



launch

newsletter

Second Quarter 2019

Summer Camp Planning Is In Full Swing!

Summer Camp starts on July 8th, and our teachers have spent all spring planning and preparing. Because our teachers plan activities and field trips based on the interests of the kids in their program and their own expertise, each site puts their own unique spin on the weekly themes.

This summer, our camps will be stacked with engaging activities. We'll have special guest visitors from the Humane Society's MaxMobile, a petting zoo, Reptile Man, and breakdancers. We're also planning field trips to neighborhood

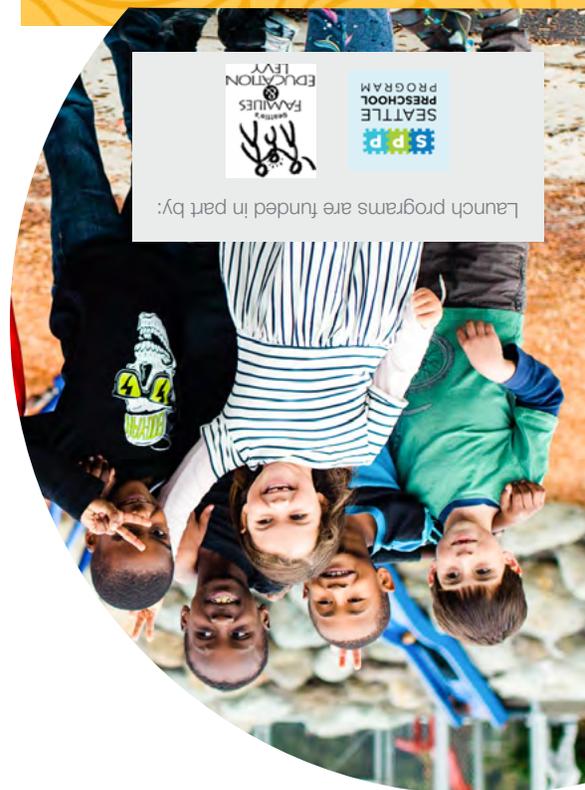
splash parks, DANCE This, a Seattle Storm game, the beach, the aquarium, the zoo, and so much more.

Our weekly themes were crafted to inspire and foster fascination with the natural world, the Seattle community, and the potential for growth and creativity within each child. With programming that features animals, dancing, sports, art, and science, we know there will be something to excite and engage every kid.

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Launch



A Note from the Executive Director

Springtime is here and brings with it new beginnings, fresh outlooks and vitamin D! Here at Launch it has been an incredible season for us. In March, we hosted our 5th annual fundraising luncheon with much success. I want to thank all of Launch's partners, families, friends and supporters for helping us not only surpass our goal, but more importantly, show up for families.



As we move into summer, showing up for children and families is at the core of our mission. Summertime should be full of wonder and discovery, but we know that not every child has the opportunity to embrace what can make childhood magical. We want to be that space where that "magic" is encouraged and fostered.

Our amazing teachers have spent all year planning and

creating summer experiences that will connect learning with joy. Weekly themes like "Outdoor Explorers" and "Messy, Gross, Fun Science" will encourage children to broaden their world view and may spark a new passion.

Programs like Launch support the community with quality care that is essential to help families thrive. We are proud to be a part of that work now and for the past 42 years!

"Every summer, like the roses, childhood returns."

-Marty Rubin

Brianna Jackson
Executive Director

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Congratulations Ms. Sharail!

Ms. Sharail has been a preschool teacher at Launch for many years and went back to school a couple of years ago to complete her degree. In June she graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education from North Seattle College.

Sharail was asked to speak at NSC's graduation fair and gave an incredibly inspiring speech encouraging her fellow graduates to believe in themselves and keep chasing their dreams. She said:

"This degree that I have is not just for me. It's for every single child that I've ever taught. It's for every single family that I've ever encountered. It's for my grandma. It's for all the people I've encountered in my life who haven't been able to take this step. I'm doing it for me and I'm doing it for them."

Congratulations Ms. Sharail!
We are so proud of you!

LayRoots Hosts Guardianship Seminar for Launch Families & Staff

LayRoots, a local law firm that helps businesses and individuals plan for the future and avoid risk, generously hosted a free guardianship workshop in April for Launch families and staff. We learned about the 7 Must-Do's when naming guardians for your children and explored the necessity of pre-planning for unforeseen

circumstances to ensure that a family's wishes for their children are followed in the event of a significant life event such as medical issues, death, etc.

It can be scary and daunting to consider not being here to take care of our children, however LayRoots

stressed the importance of planning for guardianship so that we can have peace of mind. Thank you LayRoots for offering such an important service to our families and staff!

For more information, please visit www.layroots.com

What's Happening at Launch

Hawthorne kids have been busy playing kickball and tetherball in the sunshine. They've also been making their own crowns!

Kimball students celebrated spring break by learning about conservation and environmentalism! A former Launch student (now a Girl Scout working towards completing her Silver Award) came and shared info about bees, how they benefit us, and the dangers of colony collapse.

Madrona preschoolers and school-agers hosted spring-themed family engagement events, including egg-hunting, games, and of course, lots of food. The preschoolers have also been nurturing their own sunflowers, which they recently planted in the community garden.

Montlake students have been learning a lot about baking and cooking! Ms. Y'ves taught them how to make tortillas, and the 1st graders baked chocolate chip cookies from scratch and the 2nd graders made vegan cupcakes!

Beacon Hill school-agers have been making kites to fly on the playground during the blustery

spring weather. The preschool classrooms have been growing sunflowers from seeds and recently took a trip to the Seattle Aquarium.

Maple students became biologists over spring break! Ms. Katie led them in an observational study of flamingo behavior using the same method that zoo keepers use to determine if animals are acting out of the ordinary. The staff and kids have also recently acquired a new friend: Atilla the betta fish! Atilla is scarlet and cerulean and likes everybody (don't let his big frown fool you).

Rainier Community Center has been preparing for preschool graduation! As they get ready for the next big steps in their lives, the kids are also talking about friendship and making bracelets to commemorate their time together.

Sanislo is having a very scientific spring! Students raised caterpillars and enjoyed observing caterpillars as they went through the many stages of becoming a butterfly. They were released at the beginning of June! 2nd-5th graders in Mr. Rodney's class learned principles of pressure and reaction when they built recycled bottle rockets.

Highland Park preschoolers are preparing for graduation by working on letter recognition and practicing some new dance moves! School-agers have been taking walks to a nearby park and playing baseball. When they're back in their classrooms, they're focused on writing and drawing their own original comic books!

Leschi students have taken over the Little Leschi Garden right outside the Launch office. They cleaned up the space and are growing fruits and vegetables that they water every day! Once they're ready to harvest, the kids will be able to take them home.

Miller Annex recently celebrated its first birthday with a fun party! In its first year, Miller has welcomed almost 100 children and families into the Launch family!

Delridge Community Center has been all about nature lately. Mr. Andre's class is fascinated by leaves and leaf blowers, so they designed some of their own with straws! Ms. Shawn's class have been using pine cones to practice math skills.

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Help give summer scholarships!

Each summer Launch is proud to offer summer camp scholarships to lower-income families so their kids can have a great summer of discovery, growth and fun, and avoid summer learning loss. You can join us in this work and make a big impact for a kid by going to launchlearning.org and making a donation to our scholarship fund.



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Sign Up for Summer!

It's not too late to register for Launch summer camps! Summer is an important opportunity for children to grow and develop outside of the classroom setting. Campers get to go on field trips and do cool activities like science, sports, art, music, and so much more!

Preschoolers learn through fun play-based activities. Students entering grades 1-6 avoid summer learning loss and make new friends! And kids entering kindergarten in the fall enjoy Leap Ahead, a program that helps smooth the transition to elementary school and gets them excited for the year to come!

Remembering Patrick Jones

We're sad to share that Patrick Jones, one of our volunteers, passed away earlier this spring.

A former Marine from Long Island, after moving to Seattle over 20 years ago, Patrick became better known as "the Mayor of Melrose" thanks to his work as a community advocate and organizer in Capitol Hill. He founded Concert at the Columns, a free annual summer music series at Plymouth Pillars Park. He loved animals and spent years helping manage the city's off leash dog parks and create new ones. He organized neighborhood cleanups, always had a stash of spare clothes for his homeless neighbors, and cooked Thanksgiving dinner for people who had nowhere else to go. Patrick truly cared about people, and that compassion came through in everything he did. He overcame a lot in his life and wanted to help those who were less fortunate.

Patrick was an incredible advocate and volunteer for Launch. He volunteered every year to help get raffle items donated for our fundraising luncheon, and it was amazing how many businesses were willing to donate items or gift cards because of him. Whenever we'd thank him for being so generous with his time, energy and personal connections, he'd smile and tell us he was happy to do it for the kids.



Patrick was an amazing example of what empathy and community service truly means. We're grateful to have had the chance to get to know him, and will miss him.