CDSA Happenings

It’s been a busy winter at CDSA! While our children have been learning and growing, our staff have also been hard at work teaching, attending trainings to deepen their teaching practices, and serving in the community.

Our Executive Director, Brianna Jackson, was appointed to the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Seattle Preschool Program, which was created by the passage of Prop 1B in last November’s election. Along with the other members, she worked on recommendations of how community values and concerns can be best integrated into the implementation plan.

The first group of preschool teachers went through HighScope training through the City of Seattle’s Early Learning Academy last year. This year, the remaining teachers are going through this process. They’ll learn best practices and new techniques to bring into the classroom.

If you haven’t already seen it, our 2013-2014 Annual Report was released in January. Check it out on our website!

We’re excited to take part in The Seattle Foundation’s GiveBIG event again this year. GiveBIG will be held on Tuesday, May 5th and is a one-day, online charitable giving event. All donations made to CDSA through The Seattle Foundation’s website on May 5th will be partially matched. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months!

Winter highlights from the sites are inside!

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:

Live United

Save the Date for Give Big! May 5th, 2015
CDSA has ushered in the New Year looking forward to new possibilities while also facing ever-increasing challenges for the communities we serve.

The equity gap continues to grow wider every day, which signals that more and more children are being left behind. Every day, children and families are met with barriers that continue to prevent them from accessing all the opportunities they deserve. CDSA has made a commitment to address the equity issues that our families encounter in our community.

Only 24% of low-income children in our region attend a high-quality preschool; and according to the Road Map Project, the opportunity gap is already present in kindergarten: 35% of low-income kids meet age-level expectations at the start of kindergarten, compared to 45% of their higher-income peers. These statistics worsen as children progress through their school careers. We’re committed to improving these statistics and ensuring that ALL kids start school on a level playing field and continue to succeed and thrive once in school.

We know that many of our families have significant barriers to accessing all the opportunities they need and deserve. We address these issues not only with our high-quality early learning and before/after school programs, but also by connecting families to resources that help address their needs beyond our walls.

In March, we’ll be hosting our first Annual Fundraising Luncheon to showcase who we are, what we do, and the difference we make. This will be an opportunity to hear from CDSA families, friends and partners, as well as help us raise funds and awareness about CDSA and the importance of early education and before & after school enrichment programming. I hope you’ll join us!

Investments in early learning and youth development are gaining more and more attention from government leaders in Washington State, King County, and the City of Seattle. We look forward to working with our community partners to ensure that the momentum on these issues continues.

With spring approaching, I reflect on what it means to be a part of an organization that has its roots planted in the idea that all children have the right to have access to all of the opportunities their communities have to offer. I’m looking forward to leading CDSA and partnering with our many supporters in this effort.
CDSA helps build children’s skills in a fun and nurturing environment across a broad category of skills. Here are some of the projects we did this winter:

**ENVIRONMENT**
CDSA is going green! Our teachers have incorporated fun projects about the environment to teach our children about nature, conservation, science, and our role in the ecosystem. This winter, Hawthorne students did a service learning project for the community in partnership with the Audubon Society. They helped clear invasive species from Seward Park. Leschi students took a trip to the Volunteer Park Conservatory where they learned about the different plants and the greenhouse. These field trips allowed our students to learn about habitats, invasive species, conservation and restoration, as well as the value of community service and volunteering.

**ARTS**
We bring art into our programs not only to develop creative expression and an appreciation of the arts, but also to teach our children about other subjects. Here are a few highlights from this winter:

Beacon Hill preschoolers went on a field trip to see the gingerbread houses and ride the downtown carousel. When they returned, they built gingerbread houses and drew pictures of carousel horses. This helps students develop creative expression and fine motor skills.

Maple preschool students did a fun project where they traced their hands and added details (nails, wrinkles, moles, and more). This project helped strengthen fine motor skills, develop artistic expression, learn about the body, and strengthen friendships while having fun!

Kimball students worked on symmetry by taking half a picture or image and using their own creativity to draw the other half. In addition to engaging students’ creativity, this project helped them develop skills in spatial recognition, math, geometry, dimensions, and drawing.

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**Help support CDSA programs at our Fundraising Luncheon!**

Please join us at the Westin Hotel (1900 5th Ave. in Seattle) on Tuesday, March 31st.

Registration: 11:30am
Luncheon Program: 12pm-1pm

Emcee: Enrique Cerna, KCTS 9
Keynote: Dr. Stephan Blanford, Seattle School Board

Minimum Suggested Donation: $150

Register at www.communitydayschool.org or contact Rehana Lanewala at (206) 726-7972

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**Winter FUN at the Sites**
COMMUNITY

Local firefighters paid a visit to our preschoolers at Highland Park! The students got to hear the siren up close and toured the fire engine. It was a great chance to learn about first responders and become comfortable with the people who help in an emergency. They also learned about safety.

Leading up to the Super Bowl, Sanislo students were decked out in Seahawks gear and took part in Seahawk-centric projects: they made game predictions (in favor of the Seahawks, of course!), played finger football on a table-top football field, and created their own team names and logos. These projects developed community engagement, critical thinking and prediction skills, math skills through guessing games, and art/fine motor skills. Students at Montlake also celebrated the Super Bowl in style by attending the Burke Museum’s Seahawks pep rally! This trip helped teach students about Native culture and art (did you know that the Seahawks logo was based in NW Art?).

DEVELOPING SKILLS

One of the things that makes the research-based HighScope preschool curriculum unique is that it’s child-directed with strategic teacher support, so that children can develop critical thinking, decision-making, and reasoning skills. Kids learn best when they can make decisions (Planning Time), implement those decisions (Work Time), and then reflect on their decisions (Recall Time). Teachers at Madrona came up with a fun way to do Recall Time. Using a TV screen prop created by our teachers, each child held the TV around their face and reported “The News” about what happened during Work Time.

Don’t Forget to REGISTER for SUMMER!

Join the FUN!

At CDSA summer camps, our campers build skills, make new friends and explore the city through fun and engaging learning adventures.

• Preschool Summer Camp (Ages 3-4)
• Leap Ahead (Entering Kindergarten)
• School Age Summer Camp (Entering Grades 1-6)

Visit www.communitydayschool.org for more information or call us at 206-726-7972. Some of our programs do fill early so register today!

Preschool • Leap Ahead • School Age

Get Your Taxes Done... For FREE!

Take advantage of United Way’s Free Tax Preparation services! Neighborhood sites are open from Jan. 13-April 18, 2015.

Tax help is available in your neighborhood and in your language from IRS-certified volunteers. They’ll help you get all the credits you qualify for and file your return electronically, so you’ll get your refund fast. The best news: No appointment needed and no fees to pay. Go to www.uwkc.org for more information or to find locations near you.