CDSA NEWSLETTER
4th Quarter 2014

Fall at CDSA

CDSA students have enjoyed the transition back to school, and have had a busy fall so far! Children have been hard at work learning, playing, and growing.

Students have taken part in a large variety of activities including field trips to the pumpkin patch, art projects, and visits from the UW Science Explorers. They’ve learned about a broad range of topics including space, the jungle, nutrition, and more! You can read more about fall activities inside.

As many of you know, we’re in the process of a rebrand. In just a few years we’ll celebrate our 40th anniversary, so now is the perfect time to take a closer look at our organization including who we are and where we want to go. Key stakeholders including parents, staff, and community partners have given their input through surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Now we’re using that information to help us refine our mission and vision. Stay tuned for more updates!

CDSA is pleased to see that quality education continues to be a topic of local and national importance. In the last election, Seattleites voted to fund a program to expand access to quality preschool. We’re excited to see what this program will mean to our families and our agency!

To learn more about CDSA or to donate, please go to www.communitydayschool.org.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook!

CDSA programs are funded in part by:

Thank you to the Tulalip Tribes for their generous grant of $5,000 for general operating support.

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A Note from the Executive Director

It’s hard to believe that we’re already several months into a new school year! The fall is such a wonderful time for new adventures and exciting transitions. We’ve seen our graduating preschoolers venture into kindergarten with confidence and our school-age children make new positive connections within their school community. Every school year is a new cycle of exploration, discovery and growth. It’s also another opportunity to ensure that children are able to reach their fullest potential with the support of their family, school and CDSA. We’re proud of the strides we have made this quarter to advocate for early education, continually improve the quality of our programs, and collaborate with our partners.

This fall has been an exciting one for education in Seattle. Voters passed Prop 1B, which implements a high-quality preschool program that will serve 4,000 students by 2019. I’m proud to be in a city that cares so much about the health, well-being and future of our children. We look forward to working with the City and Seattle Public Schools as they roll out this program.

Last year three of our sites were accepted into the Early Learning Academy, a City effort to increase the quality of early learning programs. Our other three sites will begin their journey in the Academy early next year. By taking part in this process, our teachers receive intensive early learning and HighScope curriculum training to improve the quality of our programs. Six of our teachers have finished the coursework and are in the process of becoming HighScope-certified educators. Additionally, in October one of our employees graduated from the Training the Trainer program and became a certified HighScope Trainer who can provide coaching to other teachers. We’re proud of our teachers’ commitment to expanding their knowledge and skills.

CDSA has continued to learn from being a part the Youth Program Quality Initiative. We’ve seen continual growth in our program quality assessments and continue to work to be better that we were before. With the support of incredible partners including School’s Out Washington and City of Seattle, our before and after school programs continue to provide quality enrichment that improves academic, social and emotional outcomes for children.

The future of Seattle’s children and CDSA is bright. This year promises to bring the forging of new partnerships, reform in our field, taking quality to new heights and investment in families. CDSA feels privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of making a difference and is thankful to all those who are alongside us in such important work.

With best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year,

Brianna Jackson, Executive Director

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SAVE the DATE!

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on donations and grants to help offset the costs of our programs, ensure that we can keep our rates low and affordable for our families, and provide our programs to lower-income families who would not otherwise be able to afford them. To help with this, we’re launching a fundraising luncheon to support our programs. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 31st at the Westin in Downtown Seattle. Registration is at 11:30 am and the luncheon is from 12 pm-1 pm.

If you’d like to get involved, host a table, or become a sponsor of our luncheon, please contact Rehana Lanewala at (206) 726-7972 or rehana@communitydayschool.org. See you in March!
United Way of King County hosted their annual Day of Caring event on Friday, September 19th. Day of Caring is a community-wide volunteer event which matches volunteers with nonprofits in need of help. This past year, 11,800 volunteers worked on 533 projects throughout King County. These volunteers completed 57,328 hours of work valued at $1.5 million! It was truly inspiring to see the generosity of people in our community.

During Day of Caring, we had some wonderful volunteers from Microsoft, who came to our Highland Park site and worked on our preschool outdoor space. They built planter boxes, planted veggies and herbs for our preschoolers to garden, painted fun murals, built benches, made an outdoor music wall, and more. Our kids and teachers were so excited, and the space looks great! Thank you Microsoft - your team worked so hard and went above and beyond! Thanks to you, our preschoolers have a great space where they can play, garden, and learn. And a special thank you to Fonté Coffee Roasters, which donated coffee to keep us fueled throughout the day.

As part of our partnership with Beacon Hill International School (BHIS), CDSA staff donated 70 hours of childcare to the school so that they could hold evening parent education. During the fall, the school held a series of parent education workshops 3 nights per week for 4 weeks. These classes were held in Spanish, Mandarin and English, and both CDSA and non-CDSA families attended. CDSA teachers provided a safe and fun space for students while their parents attended the classes.

Preschool students at Hawthorne had a series of lessons this fall on apples. They learned how apples grow, read stories about apples, and took a trip to the grocery store to buy apples to make a pie.

Both the school age and preschoolers at Highland Park had a fun Halloween celebration. They decorated pumpkins donated by Metropolitan Market with paint, glitter glue, and fun decorations like googly eyes. The preschoolers also cut open a pumpkin and roasted the seeds. Students had a party and everyone took home a goodie bag containing Halloween toys including spooky spiders, bracelets, and bouncy balls.

Kimball and Sanislo school age students held their Fall Fest family celebrations, complete with pumpkin launching from a catapult! Parents, students, and teachers had the chance to launch pumpkins donated by MacPherson’s Fruit & Produce and see how high and how far they could launch the pumpkins. Thank you, MacPherson’s!

Students at Madrona did a tinfoil sculpture activity and then turned it into a team effort to build a pirate ship and then test it for buoyancy. We were excited to see the students take the lead on this project, work so well together, and create their own science experiment around buoyancy!

Madrona, Leschi, and Beacon Hill preschoolers took a trip to the pumpkin patch with their teachers and some of the parents. They had a great time touring the farm, went on a hayride, fed the farm animals, and learned about the pioneer days. The preschoolers were able to put what they learned about pioneers into practice by grinding up corn into meal using rocks.
Maple school age students had a fun and exciting Game Show Week. Throughout the week, students played Jeopardy!, which covered 4 categories based on topics that students studied during the year: Books, Sports & Games, Space, and Animals; $25,000 Pyramid, with categories based based on the school (e.g., things you might find in the gym); Wheel of Fortune - complete with a real wheel to spin; and Family Feud. Students had such a good time that teachers are planning on doing another Game Show Week later in the year!

Montlake and Kimball school age students are taking part in the Youth Advocates for Health program which is sponsored by 4-H. In this program, teenagers receive training to teach younger kids about food and nutrition as well as being active. The teens are great role models for our students during the weekly program and do fun activities with them. For example, recently the students looked at food labels to see how much sugar was in common grocery items and then measured out that amount using real sugar so they could see exactly how much sugar they were eating. Students were shocked to see how much sugar is added to things they commonly eat.

Sanislo hosted their presidential elections to coincide with the national elections. Students wrote about why they wanted to run for CDSA president or vice president, made campaign posters, and gave a speech to the rest of the class about why students should vote for them. Then the entire class voted. Our newly-elected President and Vice President will help choose learning activities throughout the year!

Although schools may close for Winter Break, CDSA will still be open!

Seattle Public Schools will be closed for Winter Break from December 22nd - January 2nd, so CDSA is offering full-day (7am - 6pm) programming for elementary age students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in fun educational enrichment activities as well as art, sports, games, and fun field trips.

Don’t forget to register early- spaces fill up quickly! Talk to your Center Director to sign your child up.

Please note that during Winter Break, CDSA will be closed on December 24th-25th and December 31st-January 1st.

Plus there are still spaces open at some of our sites! Contact your Center Director for more information or to register.

Reminder: CDSA follows the Seattle Public Schools schedule for hazardous weather; this means if Seattle Public Schools are closed, CDSA will be closed as well. If the Seattle Public Schools open one or two hours late, CDSA will follow the same schedule.