

## STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES TO BENEFIT FROM NEW TECHNOLOGY



Special Education Resource Teachers and Educational Assistants from the NCDSB participate in training on the Kurzweil Program.

New assistive technologies will soon be helping students with learning disabilities build confidence and achieve greater success. Special Education Resource Teachers, Educational Assistants, Principals and Literacy/Numeracy Teachers from throughout the Board will receive hands-on training this week on programs such as Kurzweil, Word Q, and Inspiration. These revolutionary softwares were designed to empower students to take control over their reading and writing disabilities and establish their independence.

The new programs were purchased recently by the Northeastern Catholic District School Board. The Board is currently involved in a special project through the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) to help increase the understanding of effective instructional strategies for all pupils, including those with special needs. The premise of the project is that all students can learn given appropriate time and support, such as assistive technologies.

The training itself is being offered by the Provincial Demonstration School Amethyst School as part of their own CODE Project to reach out to various boards to develop a partnership of support. They are also providing the NCDSB with 12 computer workstations equipped with the latest assistive technologies. Provincial Demonstration Schools are funded by the Ministry of Education and provide specialized residential programs for students with severe learning disabilities from across Ontario.

Program Principal for Special Education, Claire Lamarre-Goyer, is excited to see the latest in technology introduced in each school community. "Many community colleges and universities readily provide access to such software to ensure that students with disabilities can succeed at the postsecondary level," explained Lamarre-Goyer. "By integrating this new technology in our elementary and secondary schools, we are giving our students the key to a world of new opportunities which will facilitate the transition to a higher learning environment. We are grateful to the Provincial Demonstration School for their guidance in implementing strategies that have proven effective for students who at times struggle to learn. Their expertise in using assistive technologies congruently with the curriculum will help our students reach new goals."

The NCDSB wishes to acknowledge Northern Telephone for providing their state-of-the-art facilities and access to their information technology to conduct the training.

**For more information, please contact  
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