



launch

Learn. Grow. Inspire.

# newsletter

Second Quarter 2018

## Celebrating spring at Launch!

On May 19th, over 200 Launch children, families and staff attended our annual Spring Fling barbecue and potluck at Jefferson Park. It was a beautiful sunny day and we had a great time with our kids and families!

Our families brought all kinds of delicious food to share, and Launch provided burgers and hot dogs.

There were lots of fun things to do at the Spring Fling including

face painting, ladder golf, and bubbles. Plus there was plenty of space in the park to run and play.

We love getting to spend time with our children, families and staff outside of our programs. And it was a great chance for folks from different sites to get to know each other. Thank you all for coming!

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Launch



## A Note from the Executive Director

Spring is here, and the sun is finally gracing us with its presence! This time of year makes it easy to forget the gray and remember why this is such a beautiful place to live.

Spring is a time for change, renewal and fresh starts. We often dread change, but in reality, it can mean growth, the completion of goals, or a step towards finding greater purpose. My son just turned two and though I felt a little sad that he's no longer the tiny baby I brought home from the hospital, I love watching him grow and discover language, his independence, and how to get his big sister in trouble.

As the weather shifts, we also shift, change and grow. The school year is almost over, which means many Launch kids will be moving onto middle school and a new chapter. It's been a privilege and a joy to have been a part of their lives over the years and we wish them all the best.



As I think about our Launch graduates, I hope we've done our job to help them prepare for the challenges they'll inevitably face. I hope they know how awesome and amazing they are and that there's nothing they can't do. I hope they've been inspired at Launch to try new things and feel confident in who they are. I hope they've learned that building relationships with others is important and community is everything. And I hope they can look back on their time at Launch and know they were truly cared for.

Every child faces different ups and downs as they grow and discover who they want to be. And all the while, Launch is on that journey beside them, reminding them that the world is a better place because they're in it.

*Brianna Jackson*

Brianna Jackson  
Executive Director

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## Thank you for the best GiveBIG ever!

Thank you to all of this year's GiveBIG donors, who gave to Launch on May 9th and helped us earn a \$1,500 challenge match from Comic Relief USA/Red Nose Day!

One of our lucky donors was randomly selected by the Seattle Foundation to have an extra \$2,500 added to their donation to Launch! Thanks to your generosity, we raised over **\$7,000** to support our programs. That's fantastic!

It means a lot to us to have the support of our community. Quality learning programs make a huge difference in kids' lives and because of you, we're able to ensure that we provide effective programs to all children, including lower-income children and children from historically underserved communities.

Thank you!

## End of the Year Spectacular at Kimball!

This year, over 250 children and families attended our Kimball site's annual end-of-year potluck. It was a great celebration of all that our kids accomplished this year.

Program Director Jo made her famous spaghetti, plus we enjoyed

tasty dishes brought by families and staff brought to share. The highlight of the evening was a fun Launch at Kimball tradition: the annual parents vs. kids water balloon fight!

Program Director Jo and her staff

prepared 6,000 water balloons. Adults and children lined up on either side of the playground, and on Jo's signal water balloons started flying! It lasted over 15 minutes and everyone got soaked. It was so much fun!



## What's Happening at Launch

The younger **Hawthorne** students have been exploring which materials are magnetic and why. They created hypotheses about which items might be magnetic, tested their hypotheses, and created graphs and charts with their results.

### Leschi

kindergarten and 1st grade students have been enjoying old fables from Nigeria told by teacher Vanessa. These are stories she heard as a kid in Nigeria from her parents and she's now passing them down to our students.

### Rainier Community Center

preschoolers planted cilantro and chives. They worked together to fill egg cartons with soil and put a few seeds in each pod. They've been watering the seeds every day and can't wait to see how they grow!

**Maple** students celebrated spring with sun and solar system activities. They made suncatchers, learned how to tell time using a sundial, and made a solar system model. Plus they made their own sunglasses!

**Sanislo** created a "Launch Economy." Every day students have a chance to earn money according to a set of rules created jointly by the students and teachers. Once

they have enough saved up, they can buy prizes like a pillow to sit on at homework time (\$5) or the job of line leader for a week (\$15). One student said her favorite reward is the "class pet" - a giant teddy bear they can carry around all day!



**Miller Annex** welcomed a new preschooler who recently moved here from Mexico and is still learning English. Our

preschoolers have been learning Spanish words and phrases so they can communicate with their new friend. The preschoolers love learning a new language, and our new student has been making lots of friends and is very excited that he can talk with his class in Spanish.

**Montlake** students got to make sushi rolls with Christine, our Program Quality Manager. They used butter knives to cut up cucumbers, avocados and carrots, rolled the veggies with sticky rice and nori, and sprinkled sesame on top. They then ate their creations with ginger and chopsticks. It was delicious!

**Highland Park** students built marble mazes using materials like cardboard, tape, and cups. They had to figure out how to engineer their structures so that it would hold the weight of the marbles and so the marbles would roll properly. Then

they got to test their creations out!

**Madrona** hosted a potluck Family Night to celebrate our families and the wonderful diversity of our community. Families brought food to share and family photos. Our children and families used the pictures and craft supplies provided by Launch to create their own family posters and collages.

**Kimball** students did an awesome 3-D art project where they folded and cut paper in such a way that the middle of the paper stuck out like a beak. They added decorations and colored the paper to create birds, frogs and other animals, and some of our kids even made zombie chickens!

**Beacon Hill** school-age students have been creating and designing all kinds of cool things. They made gooey slime, did fun nail art, and they got to build their own kites. They then got to fly their kites on the playground. It was awesome to see our kids' creations soar through the skies!



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## Save the Date!

We're hosting a fun new summer event on **Wednesday, August 15th** from **6:30-8:30PM** at **Schooner Exact Brewing** in SODO. Come hang out, visit with old and new friends, and support Launch!

Ticket info and more details coming soon. Proceeds will support our work to provide equitable access to learning programs.



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## It's not too late: Register for Summer!

Be sure to register your child for summer camp so they don't miss out on all of the awesome activities we're planning! Our summer camps are open M-F, 7AM-6PM during the summer. Join us for fun, brain-growing activities and exciting field trips.

We offer school-age summer camps as well as preschool and Leap Ahead, our kindergarten transition program for children who start kindergarten in the fall.

**We have special scholarships available for Leap Ahead so apply today!**

To learn more or to register your child, visit [launchlearning.org](http://launchlearning.org).

## Introducing Student Stories, our latest newsletter installment

After 3 years at Launch, Nadia is about to embark on her last summer with us before beginning middle school. Below is an interview with her plus one of her original poems. We hope you'll enjoy getting to know her as much as we have!



### "Water"

Water. Simple,  
Flowing,  
Elegant.  
Beautiful,  
Graceful,  
Free.  
Sometimes clean,  
Sometimes dirty.  
Whatever state it's in, it's  
Always  
A sign  
Of hope.

### *If you had to give away \$1M, how would you spend it?*

"Cleaning up the great Pacific garbage patch, and if I had any leftover money, world hunger."

### *What's your favorite part of Launch?*

"Snack, but I also love homework time." *(Editor's note: yes, she really said this!)*

### *What is the best part of being a kid?*

"Knowing that, assuming all goes well, I'm not that close to dying."

### *What's the best thing about Launch?*

"Getting to come back to my old school and seeing some people that I remember."