



launch
Learn. Grow. Inspire.

newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2016

New Preschool Site Opened!

In October we opened a new preschool site at Rainier Community Center (RCC). This is our first program ever located outside of Seattle Public Schools!

When we lost our preschool space at Hawthorne Elementary, we looked for alternative spaces so we could continue serving the Hawthorne community. Thankfully we were able to partner with RCC and the Seattle Parks Department to lease preschool space from them. Rainier Community

Center is only a few blocks away from Hawthorne Elementary so we're able to continue serving children who will one day enter kindergarten there, providing important continuity between preschool and elementary school.

RCC has been very welcoming to our preschoolers, families, and teachers and we're grateful to be a part of their community!

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Launch



A Note from our Executive Director

The divisiveness of the recent presidential election has the potential to push us further apart, but at Launch we're doubling down on the things that bring us together: respect, inclusion and community. We want to make it clear that we strongly support equity and believe that all children deserve an opportunity for a quality education.



We want our families to know that our programs are a safe place for their children to be who they are and explore who they will be, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, or any other factor. We want to encourage our children to challenge the world around them and work to make it better.

Here at Launch, we know that the children we serve are a product of their environment and to understand how to meet their needs, we have to understand the context of the world in which they live. We live in a time when addressing equity gaps are

more important than ever.

The children in our programs will be the future leaders in our communities, schools, and government. Launch offers children a space where education is not limited to ABCs and 123s, but includes the critical social emotional learning that will broaden a child's understanding of the world around them and deepen their respect for themselves and others.

Children need skills like empathy, compassion, resilience, determination, and self-confidence to overcome the hurdles and barriers that they will confront in their adult lives. These are the skills that will ensure long-term success.

Best,

Brianna Jackson
Executive Director

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Sanislo Holds Election!

Every year, Launch at Sanislo holds an election for its Student President. It's a great way to get our students engaged in the political process and develop leadership skills.

This year we held a presidential debate where the younger students listened as candidates shared what they would accomplish as president. One candidate shared that she was running for president "so everyone can have a better Launch and have their ideas and opinions heard."

The students had a variety of plans if they won including going on more cool field trips, more time on computers, more fun activities, and better snacks.

Kyliah won the election and says that she'll give a warm welcome to new students and work to bring back hamburger soup for snack.

Meet New Board Member Sharene Nelson!

Sharene Nelson is a CPA with 10 years of experience in accounting and finance. She started her career at the accounting firm Ernst & Young before transitioning to industry. She's currently the Corporate Controller & Treasurer for Port Blakely, a family owned forestry company committed to sustainability and stewardship.

Sharene says, "I'm passionate

about Launch's mission of providing equitable access to high quality child care. We've seen economic inequality grow in the US over the past several decades, and I believe greater inequality makes our society a less stable, compassionate, and enjoyable place to be. Providing all children with high quality education is a front line defense against increasing inequality."

Originally from Texas, Sharene considers Seattle her adopted home. She spends her free time reading, biking, and getting out into the beautiful PNW outdoors!



What's Happening at Launch

Sanislo has a different school age student every week as the waste management manager. The child helps with recycling in the program, gets to wear a fancy orange vest, and has their photo on the wall for the week.

Rainier Community Center (RCC) preschoolers celebrated Fall! They collected leaves and then used them to make leaf prints and collages.

Beacon Hill & Highland Park preschoolers attended Global Party, which is a performance celebrating cultural and contemporary dance and music. There were Mexican Folklore, Traditional Chinese, Step, Bulgarian Folklore, Traditional Irish, Japanese Taiko, and Hip Hop dancers.

Kimball school agers learned there was a house fire in a low-income housing development in West Seattle. Kimball students wanted to help, so they wrote letters to the affected kids to find out if they needed toys or school supplies. Kimball families collected items including clothing and donated them to the families. This was a great chance to talk with our children about supporting others.

Leschi preschoolers have monthly visits from the Woodland Park Zoo. A teacher from the Zoo brings exhibits, including fossils and bones, and teaches our children

about science and the environment. One time she even brought snakes and rodents for our students to see!

Montlake school agers took part in some fall activities including baking cinnamon-sugar apple bites, a skeleton scavenger hunt, a fall-themed

Minute to Win It game, and Glow in the Dark Ring Toss. Students also created Robotics, Spa, Cooking, Pokemon, Harry Potter and Dodgeball clubs.

Beacon Hill hosted a Thanksgiving dinner with their families. Launch provided the turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, and our families brought side dishes. It was great to have our families come together to share and get to know one another!

Hawthorne school age students have created Music, Art, Games, and Sign Language clubs. Our students bring in cellos, violins, guitars, and amps and have jam sessions.

The **Madrona** school age program created a new club that emerged when students saw teachers writing in

cursive and wondered about it. Our teacher realized that their curiosity was because many kids don't learn cursive writing in school anymore. They began a club teaching the "lost art" of cursive handwriting that has been popular with our kids!

Highland Park school age students had Retro Game Week over Thanksgiving break. They went to the arcade and ice cream shop, played Human Hungry Hungry Hippos, Life-Size Kerplunk, and had a roller skating party!

School age students at **Maple** are doing math, science, and language arts activities. Students had the opportunity to make fun math crafts, including tessellations, and explored how colors work by creating a spinning color wheel.

All of our **preschoolers** took a field trip to the pumpkin patch. Each child got to take a pumpkin home, went on a train ride, and visited farm animals.

In November our families attended **Family Day** at the Seattle Art Museum. This event was all about fashion in honor of the Yves Saint Laurent exhibit, and there were fun activities including a photoshoot, runway show, and stations where children could make headbands, drape clothing on a mannequin, and create their own pins to wear!

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Save the Date for the Launch Luncheon on March 14, 2017!

Our annual fundraising luncheon is coming up and this year we're celebrating 40 years! Make sure to save the date and keep an eye out for more information about this great celebration early next year.



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Family Day at MoPOP!

Thanks to a partnership with the Museum of Pop Culture (formerly EMP), 250 of our children, families, and staff attended Launch Family Day at MoPOP on December 10th. Families got to visit the exhibits and enjoy snacks and friends!

We had a great time at MoPOP. Many of the exhibits were interactive so our children could play instruments, create music, use a green screen to put themselves into a Star Trek episode, and so much more!

Highlights of the day were the hip hop dance and body movement workshops that MoPOP provided. Thank you to MoPOP for such a great day!

National Convening on Early Learning

Our Executive Director, Brianna Jackson, was invited to be a part of Seattle's team at the National Convening on Early Education, held in November in Dallas.

Funded by The Dallas Foundation and Boston Consulting Group, the convening brought together groups from 19 cities across the U.S. to talk about early learning and share their experiences working towards creating quality programming in their own cities. The intent was also to drive impact by learning from other cities about successes and

challenges.

Seattle's 8-member team included people from City of Seattle and King County government, Seattle Public Schools, nonprofits, and the Seattle Foundation.

Brianna said, "It was really great to meet other cities and share what's working in Seattle and what our challenges are, and learn from others how they tackle those challenges.



We got ideas about funding and different services we could provide. I came home really inspired by what's going on nationally, and excited about what we can do to make the Seattle Preschool Program even better!"