SUMMER fun at CDSA

Summer is an important time for students—research has proven that children lose academic skills when school isn’t in session. Our teachers and staff have been working hard this summer to provide enriching and fun learning opportunities for our students.

Our preschool students receive the same fun and educational programming during the summer that they do the rest of the year, with the addition of the Leap Ahead summer program for preschoolers who will enter kindergarten in the fall. Leap Ahead helps successfully transition preschoolers to kindergarten and has continued to expand, thanks in part to a generous grant from the Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation (see back cover for more on Leap Ahead).

Students in our school-age summer program have great full-day enrichment activities. They’ve gone on field trips to museums, the zoo, the aquarium, beaches and parks; conducted science experiments; gardened; made music and art; played sports and more! CDSA kids are learning and preventing summer learning loss while having fun through hands-on, experiential learning.

Read highlights from our summer programs inside!

One highlight from the start of summer was an award presentation to a United Way volunteer who read stories to our preschoolers throughout the year.

Thank you to the Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation for their grant of $10,000 to support our Leap Ahead program.

Thank you to United Way of King County for their grant of $137,500 to support our preschool and school-age programs.

Save the Date!

We’re hosting an Open House on Wednesday, November 5th at our Leschi site (135 32nd Ave) from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

To learn more about CDSA or to donate, please go to www.communitydayschool.org.
A Note from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear CDSA Families, Friends and Supporters,

It’s hard to believe that summer is almost over! We’ve been delighted to be able to provide our children with a fun and engaging experience this summer. Children have explored their communities and the best of what it has to offer, discovered science through engaging experiments, connected with their peers in new ways and were exposed to the arts. We believe in offering summer camp students the opportunity to lead their own learning and have a voice in curriculum development, while also incorporating the best of traditional summer camp experiences. Activities included music exploration with the Seattle Symphony, math and science workshops with the Pacific Science Center, visit to the Center for Wooden Boats and much more!

We know that that summer can be an incredibly important time to stem summer learning loss as well as a crucial opportunity to help children with important transitions such as the one into kindergarten. This summer our Leap Ahead program served 76 preschoolers. Leap Ahead is a program to help children entering kindergarten in the fall transition successfully. We are so honored to be a part of this important time in a child and family’s life.

We’re also excited to announce that we’ve begun the process of redefining ourselves as an organization. In just a few years, we’ll hit our milestone of 40 years of service in the Seattle community and we believe that now is the right time to pause and look at ourselves through a fresh lens. Between now and early next year, we’ll be taking steps as a community to refine our mission, vision and values and to review our messaging to our stakeholders about what we do, who we are and how we serve our community. What does this mean for our children, families and partners? Our quality core services will not change; only the way we talk about CDSA and our work. Also, there will be opportunities for parents, staff and other community stakeholders to provide input during the rebrand. Please stay tuned for more information in the coming months as we move through this process!

CDSA has been privileged to have such strong supporters in the community that have allowed us to keep providing the services we do. We wholeheartedly believe in collaboration and know that our children are better and stronger because of it. In the spirit of appreciation, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our community partners, donors, and CDSA advocates. Because of your commitment and dedication, we’ve been able to offer quality services for over 37 years. Thank you!

All the best,

Brianna Jackson, Executive Director

Arianna (not her real name) is the product of a difficult home — her parents are in and out of the criminal justice system and her home life is chaotic. As a result, she acted out in class and was frequently in trouble during the school day for stealing, lying, and other disruptive behaviors. When she began at CDSA, she was resistant to our rules and often struggled with the structure of the program. Fast forward a few months and she has been doing much better in school thanks to the structure of our program and the attention and positive support of our teachers. Arianna comes to CDSA 5 minutes early to be our “helper” (helping teachers set up snacks, pick up, put out supplies for afternoon enrichment activities, etc.) and loves to have the ownership of this for our program—she is generally happier, friendlier, more engaged, and has made a lot of positive friendships during her time with us. She is doing much better in school and completes her homework regularly. Arianna is always excited for the fun enrichment activities we plan and she is always disappointed to leave CDSA at the end of the day. It’s been a pleasure to see her grow and thrive while in our care!
Madrona students have been hard at work this summer taking care of the Madrona K-8 school garden. The school asked for our help during the summer to make sure that the garden thrived. Our students have done a great job with this responsibility and have eagerly watered and weeded the garden! Madrona has also incorporated the garden into the summer curriculum with lessons on gardening, healthy eating, and farm-to-table.

Our Beacon Hill Preschool and School-Age students went on a field trip to Soundbridge at the Seattle Symphony. They learned about music and were able to experiment with different instruments and sounds.

Hawthorne students enjoyed a visit from Mad Science, which is an organization that teaches kids science in a fun and innovative way. Our students made Lego cars powered by air from balloons.

Ms. Eriko is a former teacher at Highland Park who still regularly volunteers. She gave our School-Age Highland Park students some Japanese lessons including basic phrases and how to write their names in Japanese!

Kimball students have enjoyed weekly science lessons this summer including learning about the body through a partnership with the Pacific Science Center. So far, students have explored real eyeballs and pig lungs. They were able to see a real pig lung in action as educators from the Center pumped air into the lungs, simulating how a lung moves inside human bodies.

Leschi’s School-Age program had a blast during their “Sim City” camp. Not only did the children plan and build their own cities out of cardboard and other materials, but they also attended the Seattle Underground Tour in Pioneer Square. This unique field trip piqued interest in the history of our city which our teachers incorporated into lessons. The children then gave each other tours of their cities and compared/contrasted the projects.
An update on **LEAP AHEAD**

We’ve had a great summer in our Leap Ahead program, which helps preschoolers who will enter kindergarten in the fall successfully transition to elementary school. Last year’s Leap Ahead program was a pilot project, and we’ve taken what we learned and used it to make this year’s program even better. We designed the day to mimic a typical school day; children have had a chance to get to know the school building and Seattle Public Schools staff along with age-appropriate summer activities and field trips, kindergarten classroom tours, mid-day quiet reading time instead of nap-time, and a designated group of peers for behavioral and academic growth. We’re serving an average of 76 students per week for the 10-week program and have been able to provide 14 full and partial scholarships to Leap Ahead students whose families could not afford tuition, thanks to a grant from the Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation. We’ve incorporated Second Step into Leap Ahead this year in partnership with Seattle-King County Public Health. Second Step is a socio-emotional curriculum designed to help kids develop the self-regulation and executive-function skills that help children learn, manage their feelings, make friends, and solve problems—all skills that children need to do well in kindergarten and beyond!

**REGISTER for The 2014-2015 School Year!**

We’re currently accepting registrations for preschool and before/after-school enrichment for the 2014-2015 school year.

- High-quality programs
- Flexible drop-off and pickup times from 7am - 6pm
- Experienced teachers with specialized training
- We accept DSHS and City of Seattle vouchers

Registration forms are available at www.communitydayschool.org, or call (206) 726-7972.