

LICENSED TO LEARN Newsletter

Newsletter, June, 2008



LICENSED TO LEARN

THE TUTOR TRAINING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Spencer Martin, Chair
Barry Wansbrough, President

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



L2L's Patron, right,
and President

L2L Promotes Early Interventions in Transition Years

East York CI in the lead

There has been very good response to L2L's proposed Transition program which pairs up senior high school 'tutors, buddies, mentors' with first year students at risk right when school starts.

These programs generally start after the first evaluation and report period in October - effectively two months after schools starts. By then the students in need have missed two critical months of help.

As the schools generally know in advance who these students are, it makes sense to pair them up as soon as possible in September.

East York Collegiate is leading the way with a creative 'communities' initiative that

breaks the school down into four 450 students communities and is including L2L's Transition in it.

Bloordale MS will also be making the fast start in the new school year. Others are planning to join or to start as soon as possible in September.



Glen Edwards, top left, is spearheading the 'Communities' project at East York CI. Janet Maxwell, top, second from right, is co-coordinating the L2L tutor training for the project. We all met in May with the first volunteers.

Contents

New Partners - More Schools	1
PALS	1
Westview/YorkU	1
Janet Park - New to L2L	2
Feedback from Schools	2
Feedback from Tutors	2
Feedback from Data	2
Additional Program	2
Financial summaries	3
Ways to Give	3
Outside the GTA	3
Ready to go!!	4

Strategic Goals

- ◆ Reliable program evaluation
- ◆ Cost-effective process
- ◆ Grow on partnerships
- ◆ Build sustainability

L2L's Reach Across TO



Giving Schools Back to the Students and Teachers

From the President

Torontonians in their 60's and 70's considered their principal school security boundaries were our national borders. School doors were always open. Teachers were 'in loco parentis' and provided for the discipline and care of the students as a team.

Today the students are locked into their schools (for their own safety), and security and educational assistants watch the halls, cafeterias and grounds - or the principals do if needed - and the students have video surveillance in the washrooms. Gun and knife incidents are reported almost daily.

The surprising and very encouraging thing is not that there are so many problems in the schools, both security and failure rates, but that there are so many students and teachers wanting to do something about it.

Spencer Martin



Spencer Martin succeeded Robin Campbell as Chair of L2L at the last Board meeting. Ms. Campbell was

founding Chair of L2L and led it through the important Strategic Planning phase that has brought the organization to its current record year.

Mr. Martin came to L2L having been Treasurer of the High Road Foundation when it joined with L2L. He has had deep experience in senior government management with the Ontario Government in the areas of organizational design and finance.

"I consider this an honour because of the tremendous impact we are having, and will have, on a very vulnerable group in our society," Mr. Martin said. "Kids that are marginalized will have an

The 'communities' initiative is one that has been tested successfully in the States and elsewhere, as has the Transitions program. The two together should have a huge impact.



There is a constant theme in the feedback journals from the tutors:

Grade 7 Tutor - "Kayla had low self-esteem and never believed she could do good. She explained her troubles and in the end liked to talk with me a lot so she wasn't upset."

Grade 11 Tutor - "At first, my peer wasn't very aware of the material that he was learning in class and would just sit there confused. After giving him a few sessions, he has now gained interest in French because not only is he working in class but I am extremely glad he wants to learn! Since I have worked with him on his learning styles and brought up techniques, he is ready to use them himself."

* * *

opportunity to improve their entire lives. This is a remarkable achievement."

Mr. Martin went on to emphasize that it is L2L's goal of making the program available to all students. "In order to realize that goal, we will have to consult broadly with our stakeholders and use that feedback to make the program as efficient and effective as possible.

"This is a pivotal time for our organization. With our results to date and from the schools, it's clear that our tutor training works. Our next challenge is to build the organization to meet the growing demand."



Gordon A. Brown MS
Principal Richard Bradley
accepts thanks from L2L and
Barry Wansbrough

TAXI Advertising and Design



Dan Demois of the Fox Cinema in the Beaches hosts the L2L vending machine. This was one of the many parts of a huge awareness campaign launched 'pro bono' by TAXI.

Richard Bradley supported a big part by allowing TAXI to film the student YouTube invitations for corporate leaders to join the program.



Check out 'Licensed to Learn' videos on YouTube

'The more time we spend on how students learn, the less time we will spend on how they behave.' Barry Wansbrough

A Remarkable Year

Q. Why is L2L offering this program free to the schools and tutors?

A. 1. To provide informed help to the 60,000 Toronto students not achieving to the provincial standards.

2. Especially to help the 30,000 Toronto students who have no help at all outside the classroom.

3. To help reduce the 20,000 student high school dropout rate.

Grade 11 Tutor:

"Through our tutoring experience, my tutoree gained a friend, confidence and valuable communication skills. My peer arrived in Canada only half a year ago so I believe that our tutoring session did help her feel more welcome... Overall, I think I not only made a difference in her studies, but also in her life."



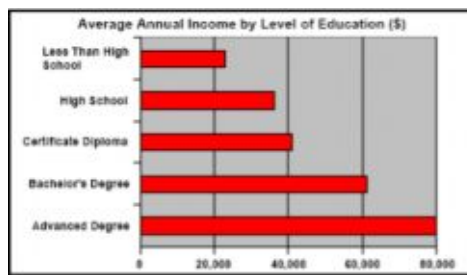
A critical mass of tutors transforming lives.

Q. What progress has there been this year?

A. 1. 500 trained tutors in over 30 schools.

2. 350 tutors reporting back having helped over 1000 students and offered over 5000 free, informed tutoring sessions to students in their schools, or feeder schools close by.

It is not hard to see that a major dent can be made by the students themselves, given the opportunity.



Source: Statistics Canada, "Infomat Weekly Review", 2003

Q. What difference will reducing the dropout numbers make?

A. Each student who completes high school has the opportunity to increase his/her annual earnings by \$14,000 and lifetime earnings by \$560,000.

If only one half stayed through high school, the provincial GDP would potentially gain \$140,000,000 annually!

Surely that's worth a modest investment in training students to help themselves.

One school's experience this year



Peers (a pair of Grade 6 tutored students)

"We've had 10 to 15 tutoring sessions. We wanted better marks - especially in math and French. Marks were in the 50's and improved to the 80's. Tutors have the time to help and know how."

Boy in Grade 6

"Mr. Jones suggested I go, so I did. Tutors are all kind of nice and help with the work. It's different from the classroom. Teachers do help but tutors have more examples. They explain in a lot of different ways. My marks went from the 60's to the 80' in my classroom tests."

Teachers

"The tutors came together as a group with a sense of ownership. They learned a lot about leadership. The peers have really strong role models."

"In partnership with the TDSB, the Licensed to Learn tutor training program builds impressive student leadership, positive new friendships, higher academic achievement and prouder school communities. Kids helping kids is a very powerful means to build a better future."

The Hon. Roy McMurtry, Former Canadian High Commissioner to the U.K. & Chief Justice of Ontario

Your Support Will Make It Happen. Join Us



Licensed to Learn
56 Chiswell Crescent
Toronto, ON, M2N 6E1

Phone:
416-730-1741

Fax:
(416)-730-8676

E-mail:
info@L2L.ca
for tax purposes BN #
86796 1013 RR0001



What's In It for You? Toronto's Future!

Toronto has the best opportunity in the world to become the first truly Knowledge Age city. We have close personal ties to virtually every nation in the world, often in high political and economic positions.

This is our basic wealth for the future, if we can work together, learn and act.

Your support for this program will help us all along that path.

Ways to help:

- Send a cheque
- Donate online
- Give shares as a tax efficient way to contribute
- Encourage others to give or help
- Volunteer to help with fund raising events

PLEASE CONTACT US TODAY WITH YOUR SUPPORT



We're on the Web!
www.L2L.ca

Licensed to Learn Inc.
56 Chiswell Crescent,
Toronto, ON, M2N 6E1

