



launch
Learn. Grow. Inspire.

newsletter

Third Quarter 2016

Thank You!

We shared with you earlier this year the sad news that two of our preschool programs were closing due to space constraints within Seattle Public Schools.

You leapt to our aid - calling principals, speaking before the School Board and writing letters, and making donations to support our work. Thank you for standing up for the idea that all children deserve a quality educational experience!

Now we have good news to share! Thanks in large part to your support,

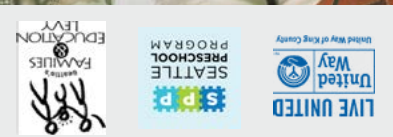
we've found a temporary solution and have new homes for our programs.

One preschool classroom will be at Rainier Community Center. We're also opening a second classroom at Madrona K-8, in addition to our existing preschool classroom there.

While these are temporary solutions for the next year or two, we're relieved that we'll be able to serve our children and families while we find permanent space in the community. Thank you for helping make this happen!

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Launch



A Note from our Board President

Launch Executive Director Brianna Jackson is away on maternity leave until September, so for this newsletter I'm taking over her column in her absence.

Sadly, I'm at the end of my tenure on the Launch Board of Directors. I have personal and professional commitments taking me back to my hometown of Spokane, so after nearly 4 years on the board, I'm saying goodbye to Launch.

It's been a true pleasure serving on the board of such a great organization! When I first got involved with Launch, I didn't know very much about it or why what they do is so incredibly important. As I got more and more involved, I was incredibly impressed. I'm so proud of and inspired by the work that we do.

It may sound like an exaggeration, but the work that we do every day at Launch quite literally changes

lives. Access to education truly does make a difference by helping children develop both the skills they need to be successful and a lifelong love of learning.



It's been a privilege to serve on the board during a period of such growth. From selecting a new Executive Director, to undergoing a rebrand, completing a strategic plan, joining the Seattle Preschool Program, and more, it's been an exciting time to be a part of Launch. I can't wait to see what you do in the next four years!

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this work. Launch will always have a supporter in Spokane!

Jennifer Crofoot
President, Board of Directors

● visit launchlearning.org

Translation Services Available!

At Launch, we serve children from many different backgrounds - almost a quarter of our families speak languages other than English at home.

We want to make our programs as accessible as we can for our families, since we know kids do better in school when their families are involved in their educations. One of the ways in which we engage our families is by providing translation services whenever possible.

31 Launch staff members are multilingual and volunteer to act as a translator for family conferences or to translate written materials where needed. This is just one way we're trying to make our programs more accessible to our families.

Our staff speak a total of 17 languages including Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Japanese. If you or a family you know would feel more comfortable speaking in a language other than English, please contact your program director to see if we can arrange translation services for you!



What's Happening at Launch

A number of our programs (**Beacon Hill, Hawthorne, Madrona, Kimball, and Leschi**) went to Dance This!, a showcase that brings together performers from diverse communities for collaboration and to share their culture through dance. Our students got to watch Korean, Ukrainian, Hip Hop, African, and Mexican Folklore dance.



Kimball students got to take a breaking and funk dance class with Flow Francisco, a member of the world-renowned hip hop dance group Massive Monkees (and he works in the Launch Admin Office!). Since the weekly theme was “A Galaxy Far Far Away” they practiced roboting and pretended to be droids while dancing.

Madrona students took a trip to the Beacon Food Forest and learned about what grows there and they also got to taste new fruits and vegetables. They spend a lot of time in the Madrona garden where they’ve harvested kale and swiss chard. Some of the students also made their own ice cream from real vanilla beans!

Montlake school age students had a fun afternoon with Coding with Kids. They created their own video games - they were able to make a simple chase game including choosing their own characters!

Beacon Hill and Maple school age students had a fun field day! Students competed in capture the flag, relay races, kickball games, and so much more! Our kids got to exercise while making friends and developing sportsmanship.

Beacon Hill 1st & 2nd graders took a trip to Mt. Baker Beach! They took a beach walk and got to go swimming. There were children who’d never been in water before so it was a really fun experience!

Leschi had a visit from the Washington Middle School jazz band who did a music workshop with our school age students. The middle schoolers taught our children basic beats and

rhythms, how to write music, how to make notes, and what it sounds like when you put it all together together. Parents gathered and listened to our kids play with the middle schoolers.

During one week, **Hawthorne** had a theme of “Amazing and Afraid” which was based on reality TV shows like the Amazing Race. They played games including a blindfolded obstacle course where the children had to talk their blindfolded partners through the obstacle course! During “Amazing and Afraid” week they also went on a tour of Seattle’s Underground, and had a visit from the Reptile Guy, who brought all kinds of fun reptiles.

Sanislo school age students are having weekly visits this summer with staff from the Seattle Public Library. They do arts and crafts including science-based projects. And at the end of each visit, each child is given their own book to keep!

We also held a Family Day at the Olympic Sculpture Park. We enjoyed fun in the sun and an amazing view. There were activities for our families including learning about bonsai trees and making indigo paintings. We had the chance to create a flag that’s now on display at the Sculpture park!

● visit [launchlearning.org](https://www.launchlearning.org)



Join the Launch Board of Directors!

Want to make a difference in children’s lives? We’re looking for applicants to serve on our Board of Directors! Anyone is welcome to apply, and we’re especially interested in people with fundraising, finance, legal, or HR experience. We’d also love to have the family member of a Launch student on our board. If interested, contact Executive Director Brianna Jackson at brianna.jackson@launchlearning.org!



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Fall Registration Is Open!

Make the most of your child's before and after school time!

Launch provides programs for kids from 7am until school begins and then again from the dismissal bell until 6pm.

Kids have fun with their friends, get homework help, have time for exercise, and take part in engaging enrichment activities that reinforce concepts learned during the school day!

Some of our programs fill early, so register today at www.launchlearning.org.

Meet Board Member Mercy Daramola

Our newest board member, Mercy Daramola, comes to us with lots of experience working with high school and college students.

Originally from Los Angeles, she completed her undergraduate studies in California before heading to NYU for a Master's in Higher Education.

Mercy's spent much of her career working in college Residential Life before starting her current job at College Access Now (CAN), where she works to support college students and ensure they

have the resources they need to be successful.

The daughter of Nigerian immigrants, Mercy loves working with underserved groups because "I wanted to work with students who represented my background-students of color or lower-income."

She wanted to serve on Launch's board because we do similar work as CAN; just earlier in a student's academic career. She says, "the programming that Launch does is really important because it helps

students be successful long-term."

When she's not working with students, Mercy loves to read and spend time outdoors. She's heavily involved in her church community in Burien. She's also working hard to complete her bucket list, which includes spending a day on a boat and immersing herself in all that Seattle has to offer. Welcome to the board, Mercy!

