



launch

Learn. Grow. Inspire.

newsletter

First Quarter 2018

New preschool opening in Delridge in September!

Launch is growing! We're excited to announce that we were selected to open a new Seattle Preschool Program location in September at Delridge Community Center, in partnership with the Seattle Preschool Program and Seattle Parks & Recreation.

Once the Delridge classroom and all 4 Miller Annex classrooms open in September, we'll serve a total of almost 200 preschoolers across all of our locations!

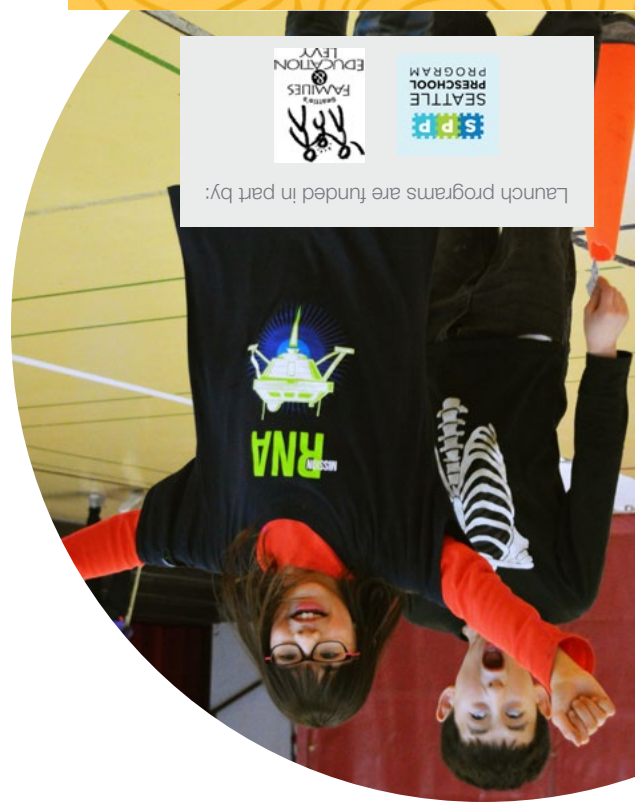
Delridge is an underserved community with a high need for quality, affordable preschool. This new location will help even more children get ready for kindergarten and make preschool more accessible for families thanks to the Seattle Preschool Program's sliding scale tuition.

We can't wait for September to meet our new preschoolers!

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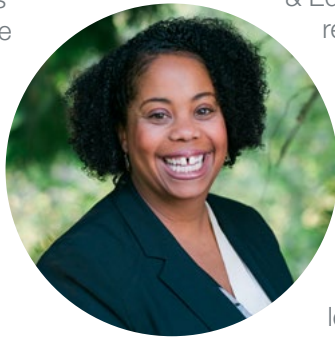
5950 6th Avenue S, Suite 109
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Launch



A Note from the Executive Director

Here we are several months into 2018, and there is so much being discussed on the local and state levels that could heavily impact our children and families. Launch has always believed it's our responsibility to use our platform to speak up about issues that are or will affect our children. Now is the time for us as a community to use our voices collectively to speak up on behalf of our children and their future.



On the local level, Seattle's new mayor is looking at expanding access to higher education for local high schoolers. The Seattle Preschool Program and the Families & Education Levy are up for renewal on the November ballot. These initiatives fund critical programs that support children and families and widen access to services for children. We hope voters recognize the importance of these levies and vote to continue them.

At last month's Legislative session in Olympia, there were discussions about a range of topics that support children and families including the expansion of programs like ECEAP, funding for expanding learning opportunities, and funding of healthcare for children. Launch encourages everyone to speak to their legislators and urges policymakers to listen to the voices of their communities. How can policy reflect accurately the needs of those the policy is supposed to serve and protect without those voices?

It's more important now than ever to let our lawmakers know what we value and what we want to see protected, funded, expanded and paid attention to. The time to act is now. When we think about the future we want to live in and the future we want our children to thrive in, it has to include the actions we will take today to create a better tomorrow.

Brianna Jackson
Executive Director

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Lunch for Launch raises over \$60,000!

Last month 200 guests joined us for our annual Lunch for Launch fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors, we raised over \$60,000 to support our work!

The event was co-emceed by Launch staffer Angel Williams and student Ezra. Former Launch student Jamaya shared why she liked Launch, and board member Daley Vertiz shared his personal story about why Launch is important to him.

A highlight was a powerful keynote by Paola Maranan (*pictured*) from Children's Alliance. She said: "All children are our children, and all our children will play a role in our future. By using the power of transformative love to build equity-focused policies and systems, we can create a better future for them — and for the country's prosperity."

Thank you to everyone who attended or made a donation! You truly make a difference for our children and families!

A Visit From Horizon House

Recently some special guests from Horizon House, a local retirement community, visited our Madrona preschool. A group of residents donated a set of hand-made wooden toys that they made in the Horizon House woodshop, including blocks, puzzles, animals, trains and cars.

Our preschoolers got to meet our guests and talk and play with the wooden toys together. When we asked one child which of the donated toys was his favorite, he told us "All of them!" Madrona children and teachers presented our guests with a framed picture of the children playing with the toys

and signed by our preschoolers, which is now on display at Horizon House. Thank you to Frank, Ingrid, Joan and the rest of the wonderful folks at Horizon House for your generosity and support!

(Photo on page 3)

What's Happening at Launch

Hawthorne students had a super fun afternoon with rockets! The children built rockets out of cardboard paper towel rolls, tissue paper, glue, stickers, jewels, popsicle sticks, construction paper, and lots and lots of tape! Then they took the rockets outside and watched each rocket launch into the air using two different kinds of vinegars and baking soda.



after examining current ones from around the world, and discussed how we all can contribute to a peaceful world. This included crafting an "I Have a Dream" cloud mobile where students thought of and wrote down a personal dream, a Launch/school dream, and a world dream.

Highland Park completed an in-depth anti-bullying

project. Partnering with Highland Park Elementary, our Launch program created posters for the whole school. After a month-long challenge, students were rewarded by throwing pie at three of their teachers! Their next big project is to start a Reading Buddies program.

Sanislo students were captivated by leprechauns this spring, so Launch children spent a week creating their own leprechaun traps (*pictured at right*). Using candy, gold coins, or gems, students tried to lure a leprechaun into giving them treats. Even though no leprechauns were caught this year, the children were still excited to see what the leprechauns left behind.

Montlake students are practicing their conflict resolution skills, guiding one another in problem-solving. Older students, called Junior Teachers or Peer Mentors,

have been mentoring the younger students and learning what it means to be responsible leaders.

Madrona preschoolers are learning all about feelings, kindness, supporting friends, and helping others. As part of these lessons, they hosted a cultural day where Launch families were invited to come celebrate their cultures through song, dance, language, and art. School-age Madrona students have been focusing on science projects, such as creating tornados in bottles and making pizza from scratch.

Beacon Hill school-age students enjoyed eating delicious bahn mi sandwiches that they cooked themselves! The oldest students did research for Black History Month, which culminated in them presenting what they discovered to our youngest students. And our preschool students love mail, so they created a post office in the classroom complete with mailboxes and official Launch stamps. Program Director Joanna makes sure to deliver packages and mail regularly to them!



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

Rainier Community Center preschoolers have been making many different found art creations. Teachers made a "creation station" filled with different materials such as paper towel tubes, empty boxes, cardboard, pipe cleaners etc., which helps show how creative they can be with everyday things many people consider garbage.

Maple students wrote poems about what peace means to them, designed their own peace symbols



Save the Date for GiveBIG!

GiveBIG will be held on Wednesday, May 9th. This one-day online giving campaign raises funds for local nonprofits. This is the last GiveBIG ever, so make sure you join in and support Launch! You can make your donation at givebigseattle.org/launch. Can't take part on May 9th? You can preschedule your donation to Launch beginning April 26th.



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Sign up for Summer!

Summer is a fun time at Launch! Our campers spend the summer exploring the city through weekly field trips, learning about topics that excite them, and receiving the same high-quality care and support that Launch provides year round. Kids enjoy art, sports, science, music, free choice, and so much more!

We offer school-age summer camps as well as preschool and Leap Ahead, our kindergarten transition program for children who start kindergarten in the fall.

To learn more or to register your child, go to launchlearning.org.

Meet our Board Vice President, Daley Vertiz

After moving to Seattle, Daley Vertiz joined the Launch Board of Directors in 2017. He's originally from San Diego and grew up about 10 minutes from the Mexican-US border. He was raised with four siblings by a single mother who immigrated from Mexico City at age 15, and credits much of his work ethic to this cultural background. Daley originally heard about Launch while looking to serve the communities whose experiences mirror his own.

While Daley was able to attend the University of California in Berkley to study Business Administration (and minor in Education!), he recognizes that many community members from his home did not have access to the educational pathways which lead to college. Now, as a Product Manager for Amazon, Daley is determined to address the cycles that create a lack of diversity in professional fields - especially technology.

"Latinxs are some of the most technologically adept, but [underrepresented] as builders of that technology." By serving on Launch's Board, he hopes to better connect all historically underserved populations to the educational resources they deserve and shrink both the opportunity gap and the digital divide.

In his free time, Daley uses his knowledge and skills to participate in Startup Weekends, which are weekend-long efforts to create new, innovative businesses with input from different members of the community. He also watches football, plays intermural volleyball, and spends time with his 4-year-old pug (who he can bring to Amazon every day!)"

