



launch
Learn. Grow. Inspire.

newsletter

Second Quarter 2016

CDSA is now Launch!

We've been talking about our rebrand for over a year now, and it's finally here! CDSA is now Launch. We hope you're as excited as we are for this next chapter.

Our new look pays homage to our past as a grassroots organization, while reflecting our updated mission statement and values. Our new mission is: Lead the charge to brilliant outcomes for the children of our community by ensuring equitable access to the highest quality learning and care.

While we do have a new name and look, nothing about our programs has changed. Our children still have the same great experiences and nurturing teachers they have always had.

Thank you to everyone who shared their input with us during this process! And if you haven't already, check out our new website!

● visit launchlearning.org

In This Issue

- CDSA is now Launch!
- A note from the Executive Director
- 2016 Luncheon
- We want to hear from you!
- What's happening at the sites
- Register for Summer!



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Launch



A Note from the Executive Director

We are now Launch! I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone for their excitement and support of this new chapter for Launch. 2017 is our 40th Anniversary, and we're excited to have this new brand as we look forward to the next 40 years!

As many of you know, there have been news headlines about capacity management at Seattle Public Schools (SPS). SPS is under a mandate to reduce class sizes while dealing with increased enrollment. They're forced to balance these priorities with the incredible need for on-site before and after school programs within the schools. As long-time partners of SPS, it's been challenging to see the work of community-based providers separated from the conversation of K-12 education. We all know that none of us can do it alone and research has shown that when communities work together children do better.



However, I'm encouraged by the outpouring of support from our families and our SPS partners. Like us, they're committed to working with us to develop solutions that are in the best interest of the children we all serve. We're confident that we'll be able to reach a solution that preserves the before & after care on which so many families depend.

In this time of uncertainty for school-based providers, we want to emphasize now more than ever, our commitment to our mission: Lead the charge to brilliant outcomes for the children of our community by ensuring equitable access to the highest quality learning and care.

Brianna Jackson
Executive Director

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Spring Peeps Contest!

Spring is here, so it was time for our annual peeps contest. Students at Hawthorne, Leschi and Sanislo used their imaginations to create fantastical creations including a peeps jungle safari and a peeps version of the Seahawks complete with spectators!

Our Executive Director Brianna Jackson had the difficult task of choosing a winner at each location. We love seeing the creativity of our children!

Through this activity, our children took initiative to plan and lead! Some of our children even made the contest into a science experiment where they tried to see what liquids make peeps dissolve!

Launch Fundraising Luncheon Raises Over \$37,500!

On March 23rd, 175 guests joined us at our annual fundraising luncheon at The Westin in downtown Seattle. Guests enjoyed inspirational speakers including keynote speaker David Lewis from Seattle Public Schools, who spoke about some of the challenges students face;

former Launch student Torben, who shared his experiences as a student; and parent and teacher Karma Sawka, who talked about the difference that Launch makes. And Maple preschoolers did a wonderful musical performance!

Thank you to everyone who

attended and supported this event!

And a special thank you to our sponsors: School's Out Washington, Inn at the Market, Pacific Continental Bank, Savage Color, and Mr. Santos Creations. We appreciate you!

What's Happening at Launch

Maple school age students created a blueprint of their dream house - some of the students have big dreams and included fun things like a candy shop, a mall, and a pet room in their dream homes! Then using their blueprints, they constructed a 3D model of their homes. This project helped them develop math skills including measuring.



Madrona preschool students recently celebrated the Indian holiday of Holi. One of our families is of Indian descent, and they brought saris and other traditional clothing and colorful vegetable-based powdered dyes to share with the class. Preschoolers also got to learn Bollywood dancing!

Madrona school age students designed their own superheroes and gave back to the community by doing a Be The Hero food drive. They collected and delivered food for the Cherry Street Food Bank. It's very inspiring to see our students becoming superheroes by giving back to the community!



Kimball and Sanislo school age students took part in a fun project during spring break. Maya, a resident artist at the EMP, taught hip hop dance to our students who then performed live at the EMP!

Hawthorne school age students are learning sign language. They've gotten so good that they were able to sing Happy Birthday to their teacher! They've also created clubs including music club, chess club, art club, and kickball club.

Our **Leschi** school age students created their own government complete with President, Vice President, Sheriff, and Councilmembers! They create rules and schedules for the classroom. Not only are they learning about government, but they're also developing leadership and learning how to share their unique voices.

Students at **Highland Park** have been doing fun art projects with Mr. Riley's aunt, who is an artist who has generously volunteered her time to teach our students. Projects have included using pastels, making

paper from recycled materials, and baking bread.

Highland Park preschoolers are learning about science and botany. They visited a park, picked chestnuts and planted them!

Beacon Hil students did a STEM week during spring break and did lots of science experiments. They also visited the Pacific Science Center to see the IMAX movie Tiny Giants, which is all about small animals and insects.

Montlake school age students took part in a month-long Jedi Academy. In Jedi Academy, they focused on social emotional skills. They did yoga, meditation, and learned the Way of the Jedi (compassion, personal responsibility, and self-restraint). Then the kids showed off their new skills through games and competition. There even were appearances by Boba Fett, Darth Vader and Kylo Ren!



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We want to hear from you!

- We have some amazing volunteers, so we're interested in creating a more formalized Volunteer Program. We want your input! What skills do you have? What kinds of volunteer experiences do you want to have? How would you like to support our work?
- Contact rehana.lanewala@launchlearning.org with suggestions or comments.



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Register for Summer!

Join the fun! At Launch summer camps, children build skills, make friends, and explore the city through fun and engaging learning adventures. They'll learn by doing through hands-on activities and field trips.

This summer, we're offering programs for children ages 3-12, including preschool, school age summer camp, and Leap Ahead. Leap Ahead is a program specially designed to successfully transition children from preschool to kindergarten.

To register, go to
www.launchlearning.org.

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