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#### In This Edition (Order to be edited)

- Executive Director Message
  - New Locations
  - See Through a Child's Eyes
  - Power Clinic
  - Appreciation Night
  - Out and About
  - Resource Fair Recap
  - Third Party Events
- OpenDyslexic
  - Programming
  - Saturday Youth Group Dates
  - Upcoming Events
  - LD News
  - United Way Campaign
  - Thank You and Farewell
  - Volunteer of the Month

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## Message

### From the Executive Director: Carla Warwick

In 2015 LDAPR will bring programs to you in the communities where you live and work. Our first expansion is based on geographic locations, but we plan to better identify community needs and then place our programs and services in those neighbourhoods with the greatest need.

As of January 1st 2015, our head office will relocate to 165 Dundas Street West Suite 800 Mississauga, ON L6T 2N6.

LDAPR has made steps towards a regional expansion of services and programs. This has been no easy task, but we are on our way to providing programs throughout the Peel Region.

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There will be no changes to our programs and services, LDAPR will continue to provide the same programs that build confidence, support, leadership, empowerment and social well-being for individuals living with, working with or supporting learning disabilities. The only difference is that we will be offering more programs and services, and on different days of the week!

We have worked very hard to get to where we are today, and with a little more hard work we will achieve our vision. A vision of inclusion and accessible support and guidance for all individuals directly or indirectly affected by learning disabilities.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the office.

Remember “The Right to learn, is the power to achieve”

Sincerely,

**Carla Warwick, BSW**

**Executive Director**

[cwarwick@ldapr.ca](mailto:cwarwick@ldapr.ca)

905-272-4100

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## **New Locations...Better Service!**



The LDAPR is excited about the next few months as we reform and build our capacity to serve our clients and their families.

**LDAPR Programs and Services will be offered at 5 locations during 2015**

- [LDAPR Office](#) - Central Mississauga

- [Kindree PS](#) - North West Mississauga
- [MacVille Community School](#) - Caledon
- [Earnscliffe Sr. PS](#) - South East Brampton
- [McCrimmon Middle School](#) - North West Brampton

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you that LDAPR is vacating 150 Central Park Dr. Suite 104 at the end of December 2014. Rest assure we will still provide services and programs in the immediate area at Earns Cliffe Sr.



## See It Through A Child's Eyes

One child in five has learning and attention issues. It's one thing to read about these challenges. It's another to experience them.

Through Your Child's Eyes is a one-of-a-kind tool. Its videos and simulations allow you to experience what it's like for your students to struggle with reading, writing, math, organization or focus.

Can you filter out the distractions to complete the puzzle? Can you unscramble the letters in time to decode the message?

Hear stories from children and find out from experts why these tasks can be so challenging for some kids. And learn strategies to help your students thrive.

[Create your personalized experience on Understood.org now >](#)

Source: LD OnLine

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## LDAPR Appreciation Night

Our members are the driving force behind what we do and why we do it. To show our appreciation of the members, volunteers, and contributors that generously support the LDAPR, we held an evening of celebration.

Attendees enjoyed a 'year-end review', AGM, awards and a meet and greet with the board of directors, staff, volunteers, members and contributors to LDAPR.

Thank you to everyone who made it out. We look forward to seeing everyone there next year!





The Power Clinic is a fundraiser for the LDAPR in partnership with the Mississauga Power. The clinic will take place at the Hershey Sportzone gym and the main court .

While at the Power Clinic, participants can expect:

- Drills and tips that will help players improve their overall skills
- A knowledgeable, certified coaching staff who will focus on the basic fundamentals and new skill development
- An atmosphere that is understanding, educational, fun and respectful

Participants will also have the opportunity to meet the players, coaches and interact with the team mascot...and participate in some competitions based drills for prizes.

For more information please call 905-791-4100.

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***Out and About...Spreading The Word!***

*In and around Peel Region*







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## Resource Fair Recap

Park Inn by Radisson was the venue for the 13th Annual Resource Fair hosted by the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region on November 20. The fair brought together parents, caregivers, educators, professionals and others who are impacted by learning disabilities. Guest speakers gave presentations on a variety of subjects including Listening and Learning and Understanding Dyslexia.

Exhibitors provided information on a range of services available including, adaptive learning tools, financial wellness, psychology, camps and other services to help those with learning disabilities.

**Planning is already underway for the 14th Annual Resource Fair. If you would like to register as an exhibitor, guest speaker or sponsor please contact Jey-son at 905-272-4100 or via email at [jedwards@ldapr.ca](mailto:jedwards@ldapr.ca).**





Third party events are an important part of our fundraising efforts and we look to our supporters to help us reach out to their networks, work places, and community groups to help raise funds for the Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region.

#### **What are third party events?**

They are fundraising events for LDAPR, organized independently by an outside (third) party. If your company, club, school groups, union or corporation is interested in helping raise funds for LDAPR, there are many ways to do so. From car washes, garage sales, barbecues, bake sales, sporting event parties, and golf tournaments, the only limit is your imagination!

If you would like to host a third party event in support of LDAPR, or are interested in more information, please contact Jey-son at 416-791-4100 or email [Jedwards@ldapr.ca](mailto:Jedwards@ldapr.ca).



## **Still Shopping?**

How about a tablet for your kids or a gift card to download apps. From the millions of apps available to install on your phone, tablet or computer, here are some of our suggestions for your holiday list.

### **Tablets**

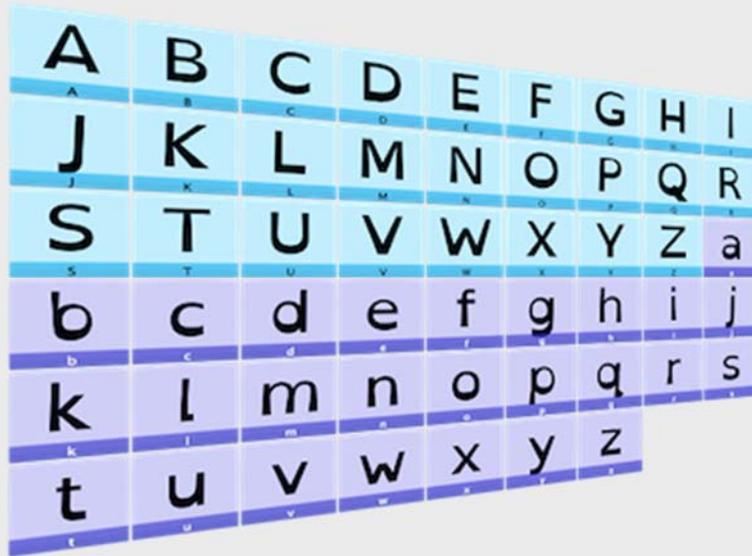
- **Samsung Galaxy Note 4**
- **Apple iPad Air 2**
- **LeapFrog LeapBand**
- **Crayola Virtual Design Pro Fashion Collection**



## Top 5

Whether you're the parent of a child with a reading disability or an educator that works with learning disabled students on a daily basis, you're undoubtedly always looking for new tools to help these bright young kids meet their potential

1. [ClaroSpeak US](#) - ClaroSpeak, a text-to-speech reader, offers five distinct, high-quality voices that can read any accessible text. It also offers a range of color and font settings.
2. [Alphabet Zoo](#): Alphabet Zoo is a great tool for helping young readers to recognize letter sounds.
3. [ACT Spell](#): Developed especially for learners with disabilities and special needs, this tool helps develop motor control, word recognition, spelling, and reading skills.
4. [Soundnote](#): Using Soundnote, you can record drawings, notes, and audio all at once, balancing reading-based skills with those that are auditory and visual.
5. [Story Builder](#): After kids are done learning how to build sentences, they can move onto this app which combines those sentences into one coherent story, complete with illustrations.



## OpenDyslexic

### Free and Open Source Dyslexia Typeface

OpenDyslexic is a new open source font created to increase readability for readers with dyslexia. The typeface includes regular, bold, italic, and bold-italic styles. It is being updated continually and improved based on input from dyslexic users. There are no restrictions on using OpenDyslexic outside of attribution.

Source: [OpenDyslexic](#)

#### APP Alert!

Looking for an app to help with Dyslexia? Check out [Dyslexic Like Me](#): Explaining dyslexia to a child can be hard, but this application can make it a little easier. It's an interactive children's book that helps students to understand dyslexia and become empowered to overcome their learning disability.

## Programming and Classes

We have a number of programs designed to help you, whether you are a child, youth or adult with a learning disability, or a parent/guardian of one!

### Adult Social Skills Program:

### Youth Transition Program:

*A program that inspires youth to reach their full*

In a society where technology is at the forefront, it is very easy for our social skills to fall through the cracks. A lack of even the most basic social skills can be costly and thus is the reason for our program. Our social skills program aspires to help promote positive social skills and etiquette, especially in trying to be proactive in certain situations. This program will encourage helpful social skills by using model presentations, positive feedback and self-awareness.

#### **WHO IS THE PROGRAM DESIGNED TO SERVE?**

Adults aged 21+ who have learning disabilities or have attention deficit disorder and who may:

- avoid social contact
- behave immaturely
- be shy, or timid in groups
- experience conflict with peers

Our goal is to help individuals:

- in the development of social skills, life skills and problem solving strategies
- strengthen friendship making skills
- in preventing behavior problems
- gain self-awareness and a positive outlook on life

The LDAPR has recently introduced a Fall 2014 session which started October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and will run for 6 weeks. If you are interested in registering for our Winter 2015 session please don't hesitate to contact us.

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*potential in school, work and play.*

This program aspires to help youth (ages 15-23) who do not fit into mainstream academics and who are looking for support in education, employment and goal setting. The program is designed to help youth with learning disabilities and ADHD to stay in school and go on to college or university or successfully gain meaningful employment upon graduation.

#### **Program Goals:**

- Youth will develop self-awareness and understanding of their learning disability.
- Youth will be directed to focus on their areas of strength and use these to improve in the areas that are more challenging.
- Youth will be provided with a relaxed and nurturing environment which will encourage the development of positive interpersonal relationships and self-confidence.
- Youth will learn and practice effective social skills, leadership skills and problem solving skills in a non-threatening environment.
- Youth will be taught how to be effective self-advocators.
- Youth will develop both short and long term attainable life goals (related to school, training, work etc.).
- Youth will be provided with strategies and tools that will directly assist them to meet their goals.
- Youth will focus on improving organizational skills, time-management and planning abilities.

## Youth Group Program:

There is a growing awareness that children and adolescents with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders often have social and/or communication deficits. Social learning is not a subject that is consciously taught. For the most part, the ability to understand social interaction, read facial expressions, perceive and express emotions, control impulsivity, and interpret language's more subtle meaning are acquired intuitively. Some students with learning disabilities need to practice these skills with guidance in a supportive environment. Socially inappropriate behaviours, lack of self-esteem and self-confidence can add to the feelings of alienation and loneliness.

We offer this program for 11 to 16 year olds to help them develop the skills they need to build relationships and become accepted by their peers. We provide a relaxed and fun environment for them to build friendships and strengthen their social skills with other youths with learning disabilities.

Events are held every other Saturday, both on-site and off-site to provide a range of activities selected to be fun while encouraging social skill development. Cost to register is \$20 for the school year, with each individual event having an additional cost of \$5-15 depending on the activity.

### Program Goals:

- Encourage friendship making;
- Aid in correcting and preventing social behaviour problems;
- Develop self-awareness;
- Create a relaxed and nurturing environment which encourages the development of positive interpersonal relationships

## Topics Include:

- Self-Advocacy Training;
- Developing a Personal Plan;
- Job/Placement Experience;
- Time Management;
- Career Opportunities;
- College/University Preparation.

Please contact us to register for the Winter 2015 session.

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## Saturday Youth Group Dates:

### Winter 2015 Sessions

- January 17
- January 31
- February 14
- February 28
- March 14
- March 28

### Spring 2015 Sessions

- April 11
- April 25
- May 9
- May 23
- June 6

*Contact us today to register for the Youth Group.*

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[Facebook](#)



[@LDAPeelRegion](#)



[Website](#)



# WE WANT YOU!

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We are looking for volunteers to help out in the following areas:

- Data entry
- Event planning
- Social media/ Graphic Design
- Office support
- Research

If any of these areas interest you, please contact Jey-son at [jedwards@ldapr.ca](mailto:jedwards@ldapr.ca).

## **Upcoming Events**

Dec 13, 2014: Mississauga Power Fundraiser Clinic and NBL Game Fundraiser

Jan 17, 2015: Youth Group – First meeting

Feb 7, 2015: Chili Cook-off

Mar 5, 2015: Comedy Show



### **LD News...**

LDAO enthusiastically welcomed the announcement, made by the Special Education Policy & Programs Branch, about the revised [Policy/Program](#)



## **United Way Campaign**

We're almost there!

We are just a few hundred dollars away from our goal of \$2,000 for the 2014 United Way Campaign. Please help us reach are goal.

When you donate to the LDAPR United Way fundraising campaign you help us to accomplish so much, including:

- Improved services in your community

*Memorandum 8: Identification of and Program Planning for Students with Learning*

*Disabilities*. The previous PPM 8 on Learning Disabilities was published in 1982 and the field of learning disabilities has seen major advancements since that time. In 2011 the Ministry of Education convened a Learning Disabilities Working Group comprised of educators, internationally recognized researchers, psychologists and key stakeholders, including LDAO, to inform the development of the revised PPM and a resource document for educators. The definition of the term, Learning Disability, in the revised PPM is consistent with key concepts of the LDAO definition that was developed through an extensive consultation process in 2001. While many school boards, in addition to Ontario post-secondary institutions, have been informally using the LDAO definition, the key concepts are now part of the ministry definition to be used for identification of students with learning disabilities through the IPRC process.

In addition to updating the definition, the revised PPM provides direction on Recognition and identification of Learning Disabilities (including Early and ongoing screening, and Assessments) and on Program Planning for students with learning disabilities. As stated in the memo to Directors of Education, the revised PPM “reflects the advancement in research and developments in special education policies and school board practices in supporting students with learning disabilities”.

The ministry is organizing information sessions for Superintendents of Special Education and intends to release *Guidelines for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services for Students with Learning Disabilities* in the 2015-16 school year. In addition, the ministry is

- New programs and resources
- Advocacy
- Training

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to providing Peel Region with the tools and power to achieve.

*Please donate today:*

[www.uniiverse.com/Unitedwayldapr](http://www.uniiverse.com/Unitedwayldapr)



## Thank you and Farewell

### You will be missed

We would like to inform you of a few staff changes that will take place by the New Year. Unblind Tibbin, Manager of Outreach & Community Engagement, and Tamara McEachern, Manager of Programs & Services, will be saying good-bye to the LDAPR team.

Unblind Tibbin will be leaving the LDAPR family and heading to his second home in Switzerland to spend quality family time. Unblind plans on returning to Toronto in the New Year, so don't be surprised if you see him now and again at an LDAPR event.

Tamara, although sad to say good-bye, is very much looking forward to being involved in applied reading research with the Sickkids Learning Disabilities Research Program.

funding LDAO to develop online research-based resources, webinars, and podcasts ([LD@school/TA@l'ecole](mailto:LD@school/TA@l'ecole)) and funded the very successful Educator's Institute, *Demystifying Learning Disabilities in the Classroom*, on August 27, 2014. The requirements of the revised PPM 8 will take effect January 2, 2015.

**PDF version of PPM 8:** [Policy/Program Memorandum 8: Identification of and Program Planning for Students with Learning Disabilities](#)

**PDF version of this page:** [New Ministry of Education Policy on Learning Disabilities](#)

On behalf of LDAPR staff and members, we would like to thank them for all the hard work they have done at LDAPR and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

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## Volunteer of The Month

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### Board of Directors

**Marvin Bavcevic** - President  
**Terri LeRoux** - Vice-President  
**Gayatri Kuarsingh** - Treasurer  
**Roopnauth (Paul) Sharma** - Director  
**Leslie Silvestri** - Director / SEAC Representative

### LDAPR Staff

**Carla Warwick** - Executive Director  
**Tamara McEachern** - Manager of Programs and Services  
**Amber Low** - Resource Counsellor  
**Jey-son Edwards** - Project Coordinator of Community Engagement and Communications  
**Lilia Mastrocola** - Client Service Coordinator  
**Sandy Gordon** - Bookkeeper



This month we would like to honour the dedication of Carol Brown.

At LDAPR, over 100 active volunteers contribute 4,500 hours each year in helping to build and connect a vibrant community in Peel Region.

While all our volunteers certainly deserve



**Join in the conversation!**

What would you like to read about?  
How can we better serve you? Have an idea? Let us know, we'd love to hear from you. Email [jedwards@ldapr.ca](mailto:jedwards@ldapr.ca) or give the office a ring.

acknowledgement for their amazing work with LDAPR, we have chosen one individual for the month of December who has embraced volunteerism to the fullest.

Carol has created websites for our summer programs and edited promotional videos in the past for LDAPR. She is a regular participant at our social events and is always willing to go the extra mile for LDAPR. She is an extremely nice young lady and we feel very lucky to have her as one of our volunteers.

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**Disclaimer**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region does not support, endorse or recommend any method of treatment, product, remedial centre, program or person for children or adults with Learning Disabilities. We do, however, endeavour to inform in the belief in your right to know.

LDAPR is a Region of Peel and United Way of Peel Region funded agency.

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