



launch
Learn. Grow. Inspire.

newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2017

Preschool Field Trip to the Pumpkin Patch

Our preschool classes went on a field trip to Remlinger Farms to visit the pumpkin patch, and despite the rain we had an amazing time. Each student even got to bring a pumpkin home with them!

In addition to the pumpkin patch, our preschoolers also got to see farm animals at the barnyard, went on a train ride, visited the Pioneer Homestead and milled corn, and found their way through the hay maze. Our preschool teachers have been doing lots of fun fall

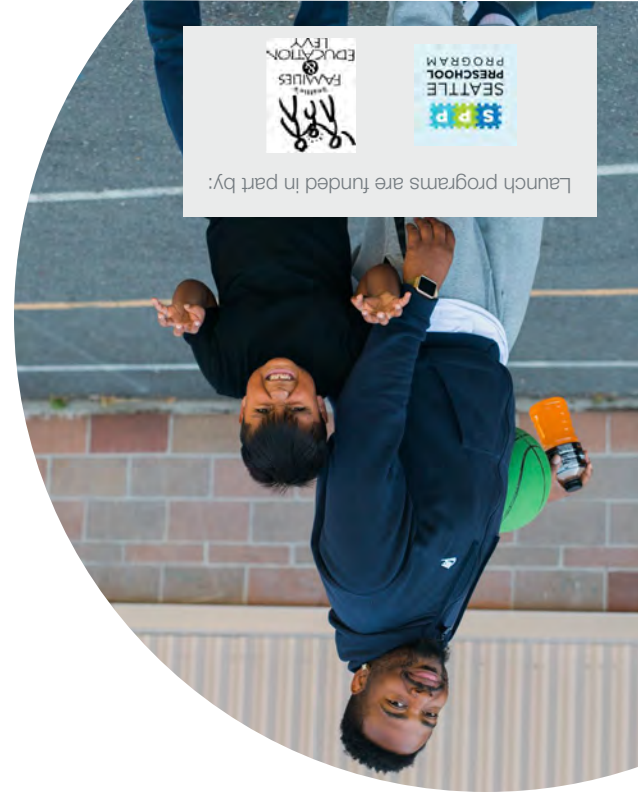
activities, so this field trip was the perfect complement to what's been happening in the classrooms.

This annual field trip is one of our favorite fall traditions, so we were happy to have some of our families join us - including 16 chaperones from Highland Park Elementary. It was a great opportunity to get to know our families and interact with them outside of the classroom!

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Launch



A Note from the Executive Director

We're back to school again! It's been great to see our friends return to Launch or begin attending Launch for the first time.

Fall is a wonderful time of year where the weather turns cool, days get a little shorter and the seasons change.

Launch is in its own season of change, as is the field of early learning, youth development and education. We have seen some changes that have positively benefited families and others, whether intentional or not, put children and families even further behind the starting line.

And while change can be challenging, change can also be rewarding. We've been committed since our inception to continuously improve and keep evolving to meet the needs of those we serve. Growth, expansion, building new partnerships and deepening our learning has Launch excited about

the future!

We'll be opening our 11th location - an early learning center at the Miller Annex of Miller Community Center in Capitol Hill - in early 2018.

We're also looking at other expansion opportunities in Seattle and South King County.

We know there's a huge need for programs like ours, especially as our region grows increasingly expensive and unaffordable even for middle class families.

We're determined to help meet that need because we believe that all children, regardless of their family's income, deserve to attend a quality program. But even as we look to expand to new locations, we remain passionately committed to the schools and neighborhoods that we've been a part of for 40 years.



Brianna Jackson
Executive Director

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LUNCH for LAUNCH

annual fundraiser

Lunch for Launch 2018

We're excited to announce that our annual fundraising luncheon will be held **on Tuesday, March 13th, 2018** at the **Seattle Westin**.

- The program includes inspiring speakers, a preschool performance, cool raffle items, and more!
- Donations will be used to support our programs and help us expand access to quality learning programs.

Want to help? We're looking for sponsors, people to host tables, raffle donations, and volunteers.

Questions? Please contact Rehana.Lanewala@launchlearning.org or (206) 767-4016.

Go to launchlearning.org to register for the luncheon!

Bridge Conference 2017

As part of our commitment to professional development and lifelong learning, Launch sent eight staff members to School's Out Washington's annual Bridge Conference for two full days of training.

This year's conference theme was

Together We Rise which focused on creating a youth-centered climate, with a focus on improving inclusion and equity in programs – what a great fit for Launch's values!

We are leading the charge along with our community partners, families and programs to advocate

for youth environments that foster safety, resiliency, and empowerment for children. Over 30 workshops were offered, and we can't wait to put all the information we gained to good use.

What's Happening at Launch

Hawthorne hosted a special guest - Ben Robinson: Illusion Genius! He provided a mesmerizing show of wonder for our children thanks to a thoughtful Launch family who connected us with him. Joining the Hawthorne teacher team is Miss Rebecca who is full of energy and excitement as the 1st and 2nd grade Enrichment Teacher.



Maple recently finished their week of explorations. The younger grades explored their own lives and families by creating family trees, and they learned more about their friends by interviewing each other. Our older students learned about Terracotta Warriors and spent a week creating and decorating their own clay figurines.

Leschi school-age students enjoyed apple week, which started with apple taste-testing and ended with homemade apple crisp and applesauce. Yum!

Madrona students are also embracing fall's seasonal produce. Like Leschi, Madrona preschoolers and first graders made applesauce and apple cider, as well as using apples to make stamps. Older school-age students cooked with pumpkins and made both sweet and savory versions of freshly harvested pumpkin seeds.

Rainier Community Center is working with Zeno to incorporate more early math skills into the classroom and at home. Our preschoolers learn to play fun math games and become experts so they can take games home and teach their families how to play.

Highland Park welcomed both preschool and school-age families to a family engagement event with Zeno. It was a fun evening, and we were so impressed at the commitment of our families in supporting their children's development of math skills.

During "Bone Week" at **Sanislo**, students raced against the clock to find hidden bones and assemble skeletons, while others molded and decorated delicate foil skulls. To welcome the fall season they held the second annual "Find the Needle in the Haystack" contest.

Montlake students made different yarn crafts, first creating spider webs with cardboard and eventually using balloons and glue to build hollow pumpkins. Maya and Yves, the Program Director and Specialist, also had their first Coffee Chat this fall. Families had the opportunity to enjoy freshly baked pastries, coffee,

tea, and fresh fruit. It was nice to get to know the families that were able to join!

Beacon Hill's preschoolers have been learning how to name their feelings using Second Step curriculum, and made booklets to help them identify their own feelings as well as their friends' emotions. The school-age children started off the school year with a talent show that featured acts from every single grade!

Kimball had about 50 families join their Día de los Muertos celebration on November 2nd. Students learned about the meaning of the Mexican holiday, and honored it by creating thoughtful decorations working with traditional symbols and themes, including an ofrenda (offering, or altar) to remember people and creatures that have passed away. "The room was filled with decoration, thoughtfulness, community spirit, and good food" said Rainier Adkins, Program Specialist.



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Basketball with Kristopher Green

Students at Maple Elementary hosted a special guest: our very own Board Secretary Kristopher Green! Kristopher loves sports and played basketball in college, so he shared his passion by teaching Maple students Basketball 101. They learned the rules and some basic skills such as dribbling and passing. Coach Kristopher also shared with the students the importance of sportsmanship and trying your hardest.



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Register for Winter Break!

While Seattle schools are closed for winter break, Launch programs will be open! We're offering full-day programs where children can have fun and learn through enriching activities with their friends.

We'll be open from 7AM to 6PM on the following dates:

December 18th - December 22nd

December 27th - December 29th

To learn more or register your child, talk to your site's Program Director or call (206) 726-7972.

Introducing our newest Board Member, Tomer Vandsburger

Tomer joined the Launch Board of Directors in July. An employee benefits attorney at Perkins Coie, LLP, before attending law school he was a middle and high school history teacher for 5 years at Title 1 schools in Brooklyn.

During his teaching career, he worked with students with limited economic resources and says that his experience helped him develop a lifelong interest in education – particularly working with low-income and marginalized communities. Even after changing careers, Tomer still wanted to continue his work in the education sector and support children and families so he looked for a nonprofit board to join.

Launch appealed to Tomer because “Launch makes sure that students have the same access to after school and summer opportunities that more privileged students have. Their mission is in line with what I valued as a teacher and still value now.”

Tomer hopes to support Launch's expansion not only in terms of additional sites and schools, but also moving into South King County. He says, “I live right on the border between Pierce County and South King County – I see the need for the services that Launch offers.” He's also interested in bringing his legal expertise to our expansion.

In his free time, Tomer is an avid cook and baker. When he lived in New York City he loved visiting iconic and historic pizza places, so he's enjoying searching for the best pizza here in the Puget Sound area.

