

LD Currents



A Quarterly Newsletter of

THE LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF PETERBOROUGH

(Serving Peterborough, Northumberland, Clarington, & City of Kawartha Lakes)

Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Ends Our 8-Year Partnership

The long-term funding partnership with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board has ended. With the ever growing numbers and needs of our Special Education students, our local school board must redirect these dollars to enhance the in-school supports provided to their students. “We applaud the KPRDSB for its commitment to their students, but in relation to our specialized programming, it is a blow.” Shari Davis, the Learning Disabilities of Peterborough’s Executive Director states. The impact of the news will be felt by families in the region with school-aged children who have Learning Disabilities, ADHD, and general learning challenges.

“We are deeply saddened to learn that over 450 families with children struggling with LDs and ADHD will no longer have free access to our Specialized Tutoring programs.” says Davis.

Through the Association’s programs, students receive one-to-one specialized tutoring utilizing assistive technologies to support learning success. The programming is unique within the region, and has welcomed thousands of students over the 8-year partnership. “More and more we are seeing families struggle to pay our fees, even though those fees are set very low. For-profit companies charge significantly more, and do not offer the one-to-one services.” commented Davis.

Without the partnership dollars, families must now pay full fees. Davis is afraid that many families will opt out because of the state of the economy. “Throughout the term of the partnership we saw a lot of single parent families, grandparents on fixed incomes raising grandchildren, unemployed and underemployed parents. These are the families I worry about. For many it’s a choice between paying bills and tutoring. What a choice.” continued Davis. “That was the beauty of the partnership, it meant families within the public school system had access to the tutoring and the kids were helped, no matter the family financial condition.”

To make a donation to support the Association’s subsidy program, drop by the agency to donate, or donations can be made on the Association’s web site (www.LDAPTBO.com), or you can call for more information (705.748.9455). The Association is located at 159 King Street, Suite 204. Any donation over \$10.00 will receive a tax receipt noted Davis.

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Applications Series – No.1

“Applications & Choice”

This is the first in a series about the many applications or apps that are available for your android or Apple products, and how they can help those with LDs and ADHD. Michael Kerr presented this information in a series of workshops earlier in the year, and has given us permission to set them out here.

The following is a brief summary of apps for Android and Apple that can assist learning. It is important to remember to find the tools and applications that work best for you. Not everyone will connect with all applications – find what works for you and expand from there. There are new applications created every day and existing apps are revised many times a year. Always check back and keep looking for the best tools to support your learning.

There are many apps that can help you search for apps such as AppShopper, Appolicious, Discover Apps and AppZapp. Remember to look at the app ratings and reviews, although reviews do not mean an app is for you they will give you a guide to how many people like an app. Search regularly for apps. Sometimes the offerings can change dramatically even in a week. Follow sites such as Edutopis and Learning Disabilities networks for educational ideas for learning with technology.

Built-in Assistive Technology available on most mobile devices...

- ✚ personal voice activated assistant Siri and Evi
- ✚ reminder software
- ✚ calendar applications
- ✚ assistive touch
- ✚ Bluetooth connection to braille devices
- ✚ dual cameras
- ✚ custom gestures
- ✚ dictionary and thesaurus
- ✚ notes and bookmarks
- ✚ large text
- ✚ learning dictionary
- ✚ mono audio
- ✚ phonetic word prediction

Michael will provide more information in our upcoming *Winter Currents!*

The United Way Campaign is On!



The 2014/15 United Way Campaign began September 20th and will run until the end of November. The goal this year is \$2.38 million! LDAP, as a member agency, has committed itself to raising \$2,500.00 to support the campaign. “We are a small agency,” states Shari Davis, Executive Director, “but the Board, Staff and Volunteers are keen to do what we can to support the campaign.” The funds will be raised through payroll deductions, a Yuletide gift auction, and other small events. “A gift to the United Way means a child receives tutoring, or food, or counselling.” added Davis. “It is an important time of the year for the City and County.”



Upcoming Programming

2015 Programming begins with:

Technology for Learning Development – One-to-one tutoring for students in SK to Grade 8 focusing on literacy &/or numeracy skills & strategies utilizing assistive technology & handheld devices. Cost is \$230.00 for 8 weeks/1 hour per week.

- Peterborough – January 19th – March 26th
 - To register your child, contact Kristi McKay @ 705.748.9455 ext. 204
- Northumberland – January 19th – March 13th
 - To register your child, contact Charlene Holmes @ 905.377.9414
- Clarington – January 19th – March 13th
 - To register your child, contact Kristi McKay @ 905.623.1852
- City of Kawartha Lakes – January 19th – March 13th
 - To register your child, contact Janice Balfour @ 705.324.2596

Upcoming Events



Peterborough/Northumberland/Clarington/City of Kawartha Lakes

On-Line Holiday Auction – December 1st to December 18th

Put this on your list of things to do in December!



Visit our web site (www.LDAPTBO.com), click on the Auction link on our main page, and register. Once you are registered you can bid on the array of items that have been donated. They include:

- ✚ **Via Rail** Passes for two in the Toronto/Quebec Corridor (Value: 1,040.00)
- ✚ A gift certificate from **The Weed Man** for lawn care services in 2015 (Value: \$100.00)
- ✚ A “Freezer Pack” from **Flannigan’s Butcher Shop** (Value: \$125.00)
- ✚ 2 Passes to **The Ontario Science Centre** (Value: \$44.00)
- ✚ A gift certificate from **Treescape** for deep-root fertilization of your favourite tree (Value: \$200.00)
- ✚ A signed plaque from **Toronto FC** of Jermaine Defoe (Value: \$320.00)
- ✚ A beginners quilting pack (Value: \$200.00)
- ✚ Gift certificates for oil changes from **Turney’s Truck & Auto Centre** (Value: \$100.00)
- ✚ A gift certificate for an assessment & two visits to **Cruickshank Chiropractic** (Value: \$125.00)
- ✚ Taxi passes from **Capitol Taxi** (Value: \$100.00)



If you are looking for a gift for someone special, or a gift for yourself, be sure to check out our Auction! All proceeds will be invested in programming for children and youth.

Message from the E.D.

“Whew”, according to the on-line dictionary means “exclamation – used to express surprise, relief, or a feeling of being very hot or tired.” I have been saying it a lot recently, and for a variety of reasons.



Whew #1

The United Way of Peterborough and District went through another phase in its restructuring process during the summer. After making our case, we were retained as a Member Agency. Whew. I give a ‘whew’ because the U.W. remains our only source of core funding, covering such basic costs as rent, insurance etc. We are grateful to remain part of their team, focused on their priority “Poverty to Possibility”.

Whew #2

You read earlier about the Public School Board withdrawing all funding support for parents who want their child to receive tutoring in our after-school program. My worry when they told us in August was that we would see a plunge in registrations because parents would opt out. Even though the cost is currently \$225.00 for 8 weeks, many families cannot afford even this low fee. My ‘whew’ came when some parents did sign up, and we were still able, through other sources, to help some lower income families.

Whew #3

A third ‘whew’ came when I saw how the staff and volunteers rallied round and took reductions in hours to save costs, stepped in to help when others needed assistance, developed a plan to see us through immediate challenges, and did all they could and can to ensure the Agency continues! It is quite a dedicated team I have here.

So I have been through all the stages of ‘whew’ in the last few months – surprise, relief (big time), tiredness, and yes, sometimes hot! But the challenges that have been presented are part of the ebb and flow of any charity or business. I am hopeful the challenges will abate, and soon. I’d like to get my blood pressure back to normal and give a big ‘WHEW’ when it does.

Shari Davis,

Executive Director _____

How Are We Doing??

Over the month of November we will be conducting a community evaluation of the Agency, asking many factions of our service communities to provide feedback on how we are doing. We will be looking to hear from present and past clients, partners, volunteers, referral sources, funders, etc. to provide feedback about the Agency’s performance, programs, profile, staffing, etc.



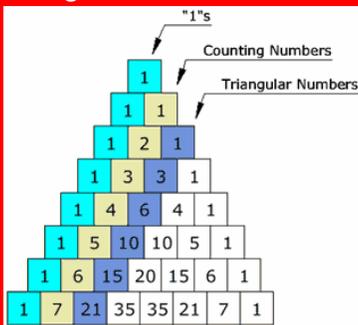
The survey will be on-line, and a link will be provided to our contacts that will take them directly to our survey. If we miss you in our emails, go directly to our website where a link will be provided. www.LDAPTBO.com

Remember...if you don’t tell us, we won’t know what you think!

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR CHILD LEARNING DURING THE HOLIDAYS...

If you celebrate Christmas, or even if you do not, you can help your child develop many skills using these fun exercises.

1. Tracking Santa's big trip is a great exercise in geography, distance, speed, temperature, & time zones. You can track Santa with the help of NORAD – www.noradsanta.org
2. Take your favourite recipe & double it, or convert it to metric, or use only a teaspoon & $\frac{1}{4}$ cup to measure. How long does it take to cook a turkey measured in seconds?
3. Have your kids develop a budget & stick to it! In the end, compare the actual expenditures with the budget. How did they do? Bonus points for anyone that spends less!
4. Using the song, the Twelve Days of Christmas, figure how many gifts in all are given in the song. Try using Pascal's Triangle to find out.



By the way, what would you prefer... the twelve gifts or \$1.00 doubled for 12 days? How about \$12.00 each day for 12 days?

5. Make your own Christmas calendar & count down the days! Have older children include minutes & seconds.

Jazmine Esson
Placement Student
Trillium College

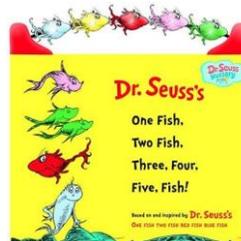
Building Essential Skills: Numeracy & Math

Helping your young child build numeracy & math skills early means you are establishing the foundation of an essential life skill. Using hands-on activities, problem-solving play, communication, & ordinary life connections allow for different learning styles & help them understand the fundamentals. Our staff came up with this list to make learning fun.

- ✚ Play games that require your child to name numbers and use sequencing and counting skills e.g. a "number hunt" in your neighbourhood.
- ✚ Have your child estimate and compare the size and weight of various household objects e.g. what is bigger a grapefruit or a softball? Which is heavier?
- ✚ Give your child a newspaper or magazine and ask them to look for the numbers that will make a series e.g. 1 to 25 or 1 to 100 if they know larger numbers. Have them cut out the numbers and glue them in sequence to a piece of paper.



- ✚ Sing counting songs. "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" can make learning to count – both backwards and forwards – fun.
- ✚ Use household items to practice adding, subtracting, and for older children, multiplying and dividing e.g. how many wedges are in your grapefruit? If you eat one, how many are left?
- ✚ Count everything! Count toys when cleaning up, count forks and knives when setting the table, count clothes coming out of the dryer or off the clothesline! Count.
- ✚ Read counting books!! There are lots of them out there! Think of old reliable, Dr. Seuss.



Ministry of Education: Updated Definition for Learning Disabilities

In August the *Ministry of Education* released a Policy Memorandum which defines “...Learning Disability as one of a number of neurodevelopmental disorders that persistently and significantly has an impact on the ability to learn and use academic and other skills that:

- *Affects the ability to perceive or process verbal or non-verbal information in an effective and accurate manner in students who have assessed intellectual ability that are at least in the average range;*
- *Results in (a) academic underachievement that is inconsistent with the intellectual abilities of the student (which are at least in the average range), and/or academic achievement that can be maintained by the student only with extremely high levels of effort and/or with additional support;*
- *Results in difficulties in the development and use of skills in one or more of the following areas:*
 - *Reading*
 - *Writing*
 - *Mathematics*
 - *Work habits*
 - *Learning skills;*
- *May typically be associated with difficulties in one or more cognitive processes such as phonological processing, memory and attention, processing speed; perceptual-motor processing; visual-spatial processing; executive functions (e.g. self-regulation of behaviour and emotions, planning, organizing thoughts and activities, prioritizing, decision-making);*
- *May be associated with difficulties in social interaction (e.g. difficulty in understanding social norms or the point of view of others); with various other conditions or disorders, diagnosed or undiagnosed; or with other exceptionalities;*
- *Is not the result of a lack of acuity in hearing and/or vision that has not been corrected; intellectual disabilities; socio-economic factors; cultural differences; lack of proficiency in the language of instruction; lack of motivation or effort; gaps in school attendance or inadequate opportunity to benefit from instruction.”*

This is a comprehension definition which acknowledges the complexity of the disability, but in shorter parlance, LDs influence the ability of the individual to acquire, retain, understand, organize and utilize both verbal and non-verbal information. Learning Disabilities are complex, but solutions are available.

Departures

It is with sadness that we note the departure of Mary-Lou Spencer from our Northumberland office. Mary-Lou was a stand-out as a Resource Facilitator, and the Northumberland office was a valued resource throughout the County under her leadership. We, and they, shall miss her greatly. **Best wishes Mary-Lou. Always remember the thousands you have helped to overcome their learning challenges and reach their potential!**



Donor Thank You

The following foundations, corporations, and service clubs have made significant donations, helping thousands of children, youth and adults throughout our service area.

St. Mary's Catholic Women's League * Five Counties Children's Centre * Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 178 * Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 300 * Community Social Investment Fund * Optimist Club of Lindsay * Unifor Local 222 * Kal Tire (Whitby) * Knights of Columbus, Councils 6490 * Cobourg Cougars * Knights of Columbus, Council 1970 * Order of the Eastern Star (Centennial) * Rotary Club of Campbellford * ABC Life Literacy * Township of Cavan Monaghan * Township of Selwyn * JUMP Math * Pilkington Henniger Charitable Trust * Soroptimists International of Peterborough * Ontario Trillium Foundation * City of Peterborough * Municipality of Clarington * Government of Canada * Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board * Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board * Trillium Lakelands District School Board * Children's Services Council * Cobourg Lakeshore Lions Club * Dorsett Refrigeration * Foster Hewitt Foundation * Johansen-Larsen Foundation * Kawartha Credit Union * Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants * Janssen * Best Western Otonabee Inn * Wolf/Kruz Radio * Novartis * Purdue Pharma * Lions Club of Cobourg * Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 238 * Rotary Club of Bridgenorth Ennismore Lakefield * Capitol Taxi * Kiwanis Club of Scott's Plains * KRG Children's Charity * St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School Social Justice Club * Lions Club of Courtice

It is all about solutions. Thank you.

Contact Information

Peterborough Office – Shari Davis, Executive Director
159 King Street, Suite 204 * Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8
705.748.9455 / s.davis@ldaptbo.com

City of Kawartha Lakes Office – Janice Balfour, Resource Facilitator
c/o Central Senior Public School * 242 Kent Street West * Lindsay,
ON K9V 2Z4 * 705.324.2595 / ldap.ckl@cogeco.ca

Clarington Office – Janice Balfour, Resource Facilitator
c/o John M. James Public School * 175 Mearns Avenue
Bowmanville, ON L1C 5C6
905.623.1852 / ldaclar@bellnet.ca

Northumberland Office – Charlene Holmes, Resource Facilitator
c/o Baltimore Public School * 9320 Burwash Road * Baltimore, ON
K0K 1C0 * 905.377.9414 / ldap.north@gmail.com

We also have an 800 number – 1.866.503.3303
or visit our web site at www.LDAPTBO.com

Be a Donor

You can help be part of the solution by making a donation. Your funds can support:

- One hour of tutoring for a child or youth = \$30.00
- One full tutoring session for a child or youth = \$230.00
- One hour of resource facilitation for a parent or caregiver = \$25.00 Suggested Donation
- Mileage that allows our tutors to reach students in our rural communities = \$150.00

As a charity we can provide tax receipts and will issue you a receipt for any donation over \$10.00.

For more information contact Susan at 705.748.9455 ext. 202.



Be a Volunteer

Volunteers are always welcome in any of our office locations. We have opportunities for those who want to tutor, sit on an Advisory Committee, help with events and fundraising, or help with office work.

Placement students from College or University Programs are always welcome.

For more information about volunteering please contact Kristi McKay at 705.748.9455 ext. 204, or the office nearest you.
