

News from Leap Learning Systems

February 2009

Opening Minds - Through Language Focused Science

Leap's team of professional development coaches, led by Dr. John Lybolt and including Bev Applebaum and LaTonia Wells, shared their insights on how to help teachers create stimulating early childhood classroom environments at the Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children's (Chicago Metro AEYC) Opening Minds Conference.



Teachers participate in hands-on activity during Leap workshop at Opening Minds Conference.

Approximately 240 teachers and administrators attended the "Developing a Repertoire of Language Focused Science Based Activities" workshop, presented twice during the conference.

"This was one of the best workshops of the day! It was relevant, stimulating, knowledge packed and enjoyable," commented one participant on a feed-

back survey.

The presentation content was based largely on Leap Learning Systems' Language Through Science program (LTS), which provides Pre K and K educators with creative and proven methods for implementing language focused, hands-on science activities in their classrooms.

Opening Minds is the largest early childhood conference in the re-

gion. Chicago Metropolitan AEYC is a member-based organization that collaborates with individuals and organizations from various cultures, disciplines and generations to pioneer and promote new pathways to quality education and care for children from birth to age eight.

Visit the Presentations Page at www.leaplearningsystems.org to view "Developing a Repertoire of Language Focused Science Based Activities" and other recent publications.

Language Through Science was developed through the generous support of **The Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, The Polk Bros. Foundation** and the **Lloyd A. Fry Foundation**.

Mildred B. Huff Lending Library

Leap Learning Systems is proud to announce that we are renaming our Lending Library in honor of Mildred B. Huff (1917 - 2008).

In her career as an educator, Mildred helped hundreds of children reach their full potential. One of the country's first learning disabilities teachers and a

single mom, Mildred found time every summer to volunteer in migrant worker camps and inner city Chicago to help children learn to read. Among the many she inspired was her daughter Catherine H. Gottfred, Ph.D. who founded Leap Learning Systems in 1988 to continue helping children in underserved populations.

Leap's lending library was designed to make reading irresistible to young children and their parents by providing dozens of engaging, age-appropriate books. Since its inception the library has provided high quality books to 1,500 children in 80 classrooms.

Upcoming Presentations

Feb 14 | Illinois Speech Language and Hearing Association, *Building Communication Skills in a Classroom Setting*

March 27 | StarNet Region V, *Leap Language Techniques*

March 27-29 | Upward Bound Program - Chicago State University, *Language for Scholars Communication Workshop*

April 17 | StarNet Region V, *Leap Language Techniques*

Stay current with Leap presentations by viewing them on-line!

Invest in Education

A donation to Leap Learning Systems is an investment in the future of deserving children. Please **make a gift** today - and help us bring our cutting-edge, transformative literacy and language programs to students and teachers across Chicago and around the country.

A gift of any size truly makes a difference. Visit www.leaplearningsystems.org/donate



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News & Notes

LTS Teacher Nominated for Golden Apple

Melissa Kinyon, a preschool teacher at Legacy Charter School, was nominated for the prestigious **Golden Apple Award** for excellence in teaching in 2008. The Golden Apple Foundation, a leader in advancing the teaching profession in Illinois since 1985, works with teachers across the spectrum of their careers. Melissa has participated in Leap professional development programs since 2005. Congratulations Ms. Kinyon!



Ms. Kinyon explains an LTS lesson to one of her students

Board Member Appreciation - Thank You Mary Anne!

Long-time board member **Mary Anne Goldberg** recently retired from her role as director after serving the organization

as a volunteer since its inception.

President and Founder Kate Gottfred speaks fondly of Mary Anne's involvement; "Mary Anne Goldberg has been a backer of Leap from the beginning, not only with her fiscal generosity, but with her belief in our goals and her friendship to me personally. I know she will continue as a friend to Leap as she leaves the board. Most importantly I know Leap and all we serve will remain in her prayers!"

The board and staff at Leap collectively thank Mary Anne for her time, commitment and generosity.

Congratulations Chicago Public Schools' Arne Duncan

Congratulations to former Chicago Public Schools CEO **Arne Duncan** on his appointment as Secretary of Education!

High School and College Students - Make a Difference

Students need opportunities to gain meaningful work experiences. Volunteering with Leap is a great way to learn firsthand about working in a variety of educational settings and understanding how a small non-profit is making a huge difference in the community. Visit the **volunteer page** on our website to complete a volunteer application and view current and upcoming opportunities.