

SUMMER
2013

THE DYSLEXIA FACTOR



Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association

Registered Charity: 802993

Help line phone numbers

020 8520 1684 or 020 8520 7370
or 0770 7237668

Email: admin@wfda.org.uk

Web: www.wfda.org.uk

Welcome to the Summer 2013 WFDA newsletter! Read about our growing partnerships, nationally with funders and locally with schools and the council. Find out about the different ways volunteers have got involved. Maybe you've got an idea to share or some time to help? *Adele Bird, Chair of WFDA.*

Get Creative!

Research has shown that as a dyslexic you're likely to have a greater appreciation for colour, tone and texture. You can visualize your art before reaching for the paint brush, and your imagination will allow you to go beyond the norm and create new and innovative ideas. In other words, you're creative! You're not alone. The list of famous artists believed to have been dyslexic includes: **Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock** and **Andy Warhol**.

Picasso has been quoted as saying: *'He can who thinks he can, and he can't who thinks he can't. This is an inexorable, indisputable law.'* and *'I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.'*

To get inspired this summer, why not visit an art gallery and then pick up a pencil?

Artwork (below) by Tom Kent WFDA student



Opportunity for WFDA to work with Waltham Forest Council

Councils are producing a 'Local Offer' which explains how children with Special Educational needs including dyslexia will be supported at school. WFDA has been invited to work with the Council in their planning of our local offer. We intend to propose solutions to avoid the frustration and loss of self-esteem that so many children with dyslexia experience in school.

We're recommending that Waltham Forest Council adopts the British Dyslexia Association's, 'dyslexia friendly schools' policy. The council has also adopted the principles of the East London Consortium of Educational Psychology Services (ELCEP) Dyslexia Policy.

Their policy's recommendations include that as soon as a child shows difficulties in learning to read and spell; dyslexia should be considered. Early intervention chosen should reflect 'dyslexia' good practice.

If there's poor progression, different approaches should be used. More of the same could mean that the child falls further behind and have a loss of self-belief. Schools should adjust their teaching and the cycle of 'review and adapt' should continue throughout the child's learning. Schools should be able to seek advice of specialist dyslexia teachers.

Although still early days the suggestions we are working on will mean that in the future all local schools will develop a basic understanding of dyslexia and adopt teaching and learning strategies to facilitate a successful learning environment.

To find out more visit our website
www.wfda.org.uk

Get involved with the W.F.D.A.

The London Community Foundation



We've won funding to run for the 3rd time our successful **Next Step Course**. From November 2013 and held in Leyton, the **free** weekly evening sessions are for adults with dyslexia who are thinking of returning to education or training. They get shown ways to develop learning skills through tips/strategies as well as info and guidance on the way forward. Visit our website for more info and to book on the course contact: helenbigham@hotmail.co.uk.



In May at our popular and fun **Quiz night** we raised through tickets and the raffle **£966!** Big thank you to WFDA trustees, **Anne and Eric England** who organised the event; **John Brown**, our Quizmaster and everyone that helped.

In Remembrance

Recently one of our supporters, **Christine Wilson** sadly passed away. Everyone at WFDA was touched by her kind gesture of requesting that her family and friends should make a donation to our charity; through their generosity **£330** was raised.



Highams Park Day on 13 July

WFDA will be running a jam/sweets stall at Highams Park Day to be held in Vincent Road Park. Please make a donation for the stall or come and support us.

If you're able to offer help contact: adelesbird@btinternet.com.

Waitrose

Thank you to everyone who dropped their

green counters into the WFDA donation box at the South Woodford Branch of Waitrose in May. We were able to raise **£225**.

Thank you to Trevor Calver and Endlebury Community Ward (ECW). Trevor, a WFDA member and resident of this ward in Chingford has secured **£500** from the ECW for our classes.

Screening equipment: Through funding we have invested **£1000** in new adult and child screening software and appointed a new screener, **Christina Spencer**. Hopefully this should help bring our long waiting list down.



Thank you both to **Walthamstow School for Girls** who raised **£227** from a weekly cake stall and **Samina Siddiqi**, who organised a WFDA/Macmillan Coffee Evening at our Monday classes (in photo with volunteer **Norma Regnier**). **£126** was raised and shared evenly between the 2 charities.

We're here to help...



More about us ...

Carol May has joined us as a volunteer to support families by showing them how to work best with their child's school. Her workshop in May gave great advice on how to do this and we have plans for

more. Carol has considerable experience/expertise as 2 of her sons have dyslexia; she has worked at the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) and Redbridge Council as a Special Education Needs Manager.

Why did you get involved with WFDA?

I hope my workshops will help parents talk to their children's schools.

Name a highlight in your career?

Whilst working for the BDA I was involved in the launch of their Dyslexia Friendly Schools policy. It seemed as if the education system really could understand and support children with dyslexia.

How do you like to relax?

Travelling, I recently visited Iceland to see the Northern Lights, and going out with friends, which usually involves eating.

What's your rule of life?

Dyslexia is everywhere, you can't get away from it!

Top Tips for parents and schools to work together

Be well-mannered and try to take notes.

Be prepared before a phone call or meeting.

Have a clear intention for making the call, and phone at a convenient time.

Avoid confrontation, keep a clear head and stay confident and polite.

Allowing a teacher to suggest a solution is far more effective than challenging them.

Keep a paper trail.

Try to work together to come up with a plan or seek help from an advocate eg Parent Partnership Services. Contact them on Freephone: 0800 5872521/e-mail **parent.partnership@walthamforest.gov.uk**

Visit our website to find more tips in our Worksheet 1 (How parents/carers can work together with schools to support pupils with dyslexia).

www.load2learn.com

School staff do you know about this website? Originally set up by RNIB and Dyslexia Action, it's got a growing number of accessible text books available to download and it is **free** to use by schools. Why not give it a visit?



Frederick Bremmer School
AN ENGINEERING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Aspire, Believe, Create

At **Frederick Bremmer School**, students had the opportunity to select a local charity and make a presentation about the charity in June at the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Final, with the chance to win £3000! WFDA was chosen as 1 of the charities and we await to hear the result.

Welcome!

We're pleased to announce more local people are getting involved with WFDA. **Christina Spencer** has been appointed as a child screener; **Cressida Campbell** has joined our Board of Trustees; volunteers **Carol May** will be running parent workshops and **Kuri Patel** is helping our tutors at Monday support classes. If you're interested to support us please email **helen.bigham@hotmail.co.uk**.

General Information

Class of 2013

Following the success of last year's event we're again celebrating the achievements of all our hard-working students with an Award ceremony party on **Friday July 12th from 7.00pm—10.00pm at West Essex Sports Club, Hickman Avenue, E4**. Invite your friends and family. Tickets (£5.00 per adult (over 16) under 16 are **free**) can be bought at class or on the night. Please donate a plate of food.

Don't forget we'll be announcing the Summer winner of the **Jack Petchy Award**.



Summer Transition Club

Monday 29 July—Friday 2 August

If you're a Year 6 student with dyslexia or dyspraxia going into Year 7 in September, time is running out to register for a **free** place at our fun Summer Transition Club. If offered a place make sure you've filled in your Welcome Pack! Any questions **email: helenbigham@hotmail.co.uk**.

Class Fees

Reluctantly in September we're increasing class fees (not since January '12). If you've any worries about payments, **we're here to help**. Please speak to **Sheena Penfold**, Class Co-ordinator and she'll pass your concerns on to our Chair of Trustees, **Adele Bird**, between us we'll come up with a plan.

Dates for your Diary!

Summer Term 2013

Monday 3 June -Monday 8 July

Parent evening Monday 24 June

Friday 12 July **Class of 2013 Awards**

Autumn Term 2013

Monday 16 September— Monday 21 October

No class Monday 28 October (H/T)

Monday 4 November—Monday 9 December

Parent Evening

We have a long list of pupils waiting to join our classes. To help us allocate places, we need confirmation that your child is returning to class in September by our **Parent Evening on 24 June**. The meeting gives you the chance to talk about your child's progression and our tutors will discuss if your child remains in class; moves on to another class or if they have made enough headway for them to leave. **Please help us by filling in the Evaluation forms**

Class details: Small, individualised literacy, numeracy, handwriting and touch- typing classes held on Monday evenings (term time only) at Walthamstow School for Girls, Church Hill, E17 9RZ.

Literacy/Numeracy/Handwriting: 50 minute class from 4.00pm onwards (£12.00 per class, increased to £14 in September) Touch typing: 50 minute class at 5.00pm or 6.00pm (£5.00 per class increased to £6 in September).

Remember to let us know ASAP if your child is unable to attend their class. Contact your child's tutor or Sheena, Class Co-ordinator on 07852 232509 or e-mail sheena.wfda@gmail.com. Office hours: Monday—Thursday (term time) 10.00-3.00.

Price Increase

Opening doors for dyslexics

