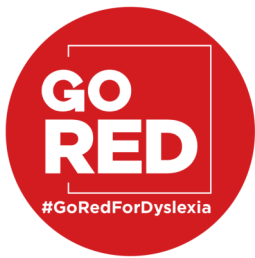




The BEAR Bulletin

Fall 2026

❖❖❖ *"helping children with dyslexia to read"*



Go Red for Dyslexia is a global campaign to raise awareness of dyslexia and literacy differences, and come together to celebrate all the amazing things that people with dyslexia can do. Why red? Red is a colour that people with dyslexia are probably familiar with. It's the colour of the pen used to highlight spelling mistakes and low marks in school; it's the colour a fail mark comes up in; it's a colour that generally means stop. The goal is to take back red: acknowledge and reclaim it. Dyslexia is something to be proud of: no amount of red pen marks and red flags can change that. Light up the world in red to raise awareness and end the stigma. Change the 'stop' association to one that symbolises progression, learning, community, and success.

Message from the President

Where has all the time gone? It seems we were just wrapping up the last tutoring year and here we are well into the new one. Welcome to our new tutors and families, and welcome back to our returning families, tutors and volunteers.

October is an eventful month for us at the Learning Centre for Hamilton: we celebrate Thanksgiving and Dyslexia Awareness Month.

Thanksgiving reminds us of how much we have to be thankful for:

The 'soft' opening of the satellite Learning Centre for Niagara was held on September 14th, 2026, when one child began their tutoring with experienced tutor, Stephanie. On October 5th it was a full house with three more children and 3 new tutors.

Our beautiful Centre in Hamilton continues to thrive as this year we welcome 5 new children and 4 new tutors. We are thankful for all the people who fill the house with noise and laughter and hope.

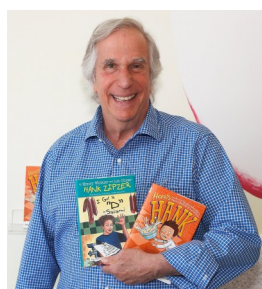
We have many generous donors who contribute so that we might continue *'helping children with dyslexia to read.'*

During Dyslexia Awareness Month people are asked to wear red and help raise awareness about dyslexia. While doing presentations about the Learning Centre I have come to realize that there is still a lot of confusion and misinformation about dyslexia in the general public—we can all help to spread the word about what Jaxon calls his 'superpower' and the great work being done at the SRCF Learning Centres across Canada.

Wishing everyone a most successful tutoring year!

Dale Chapman—President

The Fonz is Dyslexic



Henry Winkler, known to most as The Fonz, was diagnosed at age 31 with dyslexia. After years of being called stupid and lazy he finally knew why he struggled at school and with reading scripts. Years later he was encouraged to write about his experiences. Unable to spell or type he collaborated with children's author Lin Oliver and created Hank Zipzer, a fourth grader with dyslexia. Winkler is now the author of over 40 books. He was made an OBE by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to children with special education needs and dyslexia in the UK.

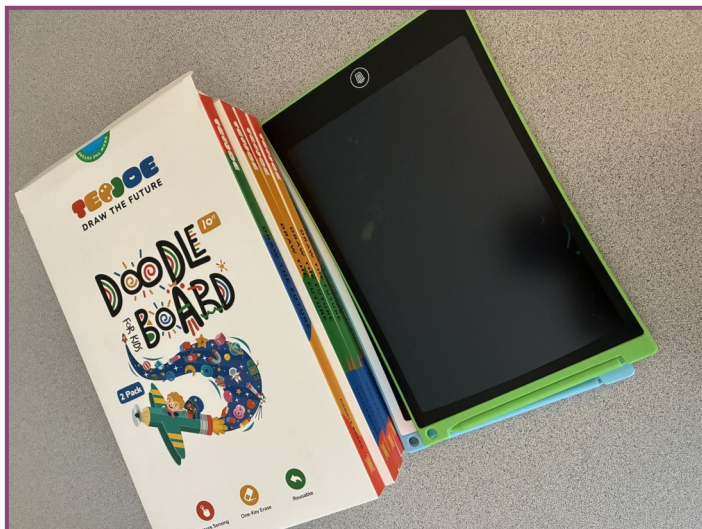
Meet Our New Tutors



These wonderful people will be tutoring children at the SRCF Learning Centre for Hamilton this year. Tutor-trainer Elspeth Daley led them through their first in-person training session in August, at the Learning Centre.

Pictured, from left, are: Kristina Nedelka, Tutor-trainer Elspeth Daley, Lisa Macleod, Shawna Brown-Macleod and Cathie (Anne) Ellis-McCarthy.

Boogie Boards



Thanks to the generous support of Edgemount Chapter #127, Order of the Eastern Star, the children at the Learning Centre now have access to Boogie Boards (also known as Doodle Boards) for use during their lessons. For many children with dyslexia, having another hands-on, tactile way to practise spelling patterns and learned words helps make learning more engaging and meaningful. These new boards will support the development of their reading and spelling skills by allowing children to interact with language in a way that is both concrete and memorable.



Spooky Reading

Dyslexia First recommends the following dyslexia-friendly reads for Halloween.

The Halloween Parade: A (Dyslexia Adapted) Monstacademy Mystery by Matt Beighton.
Recommended for ages 6-12.



The House at the Edge of Magic by Amy Sparkes. The first book in a trilogy.
Recommended for ages 8-9.

Demonata Series by Darren Shan. These books are a little scarier and recommended for 12—17 year olds. This series has 10 books in it.



From our Co-directors

Welcome and Welcome Back! Another tutoring year has begun, and several people are responsible for the success that each child will achieve overcoming dyslexia.

Parents, tutor-trainers, tutors, desk monitors, and Board members all work together. Loving, caring, and supportive families get children to their lessons every Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wednesday. Welcome back Tutor-Trainer Meredith Hutchings from Ottawa and Welcome Tutor-Trainer Trainee Elspeth Daley from Hamilton, who train, assist, and guide tutors to provide the best individualized lessons for the children. This year 16 tutors using the Orton Gillingham process are preparing and delivering lessons to 21 children. Welcome back tutors Barbara Baxter, Michael Baxter, Elspeth Daley, Iris Duemm, Kim Fiocca, Megan Jukes, Joshua Las, Jennifer Marshall, Donna McManamy, Leah Panszczyk, Colleen Reinhart, and Heidi Tadeson. Welcome new tutors Anne Ellis-McCarthy, Shawna Brown-McLeod, Lisa MacLeod, and Kristina Nedleka. The success of the Centre also functions because of other willing and dedicated volunteers. Welcome back to the reception room monitors, Co-ordinator Bob Phillips, Boyd Behie, Dale Chapman, David Gordon, Joe Lewis, Brian Muir, Linda Murray, Dean Nazir, Bill Patterson, Bob Stewart, and Nancy Wood. Welcome back Lee Gowers who provides help as Facebook and Website administrator, and Newsletter editor. Welcome back to the Board of Directors who support the daily functions of the Learning Centre for Hamilton, President Dale Chapman, Vice-President Alexander Mouriopoulos, Secretary Ian Anderson, Treasurer Dave Gibson, and Directors Robert Dunne, James Harper, Michael Kirk, Craig Knapman, David Ross, and Donald Thornton.

A team of 42 generous people are active at the Learning Centre for Hamilton providing children the life skills of reading and spelling, changing the lives of children forever. Welcome and welcome back!

Barbara & Michael Baxter

From our Tutor-Trainer

This report brings mixed news. On the positive front, training continued this summer with current tutors extending their skills to tutor Levels 3 and 4.

Unfortunately, six tutors are not able to continue for a variety of reasons including personal changes in availability, work schedules and demands, and studies starting in a different city. One Hamilton tutor will start tutoring at the newly opened Learning Centre for Niagara. It is wonderful for that Centre to have an experienced and certified tutor on hand.

On another positive note, two of our Hamilton tutors have begun their training to become tutor-trainers! Kim Foccia is being trained as the tutor-trainer for the Niagara Centre. Elspeth Daley is being trained to become the Hamilton Learning Centre tutor-trainer. This process will take a few years as they are supervised training their first cohorts of volunteer tutors.

Elspeth has already begun training four new tutors for Hamilton and is doing an excellent job! Kim Fiocca has started training three tutors for the Niagara Centre, which is now open and off to a great start with her directorship and training!

These new tutor-trainers in training and myself all attended the first module of the Advanced Language Course, (ALC), which was held in August in Halifax. Tutor-trainers from Learning Centres across Canada also attended along with those from their Centres who will be participants of this newly designed version of the ALC. The course is designed and coordinated by Thelma Grogan, Director and Tutor-trainer of the Learning Centre for Halifax, Nancy Harvey, and Zoe Mitchel who are tutor-trainers for the Halifax Centre. The Scottish Rite tutor-trainers from Centres across Canada are being asked to audit the course and participate in overseeing the completion of assignments. The rest of the modules of this course will be offered online over the next two years and will finalize in July, 2028 with an in-person session in Calgary. All tutor-trainers are required to complete this course.

It will be an exciting year of big changes for the Learning Centre for Hamilton. With early departures of some of our tutors, we do hope that the next few years will attract some new dedicated volunteers. Please reach out to anyone you know who may be interested in learning to become a Certified Orton-Gillingham tutor!

Meredith Hutchings



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

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

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Donors names will be printed in our newsletter.
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