



## A Sincere Thank You

By Jean O'Donnell

*Today I received a "Thank You." It was the pull at your heart strings, tell the world, and shout "Halleluiah" kind of thank you! It came from a fourth grader who I've been working with since second grade. Together we have been using the Barton Reading & Spelling System to help with her struggles in reading, spelling, and writing, all symptoms associated with dyslexia.*

*Understandably, my student also had difficulty telling time on an analog clock, another trait of dyslexia. As a fourth grader, struggling with telling time was a little annoying for her. She often avoided the situation by using digital clocks and watches or asking others for the time.*

*So, together we decided to tackle this time-telling dilemma. She practiced and practiced. Not everyday was rosy, but finally there was success! At last, a clock, with those crazy little hands, numbers, and markings, made sense. It happened. She could tell time! We celebrated with high fives and smiles all around.*

*Then, with no prompting, she picked up a small board and marker and slowly, carefully, and correctly wrote "thank you." It was so heartwarming to see the joy in my student's eyes as she reached her goal and overcame this hurdle. But best of all, her "thank you" was smothered with sincere, heartfelt appreciation. Something I had not experienced from her in the past.*

*My fourth grade student was so appreciative because, for many students who may have dyslexia, every day can be a struggle in many areas including reading, spelling and writing. Known as developmental reading disorder, dyslexia is the most prevalent learning disability for kids. The International Dyslexia Association, states the occurrence of dyslexia may be 15-20% of the population, including adults. ([www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com))*

*Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, Inc. says, "Dyslexia is a neurological, inherited condition that makes it extremely difficult to read, write, and spell in your native language - despite at least average intelligence."*

*If you are concerned about your student or child, who is doing so poorly in reading and spelling, yet is bright in many other areas, there are several on-line videos at [www.susanbarton.com](http://www.susanbarton.com) and [www.dys-add.com](http://www.dys-add.com) that present dyslexia symptoms and solutions.*

*For cases of dyslexia, early intervention can help improve students' progress and greatly increase their chances to eventually spell and read at their grade level. Orton and Gillingham have developed a scientifically based multi-sensory system that presents phonics in a different way which provides children with dyslexia the chance to be successful if taught by a qualified teacher. Several Supportive Consultants at our GRACE Catholic schools are presently helping our striving dyslexic students by using the Orton-Gillingham based Wilson Reading System and the Barton Reading & Spelling System.*

*If you have concerns about a child, don't wait. Learn more about dyslexia today. Help your striving students reach their goals. They will sincerely "thank you" for it!*