



October 14, 2022
Newsletter # 10

The Bear Bulletin

Learning Centre for Hamilton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where has all the time gone? It seems we were just wrapping up the last school year and here we are well into the new one. Welcome to our new students and tutors and welcome back to our continuing students and tutors. The Learning Centre for Hamilton is growing and with our first graduation last June we have become a mature Learning Centre joining our other eight companion Learning Centre's across Canada.

COVID-19 is still with us and while it may seem a bit restrictive, we will be continuing with our existing policies and procedures for a bit longer. We are reviewing the policy and procedure regularly and will update it as things evolve. The safety of all our Learning Centre family is paramount and we continue to strive for a safe and inclusive place for everyone.

It was a bit of a letdown to have to cancel the BBQ at the commencement of this year. Stay tuned for one to be held next June to coincide with the end of classes for the year.

Michael Kirk—President

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TUTOR TRAINER'S MESSAGE

I am so pleased to be able to update you about the progress of training at the Learning Centre for Hamilton.

During the summer, four new tutors began their training with the first two modules of the nine required to become a Certified Orton-Gillingham Practitioner. The third module was delivered in September, and this covers all the phonograms and concepts that will be taught in Level 1 of the 5-level program we teach at the Learning Centre.

Once these three modules have been taught, tutors can begin to work with their child. So, immediately following the training, these new tutors watched while the tutor trainer delivered the first lesson to their child. The Baxters had prepared all the tutoring rooms beautifully, so each child felt special and welcomed with their materials all ready and labelled with their names.

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CO-DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Fall is now upon us and the Learning Centre for Hamilton has reopened for the 2022-2023 tutoring year. As the year begins we presently have nine tutors providing tutoring for ten children. This year promises to be a year of growth as we move forward providing the gifts of reading and spelling to children with dyslexia.

We are grateful to welcome four new tutors to our tutoring team as we begin the new year. Welcome to new tutors Jennifer Marshall, Stephanie Shewfelt, Heather McNulty, and Colleen Reinhart. We also welcome back returning tutors Donna McManamy, Elspeth Daley, and Sarah McKee. We are very fortunate to have this great group of tutors who willingly volunteer their time to improve the lives of the children they work with.

Welcome as well to our new children Lawson, Gregory, Tevin, and Liam and we wish them much success as they begin their tutoring programs. We also welcome back our returning children Eli, Emily, Maggie, Mason, Natalie, and Dakota as they continue their tutoring programs.

As the year begins, we would like to thank the following people for their help at the Learning Centre: Board of Directors: President Mike Kirk, Vice President Mario Kovacevic, Secretary Ian Anderson, Treasurer Tom Lewis, and board members Don Thornton and Dave Walden for their ongoing support, Dale Chapman for coordinating the volunteers who work in the reception room, Reception Room Volunteers Dale Chapman, Kevin Vance, David Gordon and Mike Kirk, Lee Gowers for her work on designing our marketing materials, Kevin Vance for editing and designing our newsletters, and Andrew Kovacevic for working on the design of the new Learning Centre for Hamilton website. We greatly appreciate the involvement of these people who contribute to the ongoing success of the Learning Centre.

Michael and Barbara Baxter
Co-directors, Learning Centre for Hamilton

WELCOME JENNIFER MARSHALL

Jennifer Marshall has been with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board for over twenty years. She has been in the Specialized Services department for the last 8 years and is always advocating and supporting students with diverse needs. She has a deep connection with the Scottish Rite as she worked there while in high school and her father is a member there. She is also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and she tries to emulate fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith and love in her daily life. During her down time, she enjoys travelling to Florida to spend time with her 2 nephews.



WELCOME COLLEEN REINHART

Colleen Reinhart is a Speech-Language Pathologist working for the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. She graduated from the University of Toronto in 2013 with a MHS in Speech-Language Pathology and has been actively practicing since that time. Colleen is thrilled to be part of the Learning Centre Family and to put her interest in literacy into practice. When she is not working or tutoring, Colleen enjoys hiking and travelling with her husband and dog.



WELCOME HEATHER McNULTY

Heather McNulty is a Reading Specialist Teacher with HWDSB. She has been teaching for 14 years and has an incredible passion for the science of reading. She has taken countless courses to help build her understanding of how children learn to read. Becoming an OG tutor is a very exciting next step for her. Heather is excited to work with the Learning Centre to help children and their parents expand their knowledge and understanding of how we learn to read.

Heather is a first-time author (you can find the book on Amazon), avid traveller and tea drinker. Heather's daughter is the light of her life and they love going on many amazing adventures together.



WELCOME STEPHANIE SHEWFELT

Stephanie completed her Bachelor of Education in 2003 and has previously worked for the Hamilton and Niagara School Boards as a junior/intermediate teacher. She is currently enrolled at Mohawk college where she is working to complete her certification in Early Childhood Education. Stephanie is a mother of two boys aged 11 and 14, one of which has dyslexia. Over the last several years Stephanie has invested time and commitment learning how to teach her own child with the Orton Gillingham method. She understands the unique challenges individuals with dyslexia and their families face and knows how much of a difference the programming at the Learning Centre can make. Stephanie is excited to get to know the unique abilities of the children she will be working with.



THANK YOU DONORS

There are many ways to donate and support the Learning Centre for Hamilton, so that it's programming for children with dyslexia continues:

With much gratitude... \$4000 from The Lodge of Strict Observance A.F. & A.M. No. 27 G.R.C. established 1847. To date their most generous donations total \$31, 000.

With much gratitude... \$5000 form the Valley of Toronto A and ASR. This special gift was received at the First Graduation and Official Dedication of the Learning Centre on June 5th, 2022.

With much gratitude ... \$5000 from the Scottish Rite Golf Classic held June 17th, 2022, at the Southbrook Golf and Country Club. Thank you to organizers, sponsors, and donors.

With much gratitude... \$325 as the last donation from the Dundurn Lodge before their amalgamation with Beach Lodge. Thank you for the great support from Dundurn Lodge.

With much gratitude ... \$300 from an anonymous donor in honour of Brother John Lester St. James Lodge of Scotland Newton ON & AVR. This is truly a special gift to the Learning Center for Hamilton.

With much gratitude... Thank you to the people who donated in memory of III. Bro. M. Alan "Butch" Rogers, 33 degree and Ill. Bro. Siegfried "Ziggy" Irion, 33 degree.

TUTOR TRAINER'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

The new children all seemed to fit in well to the routines and parents were excited to see the process begin for their children. It is exciting to see these new matches get started! The new tutors have prepared first lessons and had the tutor trainer look these over before delivering to their child. This process will continue for a minimum of 100 lessons with at least two children over the next two years. The training process is like an apprenticeship and is intensive.

In a few weeks, once lessons have been delivered for a few weeks, the new tutors will be observed, and feedback provided to ensure that the OG technique is being delivered with precision. Two observations have been scheduled with these new tutors for the fall. In addition, returning tutors are also scheduled to be observed and receive further training as they continue their process to become certified.

Also, this fall, the new tutors will receive further training to prepare them to tutor Level 2 concepts with their children during the winter and spring months.

We are very lucky to have a Speech Language Pathologist join us a tutor in training. Collen Reinhart has agreed to deliver a presentation about the development of language in children which is part of the training program for all tutors. We hope to have her provide this information during an online session, during the winter months when the tutor trainer does not travel to the Learning Centre. This will give us a lovely opportunity to come together as a group over the winter months!

With our growing numbers, the tutor trainer is also scheduled to meet with children and their parents who have applied and been accepted to receive tutoring services at the Learning Centre. This will provide us with baselines for these children. Baselines help us know where to start the tutoring process, provide the tutor trainer and Centre Directors a chance to get to know the children a bit so they can be best matched with a tutor, and provide some data for us to track the progress of children over their three years at the Learning Centre.

In addition to the new tutors, we have our three tutors in training returning, our certified tutors, the Baxters, potentially another group of tutors to begin training, and a tutor returning from a maternity leave! We can soon boast that we have ten tutors working with a dozen children!

This is huge progress, and everyone involved with the Learning Centre for Hamilton should feel very proud of how far we have come so quickly, and despite a pandemic!

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The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation
Learning Centre for Hamilton
'helping children with dyslexia to read'

Donation Form

Donor Information

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Prov _____ PC _____
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E-mail _____

Payment Options

Cheque. Please make cheque payable to: *The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Hamilton*

E-transfer to: office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com

Please send an email with your name, address and phone number so we might issue an official receipt for income tax purposes.

Credit Card VISA MasterCard
Card # _____
Security Code (3 numbers on back of card) _____ Expiry (MM/YY) _____
Name on Card _____
Signature _____
Amount of donation One time Monthly



Donations (one time or monthly) may also be made through CanadaHelps.org.
Visit CanadaHelps.org and search for Learning Centre for Hamilton.
Official receipts for income tax purposes will be issued by CanadaHelps.

Donations of \$20 or more will be acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

Those donating \$500 or more will receive a certificate of appreciation and a pin.

After filling out this form please mail it to:

Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation
Learning Centre for Hamilton
148 George Street
Hamilton ON L8P 1E5