

# LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

## LAMBTON COUNTY CHAPTER

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SPRING 2007

## From the desk of the Executive Director

Because there are so many educational events coming up, I don't want to waste space in this newsletter. However, there is an important piece of news I have to share. We were recently told that we have to find a new home as of June 30. We love it here at Northern, but the school's enrollment has grown beyond their expectations when we moved in here almost two years ago and therefore we have to relocate our Resource Centre once again. Therefore, our next issue will be sent from our new home, a location that at press time was still uncertain.

In spite of this uncertainty, we are committed to continuing the growth and success of our chapter.

We have several excellent speaker events this spring and I wanted to point out three that I am really excited about.

Wednesday, April 18

*Palm Pilot Workshop with Math Teacher Pat Boulos.*

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Northern Secondary School.

Anyone who has a child who attends Northern knows of Mr. Boulos. He is a fabulous teacher, passionate about teaching and math. Pat will talk about how technology is changing the way students learn math at the secondary level. Powerpoint presentation will be provided. Free.

Wednesday, April 25

Dr. Maggie Mamen - Lambton College, Room N105.

Dr. Mamen is the author of several books on non-verbal learning disabilities and parenting. A clinical psychologist based in Ottawa, Dr. Mamen will present an evening workshop entitled "*Patterns, Predictions and Practical Strategies*".

If you are a parent or a professional working with a child with non-verbal learning disabilities, you will not want to miss this renowned Canadian expert. Dr. Mamen is doing a daytime workshop for educators only and graciously agreed to repeat her workshop in the evening. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., tickets \$5.00 at the door.

Saturday, April 28

One-day workshop "*Parents, Priorities and Planning*" with Marilyn Dolmage. This all-day workshop on inclusion will be held at St. Patrick's High School from 9:00 to 3:30 (lunch included). The cost for parents is \$15.00 and \$20.00 for professionals.

Marilyn Dolmage is an Inclusive Education Consultant and the Project Co-ordinator for the Ontario Coalition for Inclusive Education. Marilyn is Chair of the Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees. **Cont'd page 4**

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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!

## Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Important New Information for Members

### Did you know about ...?

by Joan A. Murchison (Murchison-Fleming)

There is a benefit called Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD). It was previously called the Handicapped Children's Benefit, and provides help to parents or guardians relating to the extraordinary costs of caring for a child with a severe disability or disabilities. Currently this program assists about 25,000 children in Ontario, however there are many more children that qualify but are not receiving it. Many Ontarians are not aware that this program even exists.

As of November 2006, this means-tested program may pay up to \$410.00/month depending on your expenses. According to the June 1, 1998 Policy Directive, your net entitlement is pro-rated according to your family size, and according to your income, up to and about \$63,001.00. An updated ACSD Policy Directive #1101-01 currently does not seem to be available on the internet. Until an updated version is posted, you may wish to contact your local Ministry of Community and Social Services Office that administers ACSD for your area, and request a copy. This is a public document and for over two years parents have been told that a copy will be posted to the internet. ACSD is administered by ODSP and in Sarnia ACSD is operated from the Windsor office. Your eligibility assessment for this program is conducted in person and will take place in Sarnia at the Lambton Shared Services office, in Bayside Mall. You will need to contact the ACSD office in Windsor and request a set of forms be sent to you.

Psycho-Educational Assessments are expensive however you can ask your school board about their Psychology Department doing this testing. According to the Transformation document on the Ministry of Education website, school boards will receive an additional \$20 million dollars to do more of this type of testing for students up to and including grade three. You will need to submit a copy of your child's Psycho-Educational Assessment, and a doctor such as a Child Psychiatrist is required to complete the required forms. Keep a copy of all documentation that you send to ACSD, and you may want to send it via Registered Mail so that you have proof of delivery. ACSD has covered such things as tutoring (Kumon Program, Sylvan Learning Centre), Art and Play Therapy (you may need to explain that this is ongoing psychotherapy), and medication such as *Concerta*, for ADHD, for a limited period of time pending Section 8 approval or denial for families receiving monies from Ontario Works (OW), or the Ontario Disability Support Program, (ODSP).

Pertaining specifically to the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, ACSD has covered the \$50.00 Membership fee for the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) / Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County (LDALC). In order to obtain this approval, you need to stress that this is an ongoing (annual) expense and it entitles the member unit to special benefits. ACSD has also approved coverage for such local summer programming as the Kids Positive Program and the Study Smart Program. In order to obtain this approval, you need to stress that these are considered special summer camp fees. When your application has been received, you will be notified in writing, when and where to report for your eligibility assessment. Take your letter with you stating the time of this assessment in case there is a discrepancy between the stated time of your appointment in your letter and the schedule that the Reception Desk staff have been given. You will be asked to bring documentation with you regarding your finances such as your bank statements, rent/mortgage receipts, a copy of your last year's income tax, etc. Take any other documentation that you have pertaining to your child's unique and individual needs such as Occupational Therapy Assessments, and medical reports.

It should be noted that if a parent is receiving ACSD only, the National Child Tax Benefit, NCBS, is considered income for the purpose of determining eligibility for the program. If the parent is receiving OW or ODSP, NCBS is already deducted from their monthly cheque. This information has been taken from the ODSP Income Support Policy Directive 5.14.

If you are denied coverage, request the decision in writing, and be sure to immediately request an internal review in writing since there is a narrow period of time by which you may do so. If you are denied again, be sure to request this denial be provided to you in writing, and immediately file a written appeal. Contact your local community legal clinic, not to be confused with Legal Aid. In Sarnia, it is called: Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (C.L.A.S.). These types of legal clinics have a sliding scale for payment and specialize in the areas of poverty and income assistance law, such as ODSP, and OW. They have the experience in representing clients at Social Benefit Tribunals.

If you wish to contact the Windsor office, you may do so at: 1-800-387-7327. If you are not receiving a response you may refer to the Ontario Government Online Telephone Directory for the names of the individual workers. One special worker that travels to Sarnia is:

Ms. S. Campbell  
Special Needs Agreement Officer  
South West Region  
Ministry of Community and Social Services /  
Ministry of Children's Services  
270 Erie Street East  
P.O. Box 1810, Station A  
Windsor, Ontario  
N9A 7E3  
Tel: TOLL FREE 1-800-387-7327, ext. 2252  
or 1-800-419-4919, ext.2298  
or 1-519- 254-1651, ext. 2252  
Fax: (519) 254-7132

With greater access to identification, services, accommodation, treatment, and other necessary interventions, I believe children will have a greater opportunity to achieve their maximum potential in life. The earlier that intervention is started, the less the cost to the individual, family and society when that child is much older. The right for children to have their unique and individual needs met must be paramount. Denial of service or a failure to provide the necessities of life should not be tolerated. If you are denied assistance, be sure to voice your complaints in writing to your elected officials such as your local M.P.P., and/or the Honourable Madame Madeleine Meilleur, Minister, Community and Social Services, and/or the Premier.

## Chapter Garage Sale—Saturday, May 19, 2007



394 Bradford Drive, Sarnia 8:00 a.m. to 12:00

Cleaning out your basement? We are looking for donations to our sale. We take everything but clothes. If pricing could be done in advance, that would be appreciated. Call the Resource Centre at 519-541-9687 if you have items to donate. We are also looking for volunteers to help on May 18 for pricing and May 19 for sales and clean-up.

## Parents, Priorities and Planning One Day Workshop on Inclusion

(continued from page 1)

Marilyn Dolmage has contributed to the Ministry of Education Working Table on Special Education (Funding) Reform. Marilyn has learned most from her three children, whose insights have given her hope for the future. Her family struggled to ensure they attended school together, and to assist her older son to have the education, medical treatment, employment and community life he wanted. His sudden death in 2004—at the age of 29—has heightened her resolve to improve policy and strengthen families and communities.

All parents of special needs children will benefit from hearing Marilyn's experience. Marilyn will help us all understand what it takes to make it work for ALL students of ALL abilities in regular class.

This workshop is a partnership between the Learning Disabilities Association of Lambton County and Down Syndrome Association Lambton County. We would like to thank **Integration Action for Inclusion in School and Community (Ontario)** and the **Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Office**.

Flyer and more information available on our website [www.sarnia.com/groups/lda-lc](http://www.sarnia.com/groups/lda-lc).

## Volunteers Needed

If you are able, please consider volunteering for your local chapter. We always need more volunteers. Opportunities include one-time volunteering (garage sale or manning our booth at community events) or recurring opportunities (Board of Directors, tutoring, etc.). If any volunteers have their Smart Serve certificates and are willing to help serve at community events, please contact the Resource Centre and let us know. We are also looking for help to coordinate our annual Golf Tournament, to be held this year at Sawmill Creek on June 16, 2007. If you would like to help please call us at 519-541-9687.

## New to Resource Library

### BOOKS

Transforming the difficult child: The Nurtured Heart Approach by Howard Glasser, MA and Jennifer Easley, MA

Visual Perception Problems in Children with ADHD, Autism and other Learning Disabilities by Lisa A. Kurtz

Something's Wrong with My Child: A Parent's Book about Children with Learning Disabilities by Milton Brutton, Ph.D., Sylvia O. Richardson, M.D. and Charles Mangel

## Spring Programming

Kids Positive Social Skills and Self-Esteem Building Program.

Next 10-week program begins Wednesday, April 4, 2007 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

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 10-week program is \$48.00 for members and \$110.00 for non-members. One-year membership is \$50. As always, financial help is available if required. Kids Positive is designed for children 6-13 who need help with social skills and self-esteem building. **Call 541-9687 for registration details.**

Study Smart Learning Strategies for Becoming a Successful Student.

**Next 10-week program begins Thursday, April 5, 2007 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.**

Smart teaches students in Grades 6-9 organizational and time management skills necessary in order to become a good student. The cost for the 10-week program is \$48.00 for members and \$110.00 for non-members. One-year membership is \$50. As always, financial help is available if required. Participants will receive a binder full of excellent resource material to keep and hopefully refer back to as needed. **Call 541-9687 for registration details.**

## Summer Programming

Because of our impending move, our summer programming plans are not final. Last summer we were very fortunate to be able to hire two summer students through the HRSDC Summer Student Program. The two student employees developed grade-specific tutoring materials for Grades 1-6 and in addition, offered one-on-one tutoring to 12 students. Any parent who currently pays for private tutoring knows the value and pricing of one-on-one tutoring. We want to continue offering this benefit to our members. Therefore, we will accept students on a first-come first served basis for summer tutoring. Members only (membership \$50.00 a year). This is a huge benefit for members and we hope we can accommodate everyone interested. Through the HRSDC Summer Student Program, we will be requesting funding assistance to hire several students this summer with a variety of expertise and education. If you are interested in working with the Learning Disabilities Association this summer, watch the HRSDC Job Bank for our postings. We are particularly looking for students interested in a career in education, as well as students with learning disabilities. Please contact the Resource Centre at 519-541-9687 for more info.

## On the Web



**U.S. Department of Education website.** This page has an excellent article titled [Teaching Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Instructional Strategies and Practices.](#)

This article has some excellent suggestions for accommodations that can be inserted into a student's IEP.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/osep/index.html#adhd-res2>

## In the News

**PACFOLD — or “Putting a Canadian Face on Learning Disabilities” — is a groundbreaking project led by the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada, with funding from the Office of Disability Issues, Social Development Canada.**

View the results of this 3-year \$302,000 study on learning disabilities in Canada.

With the publication of the results of this exciting project, everyone will know more about what it means to have a learning disability in Canada today.

View the results of the PACFOLD project <http://www.pacfold.ca/>

### Ontario Human Rights Commission

<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/resources/factsheets>

The Ontario Human Rights commission has some excellent fact sheets on issues such as:

- Accommodating Students with Disabilities
- Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Roles and Responsibilities
- Accommodating Persons with Disabilities

## Upcoming Educational Events ~ Local

Thursday, April 12, 2007 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Our Children Our Youth Our Future

Sarnia Library Auditorium, Sarnia. Tickets: \$5.00

Guest Presenter: Mike Neuts

Mr. Neuts is a child advocate who will speak about the tragic loss of his son Miles Neuts, age 10 who died at an elementary school in 1998 as a victim of bullying.

For ticket info contact: Diane McCahill, Ontario Early Years Centre, Lambton College 519-542-6100 ext. 23 or email [c731@lambton.on.ca](mailto:c731@lambton.on.ca)

Thursday, April 28, 2007 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bridges to Health Fair

Central United Church, 220 George Street

(corner of Brock and George Streets), Sarnia

Free admission. Free mini treatments, samples, information. Excellent fair with information on different alternative therapies that not only complement the usual medical practices, but also add quality to a person's life. For more info contact Gillian Watts at 519-344-6367 or [rwatts@cogeco.ca](mailto:rwatts@cogeco.ca).

## Thank You!

We would like to thank Linda O'Neill and Penny Elliott for donating tutoring materials to the Resource Centre. Thank you Linda and Penny!

Thank you to The Rotary Club of Sarnia for their \$1,000 donation toward development of our Homework Hub.

Thank you to The F.K. Morrow Foundation for their \$2,500 donation to purchasing and developing our JUMP Math Program.

Thank you to the Optimist Club Sarnia Lakeshore donation in the amount of \$200.

**ldao**  
Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario  
Lambton County  
*A different way of learning  
can lead to success.*

