



CREATING COMMUNITY:

**ALAMEDA PARENTS SHARE
THEIR STORIES | SEPT 11, 2017**

ALAMEDA DYSLEXIA COMMUNITY

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Introductions**
- Origin of Alameda Dyslexia Community**
- Structure and Supports**
- Successes**
- Challenges and Lessons Learned**
- Moving Forward**
- Advocacy**



INTRODUCTIONS



DYSLEXIA JOURNEY
STACEY & LUCAS



DYSLEXIA JOURNEY
MARTY & RUBY



ORIGIN OF ALAMEDA DYSLEXIA COMMUNITY



CONCEPTUALIZATION OF ALAMEDA DYSLEXIA COMMUNITY

- Who are our members and what is our group's mission?

- What are the areas of improvement to be addressed?

- Where do we focus?
 - Is this for Alameda Elementary School only?
 - How broad do we go in supporting neighboring NE Portland schools?
 - The entire district at Portland Public Schools?

- What is our role in statewide policy and advocacy?



NAME & STATEMENT

Alameda Dyslexia Community is a collection of families with students from Alameda Elementary with dyslexia.

We invite other families with students with dyslexia to join us in creating this community.

We acknowledge that Alameda's one-on-one support of students with dyslexia is critically important, but that greater awareness, communication and support is needed.



VISION

Our Vision is to bring Alameda Families Together to:

- Share Information
- Offer Family & Student Support Through Our Shared Experience
- Empower, Celebrate & Create Awareness of the Learning Difference at Alameda Elementary.



STRUCTURE & SUPPORT

TO START UP

- Coordinate with Alameda Admin
- Meet with PTA
- Alameda Website
- Facebook Page

MONTHLY

- Meeting Space
- Agenda
- News Notes
- Email Contact List
- Calendar of Events

ONGOING

- Coordinate on Legislation Implementation at School & District Level
- PTA Support
- Outreach Opportunities

• Calendar of Events

• Outreach Opportunities

SUCCESSSES



- Centering and involving our community around the kids/students
- Facilitated a student led icebreaker (15 to 20-minutes) of sharing
- Connecting and mentoring families
- Community consists of 17 families now spread between two schools



THE KIDS

Prompting Questions

1. What do you want the kids in this room to know about you?
2. What do you want us as parents to know about you?
3. What do you think your greatest gift is related to your dyslexia?

“We learn different”

“More parts of my mind are a lot more active. I can imagine a lot more stuff”

“Being really creative”

“I'm really good at writing on paper and on the computer”

“Teachers say I work really hard”



CHALLENGES



- Reality is we have long way to go
- Struggle with time/capacity within our own lives
- Roadblocks at various level (school, district and State)
- Acknowledge the need and finding ways to advocate for the most vulnerable students
- A missed opportunity is not being able to dialogue with educators directly as a group



WHAT'S NEXT AT ALAMEDA?

Dyslexia Awareness Month Participation

- **Book display in the library** written by dyslexics or with dyslexic characters
- **Bulletin Board** decorated
- Encouraging attendance for **DD Oregon's Light it Up Red** event 10.15.17

Continue Family Outreach

Monitoring Dyslexia Legislation

Hosting Assistive Tech Night

Creating Connections with Other Schools

ADVOCACY AT PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Teaching & Learning

- Encouraged the April 2017 Parent Dyslexia Information Meeting
- Ongoing communications with PPS staff

PPS School Board

Advocated for PPS to proclaim October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

Monitoring the dyslexia legislation implementation Portland Public Schools

- Inclusive, equitable and transparent process of engaging families and serving students with dyslexia
- Teacher trainings
- Screening students for dyslexia (risks of)
- Support of dyslexia advisors at each school building
- Intervention and curriculum serving students with dyslexia



ADVOCACY AT THE STATE OF OREGON

Monitoring of new legislation on dyslexia at the State of Oregon

- Senate Bill 1003 (2017) – Update to timeline for screenings
- Senate Bill 221 (2017) – Educator prep programs

Testimony given in Salem in March 2017 on behalf of Alameda Dyslexia Community and PPS families with dyslexic students.



RESOURCE FOR OTHERS

Marty Stockton | martystockton@comcast.net

Stacey Katz | stacesf1990@yahoo.com



QUESTIONS?

And, many thanks!

