



launch

# newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2019

## Horizon House Visits Beacon Hill Preschool!

On October 16th, a group of retirees from Horizon House visited our Beacon Hill preschool to donate a set of wooden toys that they made by hand in their woodshop. They gave us a wide variety of toys, including cars, planes, animals, blocks, and puzzles. Many of the toys even had intricate moving parts! Our preschoolers absolutely loved their new toys, and drew some cards and art as a thank you to our guests.

This is the second donation of handmade toys from our friends

at Horizon House - last year they donated wooden toys to our Madrona preschool. We are so appreciative of all of the time and care our Horizon House friends took to make these beautiful toys. It means so much to Launch that they have chosen to build this connection with us. Thank you Dan, George, Joan, Patty, and everyone else at Horizon House who contributed!

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**Launch**



## A Note from the Executive Director

My daughter has entered middle school (*cue dramatic music*) and it's been an experience that's turned her world and ours upside down. The safe haven of elementary school seems so far away. She's adjusting to a new school culture, homework, teacher styles and the expectation that she take more responsibility for her successes and failures.



I hope many of the lessons my daughter received at home about kindness, respect, empowerment, etc. help her navigate her new world. Is she going to be able to deal with the experiences that will come her way? Will she be able to make decisions that put her in a position of power and not fear? Can she handle the changes in her elementary school friendships and celebrate creating new ones?

I feel confident she'll weather these challenges, because she is

surrounded by people who love and support her. It's so important that children (and adults!) have people in their lives who are willing to love them first. Having others believe in you and your potential goes such a long way for building confidence and the social-emotional strength that is so critical in life. And once that confidence is there, it's much easier to help children develop academic and social-emotional skills.

Let's all remember what those first uncertain days of school felt like, and remember that that feeling follows many of our children all the time. Let us, as their community, love them first and remind them that who they are is enough.

Brianna Jackson  
Executive Director

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## Save the Date for Lunch for Launch!

Launch's annual fundraising luncheon, Lunch for Launch, will be held at **The Westin on Thursday, March 26th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm!** This fun and inspiring event raises money to support Launch's mission to ensure equitable access to the highest quality learning and care.

The luncheon is a great opportunity to learn more about our programs, hear directly from Launch students, teachers, and families about how Launch makes a difference for them, and of course, support our work. We hope to see you there!

Want to volunteer at Lunch for Launch, host a table, or become a sponsor? Contact Rehana Lanewala at [rehana.lanewala@launchlearning.org](mailto:rehana.lanewala@launchlearning.org) or (206) 726-7972.

## Donor Thank-a-thon

The end of the year is a great time to reflect on what we've accomplished throughout the year and think about all that we're grateful for, so we thought this would be the perfect time of year to hold a Thank-a-thon for our supporters. On November 12th, Launch board members and

staff gathered to send some love to our donors and volunteers. We spent the evening calling our supporters not to ask for anything, but simply to say thank you for making our work possible.

To all of our donors and volunteers: a

huge THANK YOU for all that you've done to support our programs this year, and in years past. You truly do make a difference in the lives of the kids and families of our community. We couldn't do it without your help!



## What's Happening at Launch

On October 24th, preschoolers from all of our sites went on a field trip to Remlinger Farms. It's an annual tradition for Launch to visit the pumpkin patch!

**Beacon Hill** students have been enjoying a monthly movie night. And at their family night at the end of October, families were invited to bring a favorite dish to share. Ms. Coco provided hot chocolate!

**Delridge** preschoolers have been studying different kinds of pumpkins and other squash. They've also been practicing waiting patiently, taking turns, and asking for a turn politely.

**Hawthorne** students created a Pokemon club, where they show and trade cards with one another. The more experienced kids are teaching the less experienced (including teachers) how to play!

**Highland Park** school-agers celebrated fall with an egg drop competition - who can construct a device to keep a raw egg from breaking when it's dropped from up high? They've also been very creative with leaf-inspired arts and crafts. The preschoolers have been busy with letter recognizing,

counting, and mixing colors!

**Kimball** held their annual Día de los Muertos family potluck celebration in early November. The kids made many classroom decorations, including an ofrenda, and a great time was had by all.



**Leschi** kids have been all about kickball this fall. They have a game just about every day that it's not raining! Indoor time has been just as much fun. In mid-October the 1st and 2nd graders did a fun science activity with Ms. Rehana and Ms. Hawi - making slime! They discussed whether slime was a liquid or solid (it's both!) and hypothesized what would happen if they added more of the different ingredients.

**Maple** 1st graders spent a month in spy training. They practiced cracking codes, writing invisible messages, and even solved an escape-room style game. Mr. Dylan helps his 4th graders apply math skills to their weekly sessions of the *Bakugan: Battle Brawlers* card game.

**Miller** preschoolers went on a couple different field trips this fall. One classroom took a walking trip to Safeway, where they were given a tour of the grocery departments.

Another classroom took the bus to the Burke Museum to see some dinosaur bones and learn about paleontology!

At **Madrona**, everything is pumpkins right now! The kindergartners shaped and painted their own salt dough pumpkins. Miss Elen's class carved some real pumpkins and created volcanoes out of them.

**Montlake** kids were very much in the Halloween spirit in October, making skeletons with everything from cotton swabs to marshmallows and chocolate-covered pretzels!

Preschoolers at **RCC** dissected a pumpkin to see what was inside! Their teachers also made a "pumpkin patch" table for them, which was a sensory table covered with leaves, acorns, pine cones, and tiny pumpkins to hold and examine.

**Sanislo** celebrated its annual Apple Day tradition at the beginning of October. Students sampled and rated various kinds of apples and graphed everyone's preferences. They then made lots of applesauce to take home!



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## Get Involved with Lunch for Launch

Interested in supporting Launch's annual fundraiser? There are so many ways to help out, from volunteering at the event or in preparation, to hosting or sponsoring a table, to donating a raffle item, and more! For more information about opportunities, contact Rehana Lanewala at [rehana.lanewala@launchlearning.org](mailto:rehana.lanewala@launchlearning.org). Thank you!

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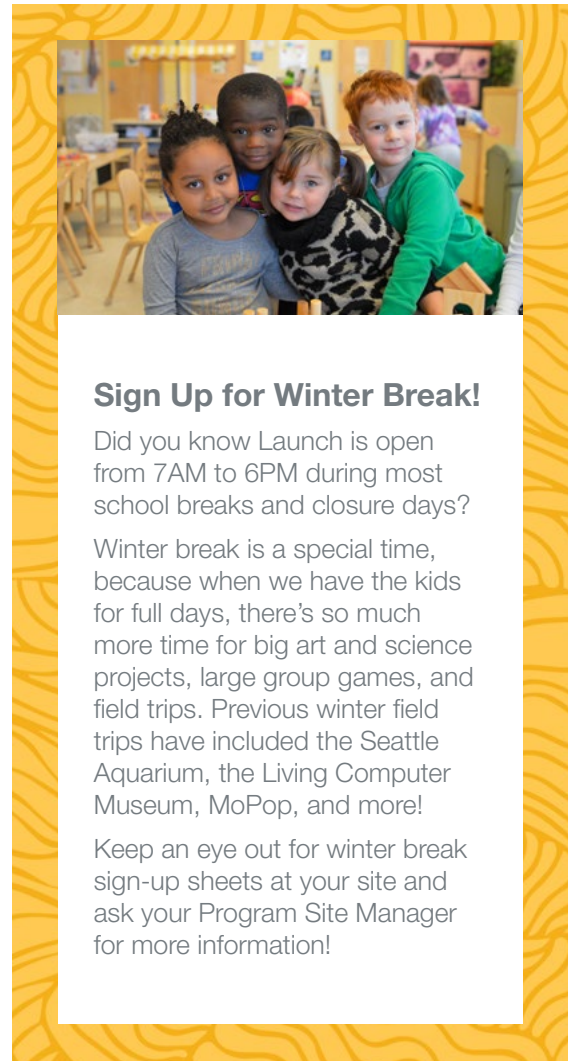
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## Sign Up for Winter Break!

Did you know Launch is open from 7AM to 6PM during most school breaks and closure days?

Winter break is a special time, because when we have the kids for full days, there's so much more time for big art and science projects, large group games, and field trips. Previous winter field trips have included the Seattle Aquarium, the Living Computer Museum, MoPop, and more!

Keep an eye out for winter break sign-up sheets at your site and ask your Program Site Manager for more information!

## Meet Launch at Beacon Hill volunteer Michael Levin

### How did you get involved with Launch?

I started volunteering as a tutor with Invest In Youth at Beacon Hill 10 years ago, and I realized I had the time to do some other volunteering, so I volunteered with the school's sports club. I got to meet the younger brothers and sisters of the kids I tutored, and it just deepened my involvement with the kids and the school. And then that program ended, but I knew about Launch through my involvement with the school, so I applied and started with Launch 4 years ago.

### What's volunteering at Launch like?

It's very gratifying. I haven't been blessed with grandkids at this point, so this fills that gap in my life. You just walk in and all these little kids are so happy to see you, and then you immediately get engaged with doing some sort of activity. It's fantastic. Launch is very good because you really get to know the kids, and it's a lot of fun. I've always been involved with sports throughout my life, and I saw the need to continue the sports program here, so I show up with sports equipment and the kids really like it. They love football, they love soccer, and they really love wiffle ball. I also have a bunch of percussion instruments I bring, so sometimes we do music. I have wonderful relationships with these kids.

I come here and they're so excited, we play sports, and then they go inside with their teacher. It couldn't be more ideal for me.

### What's your volunteer advice?

Get to know your neighborhood school and find out if there's Launch or some other after school program there. Every one of these programs could use volunteers. Find out what your interests are – if you're a crafts person, if you're a music person, what can you bring to the experience that the kids may not otherwise have an opportunity to do? Spend the first few weeks just getting to know the kids. For me, volunteering with Launch was easy because I had already built up years of familiarity with the school, the kids, their brothers and sisters, and the teachers. Volunteering has been fabulous for me, and I hope more people will take advantage of it. It's a great way to get reconnected to your community.

