, parents' associations, community professionals, Treatment Centres, Group Homes and their associations participate in this survey. Yes it is a "bad time" to involve parents and the community--- we are all busy at this season.... but we all say that we want to have input, the timeline is short, we ARE very busy---- but this is your chance to have meaningful input to a document that will guide partnering in the education system (and the Special Education system) for years to come!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

"Just Do It....."

Obviously, "Parent Engagement" applies to all parents and communities, NOT JUST Special Education--- but we need to be heard because Partnerships between school and parents (and community professionals) are ABSOLUTELY critical in making the system work for exceptional pupils.

This article is reprinted from the website www.oacrs.com from the "Ask Lindsay Moir" column. It is intended for information only of parents and professionals involved with exceptional children. Posted November 27, 2009.

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Your Local Chapter

The Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County is a non-profit charitable organization. We are a Chapter of The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario and affiliated with The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada. Led by a volunteer Board of Directors with various backgrounds such as accounting, employment counselling, teachers and social services, the Board of Directors guides the actions of the association. We also have a part-time staff member. Our local Chapter is supported by the United Way of Guelph-Wellington and our chapter fundraising activities. If you are interested in joining our Board please contact us at info@ldawc.ca.

Mission Statement

The Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County is a charitable, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth and adults with learning disabilities so that they can reach their full potential. Through outreach, education, advising and advocacy, the Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County's mandate is to advance the education, employment, social development legal rights and general wellbeing of individuals with learning disabilities.

Donation/Membership Form

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Tell: (H) _____ (W) _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues: Family/individual \$50; Student \$20; Professional \$75

I am interested in making a donation: _____ and/or volunteering: _____

Membership Advantages:

Awareness and advocacy efforts on behalf of those with learning disabilities or ADHD at the local, provincial and national level, subscription to local and provincial newsletters, information on learning disabilities and ADHD use of local resources and support services.

Please mail this form and cheque to: Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

365 Bloor Street East, Suite 1004, Toronto, ON M4W 3L4

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Resources

ADHD Family Support Online

Many parents spend so much time and effort trying to "fix" their ADHD child so they can perform like "all the other kids", in school, at home, and out in the world. In this open forum we will discuss the advantages to, instead, spending that same energy adapting those same environments to fit our kids.

- Meet and network with other families, who struggle with the same issues we all face as parents with ADHD children and youth.
- Learn from speakers invited from all over Canada.
- No need to arrange babysitting, or inconvenience your family.
- Provide your input into topics you want to hear about.
- Choose a date and time to meet that works best for you.

Instructions:

1. <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/426961403>

2. Use your microphone and speakers - a headset is recommended. Or, call in using your telephone.

Dial 1-647-724- 3554

Access Code: 426-961-403

Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting

Meeting ID: 426-961-403

Call (647) 838-7432 if you have trouble logging on.

Youth2Youth.ca

A website developed by young people just like you with learning disabilities. This is our site - a place for us and our friends.

High school to post-secondary and beyond is complicated. This website will provide you with information and answers on how to get there and what supports you'll need during your journey, so you can be successful. The results can be extraordinary.

LDAO launches the IEP 101 Free Online Workshop

IEP 101, the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Online Workshop for Parents and Students. We have created this workshop to help you as a parent or student to understand your part in the IEP process, with the belief that the most effective IEP is where the parent, the student, and the school staff collaborate to write an individual plan to help the student succeed in school. Go to: <http://ldaolearning.ldao.ca/login/index.php> to sign in as a guest for this **free** workshop.

Upcoming Event – March 2010

Workshop by a neuropsychologist from Grand River Hospital, Dr. Louise Scott.

Details will be provided at a later date.

Guelph Storm Tickets \$12 each.

Tickets available for evening games on Tuesday, Dec. 29 and Friday, Jan. 15, afternoon game on Monday Feb.15 which is Family Day.

If interested, please email us at info@ldwac.ca or call 519-837-2050 and leave a message.

www.ldawc.ca

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