



OCTOBER is



Learning Disabilities (LD) Awareness Month

October was **Learning Disabilities Awareness Month!** The Hon. Tom Osborne, Minister of Education and Lynn Green, the chair of the Board of Directors, LDANL, signed our proclamation. Our Lt. Governor The Hon. Judy Foote had Government House lit up in red to mark the occasion.



<https://bit.ly/LD-awareness>

This has been an exciting fall for us, as we have unveiled some new services and events. Keep reading and check our website for further updates.

Please share this newsletter. Anyone interested in being on our mailing list or availing of these services, should contact edie@ldanl.ca or aneesh@ldanl.ca

This newsletter uses the Open Dyslexic font.

Newsletter Fall 2020

Back to School time has been very different this year. Our children have gone back to a different kind of environment, wearing masks, keeping safe distances from one another and, of course, sanitizing. Our Post-Secondary students are navigating their courses online and many of us are working from home. LDANL continues to work from home for the time being. We are available to answer questions through email, phone (please send your number) or zoom meetings. We've got this!

Karen - info@ldanl.ca

Edie - edie@ldanl.ca

Aneesh - aneesh@ldanl.ca





Idan! Learning Disabilities Association
of Newfoundland and Labrador

The right to learn, the power to achieve

Tutoring News

New and exciting things are happening in our Tutoring program!

This fall we are beginning to offer tutoring province-wide including remote areas of the province, thanks to a generous grant from the **Patten Family Foundation**. This project will include partial tuition bursaries thanks to the Patten Family Foundation.

As well we will be offering some full-tuition subsidies for At-Risk youth, thanks to funding from the **Government of Canada** (through the **United Way**).

Check with edie@ldanl.ca or aneesh@ldanl.ca for further details and check for upcoming information on our website ldanl.ca



Our regular tutoring continued quite successfully online since the spring and will continue online at least through the winter term. We will reevaluate in the spring. Our parents have appreciated knowing that their child could learn safely from their own home. Our gratitude goes out to the **Patten Family Foundation** who stepped in to provide the funding that enabled us to purchase the new Whizzimo platform.

The fall term began on Sept 14 with several new tutors hired. Email Karen at info@ldanl.ca if you wish to register for next term.



New Resources

Assessment Resource

This past summer, with the help of Dr. David Philpott and Dr. Sandra Luscombe, LDANL developed a resource for parents entitled:

Your Child's Assessment - A Guide for Parents

<http://ldanl.ca/resources/assessment/>

This guide is in easy-to-read question and answer format and it helps to demystify the assessment process for parents. It will also be a great resource for parents as they advocate to have their child assessed as well as knowing what to do when they receive the results.

More of this type of resource is planned for the future so stay tuned.

Assistive Technology Free Online Sessions

Register for your FREE Assistive Technology Session Today!

 **We offer support with these applications and more:**



LDANL is offering free beginner-friendly and comprehensive 1-hour tutoring sessions.
<https://bit.ly/register-AT-session>



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Support for Learning

Does your child have Accommodations, an IEP or an ISSP? Both the English School District and the French School District held IEP and ISSP meetings with families virtually this spring. If your child's meeting didn't go ahead and it is time for your their IEP or ISSP review meeting, contact your school to schedule your meeting. Now that school has re-opened, it is important to ensure that your child's accommodations and other supports are in place.

Parents should have a copy of their child's Record of Accommodation form. A blank ROA form can be found here. Ask the school for your copy of your child's completed form if you don't have it.


https://www.gov.nl.ca/eecd/files/forms_studentsupport_record_of_accommodations.doc

For Alternate Format materials (e.g., textbooks in digital format):

<https://cmaf.gov.nl.ca/>

For information on the Department of Education's Assistive Technology program:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/eecd/k12/studentsupportservices/assistive-tech/>



Recycle for LDANL

The Evergreen Recycling Program is now up and running again for express customers. Please bring your recycling to your nearest Evergreen depot with the label: LDANL 753-1445 and the proceeds will go into our account to help us provide our services. We really appreciate it!



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Supports and Services

Parent Support Group

A Parent Support Group meeting via Zoom is planned for **November 26th at 7:30 pm** and will be held via Zoom. Please confirm attendance prior to the meeting by emailing edie@ldanl.ca in order to receive a Zoom link to attend. This group is for parents of children who have Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD. The purpose of this group is to meet other families who are impacted by Learning Disabilities, to discuss issues and concerns and to share resources and information. Sometimes we will arrange presentations on topics of interest. The group meets approximately 6 times per year. Please feel free to share this information anyone who might be interested and have them submit their name to our mailing list at edie@ldanl.ca. On the 26th we will discuss how the school year is going, and identify any topics on which people would like information or presentations.

Adult Support Group (new)

We will be starting an Adult Support Group for people 18 and over, who have Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD, if there is sufficient interest. At the moment, all meetings will be via Zoom. The purpose is to meet other individuals who are impacted by Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD, to discuss issues and concerns and to share resources and information. Sometimes we will arrange presentations on topics of interest. We encourage young adults, post-secondary students as well as adults of any age to join us. Please contact edie@ldanl.ca if this would be of interest to you and please share with others who might be interested.



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Supports and Services

Tutoring

We offer our regular tutoring program throughout the year in Reading/Spelling (using The Barton System) and Math (Math U See). At present, all sessions are held online one-to-one. Contact Karen at info@ldanl.ca to register your child or for more information.

Adult Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all ages, not just school children. If you are an adult and wish to learn to read or to improve your reading, spelling or math skills, we can provide one-on-one tutoring online in the privacy of your home. Contact Karen at info@ldanl.ca to register or for more information.

Assistive Technology Tutoring

We are now offering free individualized sessions to answer your Assistive Technology questions and to demonstrate how to use certain programs and applications. Complete the Google Form on our website ldanl.ca or on page 3 of this newsletter to arrange a session. Sessions can be for children, parents, adults, teachers, employers or anyone interested in learning more.

Advocacy

We can support individuals (children, parents and adults) in their quest to determine and obtain the best accommodations at school or in the workplace. Email edie@ldanl.ca



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Supports and Services

Education and Training

We are available to provide presentations, workshops, booths, both virtual and in person, on a variety of topics related to Learning Disabilities, such as:

- What is a Learning Disability?
- We all Learn Differently (for school children, Girl Guide groups, etc.)
- What now? Helping parents navigate the system
- Accommodations for persons with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD
- Simulation activities - what might it feel like to struggle in school?
- Early identification - Red Flags
- The Barton System for reading and spelling support
- Overview of services and supports available at LDANL
- other topics can be tailored to your group or setting

Navigating the School System

Parents of newly diagnosed children often feel overwhelmed and seek support in knowing how to best help their child. The services and procedures offered in schools may seem like a complex maze and parents benefit from support in understanding how it all works. We can meet one-on-one with parents to go through current procedures, what they can expect, what they are entitled to, the various forms they will encounter, etc. Email edie@idanl.ca for more information or to set up a meeting.

MUN Library is now providing limited study space:

<https://www.library.mun.ca/covid-19/study-spaces/>



Resources

Check out these excellent websites:

www.understood.org for great articles and resources on a variety of topics related to Learning Disabilities.

Information and ideas related to ADHD: <https://www.additudemag.com/>

Keep reading virtually with audiobooks! Available at npl.ca - just click "Digital Library".

www.scholastic.ca now has free access to digital subscriptions. Check it out!

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/> is an amazing site for a variety of ages, including video.

Also, a few fun and useful apps:

Teach Your Monster to Read - It uses a very structured phonics approach in a fun way.

Starfall - lots of different parts to this one. If you go into the Mouse with a book, you'll get phonics skills. Lots of other great things here.

abcya - again lots of different and fun things to try here. You have to choose a grade but this doesn't have to correspond with the student's actual grade - choose the one which is most skill level appropriate. Parents can select the grade level ahead of time and then find the activity in "all games".

Parrot Fish Sight Words: While the Barton program doesn't use a sight word approach, this can supplement

Dysegxia - seems to practice processing speed regarding letter recognition - it's colouring which might be fun.

Feel free to forward any good websites or apps you find to edie@ldanl.ca for possible sharing here.