



New Jersey Branch of the International Dyslexia Association

FALL NEWSLETTER

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NJIDA First Annual Summer Institute Food for Thought (SIFFT)

NJIDA held its first conference Summer Institute Food for Thought (SIFFT) in the South Jersey area on August 9th. The conference was hosted by Camden County College in Blackwood, NJ and coordinated by Joanne Kinsy, Director of Student Disability Services at CCC.

Susan Miller, LDT-C for Newgrange School, provided two two-hour workshops which focused on the use of DIBELS NEXT as an assessment tool for monitoring students' progress in grades K - 6. Teachers, speech-language pathologists and Child Study Team members participated in the workshops and shared their excitement about initiating the use of the probes in order to have a standardized method to document growth.

A panel discussion was held in an attempt to provide parents with a forum to discuss strategies for advocating for their children who are struggling with acquiring fluent reading skills. Input from Jane Hind, a learning consultant, Debra Lynam, representative from the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Susan Clothier, a parent, and Joanne Kinsy expanded parents' awareness of

Message from Dee:

Dear NJIDA Members,

As a new school year begins, I have been thinking about the years that I worked both as a classroom teacher and a teacher trainer. Much of my work would not have been possible without the benefit of the many mentors that I have had. The person who provided the most valuable career mentoring, who taught me about the importance of multisensory structured language instruction, was our past President of NJIDA and IDA, Nancy Hennessy. This year, Nancy will be receiving the prestigious Margaret Byrd Rawson Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor has been bestowed on incredible professionals, who have demonstrated their "compassion, leadership, commitment to excellence and a fervent advocacy for people with dyslexia." Nancy will receive this honor because of her many years of dedication and service to IDA and to the thousands of professionals she has influenced through her work.

I am writing about her because I think that in these difficult times for education, we need to have and to be mentors that allow us to share our passion for teaching and children and adults who have difficulty learning.

their rights to request more support and methods for acquiring diagnostic information about their child's needs. Participants all agreed that the opportunity to talk candidly and to begin a network for support was beneficial.

Speech-language pathologists gathered for an afternoon workshop with Nancy Graham, CCC-SP, for an active discussion about their evolving roles in the school system. Nancy discussed recommendations for changing the focus of job responsibilities so that the speech-language therapist can be more involved in the goal to prevent and re-mediate reading and writing difficulties in school-aged children. The attendees were encouraged to use documents published by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association when discussing the focus of their workloads and to help others recognize the value of assessing the role that language plays on the acquisition of literacy skills.

The full day conference was considered to be a success. Participants all shared their satisfaction with the location, focus of presentations and opportunity to acquire new information that can be applied when the school year begins. Future plans for NJIDA will include more workshops and conferences in the southern counties of our state. The growing interest for professional development and networking has been recognized and will be supported by the scheduling of afternoon and weekend presentations during the upcoming school year.



Attendants at the First Annual SIFFT Conference in Southern New Jersey.

Nancy inspired me from the moment I met her. As my Special Education Supervisor at Mendham High School (she eventually became the Director of Staff Development), as my role model for being involved with IDA and taking on committee and officer responsibilities, and of course, as a dear friend. In the 1980's she taught me about the Orton-Gillingham and Wilson Reading techniques. I had not learned these in my college pre-service or Master's level training in Learning Disabilities.

When I complained to her that most of the students in my Resource Room could not read, she sent me to IDA conferences, and she circled the most important lectures in my conference book that would provide what I needed in order to go back to the classroom with new strategies, materials and techniques to share with colleagues and my students. She encouraged me (actually dragged me) to my first meeting of NJIDA, saying, "Don't worry just come to the meeting and you will meet many smart and wonderful professionals and parents who are concerned about dyslexia. You will learn so much!"

Her award is a testament to Nancy's achievements. It is in this spirit that I encourage everyone to learn more about current research explaining the evidence-based practices we need in order to help children learn to read. Share your experiences and knowledge with others about why dyslexic children struggle learning to read. Explain to dyslexic individuals and their families how they can find appropriate assistance that will help their children succeed in school, despite their learning differences. Encourage everyone you know to join NJIDA. Show them our website, invite them to our conferences and inspire them with your enthusiasm.

Congratulations to our dear friend and

colleague, Nancy Hennessy! I hope that all of you have the opportunity to be mentored by such an inspiring individual as Nancy. I also encourage you to be a mentor this year and positively change the lives of dyslexic children.

Good luck in the new academic year and I hope to see all of you at our NJIDA events this year.

Sincerely
Dee Rosenberg
President
NJIDA

NJIDA Presents

The 26th Annual Fall Conference 2011

PERFECTLY PIECED TOGETHER: Technology,
Knowledge, and
What Really Works in Developing Skilled
Readers & Writers

Friday, October 14, 2011
Hilton's Somerset Double Tree Hotel &
Executive Meeting Center

The New Jersey Branch of the International Dyslexia Association is proud to present the Twenty-sixth Annual Fall Conference. The key note address entitled, "**RtI on Steroids: Why I Believe in the 9-Tier Model**," will be given by **Dr. Timothy Shanahan, Ph.D.** University of Illinois at Chicago; Director of the Center For Literacy. For 40 years, schools employed a discrepancy model to identify learning disabled children. The approach was not particularly successful and did not correspond well with research on learning problems. As a result, schools have increasingly turned to Response to Intervention (RtI) models. The notion here is that all students should receive excellent instruction and additional interventions if they struggle. If a student does not respond successfully to such specialized help, then he or she may be moved into special education (the 3 tier model). However, in far too many cases, the support for children's learning are not adequate to be successful. This presentation explores what is wrong with many 3 tier and 4 tier implementations and suggests alternatives that can increase the success of these models.

Fourteenth Annual Eileen Grasso Scholarship Fund-Raising Dinner

Thursday, October 13, 2011
Hilton Somerset Double Tree Hotel
200 Atrium Drive
Somerset

Complimentary Reception at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The New Jersey Branch of the
International Dyslexia Association

Proudly honors:

Kathleen Bostock: Outstanding Achievement Award

Gilbert A. Hunt: NJIDA/Scottish Rite Service Award

Alyssa Clothier: Nieswand Outstanding Student Award

Cranford Schools: Literacy for All Award

Robert L. Wallace Jr. & Jane B. Wallace Foundation: Community Service Award

Silent Auction

Dinner Proceeds to Benefit the Eileen Grasso Scholarship Fund

Contact: Clelia Esposito for information & tickets: 609-773-0019 or Ann Robinowitz: 732-563-1441

Parent Portal of NJIDA

by Sue Miller

Parent Bookshelf

Here are a couple of books recommended for parents of dyslexic children:

From ABC to ADHD: What Every Parent Should Know about Dyslexia **By Eric Q. Tridas**

From ABC to ADHD is an understandable, reliable source of information for parents of a child with a developmental or behavioral problem. Written by an experienced team of physicians who are experts in the field, this useful guide walks parents through topics that include diagnosis, treatment, coexisting conditions and advances in neurobehavioral research.

Ending the Homework Hassles **By: John K. Rosemond**

A lot of parents struggle with the homework question. Children often think there is too much. Studies tell us though that our children do less homework than children in other countries. As new standards are implemented the homework problem becomes even more daunting. Homework can be a real struggle for students who find school difficult-especially for students with LD and/or ADHD. This guide offers basic

This year the Fall Conference will again offer an intensive two-day course, which will be taught by William Van Cleave, M.A. Educational Consultant, V.C. Educational Consulting.

Writing Matters: Developing Writing Skills,

Participants will learn a structured sequential approach to developing students' writing skills. Strategies and techniques will be introduced and practiced so they can be applied the very next day in the classroom.

This two day class will begin Friday, October 14th at the first morning session, continue until early Friday evening, and finish up on Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. A total of 12.5 hours will be offered. In addition, participants can earn one graduate credit through Fairleigh Dickinson University for an additional fee.

This year, the Fall Conference will offer morning and afternoon breakout sessions on the following topics:

Writing Matters: Developing Writing Skills

10 Things Every Teacher Should Know About Reading Comprehension

Helping Students Take Ownership of Their Decoding Skills

Project Read Linguistics

Getting College Right: Preparing Students with Disabilities for the College World

Assistive Technology: What's New in the Area of Reading & Writing Technologies?

Ready to Read: Planning Differentiated Language-Based Instruction

Experience from K - 12 Preparation for Higher Education & the Transition from High School to College For Students Who Have Learning Disabilities

Multi-Sensory Math

Implementing Educational Progress: Advocacy Strategies for Challenging Times

The Link Between Learning Disabilities and Social/Emotional Development

Diagnosing Dyslexia: The Neuropsychological Evaluation

Conference fees include coffee, lunch and parking.

strategies. In one sense this is nothing new. In another way, however, it makes the strategies concrete with step by step advice on how to solve the homework wars.

Focus on Assistive Technology -There's an App for that!

The potential of technology to help children with dyslexia is tremendous. Assistive technology can help children be more self-sufficient at home and in school, communicate with friends and family, get out into the community, and as they grow older, find and maintain employment. Increasingly, dyslexic students are using apps to help them achieve the above-mentioned goals. Here are some of the most popular apps for smart phones and/or tablet computers among dyslexic learners:

Dragon Search and Dragon Dictate:

both free - Dragon Search allows the user to say commands to search for information on Google, iTunes or Wikipedia. Dragon Dictate allows the user to dictate email, Facebook, and Twitter posts and notes to self. Both are from the makers of Dragon Naturally Speaking.

My Homework:

free - it is a color-coded organizer to help students manage assignments, tests. Notes can be sent to your e-mail.

Web Reader - \$1.99:

this app will read webpages to you and you can use copy and paste to limit the read sections. It also allows the user to control the speed of reading and comes with a highlighter function.

Have you asked about how your child could benefit from the use of assistive technology with your Child Study Team members? Assistive Technology is addressed in IDEA (the federal law covering special education). Under IDEA,

- your child's technology needs must be considered
- if necessary, an AT evaluation must be performed
- AT devices and/or services must be provided by the school system if identified in the child's IEP
- Training of teachers, aides and the student may be listed in the IEP as "AT services"

Continuing Education Credits will be available from IMSLEC, the International Multisensory Structured Language Council, and NJ Professional Development Hours.

There is no on-site registration. The deadline for mail/fax registration is October 7, 2011.

To review and download the Conference Brochure, please go to www.njida.com

Print, complete and return the Brochure/Registration Form with payment, check, or purchase order to:

NJIDA
PO Box 32
Long Valley, New Jersey 07853

Fairleigh Dickinson University Connections

Teacher-Scholars Graduate

The Twelfth Annual Graduation Ceremony for educators completing the IMSLEC accredited Children's Dyslexia Centers of New Jersey Initial Certification Program was held on May 19, 2011. The twenty-five graduates had been scholarship recipients in a program funded by the 32^o Masonic Children's Learning Centers in partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University. Teachers were also awarded FDU's nationally accredited Orton Gillingham Teacher Certificate.

Dr. Mary Farrell, Director of the Center for Dyslexia Studies, and Robert J. Sheridan, Scottish Rite Active for NJ, awarded the certificates to the applause of over two hundred guests in the ballroom of the Mansion on FDU's Madison campus. Teachers were cheered on by the parents, grandparents, spouses, and children who supported them throughout the program.

Thurman Pace, past Scottish Rite Deputy for NJ, awarded Kathleen Bostock, M.A., Director of the Burlington Center, the John Philip Berquist Award for her ceaseless efforts to improve the lives of children who are dyslexic.

Verdon R. Skipper, past Scottish Rite Deputy for NJ, recognized the generous contributions of Lee and Linda Wallace on behalf of the Jane B. and Robert Wallace Foundation.

Parent Connection - Back to School with NJIDA.org

by Sue Schwartz

Start on the home page <http://www.njida.org/index.html> by sharing some of the fascinating articles about very successful individuals with dyslexia in "Dyslexia in the News." Let your children see that reading disabilities don't have to limit them. Dyslexia may even include hidden gifts!

Next, click the parent portal to find a myriad of resources. Examine the fact sheets from our parent organization, The International Dyslexia Association, to get the basics and find answers to many of your questions. Then, you may want to visit the Assistive Technology link: <http://www.njida.org/Assistive-Technology.html>

to find out about the many ways in which modern technology can support your struggling reader. Don't forget to ask if your school library includes Playaways, preloaded with required novels.

Need more? Learn about the latest research in reading and the brain, when you visit our "Useful Links" location: <http://www.njida.org/Useful-Links.html>

Here you can also find links to other organizations which you may find helpful or informative.

Do you prefer to see it for yourself? Our Multimedia

Page: <http://www.njida.org/Multimedia.html> provides access to many fascinating videos. Watch researchers as they "look inside" the brain of a child as he reads. Listen to Orlando Bloom talk about how his dyslexia both helps and hurts his auditions, or view the Children of the Code videos to truly understand how reading disabilities affect your child emotionally and academically.

Now it's time to share your thoughts, concerns, and any helpful strategies you have discovered that work for your child in our Parent Forum: <http://www.njida.org/Parent-Forum.html> Here, parents can share what's on their minds with others who have the same concerns. Isn't it great to chat with others who have the same interests, worries, and issues that you have? And wouldn't it be great if another parent has found a solution for an issue that works with your child?

Visit our events page: <http://www.njida.org/Events.html>

Scholarship recipients completed the twelve-credit, four semester program through Fairleigh Dickinson which is the only university in New Jersey to offer a comprehensive, IMSLEC accredited, certificate program in multisensory structured language teaching. The twice-weekly supervised practicum experience was completed at the five Masonic Children's Learning Centers throughout the state which include Tenafly, Hasbrouck Heights, Scotch Plains, Northfield, and Burlington. Visit our website (fdu.edu/dyslexia) to view FDU's complete listing of all educators actively certified as Orton Gillingham Teacher, Orton Gillingham Teacher Trainer, Orton Gillingham Therapist, and Orton Gillingham Therapist Trainer.



2011 Graduates

FDU Brings OG to School Districts

Fairleigh Dickinson University provides the IMSLEC accredited Orton Gillingham Teacher Certificate in several school districts, training teachers in this explicit, multisensory, structured and success-oriented approach.

Cranford, Jersey City, Manalapan, North Brunswick, Warren Township, and Wyckoff currently have cohorts of teachers engaged in the four semester, 12 credit program. Lectures are combined with extensive, supervised practica with children from schools within the participating districts.

School districts which have completed the graduate level training program include: Chatham, Dumont, Franklin Lakes, Irvington, Mahwah, North Caldwell, Pompton Lakes, Sparta and Tewksbury. Staff and students in these districts now benefit from having teachers with expanded skills working with struggling readers and meeting the needs of students.

to find conferences that address many of the issues in dyslexia today.

Soon, we will be adding a Blog to our website. Look for articles about the legal rights of parents of dyslexic students, suggestions for helping your child complete homework, great books for struggling readers, accommodations you can easily get for your child at school, and much more.

And don't forget to sign up for Parent Membership to NJIDA. Membership includes access to discussion forums, publications, newsletters, scholarship opportunities, a variety of member discounts, and more.

[Parent Membership Brochure](#)

Finally, please share with us your ideas to help us help you. Send them to: Webmaster.njida@gmail.com

What would you like to see on our site? We want to be a great resource for you.

We wish you the best for your child this year. May this be a year of learning excitement and confidence. Like your child, our website continues to develop. Let's share the journey together.

NJIDA / WILSON WORKSHOPS - A Summer SUCCESS

During the summer, the NJ branch of the IDA co-sponsored with Wilson Language Training a series of six workshops to help disseminate information about research-based reading for Tier 1 and 2 instruction. These workshops, held in both Saddlebrook and Cherry Hill, were very successful as 147 teachers were introduced to a K-3 Intervention model with the Wilson Foundations® program and 75 teachers learned about Just Words®, a Tier 2 program for older students. The Wilson trainer for all workshops was Rebecca Rowell-Malinas.

Fundations provides teachers in K-3 classrooms with a multisensory, systematic phonics, spelling, and handwriting program that benefits all students in the general (Tier 1) classroom, with "double dose" (Tier 2) sessions for at-risk students. Just Words is an intervention (Tier 2) program for adolescent students with mild-to-moderate gaps in decoding and spelling. The Wilson Reading System®, an intensive intervention (Tier 3) program for grades 2-12 and adults, is for individuals with dyslexia, including the most challenged readers. The NJ IDA's workshops shared RTI models that have been used effectively in schools to resolve

OG Introductory Workshop/Information Session

Educators who are interested in learning about multisensory reading techniques using the Orton Gillingham approach for struggling readers are invited to attend a free introductory workshop and information session at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The workshop will be offered on the first Thursdays of each month. Educators may choose: October 6, November 3, December 1, January 5, February 2, March 1, or May 3. Sessions are held at 4:30 p.m. in Robinson Hall on the Teaneck Campus and last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Teachers may earn one hour of professional development credit for attending the workshop which presents an overview of the Orton Gillingham features and demonstration of key parts of an Orton lesson.

Information about FDU's nationally accredited certificate program will be provided.

For information contact Grace Hottinger : 201-692-2816 or graceh@fdu.edu.

learning difficulties with at-risk students before they become acute.

Save the Date:

**NJIDA & NJSHA SPRING
CONFERENCE**

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Newark Airport Marriott Hotel

Guest Speaker: Kenn Apel, Ph.D CCC-SLP

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW FOR THIS
EXCITING EVENT!

**OCTOBER IS DYSLEXIC AWARENESS
MONTH**

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month! To create more awareness in our state, NJIDA is extending an invitation to all New Jersey schools to apply to be chosen as this year's recipient for NJIDA's "100 Kids in Ten Days Project-Making a Difference in Early Literacy Development."

The mission of this project is to provide free resources to school districts that will enhance the success of kindergarten students in the early stages of literacy development. Expert NJIDA members will come to your district free to present the current research about reading and dyslexia. Our team will then demonstrate effective screening procedures for beginning readers by administering and scoring DIBELS Next measures for 100 kindergarten students, as your teachers observe this important process. All of this will be at no cost to your district! The winning district will be announced at the NJIDA conference on October 14, 2011.

Find the application on the NJIDA.org website. All entries will be due by October 10, 2011 to be considered.

NJIDA REFERRAL SERVICE

NJIDA maintains a referral service for parents and professionals. This service provides names of qualified diagnosticians, as well as educational therapists and reading specialists trained in Orton-Gillingham methodologies. We continue to seek qualified individuals throughout the state who would like to be included on our referral list.

If you would like to be considered for our referral list, please contact the National Branch Office at www.interdys.org for an application. Completion of the application and screening by NJIDA's Executive Board are prerequisites. Membership in IDA is also a requirement for inclusion.

NJIDA DISCLAIMER

The International Dyslexia Association supports efforts to provide dyslexic individuals with appropriate instruction and to identify these individuals at an early age. The Association believes that multi-sensory teaching and learning is the best approach currently available for those affected by dyslexia. The Association, however, does not endorse any specific program, speaker, or instructional materials, noting that there are a number of such which present the critical components of instruction as defined by the Association Teacher Education Issues Committee.

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