



The Reading Center

DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OF MN

Fall 2019

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Teagan Holmes: Confident Reading Center Alumnus Moves On To...Gustavus



Teagan Holmes will enroll in college this fall.

First impressions matter and meeting Teagan Holmes for the first time leaves a great impression. Rare in a recent high school graduate, **Teagan exudes confidence and speaks with maturity and clarity** about where she has been and where she is going.

Early Intervention Matters

Teagan doesn't remember much about her pathway to The Reading Center. Her mom, Sarah Holmes, explains that when Teagan was struggling in pre-school, even before she went to kindergarten, **The Reading Center was top of mind as a resource. While neither Teagan's mom or dad are dyslexic, family members on both sides of the family are and several were tutored by The Reading Center.**

By starting tutoring in second grade, Teagan doesn't remember much about struggling in school. She doesn't remember the tears that her mom Sarah does when she was trying to learn to write her name in kindergarten. She doesn't remember the preschool teacher saying that the timid Teagan was not ready to go to kindergarten. **Teagan has simply always had the luxury of knowing that her struggle has a name – she is dyslexic.**

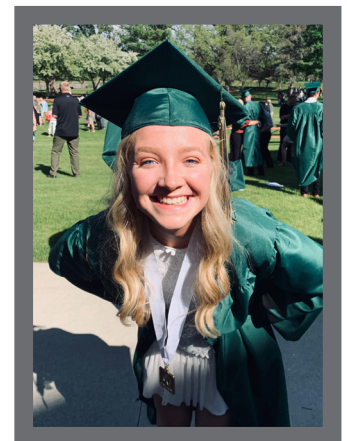
Dyslexia Means Working Twice as Hard

Not remembering the early struggle doesn't mean that life has been easy for Teagan. **Teagan is quick to note that she developed a strong work ethic early. Academic work takes her longer, and there are some things, even with tutoring, that are still challenging like spelling and reading aloud.** And she knows she spends twice as much time as others on the same assignments. That includes her two sisters, neither of whom has dyslexia like her.

While Teagan may give the impression that having dyslexia is "easy," her mom Sarah says **"Teagan doesn't know any different than having a learning disability. And it's just not in her personality to not work hard."**

She spent six years in The Reading Center's tutoring program, first with Doris Eide and later with Barb

Continued on page 3



Teagan Holmes, 2019 graduate

Board Column Fall Outreach Events



Amy Davis
Board Chair

Hello! I am Amy Davis, the Midwest Planning Administrator for Mayo Clinic. **I am honored to serve as the new Reading Center Board Chair.** I joined the Board in 2016, serving as Secretary and Vice Chair before stepping into the Chair position this summer.

My husband and my oldest son are both dyslexic. I am passionate about the difference that The Reading Center can make in the lives of those who are struggling to read and am so thankful that we have a resource like The Reading Center in our community.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month and we have several events scheduled this fall to celebrate:

- **New Dyslexia Laws Panel, which will be an online event scheduled on September 30.** Please join us on Facebook Live to hear more about the historic legislation that was passed this year to help dyslexic and other struggling readers in Minnesota. The panel will include members of the Dyslexia Coalition formed last year to advocate for changes to laws that benefit dyslexic learners.
- **Dyslexia Simulation scheduled on October 22.** Please join us for an interactive simulation exercise to experience the common symptoms of dyslexia. While interesting for everyone, this is particularly valuable for friends and family members of people with dyslexia.
- **Our 6th annual Dyslexia Dash is scheduled on October 5.** Join us for our annual 5K Run/Walk starting and ending at Soldiers Field in Rochester. A few superheroes will be in attendance again this year!

Later this fall, we will host a community open house in our new building. Instead of our annual fall event showcasing an accomplished adult with dyslexia, **this year we are celebrating our own students with the public grand opening of our new building.** Construction schedules being what they are, we don't have a definite date for the event yet. Please stay tuned for details!

Thank you for your interest and partnership with The Reading Center – we are thankful for your engagement! **You can find more information and registration for the events above on our website, www.TheReadingCenter.org.** Hope to see you this fall!

Legislative Changes Coming in 2020!



Cindy Russell
Executive Director

Big news! The 2019 legislature passed two laws in Minnesota that will help to make public education more responsive to students with dyslexia. The Reading Center played a significant role in helping to pass this legislation as a partner in a Dyslexia Coalition, joining with International Dyslexia Association, Upper Midwest Branch, Groves Academy, and Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota.

Mandatory dyslexia screening. Current state law requires districts to identify students not reading at grade level in grades K-2 and report to the state Department of Education the district's efforts to screen and identify dyslexic students.

The new law makes screening much stronger. **Starting in July 2020 districts:**

- **must screen students identified as not reading at grade level in grades K-2 for signs of dyslexia,** and
- **must screen students in grade 3 and above unless another reason for the reading difficulty has been identified.**

Screening students not reading at grade level using an inexpensive and easy to administer screening tool to identify students with characteristics of dyslexia early, **will get those students into interventions sooner, and help districts match appropriate interventions to the student.** It will also provide parents with information they need to make decisions when working with the school districts or seeking a private provider for intervention.

We know that school districts have already begun to plan for this – as we have seen a great uptick in calls to The Reading Center asking about screening, training and other Dyslexia 101 tools.

Teacher Training requirements to include dyslexia. Starting in June 2020, all board approved teacher preparation programs for teachers of elementary education must **require instruction:**

1. **in applying comprehensive, scientifically based or evidence-based, and structured reading instruction programs** that
2. **teach students to read using foundational knowledge, practices, and strategies so that all students achieve continuous progress in reading, and**
3. **include instruction on dyslexia** modeled on practice standards of the International Dyslexia Association.

To all the Orton-Gillingham trained practitioners reading this, the legislation removed “balanced” from reading instruction programs – a huge win for structured literacy.

These crucial education pieces for pre-service teachers should help address what two independent bodies found – a general lack of

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knowledge among teachers about dyslexia and how to remediate struggling readers.

The Reading Center is working on ways to support teachers and districts in the implementation of the screening provision, as well as helping to connect the dots on what else teachers may seek to understand about dyslexia.



Photo Credit: Rep. Heather Edelson

And a **special thank you to our legislative champions this year including Senator Carla Nelson, Senator Roger Chamberlain (not pictured), and Representatives Jim Davnie, Cheryl Youakim and Heather Edelson.** (Pictured above) We could not have done this without your support!

We will share more with you as implementation approaches. Thank you to everyone who filled out a survey to support these initiatives, or who contacted their legislators seeking passage. You made this happen! Stay tuned, there is more work to be done, and we plan to build upon this success at the legislature this upcoming session 2020.



Teagan Continued from page 1

Walbruch. In those crucial middle school years, **she credits Barb with helping her develop self-advocacy skills – skills she has used to help her navigate accommodations in high school on her own.**

College Bound!

Impressive self-awareness and self-advocacy skills also helped Teagan during the eighteen months she spent researching colleges to attend after high school. She is keenly aware of what she needs to be a successful student and found it in Gustavus Adolphus College. **She starts classes this September. Best of luck to you Teagan! We are all rooting for you.**

Changes to Reading Center Board of Directors in 2019

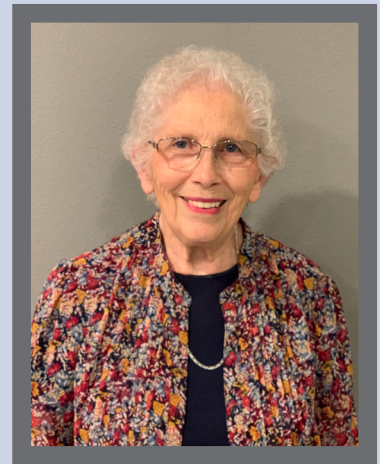
At our July board meeting we said thank you but not good-bye to two members of our Board of Directors, former Board Chair **Kirk Kottschade and Dick Devlin.** We also welcomed a new executive board that includes **Board Chair Amy Davis, Vice-Chair Charles Brust, Treasurer Danny Bucknell, Secretary Ilaya Rome Hopkins and past Chair Brittany Thompson.** Thank you Brittany for your leadership as Chair this past year as The Reading Center readies to relocate to our new building this fall!

We welcomed three **new board members: Elaine Bauman, Marla Burkhardt and Joselyn Raymondo.**

Elaine Bauman was an elementary school teacher who, after interviewing with Reading Center founder Paula Rome (in her basement!) started her career as a tutor. **Elaine worked at The Reading Center as a tutor and Master Teacher for more than 40 years.** She lives in Rochester with her husband Ken and enjoys spending time with her three sons, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Marla Burkhardt is a CPA employed with Mayo. **She joins our board as a parent alumni** – her son began tutoring in first grade. Marla says she saw first-hand how The Reading Center’s tutors helped her son, saying his “tutors are some of his biggest cheer leaders.” Marla lives in Rochester with her husband and son.

Joselyn Raymundo is the owner of Rochester Home Infusion and lives on a hobby farm in Rochester with her husband and three children. Joselyn’s son Patrick was diagnosed with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and ADHD seven years ago while they were living in Minneapolis. He was tutored there by someone trained by The Reading Center. She states, **“I believe in The Reading Center’s mission and would like to be instrumental in continuing to help kids with learning differences.”**



Elaine Bauman



Marla Burkhardt



Joselyn Raymundo

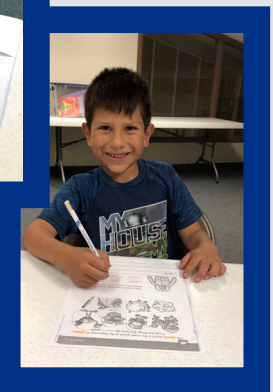
Best of Basics

4 great weeks of learning!

Our summer **Best of Basics** program ended its **25th program year having served 56 students in K-12th grade.** Our elementary students took small group classes in Language Arts and Math. Our middle and high school students took small group classes in Study Skills and our youngest learners spent one or two weeks with Mrs. H learning pre-reading skills in parent/child teams. We had our highest ever number of students taking courses 1:1 – in everything from math to reading to writing.

Thank you to Lillian Stewart and Sue Christenson for all their hard work co-directing the four week program this summer.

This was Sue's last year leading this program. She continues to contribute to The Reading Center in big and small ways so don't worry, she's not going anywhere.



Some of our students made a homemade card for Ms. Sue!



New Reading Center Building to open this Fall

Since last winter, construction crews have been working on The Reading Center's new 10,000 square foot facility in NW Rochester. **As summer comes to a close, we are only a few months from moving programs into the new building.** How exciting to have all of our staff and programs under one roof!

Due to the generosity of the state of Minnesota, corporations and foundations – large and small, alumni, staff and parents, **we have nearly completed our \$4.3 million fundraising goal; however, due to the cost to fully furnish and equip the building with up-to-date**

technology and audio visual equipment, we will need to exceed that goal.

We are still accepting donations toward the campaign, and there are still opportunities for donor recognition, such as **pavers engraved with a personalized message that will be integrated into our sidewalk.** It is a great way to honor a hard working student, a dedicated tutor/teacher, or a special dyslexic person in your life. You can find more photos and details on recognition on our website.

Stay tuned for details on our grand opening!

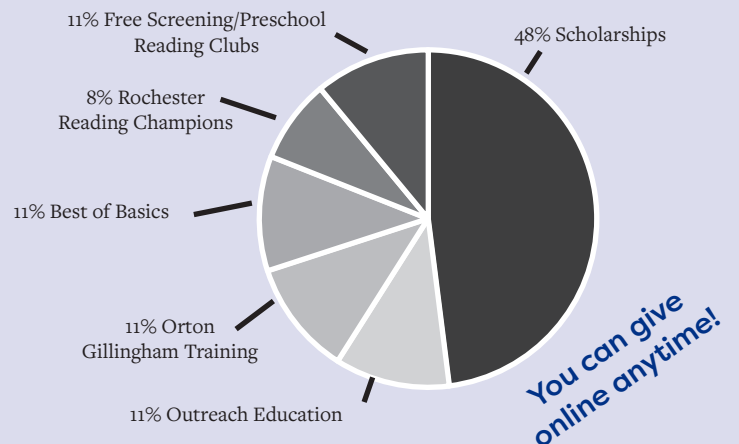
Our new building will be at 2010 Scott Rd NW, Rochester.

2019 Bright Futures Campaign a Success – thank you!

We met our goal and ended our annual **Bright Futures** campaign with **\$80,182** to support programs and scholarships benefitting students with dyslexia. Special thanks to **Rochester Scottish Rite Children's Foundation** for their pledge of matching funds to support this fundraising drive.

And thank you for to our campaign volunteers. We could not do this great work without you! **Ginger Holmes** (General Campaign Chair), **Lora Keller** (Staff and Tutor Campaign Chair), **Carl Anderson** (Board Campaign Chair), **John and Shelly Caldwell** (Friends Campaign Chairs) and our calling night volunteers, including employees from Premier Bank, Sterling State Bank, Mayo Clinic and Marco: **Jennifer Gowin, Dr. Terri Edwards, Danny Bucknell, Mary Bucknell, Amy Davis, Garrett Hassig, and Lené Heise.**

How We'll Invest Your Dollar



RAISED: \$80,182

Newsletter Donor List

January 1, 2019 – July 31, 2019

We would like to acknowledge and thank all of you who have so generously pledged or donated to The Reading Center. We strive to list our donors accurately, but occasionally we make a mistake. If your donation has been omitted, your entry is misspelled or put in a wrong giving level, please contact Sarah Carlson-Wallrath at scarlsonwallrath@thereadingcenter.org.

If you would like to make a contribution, please use our secure online server at www.TheReadingCenter.org, contact us at 507-288-5271, or use the enclosed envelope.

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The Reading Center

DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OF MN

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Fall Online Basic Orton-Gillingham Training Sept. 3-Nov. 24, 2019	6th Annual Dyslexia Dash Oct. 5, 2019	Fall Reading Clubs (K and 1st grade) Begin Start week of Oct. 7, 2019	New Building Grand Opening / Bright Stars TBD	Fall Online Adv. Orton-Gillingham Institute Dec. 2, 2019-Feb. 23, 2020			
SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
New Dyslexia Laws Panel – online only September 30, 2019	Student Writing Classes Begin Start week of Oct. 1, 2019	Dyslexia Simulation – A Walk in Our Shoes Oct. 22, 2019	Give to the Max Day November 14, 2019	Winter Hybrid Basic Orton-Gillingham Institute Dec. 2, 2019-Mar. 29, 2020			