

## LaBIDA Fall Conference Set in Ruston

On Saturday, October 2, 2010, LaBIDA will host a dyslexia conference at A.E. Philips Lab School located on the Louisiana Tech Campus in Ruston, Louisiana. The fee for this event will be \$65.00 for adults and \$20.00 for college students. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, call Alice Higgenbotham at 318-255-3431.

The keynote speaker for the conference is Sharon McMichael. Sharon has a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Computer Science along with a Master of Education in Reading. She works as a middle school Dyslexia Specialist, Reading Teacher, and Technology Teacher in Austin, Texas where she advocates for children and parents. Sharon is trained in Basic Language Skills Beginning and Advanced from Neuhaus Education Center in Houston, TX; Lindamood-Bell; Project Read; Slingerhand; and is a certified Level 1 Wilson teacher. Sharon served 5 consecutive terms as the President of the Austin Area Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. The title of her presentation is "Dyslexia Related Technology for Parents and Teachers." Sharon will also provide a breakout session entitled, "Helpful Hints for Home and School."

In addition, Rosemary Williams, Executive Director, SMILA (Simultaneous Multisensory Institute of Language Arts, Memphis, TN) will present at the conference. The title of her presentation is "Walk a Mile in My Shoes." Rosemary will help participants understand the frustrations of a dyslexic student and help them determine their learning style in a mock classroom setting. Rosemary is the Language Arts Supervisor for the Bodine School in Germantown, TN.

## LABIDA ADDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) has a branch in every state in the United States. Board members ensure that the mission of IDA continues on the state level. IDA members residing in Louisiana automatically become a member of the Louisiana/Mississippi branch.

Members receive this newsletter every semester, and the board maintains a telephone information line (985.414.2575), offers local workshops and seminars in Mississippi and Louisiana upon request, sponsors and participates in conferences on dyslexia, and works with state and local officials and educators. A list of IDA board members is on page 8 of this publication. Please do not hesitate to contact them for assistance.

## LSU Teacher Education Conference Scheduled on LSU/Baton Rouge Campus

LSU/LA ATE Teacher Education Conference is planned for Thursday, October 21, 2010 at Peabody Hall on LSU's Campus in Baton Rouge, LA. The theme of this event is "*Learning, Teaching, Leading.*" **Presentations will include:** Content-Specific sessions, Classroom Management, Dyslexia, Grant Writing, Legal Issues in Education, National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards, Power Teaching, Resume' Preparation and Interviewing, Technology, & Teaching At-Risk Students. LaBIDA board member, Georgann Mire, will be presenting. Presentations include information for all audiences including Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary. For more details go to [louisianaate.org](http://louisianaate.org).

### Summer Camps Planned at the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders at Nicholls State University

June 21-25, on the Nicholls campus, the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders will host a reading and writing workshop for students entering grades 3 and. The workshop will be held Monday-Friday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$95.00 per student.

July 20-24, the Center will host its annual Creative Scholars Camp for students entering 5th-9th grades. The goal of the camp is to provide writing, reading, math, organization, and study skills for students who have characteristics of dyslexia. This is an all day camp with an overnight option available for an additional fee. The cost of the day camp only is \$250.00 per student. The cost of the camp with overnight accommodations is \$425.00 per student. Interested parties may call Rhonda at 985-448-4214 for more information.

September 11, 2010 the Center will host a fundraiser on the Nicholls campus. Details will be provided at a later date.

October 2, the Center staff will travel to Ruston, La to host a conference for parents and educators interested in gaining knowledge about dyslexia and learning skills that will assist individuals who possess this disability. For more information: see page 1.

### Resources: Baton Rouge Free Learning Disabilities Conference Attracts 100 participants

On Saturday, March 6, 2010 parents and professionals gathered at St Gerard Catholic School in Baton Rouge for the 2nd annual "Resources: Baton Rouge Free Learning Disabilities Conference." This conference featured information about dyslexia, ADHD, Anxiety, Differentiated Instruction and Assistive Technology delivered by volunteer speakers. LaBIDA, CHADD, Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition, St Gerard, and LATI sponsored the event.

## Redemptrist PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

Redemptorist High School, in Baton Rouge, is pleased to announce that the STAR (Students Taking Articulated Reading) Lab Program serving students with dyslexia will be in full operation for the 2010-2011 school year in Grades 7-12. Areas of emphasis for Grades 7 – 9 include alphabet phonics, study skills, and organizational techniques. The STAR Lab will be available to exited students in Grades 10 - 12 who qualify for test accommodations and/or extended time.

STAR Lab Annual Fees for Grades 7-9 is \$965.00 and the STAR Lab Fee for Grades 10-12 is \$300.00. Ninth Grade students who have successfully completed the Star Lab Program will receive 1 Carnegie Credit. For more information, contact Redemptrist High School at 4000 St. Gerard Avenue, BR, LA 70805 or call (225)357-0936.

## Supriya Jindal Foundation for Louisiana's Children Makes a donation to the Brighton School

Supriya Jindal presented a Promethean ActivBoard (interactive whiteboard), a set of ActiVotes (student response devices), and an HP laptop to Brighton K/1 classrooms and played a round of Jindal Jeopardy with students.

The donation is part of an effort by the **Supriya Jindal Foundation for Louisiana's Children** to modernize classrooms throughout Louisiana and was funded by Dow Chemical. Research shows that interactive whiteboard technology enhances the learning process by combining visual representations, sounds, and participation. They are especially effective for the multisensory approach used at The Brighton School.

Fall Registration: The Brighton School, located in Baton Rouge, is now accepting 2010 fall registration. A psycho educational evaluation is required. Please call The Brighton Elementary Campus (K-6) at 225-923-2068 or The Brighton High School Campus (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) at 225-291-2524 for further information and a tour of the facilities. Summer hours are 7:30 am.- 3:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday. The Brighton website is [www.thebrightonschool.org](http://www.thebrightonschool.org)

Summer Program: The Brighton Bridges to Success Summer Program 2010 will run from June 1-July 1, 2010 for students K-6th grade. The sessions (from 8:00—12:30 Monday through Thursday) will feature a curriculum emphasizing phonics, word decoding, math, multisensory activities, and computer assistant programs. Contact Number: 225-923-2068

## Scholarship Resource Available Online

Proyecto Visión provides information about scholarships for people with all types of disabilities including dyslexia. The information includes award amounts, application deadlines, and links to the application forms and is located at:

<http://www.proyectovision.net/english/opportunities/scholarships.html>

## Quizlet Website Provides Free Electronic Flashcards

*Browse and use millions of flashcards created by other students and teachers, or create your own at [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com). This useful tool is an asset for students with dyslexia and has the following features:*

Easily create flashcard sets with as many questions and answers as you want.

Import questions and answers from your computer or other websites (or just type them in directly).

Cut and paste questions from other peoples' flashcard sets to make your own.

Invite friends to share your flashcards via email, Facebook, or MySpace.

One-click lookup of official dictionary definitions, and other users' previous answers.

Create a group so your friends or classmates can study together.

Discuss answers with your group via live chat.

Get notified when group members post new study sets.

Edit and improve sets created by other group members.

Groups can be private or public.

## Max Charter School Works to Increase Student Success

Getting young students to read, especially when they have difficulty in processing information—as in the case of children with dyslexia—is always a challenge. The MAX Charter School, located on the Nicholls State University campus in Thibodaux, LA, and created to help these unique “at-risk” children succeed, just may have found a solution.

Eighth grade English/language arts teacher Gina Coggins always makes sure that there is an interactive culminating activity after the reading and discussion of each assigned book. Upon completing their latest book, The Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett, a story that primarily takes place in Yorkshire, England and emphasizes the power and necessity of positive thinking, the class hosted a tea party on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 and dubbed it “Time-Warp Victorian Tea.”

The event included formal invitations, “guest celebrities” from Victorian times, an authentic tea menu, and original illustrated books by the 8th grade hosts. This successful activity demonstrates the power of hands-on multisensory instruction to enhance success for dyslexic students.

In addition to the Tea Party, the MAX Charter School teachers participated in what Dr. O. Cleveland Hill, MAX director, referred to as a “MAX Team Building Retreat.” through a trip to the Briarwood School (independent, non-profit school for children with learning differences and developmental delays) in Houston, TX. This trip was an effort to observe best practices and bring them back to create increased opportunities for success at MAX.

Besides visiting The Briarwood School and offering LEAP summer school, MAX will spend the summer developing a MAX School Improvement Plan. Topics for discussion will be

- “Math Mentoring” presented by Donna Gauthreaux
- “Madeline Hunter and Higher Order Thinking” presented by Consultant Linda Musson
- “Project Read Refresher and Update” presented by Consultant Linda Musson
- “Classroom Management Training using Harry Wong’s Methods” presented by individual MAX School teachers.

## LAPCAE Conference Set for Marksville

The Louisiana Association For Public, Community, and Adult Education (LAPCAE) Conference is scheduled on June 7th - 9th at the Paragon Casino & Resort in Marksville, Louisiana. LAPCAE was formed to promote parish and state educational opportunities for all persons. The purposes of the association are:

To provide leadership in advancing the basic and remedial education of adults by unifying the profession, developing human resources, encouraging and using research, communicating with the public and members, and otherwise furthering literacy, and adult and community education.

To promote adult literacy, basic education programs, GED programs, and other programs which assist undereducated adults to function effectively in society.

To conduct and/or sponsor professional development conferences and activities which provide a forum to advance literacy, basic education, GED, and community education.

To represent and communicate the interests and needs of LAPCAE members to the Louisiana State Department of Education, the legislature, and the general public.

For more information about this conference go to: <http://www.lapcae.org/Conference.html>

## IPOD Touch Workbook Available

iPod Touch technology includes many applications that benefit individuals with learning disabilities. Many times, however, these individuals have trouble accessing important technology as implementation seems too difficult. "Organize Your Life Using the iPod Touch: Making Cognitive Connections at Home, School, and Work" is a workbook related to using the iPod Touch with individuals dealing with cognitive difficulties.

The book is simply designed for readers who require simple directions and focuses on organizational and time management applications that help with the following topics:

- Making Cognitive Connections
- iPod Touch Basics
- The Clock App
- The Calendar App
- The Contacts App
- The Notes App
- Synchronizing with iTunes

You can learn more by visiting the [http://id4theweb.com/iPod\\_book.cfm](http://id4theweb.com/iPod_book.cfm). This page includes links to sample chapters from the book.

**LaBIDA Members:**

You are invited to submit information for our newsletter to Georgann Mire  
gmire@mireconsulting.net

***TURN YOUR  
VEHICLE  
DONATION  
INTO DOLLARS  
FOR DYSLEXIA!***

*If it rolls, floats or flies IDA can turn your vehicle donation into support for our dyslexia mission! We'll pick it up free, sell it, then send you a receipt/letter for your deduction.*

**Promote Literacy**

**Join the**

**International**

**Dyslexia Association**

**Today**

**Www.interdys.org**

**Professional Development Available Through Neuhaus**

“Preventing Reading Failure” is the focus of in-house and online professional development offered through the Neuhaus Center in Bellaire, Texas. To view the 2010 Summer Class Schedule and Class Description, check out their website at [www.neuhaus.org](http://www.neuhaus.org).

The schedule will feature new classes with information on Response to Intervention, Unexpected Underachievement and a Language Enrichment Refresher. Continuing Education on Demand will also be offered. Answers to questions are available through email at [info@neuhaus.org](mailto:info@neuhaus.org) or call 713-664-7676.

**East Baton Rouge Parish ESS Expo Planned**

The EBR Educational Expo is open to all regular and special educators, administrators, counselors, therapists, support personnel and paraeducators. Scheduled for July 20-22, the Expo will include presentations designed to increase student success. For information, contact Judy Barbay at [jbarbay@ebrss.k12.la.us](mailto:jbarbay@ebrss.k12.la.us)

**KURZWEIL 3000 VERSION 12 Announced**

Kurzweil Educational Systems recently announced Kurzweil 3000 Version 12 for Windows. Kurzweil 3000 technology provides reading, writing, and test-taking supports for students with learning disabilities, students who have the cognitive ability but not the reading ability to learn from grade-level content, and second language learners.

Kurzweil 3000 Version 12 for Windows features expanded writing support including an enhanced writing toolbar that integrates with most process writing models and smoothly transitions learners from pre-writing through their final draft. It includes many other additional new features and enhancements including text translation on-the-fly with Google® Translate, the ability to read MathML through a partnership with Design Science, Inc., expanded eContent support through Internet Explorer® and additional digital file support for PDF, Daisy 2, a Picture Dictionary containing 1,300+ images supporting English and Spanish, human pronunciations for over 64,000 words from American Heritage® Dictionary and a Comprehensive set of brainstorm and outline writing templates.

To learn more about Kurzweil 3000 Version 12 for Windows go to [www.kurzweiledu.com/generalrelease](http://www.kurzweiledu.com/generalrelease).

## Websites Serve as Resources for Teachers and Parents

By Cheryl Thibodeaux, Ed.S.  
Caddo Parish Special Services

There are a number of resources for parents of children with dyslexia or for individuals who have dyslexia. The International Dyslexia Association offers information that is often helpful to parents and teachers. The IDA encourages the reproduction and distribution of the fact sheets that are offered as long as they are not reprinted for the purpose of resale. The information written in these fact sheets is compiled by extremely knowledgeable people who have been working with dyslexic students and adults for a very long time. Many different topics are offered through this organization. The web site is <http://www.interdys.org>.

Perhaps one of the best known web sites to visit is LD online. This web site offers information about many different learning problems including dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD. LD online offers a wealth of information on topics such as early identification of dyslexia in children, evaluation and testing tips, accommodations/section 504, behavior and social skills, legal issues, parenting, processing deficits, self-esteem, study skills, and writing and spelling tips. The web site is <http://www.ldonline.org>.

*Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic* is an organization that works with dyslexic students and adults to provide them with audio books, textbooks, or material online to help them when reading novels and textbooks. Go to their web site <http://www.rfbd.org> to learn more information about services provided.

The International Reading Association is another site to visit. It offers resource topics on a number of subjects. The web site is <http://www.reading.org>.

The Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation ([www.schwabfoundation.org](http://www.schwabfoundation.org)) offers more than 350 articles from leading authorities and current studies on learning problems. One of the many facets of this web site is a site on assistive technology that students or adults can use.

There are also a number of web sites that children may visit and play learning games to help them with reading. Although there are far too many to name, I have listed some of my favorite ones. Please visit them to get an idea of the type of web sites that are available for parents and students.

Starfall.com [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

Spelling City.com [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

Children's Storybooks online [www.magickeys.com/books/](http://www.magickeys.com/books/)

ABC Fast Phonics [www.abcfastphonics.com](http://www.abcfastphonics.com)

Reading Rockets.org [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

Super teacher worksheets.com [www.superteacherworksheets.com](http://www.superteacherworksheets.com)

Kid zone [www.kidzone.ws](http://www.kidzone.ws)

abcteach.com [www.abcteach.com](http://www.abcteach.com)

PBS Kids <http://pbskids.org/>

School Express Funtime Activities <http://www.schoolexpress.com>

Louisiana Branch  
International Dyslexia Association  
Www.LaDyslexia.org  
(985)414-2575  
Www.interdys.org  
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## LaBIDA News

This information is being provided to you as a service. The International Dyslexia Association and LaBIDA in no way endorses, recommends or favors any informational opportunities, products, and speakers presented to you in this newsletter. It was developed to serve as a resource to assist you in finding informational opportunities about dyslexia that will assist you. The events shown do not represent the entire range of opportunities available.

### Meet the LaBIDA Board of Directors

Lisa Best, Ruston, LA; President of LaBIDA; Parent/family of dyslexic and a general supporter

Dawn Amy, Abbeville, LA; Education Administrator

Karen England, Baton Rouge, LA; Educator

Evelyn Ford, Ball, LA; (retired) Educational Diagnostician

Alice Higginbotham, Ruston, LA; Educational Therapist and classroom teacher

Cena Holifield, Hattiesburg, MS; Educator and School Administrator

GayNel Jordy, Metairie, LA; Post-Secondary Teacher

Jennifer Kelly, West Monroe, LA; Educator

Maureen Landry, Houma, LA; general supporter

Meredith Matthews, Bogalusa, LA; adult dyslexic

Georgann Mire, Baton Rouge, LA; Educational Consultant and parent of dyslexic

Gale Pick, Metairie, LA; Reading Specialist

Karla Richards, Hattiesburg, MS; Educational Therapist

Gayle Smith, Baton Rouge, LA; Special Education teacher

Cheryl Thibodeaux, Shreveport, LA; Educator

Katie Tonore, Clinton, MS, Reading Specialist

Judy Williamson, West Monroe, LA; Educator

Sylvia Zeringue, Vacherie, LA; Secondary teacher

Your Board Members would love to hear from you. They are there to assist!