

Spring 2008



News from Leap Learning Systems

## Spring Benefit Honors Education Program Officer

March 4 - Chicago Community Trust Program Officer, Peggy Mueller was presented with the **Words Are Tools Award** at the Third Annual Spring Benefit. The Words are Tools Award honors organizations or individuals who have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of education in the Chicago region; and to recognize those who promote the fundamental importance of language and literacy development in the learning process.

The support and guidance provided by Ms. Mueller and The Searle Funds at



*Peggy Mueller accepts the Words Are Tools Award at the Spring Benefit in March 2008*

The Chicago Community Trust has helped Leap Learning Systems bring high-quality programs to hundreds of

children, teachers and classrooms.

The Third Annual Spring Benefit was held at The Club at The Chicago Symphony Center, and was sponsored by American Family Insurance, Ariel Investments, CNA Foundation, Chicago Tribune and El Coqui Gifts.

Funds raised will support general programming.

Contact  
Kathy@leaplearningsystems.org  
for more information.

Visit us **online** to

- Meet our staff
- View our board
- Volunteer
- Contribute
- Learn about our programming!

[www.leaplearningsystems.org](http://www.leaplearningsystems.org)

### Upcoming Summer Programs:

- June 23 - 25 | **Collegiate Scholars program at University of Chicago**
- June 30 - July 3 | **Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation**
- July 28 - August 1 | **Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation**

Visit [leaplearningsystems.org](http://leaplearningsystems.org) to learn about **summer volunteer opportunities**.

For more information contact  
Liz@leaplearningsystems.org

## Teachers and Students Work Together to Accomplish Shared Goals

### Language for Scholars Wraps up at CICS

Teachers and students at two Chicago International Charter Schools (CICS) are communicating better - with each other and with their peers - after participating in an eight week Language for Scholars (LFS) program.

participants developed speech goals and related skills that promote mastery of Academic Business English in school and at work.

practice their speech goals, and teachers get to incorporate use and practice of their own skills during classroom instruction.

During the second semester of this school year, 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders at CICS Bucktown and 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> graders at Longwood campuses, as well as their teachers attended a series of seminars focused on improving oral and written communication skills. Through both individual and group activities,

*"I work to cultivate a culture of learning; and I tell my students that they need to be able to present themselves in an intelligent and confident manner,"* said Turon Ivy, Director of CICS Bucktown Campus.

The excitement surrounding LFS can be felt at the front and back of the classroom. Students eagerly encourage each other when it's time to

*"This program has exceeded our expectations. It grants students permission to decide how they want to be perceived,"* commented teacher Abby Scheer. *"We now have a personal connection with our students - they see we're all working towards the same goal."*



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## News and Notes

**Dr. Gottfred Featured in ASHA Leader**

The *ASHA Leader* featured a profile on Catherine H. Gottfred, Leap Learning Systems Founder & President. Dr. Gottfred is the 2008 President of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association. Visit the publications page on our website to view the article.

**Service Grant Awarded for Enhanced Website**

Leap Learning Systems has been awarded a service grant valued at \$35,000 from the **Taproot Foundation** for an enhanced website. The Taproot Foundation makes grants of professional consulting services that benefit nonprofits nationwide. Look for our new website this fall!

**Volunteer and Make a Difference**

New volunteer opportunities posted on our website. Visit our updated volunteer page to learn about ways to become actively involved.

***Building Language Throughout the Year: the Preschool Early Literacy Curriculum***

Leap Learning Systems' preschool curriculum is easily adaptable to any classroom but is best utilized when complimented with our *Language*

*Strategies* training or participation in our Vocabulary Improvement Program (VIP).

For information on these or any Leap Learning Systems professional development program, contact [Liz@leaplearningsystems.org](mailto:Liz@leaplearningsystems.org).

Order your copy of *Building Language* online today!  
Use code #AF67808 for a discount.

