



launch
Learn. Grow. Inspire.

newsletter

First Quarter 2019

New Year, New Preschool

Launch's newest preschool officially opened its doors on February 14th at Delridge Community Center in West Seattle. This preschool was opened in partnership with the Seattle Preschool Program and Seattle Parks & Recreation, and increases the number of preschoolers we can serve agency-wide to 200. We already have 7 children attending Delridge, with more enrolling every day.

Program Director Melissa Swarner

says "We're so excited to learn new things in our new classroom! Using the Highscope Curriculum, our children will learn self-help skills, social problem-solving, and use open-ended materials to explore their new environment."


We're enjoying getting to know our Delridge families and are looking forward to helping their children get ready for kindergarten!

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A Note from the Executive Director

After some of the warmest winter weather ever recorded in Seattle, winter came back with a vengeance! While the snow was beautiful, the icy roads forced schools and businesses to close. Seattle Public Schools and Launch were closed for 5 days in the beginning of February. We don't make the decision to close our programs lightly, because we know families depend on us to support, nurture, and teach their children while they're at work or school.

The snow closures made me think a lot about the ways in which organizations like Launch support working families. As a working mom myself, I'm not sure what I would do if I couldn't rely on my son's preschool or my daughter's after school program.

A major weather event like the one we just experienced is a good

reminder of how vital programs like Launch are. It's critical that we ensure working families have access to services like high-quality preschool, after school, and summer programs, and that there's adequate funding and support for childcare.



I've been in this field for 20 years, and when I became a parent the impact of what Launch does for families became even more real. There are countless programs in our city and state that show up for our families in incredible ways, and because of them, parents like me can work and provide for their families knowing their children are safe and cared for.

Brianna Jackson
Executive Director

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LUNCH for LAUNCH

annual fundraiser

March 15, 2019

Our annual fundraiser will be held on **Friday, March 15, 2019 at 12pm** at the Seattle Westin. This fun, inspiring event raises money for our work to support families in our community by providing equitable access to preschool, after school, and summer programs.

This year the keynote speaker will be Seattle Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, who has dedicated her career to making sure no one in Seattle is left out or left behind. Her top priority is ensuring that our city is livable for all of us, including working families.

If you'd like to get involved, there are many options! You can register to attend the luncheon, host a table, become a sponsor, or volunteer! To learn more, please visit launchlearning.org.

Think Summer!

The snow has finally melted, which means it's time to get ready for summer camp! Launch is open all summer long for preschoolers, school-agers, and rising kindergartners. Every week of camp has a different theme (like Under the Sea or Messy, Gross, Fun Science)

so kids can discover new ideas and interests by exploring music and art, sports, science, the outdoors, and more! Campers will have ample time to play outside every day, as well as relax and recharge with a book. We also go on weekly field trips all over Seattle to supplement the fun and

learning.

This summer, we're offering programs at Beacon Hill, Hawthorne, Highland Park, Leschi, Maple, and Miller Community Center. For more information about summer or to register, visit launchlearning.org.

What's Happening at Launch

Hawthorne 4th and 5th graders have been adding the finishing touches to their larger-than-life mood meter. The younger kids have been working with their new teacher Mr. Jesse to make comic strips and "Minecraft" self-portraits.

Kimball students planned a gender reveal party for their teacher, Biftu, who is expecting a baby this spring (the decor ended up blue!) They also hosted their annual parent breakfast.

Madrona preschoolers went on a field trip to the Children's Museum at the Seattle Center! They also had a classroom visit from some of their class's parents, who talked about their jobs and careers. School-agers have been busy with nature-themed art projects, like paper plate flowers, handprint trees, and lemon volcanos.

Montlake school-agers learned about the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. After reading his "I Have A Dream" speech, they wrote about their own dreams and shared them. Teachers have also been leading a variety of STEAM activities, like building and decorating rafts from popsicle sticks to see how much weight they will support.

Beacon Hill preschoolers have been doing fun projects to celebrate Lunar New Year. They loved making handmade zodiac dials and figuring out which animals represent them! School-age kids have been doing some cool art projects, including decorating thank you cards for the Launch luncheon.

Maple kids have been feeling inspired by Mr. Dylan's guitar. They have sing-alongs while he plays requests. Some of the 2nd and 3rd graders have started writing lyrics and choreographing dances to the music. Their teachers are excited to see their creativity and love of music!

Rainier Community Center preschoolers have been learning numbers. In small groups they've practiced writing digits in sand, and are even helping their teachers with attendance and headcounts!

Sanislo students wrote letters to their future selves and put them in a time capsule! In five years, they'll get to look back on how far they've come. This is Sanislo's seventh set of time capsules so far. They also have a guest who comes from United Way each Tuesday to lead a cooking club. So far they've made no-bake granola bars, fruit salad, beet soup, and even pho.

Highland Park school-age kids have become obsessed with hot glue guns! It started with making centerpieces for our fundraising luncheon in March, and now they're making homemade lamps, towers, and superheroes. To stay active in the last cold weeks of winter, our students now have a soccer club, thanks to a volunteer coach from Seattle United!

Leschi students have been all about creating games lately. They've been drawing chalk mazes on the blacktop and DIY-ing jigsaw puzzles. In preparation for Valentine's Day, they also made cards and ornament necklaces.

Miller Annex preschoolers went on a walking field trip to the Safeway on Madison and 23rd in the Central District. The assistant manager of the store gave them a special tour! The kids got to see the giant mixer and big ovens in the bakery and how the florists prepare flowers and balloons. At the deli they ate samples of sushi. On their way out, they bought fruit to make smoothies back at school.

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Have A Heart for Kids Day 2019

On February 7th, some of Launch's staff went to Olympia with Children's Alliance for Have a Heart for Kids Day. This annual event includes a rally on the steps of the Capitol, and meetings with legislators to advocate for policies and funding that support children and families such as high-quality early learning and medical care. Thank you to Children's Alliance for fighting for our kids!



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Spring Break Care

Did you know that Launch offers full-day programs for kids during Spring Break? When Seattle Schools are closed for breaks or in-service days, Launch is open! Breaks are a great opportunity for us to work on art activities or science projects with our kids. Because we have the whole day together, we often get to take the kids out on field trips. While our families are at work or school, they get the comfort of knowing their children are well-cared for and having fun!

Questions? Want to register your child for break care? Please talk to your site program director or go to launchlearning.org.

Meet a New Board Member, Ronald Law!

Ron joined the Launch Board of Directors at the end of last summer. A corporate lawyer at Davis Wright Tremaine, he also has a background in business. Originally from Hong-Kong, his family moved to Vancouver, B.C. when he was eight years old. Ron went to law school in Los Angeles and practiced there for a decade. Two and a half years ago he moved to Seattle to be closer to his family in the Pacific Northwest.

Last year, Ron was invited by a colleague to attend Lunch for Launch and was moved by the experience to get to know Launch better. "Everyone on the board and in the organization seems very passionate about it," he says. He had been looking for opportunities to volunteer and take part in the Seattle community, and an education nonprofit seemed like a natural

choice to him, because "having a 10-month-old daughter changes your perspective."

Ron is excited to bring his legal and business acumen to the table by helping Launch increase both its accessibility and its financial strength. He hopes also to boost the visibility of Launch in the Seattle community. "When people think of educational nonprofits, I want Launch to be the first thing that comes to mind."

In his free time, Ron loves to hang out with his daughter Olivia. He can also sometimes be seen playing a game of pick-up basketball!

