

Dyslexia WA Newsletter

harness the gift

dyslexiawa.com.au

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Newsletter of Dyslexia Correction Service trading as Dyslexia WA; Contact (618) 9591 3482; 0439 698 587; 0479 121 163. email dyslexiacorrectionwa@gmail.com. Annette Johnston: Licensed Davis Facilitator

Come along in February

Frank Johnston

It's definitely happening, a chance to meet and chat with families and others who have experienced the need to deal with dyslexia.

Put Saturday morning, February 6, on your calendars and come along for 2 hours of chat, ask questions, listen to some explanations and other's experiences.



As we were... Back in 2011

Just bring yourselves, there'll be some snacks and tea coffee to help you through the morning, starting at 9:00 am.

Last time James Treacy spoke about his progress in dealing with dyslexia and we had

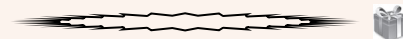
a couple of topics to discuss and listened to your ideas.

This time we are an open book right now and would like to know if you have any suggestions or questions you would like addressed.

Anyone is welcome to tell about their experience, give their opinions, ask the questions... or just sit around, chat and listen.

If you think you'll be along please let us know, just an email or text and how many are coming so we know how many vanilla slices we'll need!

Whether it's 3 or 30, it's happening so we look forward to seeing you there, in the conference room, near our office, at 33 Crompton Road, Rockingham. (Business Foundations building).



Carly Simon And Family Point To Positive, Creative Side Of Dyslexia (Including Theirs)

August 7, 2015 | 8:36 AM | [Rachel Zimmerman](#)

WEST TISBURY, Mass. **Few parents are thrilled by the news that their child has dyslexia.**

But increasingly, families are viewing the language processing disorder in a new light — not as a disability, but simply as a different way of perceiving the world. Indeed in some families, the dyslexic brain is viewed as having distinct advantages.

One celebrated Martha's Vineyard family is trying to spread the word that a diagnosis of dyslexia doesn't spell doom; on the contrary, it can lead to more creativity and out-of-the-box thinking.

Carly Simon, the Grammy award-winning musician, is now 70. But few people know that the accomplished singer and songwriter struggled with dyslexia, and a stutter, as a child.

"Being embarrassed at school is a terrible thing...when your peers are making fun of you because they can't understand what wonderful whimsy your mind may be making up and going through," she said recently. "While they're just going 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10, you're going 1-2-4-5-7-8-9-3!"



Grammy award-winning musician Carly Simon struggled with dyslexia as a child. Here she is performing in California in 2012. (Frank Micelotta/Invision/AP)

'Welcome To The Cool Club'

Still, Simon believes her dyslexia has a direct influence on how she makes music. She says her hit song "Anticipation," for instance, "came down from the universe into my head and then out my mouth, so it bypassed the mind."

These days, Simon lives in a lush compound on Martha's Vineyard, where family members often spend the summer.

Dyslexia tends to run in families, and it runs in Simon's. Her 38-year-old son Ben, a musi-

cian, has dyslexia. So does her 41-year-old daughter, Sally, an artist.

But the family wants to show their dyslexia can be a positive force — a challenge, absolutely, but also a catalyst for new ways of framing the world or problem-solving that might lead a child to become a famous artist or a successful entrepreneur.



Sally Taylor, the daughter of Carly Simon and James Taylor, describes herself as "an artist, mother, wife and dyslexic." (Courtesy of the family)

Simon's daughter Sally Taylor (whose father is musician James Taylor) vividly recalls the day, at age 10, when she learned she had dyslexia: She anxiously walked home with the diagnosis scrawled on a piece of paper in her hand.

"I just felt as though it was somehow the end

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Dyslexic Darcey tiptoed into school cupboard to hide agony

By [Sarah Barns For Mailonline](#) Published: 05:34 EST, 4 August 2015 | Updated: 17:38 EST, 4 August 2015

Strictly Come Dancing judge **Darcey Bussell** has spoken out about the crippling effect dyslexia had on her childhood - and how dance was her 'escape'.

The 46-year-old former ballerina revealed how she used to hide in a cupboard at primary school to avoid being embarrassed in lessons and teased by her peers.

TV personality Darcey is one of 23 celebrities - including businessman Sir Richard Branson, singer Mollie King and interior design Kelly Hoppen - who has contributed to a new book called *Creative Success* about living with the learning condition.

Speaking frankly about the effect dyslexia had on her childhood, Darcey said: 'Hiding in a cupboard was my way of avoiding the relentless struggle of lessons at primary school for many years the teachers thought I was being lazy.'

'I had once been told my ability to read would only reach that of a ten-year-old, but I was determined to achieve more.'

As a child Darcey found ways to avoid tasks that felt 'impossible' to deal with: 'If we were asked to write a story about something and illustrate it with a picture, the writing part was the most horrible challenge for me.'

'So I would work on the illustration for an



The 46-year-old dancer revealed how she used to hide in a cupboard at primary school to avoid being embarrassed in lessons and teased by her peers

hour and a half and then write three lines for the story, making sure there was 'no time' to finish it.



See more at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3184135/Darcey-Bussell-reveals-struggle-dyslexia-drove-hide-cupboards-school-escape-horrible-challenge-writing.html>

Stories for the newsletter...

Editor

Would you like a free copy of *The Gift of Learning*, by Ron Davis?

There are thousands of stories out there, not only of celebrities such as those with dyslexia who appear in our newsletters, but even more interesting ones from the many school students and adults with whom Annette has worked and many, many more about whom we have heard nothing.

We would love to hear from you. Tell us your (dyslexic) experience: at school, in the workplace, in social situations. No names are needed (or make one up!), confidentiality is respected but the sharing of your experience is what matters.

Dyslexia can be a lonely experience, you may think you are the only one having to deal with it, but the opposite is true. Please allow us to tell of your experience for others to understand.

Call or email if you have a story to tell; any stories published will gain you a free copy of Ron Davis's *The Gift of Learning*.



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of the world," Taylor said in an interview.

"When my mom saw my tears streaming down my face, she said, 'What's going on?' and she opened this letter and saw that I was being diagnosed as having dyslexia and she just said, 'Wow, this is awesome,' like, 'Congratulations, this is fantastic, and welcome to the family.'

We're all dyslexic therefore we're all going to understand each other better now... 'Welcome to the cool club' "

Simon speaks of her daughter's struggles at school.

"I remember Sally reading 'A Tree Grows in Brooklyn,' " Simon said. "She couldn't read enough pages to get the assignment...she'd cry and feel different and feel stupid."

Sally Taylor's husband, Dean Bragonier, also dyslexic, was teased mercilessly in middle

school for his painfully slow reading.

Now, he hopes to make things better for other kids with the disorder. Bragonier is swimming around Martha's Vineyard — 50 nautical miles over several weeks — to raise money for his nonprofit, called Notice Ability.



Carly Simon in West Tisbury on a recent summer day (Rachel Zimmerman/WBUR)

See more at <http://commonhealth.wbur.org/2015/08/carly-simon-dyslexia>



Remember Kiah from our June newsletter?

Here's his prize winning photo published in *The West Australian*, early November.



At Morton Bay, Kiah and his Mum, Lois, feed wild dolphins off the coast from Brisbane.



Below, Kiah, at Australia Zoo, feeds binturongs their favourite fruit and veges. Binturongs are also known as bearcats and are

native to South Asia. Well done to Kiah.

He's squeezing much out of life to make up for any struggles he has contended with in school.

