

LEF *report*

EDUCATE | ENRICH | EMPOWER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ March 23, 2019
Retro Dodgeball Tournament with Two Old Dads, Litchfield High School, proceeds benefiting LEF.
- ★ April 6, 2019
Minds in Motion Enrichment Workshops in collaboration with CT Association for the Gifted, Litchfield High School.

LEADERS NEEDED

LEF is seeking instructors and team captains to lead students in the following competitions:

- *CT Invention Convention*
- *Odyssey of the Mind*
- *Global Problem Solvers*
- *World Series of Innovation*

Compensation is provided. Reach out to BOD@lefforstudents.org to learn more.



Educate + Enrich = Empower

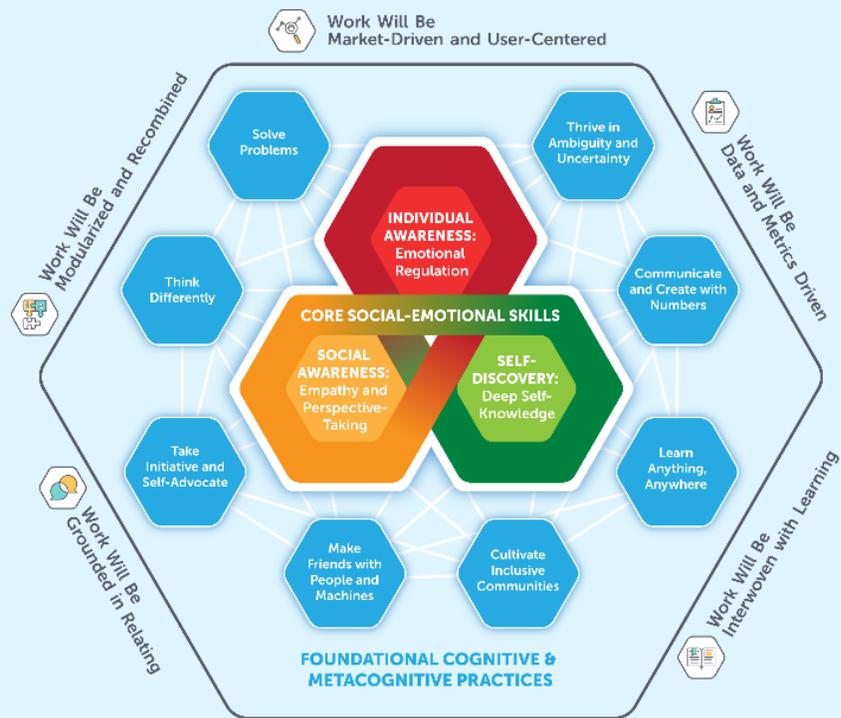
What Skills Do You Use Everyday?

Though you likely have industry-specific skills that come to mind for your job, you probably also said things like, communicating with different audiences, the ability to solve problems, the ability to think critically and learning from mistakes. Perhaps you considered use of technology, the ability to negotiate, taking initiative, flexibility, or the capacity to relate to and work well with others among the skills upon which you most often rely. What do all of these skills have in common? **They are portable.**

Regardless of our industry, role, or how long we serve within it, these skills are those we take with us and transfer across every facet of our lives. Today's students are tomorrow's citizenry and workforce.

[Some research](#) predicts today's kindergarteners will have as many as

A New Foundation for Readiness



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LEF IN ACTION

In the fall of 2018, LEF held its first annual Bonfire Bash fundraiser. The silent auction featured community service projects led by area children.



The students of **Litchfield Montessori School** created hand-painted clay ornaments, strung them with beads and decorated a lighted three-foot tree which was delivered to the residents at Brandywine Assisted Living Center in December. The tree has brought such pleasure to the residents that they have redecorated it for additional holidays!



Fifth grade students at **Litchfield Interm. School** collected books to donate to Waterbury Reads, a group that provides increased access to books. Thank you for your work and donations!

What Skills Do You Use Everyday?

17 jobs in five different industries. The exact number of jobs and industries is far less important, however, than the skills and competencies students will need to navigate successful lives as citizens and professionals. There is [broad consensus](#) that skills like adaptability, lifelong learning, collaboration, empathy, critical thinking and communication are chief among those essential portable skills.

Enrichment changes the context for learning. LEF supports programs and initiatives which provide access, leverage community expertise, and connect children to experiences where they can grow knowledge and understanding, practice a variety of portable skills, and execute on both as agents of change in their communities and the world.

In the past, enrichment has gotten a bad rap as something only available to those who excel and/or who have the means to provide something extra.

At LEF, we are working to change the narrative around enrichment. Everyone should have access to enrichment opportunities, because everyone needs these portable skills to ensure a healthy, empathetic, and successful citizenry and workforce.

Curious about opportunities for your child? Have a portable skill you want to share or an idea about how to connect our children to new opportunities? Please reach out: BOD@lefforstudents.org.

SPELLING BEE - CONGRATS JACKSON BATES!

An ambitious group of Litchfield Intermediate School students enjoyed an exciting 30-Round Spelling Bee hosted at the Litchfield Community Center.

Thirteen students ultimately faced off in an exciting Bee that culminated in crowning Jackson Bates (5th) the champion! The winning word was HEXAMETER. Elsa Gianfagna (6th) was a VERY CLOSE runner-up. Sara Peterson was the 4th grade winner. Kathy Pickle from Oliver Wolcott Library played the role of pronouncer, and Dr. Michael Pascento, Litchfield Intermediate School principal, was on hand as a judge. Sarah Worden, a parent and board member, represented LEF in organizing the club and the Bee.

All the kids showed what amazing spellers they are, many of them making it past several rounds of the Bee. Even more impressive was how composed and professional each participant was, respecting the official rules of the Bee, and cheering on fellow classmates. The Spelling Bee was made possible by a grant from LEF.



Partner Spotlight:

TWO OLD DADS

Retro Dodgeball Tournament
March 23rd

Three years ago, the founders of TWO OLD DADS (Matt Terzian and Jay Bolton) brainstormed an idea that was to transform the way our Litchfield area community enjoyed the cold, dreary days of late winter: A dodgeball tourney to shake off the blues!

With the “3rd Annual Retro Dodgeball Tournament” coming up on March 23, the event has become an iconic day for our community. With about 20 teams, 20 business sponsors and 300+ spectators, TWO OLD DADS’ vision for a day of epic fun and fierce competition has grown into a successful community event.

Not only is the “Retro Dodgeball Tournament” a way to bring together friends, neighbors, area businesses, teachers and parents alike, it has also become an opportunity for TWO OLD DADS to support the area children by donating the proceeds from the day’s event to Litchfield Education Foundation. Last year, LEF was the proud recipient of \$12,000!

LEF is very grateful to TWO OLD DADS: “A small, but growing, organization that provides opportunities for fathers to give back to their community; they take fundraising seriously, but not themselves”. Not only are they the masterminds behind the Retro Dodgeball Tourney, but are also dedicated local fathers with a passion for seeing our community grow.

Feeling inspired? It’s not too late to register your own dodgeball team! Visit www.LEFforStudents.org for details. Spectators are welcome on-site to cheer on the grueling competition, participate in the silent auction, and enjoy refreshments. Donations are always welcome, but not obligatory. Learn more about TWO OLD DADS: Contact: Matt Terzian at bearsmouth@att.net.



CONGRATULATIONS

LEF would like to congratulate our local public schools for their achievement in being recognized as “Schools of Distinction” in the CT Dept. of Education Next Generation Accountability System for 2017-2018. The set of 12 indicators helps tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life. The system moves beyond test scores and graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multi-factor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time.

- **Litchfield Center School** - High Performance and Great Improvement
- **Litchfield Intermediate School** - High Growth (High Needs Students) - ELA
- **Litchfield High School** - High Performance
- **Goshen Center School** - High Performance and High Growth (All Students) - ELA & Math and High Growth (High Needs Students) - ELA & Math



LITCHFIELD BANCORP SPONSORS BIZ/ENTREPRENEURSHIP PATHWAY

Litchfield Bancorp has partnered with LEF to bring business and entrepreneurship programs to area students! Thanks to Litchfield Bancorp’s generosity, LEF will work to source robust learning opportunities so that kids have the tools they need to become tomorrow’s business leaders.

In 2018, LEF undertook an education and enrichment landscape analysis and stakeholder survey that evaluated skills needed for academic and job success as well as current program development and availability. Following that process, LEF determined to focus efforts around five primary areas called Pathways: Business & Entrepreneurship, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), Multiculturalism, Civics & Debate and Literacy. LEF is seeking partnerships with the business community along with experts, donors and educators to design, execute and evaluate hi-impact opportunities for students in these areas. Email BOD@lefforstudents.org to learn more.



Minds in Motion Interactive Workshops Coming in April

LEF and the Connecticut Association for the Gifted Join Forces

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| | <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 6th 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Litchfield High School</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshops for K-8 students ▪ Speakers for parents & educators ▪ Vendors for all |
|--|--|---|

30+ Interactive Workshops for Children Ages 5-14

- ❑ Free adult program – We welcome all adult members of our community regardless of whether you have children attending!
- ❑ Free literature, resources, networking opportunities!
- ❑ Exhibitors, camps, enrichment providers, educational games and more!

The Science of Fire

Space Matters

Squid Dissection

Going Buggy

Ballet

Peak Leader

Intro to French

Shark Tank

Creating Your Why-sumé

Adventures in 3D Printing

Drum Circle

Debate

Washington’s Spies

Wildlife For the Win

AND SO MUCH MORE!

[Click here to Register](#)

Please email julieafoss@gmail.com with questions.

