



Concepts *for* Adaptive Learning Newsletter



Spring/Summer 2014 Volume XVIII, June 2014

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Greetings!!!

Welcome to our **Spring into Summer** newsletter. It is a pleasure to say "Thank You" for your support and to share with you our approach to planting seeds of knowledge that leads to improving public school children's education in Connecticut.

Learn from yesterday, live for today, and plant seeds of knowledge for tomorrow.

Have a safe and joyous Summer!

Digital Literacy for Early Learners (DLEL), ***"A Primer for Parents"***

We start with a basic premise that "all parents want their children to be successful". The foundation for success starts with educating a child long before they enter kindergarten. Most parents understand the critical benefit of early education; yet, a significant number of disadvantaged parents do not, resulting in an achievement gap.

Unfortunately, Connecticut has one of the largest achievement gaps in the country. The gap is based on the high performance of suburban students, versus the poor performance of major urban school districts. This gap starts long before a child enters kindergarten. Why the gap you might ask? Simple... **"Parents"**. Suburban parents are more involved in the early development and education of their children, age birth to 5.

How can we help close this gap? CfAL has implemented a solution, the

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About CfAL

CfAL is a non-profit organization based in New Haven, Connecticut. Since 2003, CfAL has been serving urban communities by giving educational technology services to families and schools and improving the academic achievement and

learning outcomes of disadvantaged children attending underperforming school districts in Connecticut.

We strive to achieve this goal by integrating technology in education, and eliminating the technology gap between families that have and do not have technology in the home, one family at a time.

Mission

Our mission is to raise the academic achievement of urban public school children, leading them to succeed in school and beyond. We use the

DLEL program that educates disadvantaged parents on the importance of early education, its benefits and important tips about child development. CfAL's program focuses on educating the parent, as a child's first and most important teacher. The goal is to enhance their awareness so their children can start kindergarten with the critical skills they'll need to learn and succeed in school. The program, delivered in a 4 workshop series, combines platform instruction along with detailed instructions and discussions about use of Libraries, other resources and engaging early learner educational websites targeted for each specific age level.



Graduating parents at Fair Haven School in New Haven, CT

Parents take an online pre and post survey for each workshop, and then an assessment of their child's development and learning at ages 3, 4, and pre and post kindergarten.

Thus far, the program has been delivered in 11 schools in the New Haven Public School District, 1 in Waterbury Public Schools and will be rolled out in 2 locations in Hartford in July.

Parents can enroll by calling 203-410-3679 or sending an email to enroll@eachchildlearns.org.

We are grateful to The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, the Comcast Foundation, the Connecticut Community Foundation, Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation, the NewAlliance Foundation, and the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund for investing in this important early learner program.

Legislative Breakfast

On March 4, 2014, CfAL hosted its first annual Legislative Breakfast at the State Capital, before a group of State Senators, State Representatives and other distinguished guests.

The event gave the Concepts for Adaptive Learning's (CfAL) Board of

resources of technology to educate students, teachers and parents, as our foundation and integrated approach for attaining improved educational outcomes.

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Directors an opportunity to expose our guests to CfAL, its mission and its programs. They had a chance to hear and learn a bit about CfAL's history, mission, and our successful ten-year record of delivering innovative family and parent-centered programs. These programs were designed to close the technology and achievement gap for urban public elementary school children. We also used this opportunity to build and grow relationships with our policy makers, impress upon them the work CfAL is doing on behalf of their constituents, and become a trusted resource that they and their staff can turn to when they need information.



Pictured left to right: CfAL Board Chair *Jeff Solomon*, CfAL Executive Director *Curtis Hill*, CfAL Board Member *Carole Sklar*, Connecticut State Senator *Joe Crisco*, CfAL Board Member *Hillel Auerbach*, CfAL Board Member *Toni Harp*, CfAL Board Member *Sandy Santy*, *New Haven Public Schools Director of Wrap Around Service Susan Weisselberg*, Connecticut State Senator *Steve Cassano*, and CfAL Board Member *Dorothy Giannini-Meyers*

Learning Math After School Can Be Fun

Learning Math After School Can Be Fun is an exciting 5-week summer math program that will start on July 8th, for up to 28 students who are mainly from the Newhallville and Dixwell neighborhoods of New Haven, CT. The summer program is designed to improve the math literacy of underperforming 3rd through 5th grade students who need intervention in improving their math knowledge and skills. The goal is not only to improve their math knowledge and skills but to also improve their attitude toward math and make it fun.

Eighteen students attended morning and afternoon sessions last summer, and we are pleased that 22 students have already enrolled for the 2014 summer session. Upon graduating on August 7th, each student will be given the title "**Math Star**" and will receive a Certificate of Completion.

We are grateful to the Carolyn Foundation, First Niagara Financial Group, Pfizer, United Illuminating and Southern Connecticut Gas for investing in this important summer math intervention program.

2014 Fundraiser - "*Login for Knowledge*"

Login for Knowledge is the theme for CfAL's 2014 11th Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction Fundraiser. The fundraiser will take place on September 10th, at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven.

The evening includes **Scrumptious Food, Great Wines, Smooth Sounds, a Silent Auction, our Special Guest Speaker, Dr. Henry Lee, and Honoree, Toni Harp.**



Please join us and sample over 65 wines from over 12 premium Domestic & Imported Wineries, procured in conjunction with GRAND VIN *Fine Wine & Spirits*, while you listen to the live sounds of the Richard "Cookie" Thomas Trio.

We are delighted to let you know the distinguished guest speaker is **Dr. Henry Lee**. Dr. Lee is one of the world's foremost forensic scientists. His work has made him a landmark in modern-day forensics. He is the founder of the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science, Chief Emeritus of the Connecticut State Police, and Founder and Professor of Forensic Science at the University of New Haven, where he created the school's Forensic Sciences program. He has co-authored more than 25 textbooks, covering such areas as DNA, Fingerprints, Trace Evidence, Crime Scene Investigation and Crime scene reconstruction.

We plan to honor our recent past Board Chairperson, Toni Harp, who is now the Mayor of the great City of New Haven.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to sustain our parent computer program that trains and gives gently-used computers to more than 40 disadvantaged families living in New Haven, CT's poorest neighborhoods.

Ticket donation price is \$50.00 now, or \$55.00 at the door, which includes the best of **Anthony's** hot and cold Hors D'oeuvres.

For more information, please call **203-410-3679** or write to:
Info@eachchildlearns.org

What is the Parent Computer Program

The Technology Cascade & Training Program is the program giving computer training, a gently-used computer, and technical support to disadvantaged parents of public school students. The goals of the program are to extend learning beyond the classroom, increase parents' involvement in their children's education at home, and eliminate the technology gap that exists for disadvantaged families. Research clearly shows that the more parents are involved with their child's education, the better their children perform in school.

Latest Evaluation of Program

The May 2014 evaluation report, from an independent 3rd party, showed:

~Eighty-seven percent of the parents indicated that they had increased their involvement with their children's educational activities.

~Eighty percent of the parents/guardians indicated that their children "often" or "frequently" used the computer to complete their schoolwork.

~The great overwhelming majority of respondents (93%) agreed or strongly agreed that their children's learning motivation had been enhanced

~Eighty-five percent indicated that their children's grades were better

Since July 2003, we have given computer training and gently used computers to more than 2,800 parents, impacting the lives of nearly 8,700 people, parents and children. We can be proud of what we have been able to accomplish; yet, we also know there are many more families that need our help.

Thank you for supporting this important program that brings technology into the homes of disadvantaged families.

We are grateful to the Henry and Nancy Bartels Trust, People's United Community Foundation, the State of CT, and Connex Credit Union for investing in this important parent computer program.

Proud Parents

At CfAL, our rewards come from knowing that we are helping public school children, through their parents, improve their education and quality of life, on their path of life-long learning.



Graduating parents from a May 2014 class in Waterbury, CT



Graduating parents from a May 2014 class at Truman School in New Haven, CT

Our Supporters

The technology tsunami is sweeping across education, making it imperative to have a computer to complete homework assignments and improve the opportunity for employment and job advancement. Students will be better positioned to compete for better grades, and parents will be more knowledgeable to help their children with their education and find jobs.

Sustaining our organization and programs that strive to improve the

academic achievement of public school children has been made possible through the generosity and financial support of our donors, and our annual fundraiser. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those donors who awarded CfAL a grant since our last newsletter.

- **3M Foundation:** \$3,000 grant will be used to help us sustain our *Technology Cascade & Training Program* in the City of Meriden. The goal of the program is to enhance Meriden parents' participation in their children's education at home. Through this grant and financial support from other partners, 40 Meriden Family Zone parents will receive computer training and gently used computers.

- **Carolyn Foundation Grant Award:** \$5,400 grant for our summer math program, *Learning Math After School Can Be Fun*. This grant will be used to intervene and help improve the math literacy of underperforming 3rd through 5th grade students, attending several public schools in New Haven, CT by giving engaging math instruction to as many as 28 students.

- **Connex Credit Union Donation:** \$750 donation. CfAL was honored to be chosen to participate in its special program, COMMUNITY AT THE DROP OF A COIN. Every quarter, Connex donates fees collected from coin counting machines at various branches to non-profit organizations in the community.

During the October through December 2013 quarter, Connex collected and donated \$705 from its Hamden branch to CfAL. This donation is in support of the work our organization does to improve the education of public school children.

- **Cox Communication:** \$2,500 grant to support and sustain our *Technology Cascade & Training Program* in Meriden, CT for families with children attending elementary schools in the Meriden Family Zone. In addition to this grant, eligible families will also receive reduced price internet service from Cox Communications.

- **First Niagara Foundation Grant Award:** \$2,500 grant will be used to support CfAL's *Learning Math After School Can Be Fun* program. This grant, and financial support from other funders, in July 2014, will help improve the math literacy of underperforming 4th and 5th grade students attending elementary schools in New Haven.

- **Henry and Nancy Bartels Trust:** \$5,000 grant is to be used to sustain our *Technology Cascade & Training Program* in the City of New Haven. The goals of the program are to extend learning beyond the classroom, and to enhance New Haven parents' participation in their children's education at home.

- **People's United Community Foundation Grant:** \$4,000 grant awarded to give computer training to 30 disadvantaged families who have children attending New Haven Public Schools.

- **Pfizer, Inc, and Groton Laboratories Grant:** \$3,900 grant, in July CfAL will help improve the math literacy of up to 28 underperforming 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students by supporting our summer program, *Learning Math After School Can Be Fun*.

- **UIL Holdings Corporation Grant Award:** \$1,000 grant, and financial support from other funders, will be used to support CfAL's *Learning Math After School Can Be Fun* program.

CfAL is very thankful to all funders for helping to improve the education and quality of life of the many children attending public schools in the communities.

Newest Board Member

We are pleased to let you know Damaris Garcia has recently been appointed to the CfAL Board of Directors.

Although Ms. Garcia's background is predominantly financial services, an industry she has worked in for more than 22 years, she is keenly aware of the importance of children's education. Her strong interests in helping children improve their education ties directly to CfAL's mission.

Ms. Garcia brings a wealth of leadership experience to the organization, and will be helpful in shaping CfAL's future and achieving its mission.

She is currently the Vice President and Branch Manager for Liberty Bank in New Haven, CT.

We are delighted to have Ms. Garcia as a member of our Board of Directors.

Your Support Makes a Difference

Our capacity to serve and help improve public school children's education is made possible through our many volunteers and donations from businesses, foundations and generous people such as you. Please support our programs by visiting our website and clicking on the menu item "[Make a Donation](#)", or by sending a check to:

CfAL
4 Science Park, Suite A
New Haven, CT 06511

We thank you for reading our newsletter and for your current and on-going support!