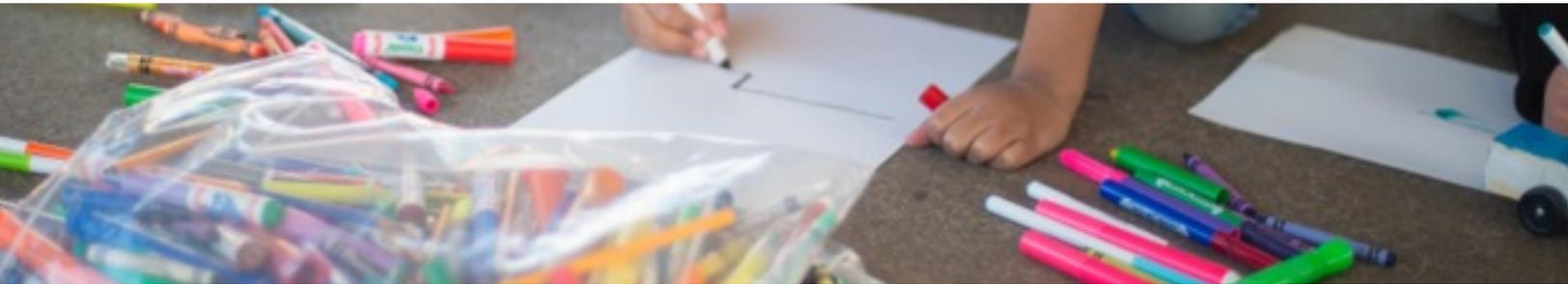


SPRING  
2014



# Communities In Schools of Lakewood

Helping Kids Prepare For Life

[www.lakewood.ciswa.org](http://www.lakewood.ciswa.org) | (253)-589-7489

## Celebrating Our 100th Match!!

**Caring  
Helping  
Adults  
Mentoring  
Proudly  
In  
Our  
Neighborhood  
Schools**

Communities In Schools of Lakewood (CISL) has recently reached a major milestone! After seven years of successful collaboration with the Clover Park School District, the Champions Mentor Program has grown to include more than 100 active matches!

Mentor, Kathryn VanWagenen, and Student, Jacinda at Harrison Preparatory School, are the 100th mentor match! VanWagenen was involved with CISL when it first began in 1993. As a school board member, she was one of many people responsible for launching CISL in the Clover Park School District.

She said it has always been her goal to be a mentor. She recently decided to "simplify" her

commitments and become a mentor. The simple, one-on-one nature of mentoring is what appealed to VanWagenen. "It is so funny how life seems to come full circle. I'm thrilled to be a part of the 100th match milestone. It is rewarding to see such good fruit born from our initial efforts."



*-Jacinda and Kathryn*

# Mentoring Program

## Lochburn Mentoring

-Kate Marselus, Site Coordinator

It has been a joy to mentor a small group of 6th grade girls this year! Each girl has talked to me about their high aspirations: Melanie wants to be a pediatrician or a nurse; Francisca a dental assistant and Maria a general doctor. They are absolutely capable of getting their dream jobs.

Each time we meet, we talk about what you have to do to get the job you want. In November, we went on a field trip to Clover Park Technical College where we learned about pathways to various careers and the difference between technical, two-year and four-year colleges. We are visiting Pacific Lutheran University in April.

The girls know that they need to turn in all their homework, get good grades and not miss school if they want to succeed. When I asked them how their study habits have changed, here is what they said:

- Maria told me that she checks her backpack every day for assignments and reads more to get extra points
- Melanie wants an A in math, so she studies for her quizzes and when she gets tired of studying she sets the timer to study 10 minutes more!
- Francisca struggles with math so she has decided to make sure she asks her uncle for help when she needs it.

In the first semester, all three girls had C's and some D's, but now they have A's and B's! I couldn't be more proud! They have also told me about some life lessons they have learned:

- Yelling is no way to solve a problem
- Helping with chores at home makes everyone happier and is a great way to show kindness and respect to the people in your family.

I am so excited to follow them through middle school and see how they grow!

## A Match Made in Lakewood

-Lois, Champions Mentor

"Adrianna (not her real name) is in 9th grade and we have been meeting together for two years. Her previous three mentors had to drop from the program for a variety of reasons. At our first meeting I had the feeling she did not believe I would be around for any time.

**"I told her I was there for as long as she wanted me to be with her."**

It took months before she was willing to be honest with me and not make up stories she believed would drive me away. Some of the stories were very creative and I was surprised she could come up with them! As time passed, she opened up to me. I am deeply moved that she now trusts me enough to share her hopes and pains. I look forward to sharing the good times and the bad with Adrianna until she graduates."



- Kate's Mentoring Group

## New Mentors Always Welcome!

By focusing on mentor support and retention, the Champions Mentor Program has seen a 63% increase in students served over the last two years. The addition of Mentor Activity Guides helps mentors build solid, one-on-one relationships with their mentees while working on personal, academic and college/career goals. If you are interested in becoming a Champions Mentor, please contact Mentor Coordinator, Leah Livingston, at (253)-589-7489 or through email at leah.cisl@gmail.com

## Peer Mentoring in Tillicum

CISL sent eight peer mentors to Edgeworks Climbing on February 19th for a team-building field trip. The peer mentors are a group of 5th graders



who were recommended by the 5th grade After School Program teacher based on academic performance and leadership potential. They were trained in effective peer mentoring methods by Site Coordinator, Leah Livingston.

The trip was geared toward team-building and determination to reach challenging goals. Edgeworks hosted us for two hours of climbing and taught the students how to effectively communicate and get out of tricky situations. Students had many opportunities to cheer each other on and encourage one another to keep on climbing. One student attempted a high-level climb and the other students cheered him on the entire time, even when he fell short of his goal to reach the top. They learned that it helped to work together and point out steps that might not be visible to the person doing the climbing. Overall, the trip was a great success and the students loved the chance to try something new.

# & School Highlights

## Tyee Park Elementary Highlights

- Annelise Smith, Site Coordinator; with Devon, Jose, Jada, Malachi, Destiny and Arturo

As I sat down to write this article, I tried to think of what would be most important to share about the work we do at Tyee Park. While I could report on improved test scores or list activities, I realized the most important thing is to let the students tell their own stories and experiences directly:



- “The After School Program is fun and you can also learn a lot of things, like math and reading. The teachers sit down with you at the desk if you don’t get something and can tell you what a word means. They really take their time with you.”
- “Ms. Annelise helps us in math and reading; when we don’t understand, she’s always there for us.”
- “In the After School Program, they keep us safe so we don’t get hurt.”
- “If you can’t get out of the house and don’t have a car, don’t worry because the library comes to the after school program so we can still check out books. Kids will even get their own card!!”
- “The After School Program is great because it’s free! You don’t have to pay nothing!”
- “CISL gets us mentors, that way if you want to share your feelings with different people you can. They help us learn and like playing with us.”
- **“I think YOU should mentor because you could have a lot of fun with your student and they look up to you. Maybe they would want to be a mentor too when they grown up!”**



- Victor and friends dance with the Clover Park High School Hip-Hop Club

## Lochburn Highlights

- Kate Marselus, Site Coordinator

CISL has worked closely with Principal, Helen Wilson, and staff at the school to add an hour to the After School Program (ASP) this year. When students finish ASP math tutoring, they can exercise, dance, cook, paint, sculpt, write and have fun while learning life lessons. Several students are even doing yoga!

Victor, who has near perfect attendance, shared this about the ASP: “My teacher, Mrs. Davis, told me,

**‘Never say you can’t.  
It’s a matter of  
whether or not you  
want it.’**

She is helping me improve in math.”  
Victor’s grades have gone from an F to a C since he started going to the ASP. After tutoring, Victor goes to Fitness Club. He says, “I like that it makes me tired and sweaty. I know I worked hard and it’s a way to have fun while being healthy!”



## Oakwood Elementary Highlights

-Christina Villena, Site Coordinator

This year we added 60 students and several new partners, including Boy Scouts. Twenty boys meet each week to learn how to be leaders and work on projects. In March, the boys painted pinewood derby cars and got them ready to race. Kids, teachers and the Principal gathered on March 7 to cheer on the final four derby cars. It was wonderful watching the boys overcome their shyness and demonstrate sportsmanship at the races!



- Oakwood’s Pinewood Derby



Communities In Schools of Lakewood (CISL) will host the Champions For Youth Breakfast on Thursday, March 27 at Old Country Buffet in the Lakewood Towne Center. Breakfast is served at 7am and the program runs from 7:30-8:30am. There is no charge at the door and a call for support will end the program.

The 2014 Champions Breakfast will be an inspirational experience. Students and volunteers in our programs will share their experiences. We will also feature a unique guest, Brandon Stogsdill, author of the book *The Boy with the Gun: From Incarceration to Higher Education*. Brandon credits his turnaround to classes he took at Pierce College which launched him into doctoral work and starting his own mental health counseling practice. "Pierce was the first place to believe in me," says Brandon. CISL site coordinators, after-school staff and mentors make sure students hear that message clearly and continually!

Funds raised at the breakfast support 435 students in After-School Programs, 100 in the Champions Mentor Program and 1,000 students who receive Readiness to Learn services in partnership with Caring For Kids.

# CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH BREAKFAST

Reserve your seat today! Call the CISL office at (253)-589-7489  
Visit us online at [www.lakewood.ciswa.org](http://www.lakewood.ciswa.org)

  
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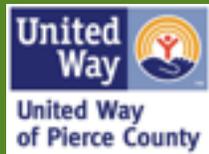
## Funder In The Spotlight

United Way of Pierce County (UWPC) approved a three-year grant of \$25,000 per year to help CISL build capacity to serve preschool through third grade students and parents. CISL has traditionally focused on supporting students in grades 3-12, so this grant widens and deepens our reach.

UWPC's vision is to build a compassionate, vital community where people have the education, resources and opportunities to achieve their potential. Their focus areas are Strengthening Families, Early Childhood Development and Early Grade Excellence.

LIVE UNITED means that together, united, we can accomplish more than any one of us can do alone. And, when we reach out a hand to one, we improve the lives of many. We're working to build lasting opportunities for a good life for all who live in our community. That's what we mean when we say LIVE UNITED.

We invite you to join us in this important work. Whether you give money, volunteer your time or advocate for solutions, you are LIVING UNITED.



**LIVE UNITED**

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