



# *Learning & Literacy Programs*

*September 2010*

*A. E. Cross School, Arbour Lake School, Banff Trail School (French Immersion), Captain John Palliser School, Earl Grey School, Ernest Morrow School Ethel M. Johnson School, Georges P. Vanier School, Harold Panabaker School, Huntington Hills School, Keeler School, Louis Riel School, Montgomery School, Nickle School, Sir John A. MacDonald School, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School*

The Learning and Literacy (L&L) Programs at these schools are now all operating under a model of organizing instruction and delivering programming where specialized programming is fully blended with regular classroom programming in a community school environment. This model has been in place since 2007/2008 at Arbour Lake, Earl Grey, Ethel M. Johnson, Harold Panabaker, Louis Riel and Nickle Schools. It has been in place at A. E. Cross, Captain John Palliser, Georges P. Vanier, Huntington Hills, and Montgomery Schools since 2008/2009 and at Keeler, Ernest Morrow and Sir Wilfrid Laurier Schools since 2009/2010. New to the model this school year (2010/2011) are Banff Trail School (French Immersion) and Sir John A. MacDonald School.

Our model is designed and supported to deliver all *Key Components of Programming for Students with Learning Disabilities* including:

- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Meaningful Parent Involvement
- ✓ Identification and Assessment
- ✓ Ongoing Assessment
- ✓ Individualized Program Planning
- ✓ Accommodations
- ✓ Transition Planning
- ✓ Self-Advocacy
- ✓ Instruction

Our model incorporates:

- ✓ Best practices in teaching that are grounded in *Universal Design for Learning* (making curriculum accessible for *all* learners).
- ✓ *Staffing* which permits flexible groupings, allowing L&L students to receive small group or individualized instruction/supports targeted to their specific learning needs, as well as instruction in the use of assistive technology, while at the same time being enrolled in regular grade appropriate classes.
- ✓ Students being supported by their *a team of teachers working together* to provide appropriate learning opportunities for all students. In sites where there were previously two L&L classes you will see this model used in all core subjects. In sites where there was previously only one L&L program, team teaching is evident in literacy programming for each L&L placed student.
- ✓ *Assistive Technology embedded* throughout our programs. This includes items such as SMART technology, individual laptops, other personal devices and software specific to the needs of students with learning disabilities.

## ***What's the Same and What's Different from Previous L&L Programming in CBE?***

We believe that the L&L model in our schools is on the “cutting edge” of best teaching practice. As of this school year 2010/2011 all L&L programming across CBE is operating under the “blended” model. There are some similarities and differences between the “new” model of programming and the previous model.

Here are some of the ways our L&L programming is *the same* as the previous model within the Calgary Board of Education:

- ✓ Emphasis on the ***Key Components*** of Programming for Students with Learning Disabilities.
- ✓ Provision of ***intensive, extensive*** and ***explicit instruction*** for our students with Learning Disabilities.
- ✓ All L&L placed students have ***Individualized Program Plans***.
- ✓ All L&L placed students come to our programs via an ***Area based referral process***.
- ✓ ***Collaboration*** between home and school is promoted.

Here are some of the ways our L&L ***programming differs*** from the previous model of L&L programming within the Calgary Board of Education:

- ✓ There are 2 full time teachers staffing each of the previous L&L programs. In sites where there were 2 L&L programs this means a teacher can now be dedicated at each grade level within a division (e.g. Division III – Grades 7, 8 & 9) and there is also a teacher with specialized expertise in the use of Assistive Technology for instructional purposes.
- ✓ L&L teachers and other teachers in the community school program team together to provide for the needs of all students. ***Team Teaching*** between subject area teachers and teachers with expertise in learning disabilities is the basis of instructional organization. Team teaching involves ***strategic planning*** that ensures optimal access to curriculum for ***all learners***.
- ✓ The embedded use of ***assistive technology*** throughout our programs is a key to success. Each L&L student will have their own laptop with appropriate software, and access to other personal devices (ipods, cameras, digital cameras, scanners, printers, etc.)

Please feel free to ask a teacher or Principal for further information!