

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE SPACE!



DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

WINNER #1 GRADE 1, 2, 3 STUDENTS AT SALMO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN SALMO, BC

The teacher Ms. McInnis, wrote "What we did was create a fictitious "new student" that came to join our class. We created a bit of a profile of this new classmate with Down syndrome (one student chose to write a story about a student with autism) his/her struggles and interests. After some education and discussion over a number of days, we created our classroom essay and then students wanted to write their own fiction stories. Here are some parts of the essay's that were written":

"I met Katie last week. She is a new student in my class. She has Down Syndrome. Katie is now my new best friend and we do everything together. When I have a hard time with my math, Katie is always there for me" By: Emerson - Grade 3 Student

"I met a new girl in school She has Down Syndrome. Some of the big kids tease her because she talks differently. She loves math. She loves cats and dogs. Katie loves writing. Katie and me work together. Me and her build lots of stuff. It's really cool in our fort" By: Everly - Grade 3 Student"

"Katie struggles with reading. I went to help her sounding out. She has trouble speaking so I asked her to repeat it. Then we became best friends." By: Freja - Grade 3 Student

All essays can be found on the LMDSS website www.lmdss.com



WINNER #2: JULIET - ST. JOHN BREBEUF SCHOOL ABBOTSFORD, BC

The following is an excerpt of Juliet's essay:

"I think that our approach to including all people in our school needs to begin with the realization that we are all just human first. Every person has their gifts and their strengths, as well as their struggles. It takes the whole community working together to foster authentic relationships to make sure that inclusion is successful.

Knowing Maya has enriched my life and the lives of all of my classmates. Maya is hilarious- the funniest person I know and she can always make me laugh. She tells funny stories and teases me all of the time. She is incredibly loyal. Grade 5 was a very tough year for me and I remember telling my mom that I knew that Maya would always be kind to me. She made me feel secure in our friendship and was always happy to see me."

The full essay can be found on our website

"WE BELIEVE IN OPPORTUNITIES"

WINNER #3 TOM - WILDFLOWER SCHOOL - NELSON, BC

"This year when a new student arrived in our class, he surprised me. I never worked with a person that has Down Syndrome before. At first, he seemed unusual, because he talked differently. Then I realized that he wasn't so bad and started trying to find things to do with him. Turns out he's a great lego builder. He's a great person, he just views the world in a different way. I started inviting him to play chess at recess. I sat next to him in gym circle, also I tried helping him with lego building, but it turned into him helping me. In conclusion, I met a boy with Down Syndrome and with everyone in our class trying to help him fit in, I hope he feels welcome at Wildflower". The full essay can be found on our website.

**LMDSS CHRISTMAS NETWORKING EVENT!**

Everyone had such a wonderful time and it was great to see our families joining in on all the activities and getting caught up with one another!

As usual, Santa and his helper were a big hit. We appreciate him coming down from the North Pole for our event!

Thank you to the Surrey Golf and Country Club for providing a great venue, food, decorating and taking such diligent care of us throughout the evening.

We would also like to thank the Surrey Rotary Club for continuing to support this event each year as well as our families.

There are also some amazing LMDSS members who want to stay anonymous. We still want to give you a big HOORAY for your help this year! They donated funds to purchase complimentary tickets to the event as well as donated funds towards the purchasing of the gifts for our children and adults. Your kindness truly shows what Christmas is all about and we very much appreciated everything that you did for making this event come together, so thank you so much.

We would also like to thank our volunteers Tonny Salisbury, Karen Winegarden, Theresa Preston, Jason Liu, and Joshua Sunwood. This event would not have been possible without all your support and many hours of planning and organizing.

**To all our members Have a very Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year in 2024!**



"WE BELIEVE IN OPPORTUNITIES"

LMDSS Christmas Holiday Closures

Administration - Dec 15th to Jan 15th
(Phone messages and emails will be monitored).

Educational Classes - Dec 22nd to Jan 1st
(Check with your teachers if you have any questions).

Mom & Tot Group - Dec 15th to Jan 14th
(Classes will start back up on Jan 15th)

Dance Classes - Dec 12th (Check with Administration office on Jan 15th for class details)

Speech Classes - Dec 13th to Jan 1st

Music Therapy - Dec 13th (Check with administration office on Jan 15th for class details)

All other Classes that are not mentioned above will be closed from - Dec 15th to Jan 15th

All membership renewals are required by Feb 1/24. You can download an application from our website and send it in by way of email to info@lmdss.com

LMDSS Board Members - If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team please fill out a board application form from our website and email it in to info@lmdss.com. Board application forms can be found under Contact Us/Volunteer.

