

LICENSED TO LEARN Newsletter

Newsletter, December, 2006



LICENSED TO LEARN

THE TUTOR TRAINING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Robin Campbell, Chair
Barry Wansbrough, President

The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, OC, BA, LLD, Patron

Fast Start and On Target for 25 Schools



L2L's Patron, right,
and President Barry

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Near-Term Goals

- ◆ 25 schools/organizations this year
- ◆ Planning for the L2L program growth
- ◆ Building more

L2L joins community organizations to spread the help.



L2L has joined up with two community organizations in the North West GTA. In this new configuration, L2L is training youth workers who, in turn, will train students to tutor in the local schools and neighbourhoods. The Black Creek Community Health Centre and the Braeburn Boys and Girls club are both participating with a total of some two dozen student tutors.

St. Nicolas of Bari cited



Principal Joe Panozzo and L2L liaison Rui Pedrosa here pictured with three of the many St. Nicolas' tutors.

High Road Foundation joins L2L



Rich Richardson (l) and Spencer Martin of the High Road Foundation present a cheque to L2L Chair, Robin Campbell. We are really fortunate to have their financial support, but equally valuable is the wealth of experience that Rich and Spencer bring to the L2L table.

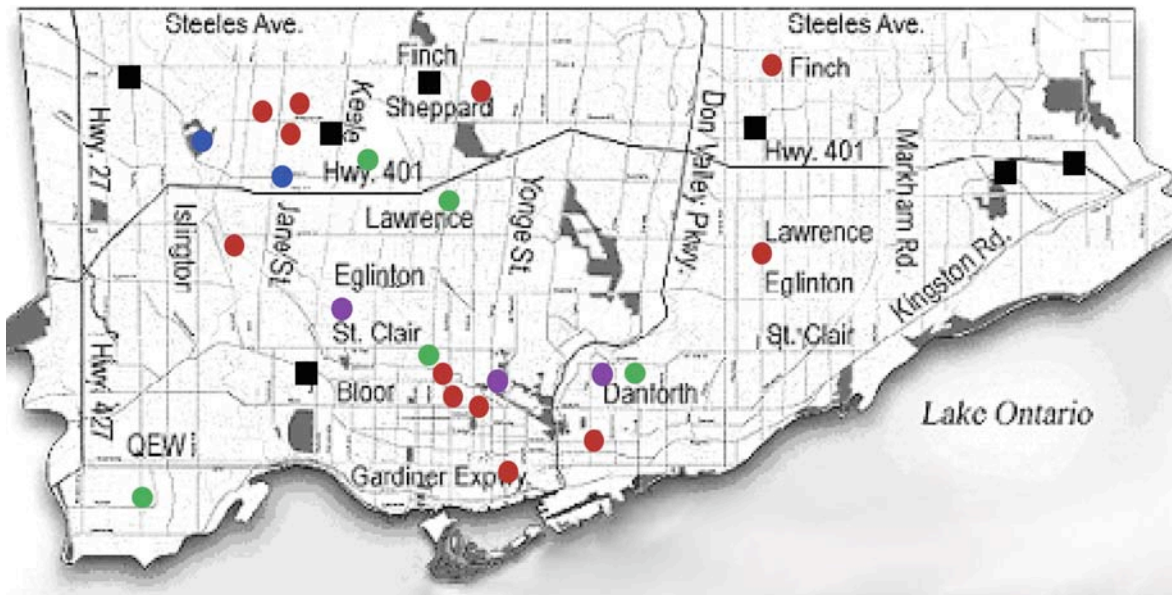
Many thanks to Barbara Cooper of the TDSB for introducing us!

The school was cited by the TCDSB for exemplary practice in tutoring.

L2L Financials

As L2L gains experience and more schools, we need to make sure our affairs are run in a business-like fashion. We are, therefore, very pleased that **Patti MacNicol** has volunteered to manage our books and statements. Patti is CFO of Upper Canada College and very well-known in the community for her excellent professional practice and community work. We are exceptionally fortunate to have her support.

L2L Covers the GTA



Meeting the need where the need is: throughout the GTA

Engagement in school starts from individual Personal Learning Profiles (PLP):

Learning Styles, see page 3, and Multiple Intelligences.

These are highways to the mind.

Complete details at: <http://www.l2l.ca/site/resources.php>

Special thanks:

To volunteer **Angela Bradley** of Community Living for super help on our successful Ontario Trillium Foundation request.

Key:

Red: TDSB elementary schools; **Green:** TDSB secondary schools; **Blue:** Community organizations; **Purple:** Catholic elementary schools; **Black:** schools proposed for future by the TDSB.

L2L's goal is to operate in 25 schools this school year. To date, 15 TDSB elementary (not all on map) and 5 secondary schools, 3 catholic elementary schools and the two community organizations have signed on for a total of 25. There are 8 more schools proposed by the TDSB so the 25 target will be filled.

Program evaluation key

Independent results in for 2005 - 2006

The initial results for last year's program were published in the last newsletter. The response was very encouraging with over 100 tutors and three times that of students being tutored in over 2000 sessions.

This fall, L2L received the first report from our independent program evaluator, Ms. Maria Yau. Ms. Yau also evaluates programs in the TDSB.

Her report states that slightly over half of the students being tutored were of second language background. As estimated by the tutors, 25% of the students being tutored made 'a lot' of improvement, 38% 'some' and 23% 'a little'.

Around Town.

April, 2006

Barry and Andrea participated in the **Seneca Aboriginal Strategies Forum**. We hope to connect with this important group in the near future.

The TDSB External Reference Group - Broadening Choices

June and October, 2006

Barry was invited to participate with 60 community representatives from across the GTA. This is an interesting initiative by the TDSB to reach out into the diverse community in engaging ways - a very worthwhile and creative move on an extraordinarily difficult challenge.

Continued on page 3

What everyone wants to know: How do we know L2L works?



Continued from page 2

In an open-ended (not prompted from a list - each comment individually generated therefore numbers impressive) question about what the tutors found beneficial to them, over 10% of the tutors responded with these points:

- Acquiring various skills - social, communication and responsibility (20%)
- Familiarization with different learning styles (19%)
- Networking with each other (19%)
- Helping others (16%)

Included in their general L2L experience, 16% mentioned specifically that the program had helped both the tutors and the peers in different areas including learning and teaching skills as well as people skills.

Trying for more specific feedback

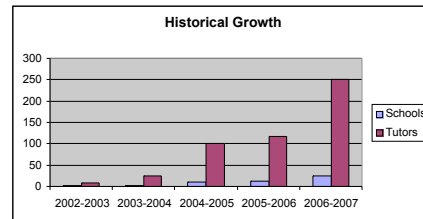
The big question is always, "Do the students being tutored actually improve their marks?"

We have direct verbal feedback from one Grade 9 teacher who stated very directly that **there are many students in her class who would not pass their credit without the L2L tutors' help.**

She said: "For many of the applied level students, being tutored is an essential component of their success. The one on one dialogue ensures that students get their work done consistently. In a large class setting, students can 'hide'. When they are working with tutors they are unable to hide. Tutors help keep them focused and motivated to complete the work."

Program learns and grows with experience

Now into its fifth year, L2L has grown steadily.



With all of the targeted 25 schools/ organizations for the year 2006-2007 enrolled and many up and running, L2L is confident of its target for this year.

L2L meets with TDSB Guidance Counsellors - assess demand for service

With a goal of 50 schools for the 2007-2008 school year, L2L needed to know if the demand would be there. On November 30th, Barry Wansbrough and Andrea Mozarowski presented to meetings of TDSB middle school guidance counsellors. Based on individual feedback from the **35 participants representing 48 schools, 80% saw the program as relevant to their schools, and saw the program starting in their schools subject to the support of their principals and teachers.**

This positive feedback added to the fact that there are many more schools in the Toronto Catholic board, leads us to see a very robust demand for L2L's service in the coming years.



Our Means The Personal Learning Profile (PLP): Multiple Intelligences

(see page 2)

and Learning Styles. People take in information in different ways. 'Verbal' learners prefer to hear or read information. 'Graphic' learners prefer diagrams and visual aides. L2L puts these on the poles of the Y axis on a graph. On the X axis are 'concrete' on the one end and 'abstract' on the other. Many teachers prefer the verbal side, and many students prefer the graphic side. In high school, much of the work is abstract and verbal, and many of the students are concrete and graphic learners. Trained student tutors can help others bridge that gap. L2L helps them to do so. It works!

'We must give our young people the power, even more, the desire to realize their full potential'. Governor General Michaëlle Jean



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We're on the Web!
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Our Board 2006-2007

- The Honorable Coulter Osborne, Honorary Chair, Integrity Commissioner to the Ontario Legislative Assembly;
- Robin Campbell, LLB, Chair
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- Ajike Akande, BA, Director, Horizons Program
- Nancy Hamm, BCom, Human Rights Watch, Toronto
- Steve Paikin, MSc, TVO, The Agenda
- Spencer Martin, Senior Manager, Ontario Civil Service (Retired)
- Carol McCabe, MEd, Bloorview Kids Rehab
- Michaele Robertson, MA (T) Principal, University of Toronto Schools
- Daniel Shearer, BA, Taxi Advertising and Design

More feedback

An experienced Grade 12 teacher whose students tutor those in the Grade 9 Applied stream reports:

“Today Argy, who, as you may recall, is tutoring two very challenging students, outlined the variety of fun approaches he and his partner are using to teach the content and keep it interesting. Their original apprehension before this challenging tutoring assignment has changed to a relaxed air of competence. Plainly tutoring helps both sides of the equation to develop skills.”

L2L thanks the many organizations and individuals - and volunteers - for invaluable support.



Like to help? Your gift will be tax deductible and much appreciated!! Give online or by mail - any size. Tax receipts issued for amounts over \$10. Many thanks.

Sponsors invited to apply.

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