



## News & Notes

**Volunteers and partnerships once again make a difference!** From our committed board of directors to our many student volunteers from schools including **Northwestern University** and **Elmhurst College**, and other professionals from organizations such as US Bank, Clausen Miller P.C., Public Allies and Chicago Semester, more than 200 hours were donated this year. Leap could not have reached as many teachers, students and families without their support. Contact us today to find out how you can lend a hand while also gaining valuable work experience and possibly class credit.

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### Publications

**Drs. John Lybolt and Kate Gottfred published two articles in the journal, *School-Based Issues*, published by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.** Visit our website to read:

- *Language Through Science: Working with Teachers to Make Every Moment a Language Moment*
- *Language for Scholars: A Communication Skills Building Program*

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### Upcoming Staff Presentations

**Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC)**

- Jan 28 | Building Phonemic Awareness
- Jan 29 | Language Through Science
- Jan 30 | Talk. Listen. Connect.



For Smarter,  
More Confident Children

**Leap Learning Systems**

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Chicago, Illinois 60603**

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WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

**Strong Communication Skills  
Help a Student Earn Visit to the White House**



*Zoë (left) and the entrepreneurship challenge winners with President Obama. White House Photo /Peter Souza*

Over the past three years Leap Learning Systems has built a fantastic working relationship with the Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). Sharing content from its Language for Scholars program, the Leap team has helped to enhance the skills of both teachers and students involved with the program.

Language for Scholars focuses on the use of Academic English while helping students learn essential, real world communication skills that are beneficial for school and the workplace. On October 16th, Chicago NFTE student Zoë Damacela, along with others, was awarded the honor of visiting the White House to meet President Obama.

Zoë, a student at Whitney M. Young High School, won 2nd place in the Oppenheimer Funds/NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. Zoë commented that the skills learned in the NFTE program, in conjunction with Language for Scholars, allowed her to "learn how to present, network and take advantage of various opportunities."

Contact Leap Learning Systems to bring **Language for Scholars** to your school, agency, or youth program.

## Leap and CPS Explore how the Response to Intervention Teaching Model will Impact Chicago Students

October 23 - Drs. Kate Gottfred and John Lybolt addressed nearly 400 Chicago Public School (CPS) speech/language pathologists (SLPs) and speech/language assistants in an introductory meeting on Response to Intervention (RTI). RTI is a multi-tiered teaching approach that identifies students in need of academic intervention, and promotes reading achievement.



Kate Gottfred



John Lybolt

Leap Learning Systems and Chicago Public Schools' (CPS) Office of Specialized Services Clinical Speech Managers teamed up to introduce the RTI model to SLPs who work in school-based settings.

RTI is a model that promotes collaborative teaching among teachers, speech/language pathologists, and other specialized school staff, a teaching approach has long been at the center of Leap's programming and in-classroom professional development training. "Working with Leap has been a tremendous help to our team," says Joshua Long, Speech Manager Central Cluster.

Dr. Gottfred explains, "We have always known that speech/language pathologists have a unique understanding of language, which is the basis of literacy, and that their skill set can benefit all students, not just those that have been labeled as disordered. Exposing all of the CPS speech/language pathologists to Leap Learning Systems' work, and helping to show them the ways they can reach all students with language and literacy enrichment programs, can take our mission to new heights."



### Quality Matters

Leap Learning Systems has built a reputation for delivering high quality programs. Our staff work side-by-side with community leaders, teachers, and parents to serve some of Chicago's most academically challenged students. We know that high quality instruction and support are proven elements to help close the education gap between children of high and low resource communities. Help us reach more students and dedicated educators.

**Donate today: \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500.**

### Ways to Give

**On-Line** - Secure, fast and easy.

**Mail** - Send a donation to the address below.

**Call us** - Call to donate with your credit card.

**Stock gifts** - Call to donate a gift in stock.

*Don't forget to inquire with your company for a matching gift!*

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## Language Through Science Now Available at the CPS Science Resource Center

Leap Learning Systems is proud to continue its partnership with Chicago Public Schools' (CPS) Science Resource Center, which is making Language Through Science (LTS) classroom kits available to CPS preschool teachers throughout the city.



*Preschoolers explore what floats during an LTS water lesson*

This partnership is a result of the program having been successfully piloted in five schools last spring. LTS kits are available for **free** and can be requested at [www.CPSScienceResourceCenter.org](http://www.CPSScienceResourceCenter.org).

"I feel that I have grown during the Language Through Science Program. It has helped me become comfortable with incorporating all of the language components in a science-based lesson," says Heather White, a teacher who has used the program.

Don't wait - kits are limited so be sure to reserve yours today! PreK teachers and principals should check the Office of Math and Science Instruction website for the next training date.

If you operate a pre-school or child care facility visit our website [www.leaplearningsystems.org](http://www.leaplearningsystems.org) for more information about LTS and other innovative early childhood programs.

**LTS was developed with support from the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, The Polk Bros. Foundation and the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation.**