SUMMER 2014

Communities In Schools of Lakewood

Helping Kids Prepare For Life

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Tillicum Elementary Finishes Strong: National Awards & Family Fun

Tillicum site coordinator, Leah Livingston, received one of five CIS Unsung Hero awards. Videographers spent a full day at Tillicum Elementary school taping staff and students for a video that was shown at the CIS Town Hall conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

- Leah receiving her award with CIS founder, Bill Milliken and CIS president, Daniel Cardinali

This annual award recognizes site coordinators who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the students they serve and to CIS' core values: relationship building, coordination, accountability, persistence and equality. Site coordinators are at the heart of what CIS does. Positioned within the school building, they identify students most at-risk of dropping out and then surround them with the support and existing community resources they need to succeed.

The Unsung Hero video can be found on YouTube by searching "Unsung Hero Leah Livingston".

Tillicum Family Night

More than 250 parents and family members attended the fourth annual Tillicum Elementary Art Show on May 29. The art show is a collaborative effort between Tillicum Art Teacher Erin Pedersen and Communities In Schools of Lakewood (CISL) site staff. Artwork from all Tillicum students was displayed and music was performed by 75 students in the After-School Program (ASP). Parents beamed as their children sang solos and choral pieces from contemporary songs containing messages about character, honesty, generosity and responsibility.

- Leah Livingston directs the After School Program Music Club

Champions Mentors

Caring Helping Adults Mentoring Proudly In Our Neighborhood Schools

Dear mentee,

We have already come to the end of our second year together. As you know this has been a new venture for me, you being my first mentee.

As each week and session passed I felt we slowly got to know each other. It has been a long time since I was at school myself, and some time, too, since my sons were at school. So very much has changed! My time spent with you as a mentor has allowed me to see and understand the way things are now. I enjoyed going to your band concerts and watching you play.

I missed being with you when I had to leave town to spend time with my family. With the support of Communities In Schools, I was able to keep in touch with you by mail. Did you notice that our connection was stronger when we started meeting again?

There have been times when your stories, efforts and courage have inspired me. At these times I felt like you were the mentor!

I am honored that you want to continue meeting with me when you enter high school in the fall and confident we will continue to grow and learn from each other. Thank you for privilege of meeting with you each week and showing me that a little time can go a long way.

- Your Mentor, Yvonne Noe

CISL Salutes School Staff & Partners

CISL could not coordinate effective After-School and Mentor programs without the support, cooperation, expertise and passion of school principals, teachers, paraeducators, counselors and office staff. CISL is fortunate to work with administrators and school staff who do “whatever it takes” to give students the extra help they need to be successful in school.

A Match Made In Lakewood

I have been mentoring a student at Tillicum elementary since December. In March I was invited to join my student on a field trip to Le May Car Museum. The students were very excited to see the cars, but the best part of the day was working with my student to design and create a car to race on a special track in the building. The museum provided the supplies and students had a good time racing their cars. The trip was a great opportunity to communicate with my mentee and him to get to know me better. I am looking forward to meeting with him next year.

-Mentor, Michael Flynn

& School Highlights

After School Partners: Southgate, Oakwood, Tillicum, Tyee Park & Lochburn Middle School

Reptiles Visit Tillicum

- Bre Wilson, Americorps at Tillicum

The Son of the Reptile Man, Isaac Petersen, came to Tillicum as an end-of-the-year reward for the hard work the After-School Program students have displayed all year. The show featured an African desert tortoise, American alligator, cobra, rattlesnake and a large Burmese python. All of the animals had been de-venomized so students could touch and look at the animals up close. One student described the python as being "meaty" when she was allowed to touch it. The experience was both educational and fun for all the students.

"My Work at Southgate"

- Megan Riber, Americorps at Oakwood

In November 2013, I started my six-month AmeriCorps service with CISL as a program assistant in the ASP and an algebra tutor at Clover Park High School.

During the school day I helped in the library and worked with students on reading assignments. After school, I assisted in the enrichment clubs and helped with family events in the evening. What I enjoyed most was building trusting relationships with the students.

At Clover Park High School, I assisted teachers in the Algebra 1 class. I was excited to do this because I liked math when I was in school. I most enjoyed seeing students pass tests on topics that were challenging for them. I was also able to help many students in the Extended Learning program after school.

I have gained valuable experience in the six months of working in schools. It's amazing to see all the hard work and care that school teachers and CISL staff pour out to students. It is making a real and lasting difference.

Enrichment at Oakwood

- Christina Villena, Oakwood Site Coordinator

A highlight for ASP students this year has been the rich menu of enrichment clubs, made possible by our 21st Century Learning grant. More than 90 students have been meeting two hours after school, four days a week, to engage in math, reading, computers, scouts, arts and crafts, drama, science, culture, fitness and sports. Very few students play organized sports due to transportation and financial issues so each day students are running laps, stretching, performing soccer drills and learning how to play different sports. If they are physically fit and know how to play a variety of sports, they will be more likely to engage in team sports throughout their life. Our ASP staff is working hard to educate the whole child so that our students can be successful in whatever they choose for their future.

- Students at the Flight Museum

Southgate Field Trips

- Daniel Nego, Southgate Site Coordinator

Southgate is the largest elementary school in the Clover Park School District. More than 600 students are enrolled with over 100 students in the ASP.

One of the aspects I enjoy is exposing students to learning opportunities outside of school. Funds from our 21st Century Learning grant have made it possible to go on three field trips:

- First, the **Science Dome at Pierce College**: students learned about the solar system. On the bus ride home one student remarked, "I didn't know there was a college in Lakewood; I can't believe how nice it looks!"
- Second, the **Boeing Museum of Flight:** Docents walked with students and shared stories of their experiences with planes and WWII. One of our chaperones had worked on the Mercury Capsule and enjoyed talking about its launch into space.
- Lastly, **Cheney Stadium**. We did not go to see a Rainiers game but something even better. Students got an "insiders" tour of the stadium, led by players and staff. They learned about the world of professional sports and left with souvenirs to remind them of the experience.

Champions For Youth Breakfast

The hour was early but there was a buzz in the room. On March 27, more than 200 guests came together for the benefit breakfast at Old Country Buffet in support of CISL. Elected officials, including Sen. Steve O'Ban, Reps. Tami Green and Dick Muri, retired Sen. Rose Parks and Lakewood and Pierce County council members, were in attendance. CPSD Superintendent Debbie LeBeau, Pierce College Chancellor Dr. Michele Johnson, West Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Chief, Jim Sharp, and JBLM Commander Col. Chuck Hodges Jr. also attended the annual Champions For Youth Breakfast.

Thanks to the generosity of Lakewood contributors and sponsors, $21,000 was raised at the event. Keynote speakers, Brandon Stogsdill, and MC, Walter Neary, shared personal stories about the importance of surrounding students with great teachers, mentors, tutors and community resources. Guests at the breakfast were challenged to find a way to help a young person to discover their potential and pursue their dreams.

CISL appreciates the generous donations of those who attended and the businesses that sponsored the event. On your next visit to one of these businesses, please thank them for supporting kids and families in Lakewood:

$2,000 level: Cindy Thompson Foundation
$1,000 level: Harborstone Credit Union
$500 level: Neal Walter Real Estate, G. Robb Cooper, Columbia Bank, St. Clare Hospital, LeMay Enterprises, First Baptist Church of Lakewood, Puget Sound Orthopaedics, Lakewood Key Bank, Clover Park Technical College, Pierce College

Partner In the Spotlight

Caring For Kids

On April 22, 21 families gathered for a free dinner, children's activities and break-out sessions aimed at helping parents prepare their children for kindergarten. In addition, parents visited vendors, including ABCD Dental, Caring for Kids, Pierce County Library, Early Head Start, Clover Park School District (CPSD) Early Learning and Community Health Care.

At the end of the event each parent received a "Growing Up Is Fun!" bag containing educational resources, agency brochures and children's books. Caring for Kids, CISL and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) have collaborated to distribute more than 200 bags this past year to parents.

Hundreds of children in Lakewood enter kindergarten without any formal preschool experience which results in many students starting school one to two years behind their peers. Special thanks to Diane Formoso, CISL's Readiness to Learn Coordinator and Director of Caring for Kids, CPSD Early Learning staff and local agencies who worked hard to make sure parents have the resources they need to prepare their children for kindergarten.

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COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF LAKEWOOD