

January 2021

## ARISE Newsletter

What an exciting and challenging year 2020 was. We learned how to teach from a distance, launched our summer camps, and opened our RISE Assistive Technology Studio. We couldn't have done it without you! We look forward to everything 2021 has to offer - and everything we have to offer you in 2021!



### RISE Spring Break Camps

We are very pleased to offer Spring Break Camps at both our East Vancouver and North Vancouver locations! This year, on top of our great curriculum focusing on learning differences, we are adding mental health and wellness to our roster. LDS is dedicated to the safety and development of our students and thus our class sizes are limited and rigorous health & safety protocols are in full effect. Learn more on our [website](#) or register your child [here](#).



### RISE To The Challenge Recap

We are thrilled to share the 2020 results of RISE to the Challenge! Through the kind generosity of donors, our "\$100k for 100Kids" campaign raised an amazing \$181,461!

The thoughtful contributions of **214 donors** will now enable us to **support over 180 children and youth** in 2021 with our expanded comprehensive programming.

Read the full review at:

["2020 RISE to the Challenge—your contributions will transform over 180 lives!"](#)

## Program Updates



### PEERS Social Skills

The Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS®) is for youth (ages 13-15) and their guardians. It improves communication and interpersonal skills. Small group sessions will start in person on Tuesday evenings, February 2-April. We still have four spots! [REGISTER NOW!](#)



### Volunteers Needed

If you would like to gain experience working with children with learning differences, we are searching for volunteer support coaches for PEERS. Interested candidates are asked to send a resume and short cover letter to [lara@ldsociety.ca](mailto:lara@ldsociety.ca) and will be required to submit a criminal record check.



### Type To Learn Software

A new addition to our AT Software Suite, Type to Learn improves keyboarding proficiency through game-based typing activities so students can practice while having fun. This tool can be accessed from home and is designed to adapt to students' abilities. Email [at@ldsociety.ca](mailto:at@ldsociety.ca) for more information or to try it out!



### AT Studio Webinar

With the launch of our new Assistive Technology Studio, LDS is now able to offer software and hardware tools that can improve the functional capabilities of our students. Some of these tools can even be accessed from home for FREE! To learn more about these technologies, sign up for a [webinar](#).

## More from LDS



#MISSIONMAKERS

**SIERRA,  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND FUNDRAISING  
MANAGER**



*"LDS changes lives, and I wanted to help change lives too."*

Each month, our new blog series "Mission Makers" will feature the story of a staff member. This month, Sierra—our wonderful Communications and Fundraising Manager—explains how her experience as a parent of a child with a learning difference led her to LDS.

[Read more »](#)



### Virtual Open House

In December, LDS hosted a virtual open house for families to learn more about programs, tour the Learning Centre, and meet some of our staff! If you missed it, click the link below to watch a fun presentation from the evening.

[Watch here »](#)

### University of Waterloo Partnership

LDS is proud to announce its partnership with the University of Waterloo's Social and Intelligent Robotics Research Laboratory (SIRRL) to study the potential for assistive robot technology to assist in remedial programs for children with learning differences. [Read more »](#)



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**WATERLOO**

## LDS in the News



**"Month of Giving Back: Learning Disabilities Society"**  
Rachel Forbes of the Learning Disabilities Society explains how they support children and youth with learning differences.

### Global News

Global News featured LDS as part of its Month of Giving Back. Our Executive Director Rachel Forbes speaks about our mission and our efforts to continually increase our accessibility and services to support more children and youth.

[Watch here »](#)



**LDS charity ensures education support during COVID-19 for children with special needs**  
The Learning Disabilities Society provides individualized student education programming to children and youth with suspected or diagnosed learning disabilities.

### Vancouver Sun

The Vancouver Sun profiles LDS's new assistive technology programs to help keep high-quality, research-based learning supports accessible for all children with learning differences. [Read more »](#)

## Careers



### Director of Education

Please let your contacts in education know that we are hiring for a very exciting role. Join us as our DIRECTOR of EDUCATION, a full-time position that will lead our education and remedial services, grow our education-related partnerships and collaborations, and be a key part of transforming the lives of children and youth with learning differences.

Start: ASAP. Remuneration: \$80,000 – \$90,000 per year with extended health and dental benefits, generous paid vacation, and a supportive, flexible work environment. Applications are due Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 5pm per instructions in [the posting for the position](#).

### Assistive Technology Manager

We are also looking for an Assistive Technology Manager, a full-time position that will be responsible for the development, implementation, administration and maintenance of LDS IT infrastructure, including LDS' assistive technology and socially assistive robotics programs.

Start: ASAP. Remuneration: \$50,000 – \$60,000 per year with extended health and dental benefits, paid vacation, and a supportive, flexible work environment. Applications are due February 12, 2021 at 5pm per instructions in [the posting for the position](#).

## Help us #KeepOurKidsLearning

With your help during these difficult times, we can make our research based programs available to vulnerable learners in need throughout our province.

[Become a Monthly Donor](#)