



newsletter

Third Quarter 2018



launch

Learn. Grow. Inspire.

Family Field Day at the Sculpture Park

As one of the community partners of the Seattle Art Museum (SAM), Launch and our families were invited to participate in SAM's Family Field Day at the Olympic Sculpture Park on Saturday, July 21st. This free, all-day event is an annual celebration of art, music, dance and community that's open to the public.

Launch and other SAM community partners each hosted a table where we did a fun art activity with families at the event. Launch staff made cool nature collages with children

and families using pressed flowers, dried flowers, pine cones, lichen, moss and other dried natural materials.

It was great spending a gorgeous sunny day on the water, supporting the SAM, and making art. We were thrilled to see a number of Launch families and staff at this event, as well as meet new children, families and community members!

visit launchlearning.org

In This Issue

- A note from the Executive Director
- Pints for a Purpose
- Dance This!
- What's happening at the sites
- Student Stories: Meet Thomas!



Launch programs are funded in part by:



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 1949

5950 6th Avenue S, Suite 109
Seattle, WA 98108

Launch



A Note from the Executive Director

Many of us have fond memories of our childhood summers. When I was a kid, I spent my summers at my grandmother's house in the Central District. Grandma's house was our version of summer camp and I loved it. I spent all day outside playing and exploring the neighborhood with my sister, cousins and other neighborhood kids. Every minute was spent outside until we were called home at dinnertime.

I remember so clearly that I was encouraged to just be a kid. You had the freedom to get dirty, explore, meet new people and make mistakes. I have incredibly strong memories of the rich, vibrant sights and sounds of summer. You could smell people barbecuing and the neighborhood was filled with music and kids' laughter. We went to the park, the library, the pool, and friends' houses. We rode our bikes and used our imaginations to play and create new games with complicated rules.



And while my childhood summer memories were positive, I know that summer isn't idyllic for everyone.

Our goal at Launch is to create a place where kids can have that magical experience during the summer.

At Launch camps, kids get to do fun activities that help avoid summer learning loss including arts and crafts, science, reading, music, and sports.

They go on field trips to places like parks, museums, the zoo, and the aquarium. But we also want kids to experience the sense of freedom, wonder, and exploration that many of us felt during our childhoods. That's why we believe Launch campers should get the chance to make choices in a safe space with teacher support, learn how to navigate friendships, play, and indulge in imagination.

Brianna Jackson
Executive Director

● visit launchlearning.org



A SUMMER CELEBRATION TO SUPPORT LAUNCH

Pints for a Purpose

We recently held our first Pints for a Purpose event on August 15th. This was a fun new fundraiser held at Schooner Exact Brewing in Sodo. Guests got to hang out, enjoy a cold beverage, and support Launch!

It was a great chance for donors to meet new people, engage with Launch staff, and learn a little bit more about what we do. We also had a Launch teacher on hand to show guests the kinds of engaging learning activities kids at Launch get to do.

All proceeds from this event are being used to support our work to provide equitable access to quality learning and enrichment.

Missed this event? We'll host more events in the next six months, including our Lunch for Launch fundraiser in March!

Launch Summer Tradition: Dance This!

Last month all of our school-age programs enjoyed a Launch tradition - a field trip to see **Dance This!** at the Moore Theatre. Our campers have gone every year since 2008. We love that summer lets our kids experience some of the events and activities the city has to offer!

Dance This! brings together youth and adult performers from diverse communities to collaborate and share their cultures through dance. This year was the 20th anniversary of Dance This! and the performance included traditional Bhangra, Croatian, Korean, Mexican and

Filipino folk dancers as well as tap, hip hop, and contemporary dance.

Our campers loved getting to see a wide variety of dance styles from different cultures and we can't wait until next year!

What's Happening at Launch

This summer our school-age programs combined into four regional camps, and our preschool programs combined into one program at Miller Annex. It's been a great experience for our kids to make new friends from other Launch programs. Plus our teachers have been collaborating, planning and teaching with teachers from other sites.

The Beacon Hill Area Camp

is being held at Kimball and includes our Beacon Hill and Kimball programs as well as some of our students from Maple. Campers took a field trip to the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP). And our older campers went on a field trip to the Center for Wooden Boats, where they got to paddle an Umiak canoe. An Umiak is a traditional skin-on-frame boat paddled like a canoe. Campers in Leap Ahead (our summer kindergarten readiness program) enjoyed a visit from a professional cook, who taught them some basics of kitchen safety and then showed them how to make sushi. It was delicious!

The Central Area Camp is being held at Madrona and includes our Madrona, Montlake and Leschi

programs. Music and dance is a big part of our Central Area Camp. Every day all of our campers gather for drum circle, where they dance, sing songs, play games and ask questions. It's a great community builder! And on Mondays our Leap Ahead children have a visit from special guest Monica, who teaches them movement, dance, songs, and stretching. Campers also had a special treat - they built sun ovens out of plastic wrap and used the sun to "cook" s'mores.

The Southeast Seattle Area Camp

is being held at Hawthorne and includes our Hawthorne and Maple programs. We've gone on awesome field trips including to the park, a Mariners' game, and an art gallery.

Leap Ahead campers enjoyed their visit to the aquarium and Seward Park. We also had a visit from Creation Station, which uses recycled materials to create fun activities. We made stamps out of doilies, bubble wrap and other recycled materials and then used those stamps to create art prints. Campers beat the heat with a water balloon fight. And Mr. Jacob is working with the older campers to create a mural of the RULER mood meter for the Hawthorne Elementary auction.

The West Seattle Area Camp is



being held at Sanislo and includes our Highland Park and Sanislo programs. During STEM week, the campers got to make slime and ice cream using liquid nitrogen. Our younger campers learned about the moon and made a mural of the phases of the moon. During Shark Week campers made some cool shark-themed art!

Summer preschool

is being held at Miller Annex. Our preschoolers are having an amazing summer so far! They've gone to the Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium and the park. We've painted, built towers out of blocks, rode bikes and scooters, read books, and so much more!

visit launchlearning.org



Join Our Board of Directors!

We're looking for talented, dedicated people to serve on our Board of Directors. The Board provides oversight and strategic direction for Launch. Board service is a great chance to give back and make a difference. Launch families and community members are all welcome to apply! Interested in learning more? Contact brianna.jackson@launchlearning.org.



Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President
Megan Hurley

Vice President
Daley Vertiz

Treasurer
Sharene Nelson

MEMBERS

Matt Adkins
Danya Clevenger
Mercy Daramola
Nicholas Heyer
Tomer Vandsburger
Hilary Young

Management

Executive Director
Brianna Jackson

Director of Operations
Darline Guerrero

Director of Finance
Liz Director

Director of Human Resources
Matt Clarich

Director of Development & Marketing
Rehana Lanewala

www.launchlearning.org



Register for Fall!

If you haven't already signed your child up for fall, now's the time! Some of our programs are full and have a wait-list, so if you need after school or preschool care please sign up soon.

In our after school programs, kids get to have fun with their friends, have daily homework time, play outside, and enjoy daily hands-on enrichment activities including art, music, science, and more. And our play-based preschool programs help children get ready for kindergarten. We also provide full-day programs during school closure breaks!

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

Student Stories: Meet Thomas, Age 8

Thomas attends Launch summer camp and the after school program during the school year. His family has a long history with Launch - his 3 older brothers all came to Launch back when we were still CDSA and his younger sister goes to our summer Leap Ahead program.

What's your favorite thing to do at Launch?

Needle in the Haystack! There's a pile of hay and we have to try to find a needle. It's a plastic needle so no one gets hurt. I won 2 years in a row!

What's your favorite field trip you've taken this summer?

We went bowling and it was pretty fun. I got to go to the arcade and I won a lot of prizes like slime and an airplane you can build. We also went to MoPOP and there was a bunch of props and stuff from movies. We got to play at the big playground at the Seattle Center. It was like 5 times bigger than the one at Launch. It's kinda scary at the top because you're so high up, but because I've been on field trips there before I'm used to it.

What's a fun project you did at Launch this summer?

We made slime and we made ice cream with liquid nitrogen.

What do you do for fun?

I go outside and play and watch funny YouTube videos. My favorite is called Globgogabgalab. It's super weird and funny. I laughed so hard I couldn't breathe!

What's your favorite food?

One of them is sushi. Another is pizza. Does candy count? (*Editor: Sure!*) Then candy.

If you could go anywhere, where would you go?

I was going to say New York but I just realized it's really busy, so no. I would go somewhere in the United States.

What's one thing you want to learn how to do?

I wish I could learn the force.

