

JANUARY
2014



Communities In Schools of Lakewood

Helping Kids Prepare For Life

www.lakewood.ciswa.org | (253)-589-7489

Featured Partner :

Big Brothers Big Sisters



CISL established a partnership with Big-Brothers Big-Sisters (BBBS) making it possible for Champions Mentors to be trained to meet with their student in the community and over the summer. Cara Sanders, of BBBS, said "We are excited to be partnered with Communities In Schools. We have found many matches in our school-based programs desire to have a community-based match at some point." So far, two CISL mentors have completed this process and we expect more as the Summer approaches.

A Match Made In Lakewood

-Mentor and AmeriCorps Member, Bre Wilson

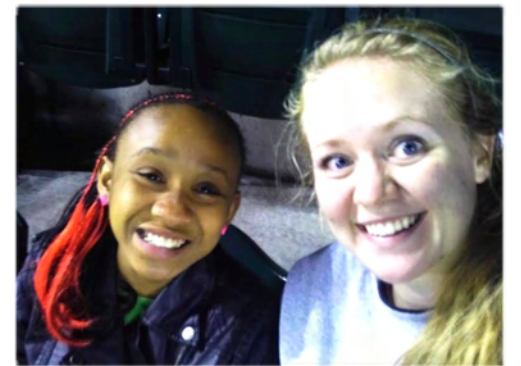
I started mentoring with CISL in October 2012. My mentee was in sixth-grade at the time, and we really hit it off. We met regularly at the school and formed a solid friendship; one that I felt she had come to trust and count on.

When CIS partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters, I asked if she'd be interested in taking our meetings outside the school. She was beyond excited and it changed the dynamic of our relationship from just school-based, to a combination with community-based mentoring.

I've been meeting with her both inside and outside the school for two months and it has made a world of difference. I'm able to see how she interacts with others and discover things she likes and dislikes. I've also been given the opportunity to take her places she's never been in the area while she has shown me places I've never been. Our last meeting in the community was to a roller-skating rink. She skated circles around me and I liked it so much, I think I want my own skates!

Our most memorable meeting thus far though, was our trip to watch a Mariners game. BBBS receives regular ticket donation to different events and I was offered Mariners tickets for our first meeting through BBBS. She had never been to a professional sports game before, so this was extremely exciting. I taught her about baseball and since it was fan appreciation night, we enjoyed a firework show at the end of the game. The best moment of the whole evening was when we were walking down the steps to leave...she was thanking me and said, "I feel so loved."

These experiences have been very rewarding and I am so happy I chose to take this opportunity.



JANUARY
National Mentoring Month

Research shows that mentors play a powerful role in providing young people with the tools to make responsible decisions, stay focused and engaged in school and reduce or avoid risky behavior such as skipping school, drug use and other negative activities.

Site Coordination

Tillicum Elementary Highlights

-Leah Livingston, Site Coordinator

The Tillicum After-School Program provides 5 hours of focused, math instruction provided by certificated school-day staff and para-educators. It also includes 4 hours of enrichment activities, field trips and service learning projects. While Tillicum students continue to have high levels of achievement across the board, it is clear that the extra time and effort of teachers and students after school every day makes a real difference.

Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) data received from the school showed the following: of all 40 continuously enrolled fourth grade students (as of Sept. '13) there was an average growth of 23 points in MSP scores from Spring '12 - Spring '13. Of those students:

- fourth graders not involved in the After-School Program showed an average growth of 11 points;
- **fourth graders involved in the After-School Program showed an average growth of 32 points;**

Additionally, 33% of the students not involved in the program had a decline in test scores, while only 11% of students in the program showed a decline.

Fourth grade teacher, Diana Fitzgerald, appreciates the structure of the After-School Program. "I find it very beneficial to our students when their own teachers stay an additional hour after school to go more in depth with the math concepts we have been teaching during the day. It is encouraging to see our students' growth, dedication and love of learning."

Oakwood Elementary Highlights

-Christina Villena, Site Coordinator

The Oakwood After-School Program is going strong with 98 students enrolled. Staff were thrilled when several Oakwood Alumni asked if they could volunteer. It is wonderful to see students from Lochburn Middle School helping every day in the After School Program. As the school year continues we anticipate growth in both our young volunteers and Oakwood students.



Southgate: Meet Megan!

Megan Riber is a new AmeriCorps member working primarily at Southgate. "I grew up in Bellingham and graduated from SPU with a degree in communication. I have been working as a barista for most of my time since graduation and am excited to explore a new career path with CISL. I have been to Haiti twice to participate in relief programs and it is one of my favorite places in the world. I enjoy knitting, baking, reading, music and trivia.

I have always enjoyed working with children. In my work at summer camps and youth groups I have been impressed by what kids can achieve when motivated. I look forward to doing work that will help children thrive in school and life."



Tyee Park: Meet Annelise!

Annelise Smith is Tyee Park's Site Coordinator and one of our new AmeriCorps members.

"From a young age, my parents always stressed to me the importance of community, compassion, justice, and service to others. These values ultimately led me to serve as an AmeriCorps member with CISL. After graduating from Stadium High School in 2007, I attended WSU where I earned a BA and then an MA in Human Development, focusing my studies on youth development programs for children experiencing high-stress environments.

Having personally experienced some of the same struggles as the students I work with, I understand the impact that caring, supportive adults make in helping a young person stay on a path toward educational success.

"I would not be where I am without the support of others"

As a citizen and member of this community, I know I need to use the privileges and skills I have to ensure all children receive the support and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

When I work with students at Tyee Park Elementary and Clover Park High School, I see bright, curious, enthusiastic and creative young people who are brimming with potential. The highlight of my day is the time I spend one-on-one with students, getting to know their unique strengths and talents and encouraging them towards a successful future. I am so excited to be back in the area where I grew up, working to support and empower students and their families!"



- Lochburn Middle School Volunteers at Oakwood Elementary

& Partnership Highlights

Southgate Elementary Highlights

Little Caesars has provided free pizza for several Communities In Schools events, most recently the After-School Program Family Night at Southgate Elementary. The pizza dinner set a positive tone for the program, featuring students in the After-School Program. Over 150 students and parents participated in the Family Night on December 19. On behalf of kids and families in After-School Programs...thank you Little Caesars!



Readiness To Learn Highlights

-Partnership highlight with Caring For Kids
Part of the Readiness to Learn Program at CISL is distributing "Growing Up Is Fun" kits to parents who need help getting their children ready for kindergarten. Kids who have little or no preschool support often enter kindergarten a year or more behind their peers and then struggle to catch up. Dave O'Keeffe and Diane Formoso met with Clover Park School District's early learning team, who oversee the Head Start and ECEAP Programs, to see where support is most needed. With so many families on the waiting list for Head Start and ECEAP, along with other unidentified families, we estimated that at least 300 parents would benefit from a Growing Up Is Fun bag. Bags contain educational materials - in Spanish and English - crayons, pencils, books, spiral notebook, ABC necklace and a toothbrush kit. We are working together on a strategy to get these bags and other resources to families who need them the most.



BEES Library Partnership

Pierce County Library partners with CISL by providing the BEES Program (Books to Engage Elementary Students) to students in After-School Programs at Southgate, Oakwood and Tyee Park Elementary schools. Each month librarians bring carts of books for kids to check out and make sure each student has a library card.

Over the past two months, 95 students at Oakwood have checked out 395 books; 115 Southgate students checked out 310 books; 34 Tyee Park students checked out 80 books.

Bees Program Coordinator, Sarah Durham, explained that, "The BEES focus is on providing fiction and non-fiction books to elementary students of all reading levels, in order to further literacy and educational engagement. I found the after-school students at all three schools to be well behaved and we look forward to going back each month!"



Lochburn Middle School Highlights

-Kate Marselus, Site Coordinator

The 6th graders at Lochburn had a special treat on Nov. 26th. KID CO., a non-profit organization, partnered with CISL to put on an exciting and entertaining assembly about building character and bully prevention. The students' interest peaked when KID CO. introduced candy, games & prizes... soon they were jumping up and down, and raising their hands. It was exciting to see them involved with the message and with each other.

One of the speakers talked to the students about valuing others and themselves. He used a metaphor with a one-hundred dollar bill. After confirming that it was worth a hundred dollars, he crumpled it, blew his nose on it and kicked it away! He asked the students what it was worth and they all shouted "ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS!!!" The students began to understand that no matter what happens to them in life and no matter how others treat them, they are still valuable!

There was a short skit about being kind to others even if they are different from you. There were also game-shows that had students answering questions about what they had learned. The assembly was a big hit. KID CO. plans to hold two more assemblies at Lochburn to build on what they taught to the 6th graders.





SAVE *the* DATE

March 27

DATE

CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH BREAKFAST

Reserve your table early. Call the CISL office at (253)-589-7489
Visit us online at www.lakewood.ciswa.org

Funding Campaign Update

Don't have the time to volunteer but still want to support kids in Lakewood? Support our current funding campaign! Donations are tax deductible and can be made online at www.lakewood.ciswa.org or can be mailed to CISL, 6402 100th St. SW, Lakewood WA 98499

Funder in the Spotlight: SAFECO INSURANCE

We were thrilled when Safeco Insurance Foundation announced CISL as a recipient of its Education Initiative grant. The \$15,000 grant was one of 30 given by the foundation as part of a two-year commitment to nonprofits throughout Washington and Oregon, totaling an investment of \$700,000 to support academic achievement of youth in our communities. Funding from Safeco aligns with the Education Initiative goal of expanding academic opportunities for low-income and limited English proficient students.



Surrounding students with a community of support. Empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.